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# VIDHIGYA

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E X P E R I E N C E

# CLAT



**BEFORE D-DAY**  
**VIDHIGYA MOCK TEST**

AIR  
**22**



**Shaurya Tiwari**

Vidhigya Indore Aspire 2 Years  
Classroom Program

Delhi Public School, Indore

I took mocks at Vidhigya as serious as my actual CLAT paper &, this habit of mine made actual CLAT paper just like any other mock. I would advice my friends to take mocks in simulated environment & with utmost sincerity.

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# VIDHIGYA

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Jerrin Mathew  
St. Arnold's HS. School Indore



Lavesh Verma  
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Tanay Kaushal  
IBP Global Academy, Ujjain

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. **No clarification on the Question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.**
2. There are 120 multiple choice objective type questions. Answer **ALL** the questions.
3. Each question carries **ONE** mark. **Total marks are 120.**
4. There will be **negative marking. 0.25 marks** will be deducted for every wrong answer.
5. Candidates have to indicate the most appropriate answer by darkening one of the four responses provided, with **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** in the **OMR** Answer Sheet.

**Example :** For the question, "Where is the Taj Mahal located ?" the correct answer is (b).

(a) Kolkata (b) Agra (c) Bhopal (d) Delhi

**Right Method**

**Wrong Methods**


6. Answering the question by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered wrong answer.
7. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong answer.
8. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and, in the spaces, provide for.
9. After the examination is over, the candidate can carry the test booklet along with candidate's copy of the OMR, after handing over the original OMR to the invigilator.
10. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.
11. Impersonation is an offence and the candidate, apart from disqualification, may have to face criminal prosecution.
12. **Electronic gadgets like mobile phones, pagers or calculators etc. are strictly not permitted inside the Test Centre/Hall.**
13. The candidates shall not leave the hall before the end of the test.

Section	Subject	Q. No.	Total Questions
Section A:	English Language	Q.1 to 24	24
Section B:	Current Affairs with GK	Q.25 to 52	28
Section C:	Legal Reasoning	Q.53 to 84	32
Section D:	Logical Reasoning	Q.85 to 108	24
Section E:	Quantitative Techniques	Q.109 to 120	12

**Section A – English**
**PASSAGE I**

In a poor country like India, as income rises people first concentrate on increasing their consumption of what they regard as basic or more essential consumer goods. For the poor, these goods would primarily include cereals and for people at successive levels of higher income protective foods, simple non-food consumer goods, more modern, better quality non-food consumer goods and simple consumer durables, better quality consumer goods, and so on. When the demand for basic and more essential consumer goods is more or less met, demand for the next higher level of consumer goods begins to impinge on consumer decision making and their consumption increases. There is thus a hierarchy of income levels and a hierarchy of consumer goods. As incomes rise and one approaches the turning point referred to, there is an upward movement along the hierarchy in the demand for consumer goods which exhibits itself in a relative increase in the demand for these goods. If one examines the past consumption behaviour of households in India, one finds confirmation of the proposition just made. Until the mid-seventies one notices a rise in the proportion of consumption expenditure on cereals, and thereafter, a steady decline reflecting a progressive increase in the relative expenditure on non-cereal or protective foods. About the same time the rising trend in the share of food in total consumption expenditure also begins to decline, raising the proportion of expenditure on non-food consumer goods. Simultaneously one also notices a sharper rise in the proportion of expenditure on consumer durables. Thus, what one sees is an upward movement in consumer demand along the hierarchy of consumer goods which amounts to a major change in consumer behaviour. There are two features of this change to which attention particularly needs to be drawn. If we examine the price behaviour of food items over the past several years, we find that the prices of protective foods (edible oils, pulses, sugar, meat, fish etc) have been rising more sharply than those of cereals on account of an inadequate supply response to the increase in demand. This is particularly unfortunate because it affects the poorer segments of the population, whose need to increase consumption of protective foods is being thwarted by an excessive rise in prices. In the Approach to the Seventh Plan, importance was given to edible oils, pulses and some of the other protective foods but the overall impression created was that food grains still hold the centre of the stage. Whereas it is important to meet the demand for agricultural inputs to sustain the impetus of food grain production and to reduce the regional imbalance in agriculture development, the thrust of agricultural policy now must be more on increasing availability of protective food at reasonable prices.

1. As income rises in a poor country like India, the poor people concentrate on increasing their consumption of
 

(a) Protein foods	(b) Modern, non-food consumer goods
(c) Cereals	(d) Protective foods
2. Whenever there is a decline in the proportion of consumption expenditure on cereals
 

(a) It reflects an increase in the expenditure on non-cereal protective foods.	(b) It does not reflect an increase in the expenditure on non-cereal or protective food.
(c) It reflects a further increase in the expenditure of cereal foods.	(d) Both (a) and (b)
3. Which of the following is true as per the passage except?
 

(a) The price of cereals is rising as compared to that of edible oil, sugar, pulses etc. in recent years.	(b) Importance has been given to the protective foods in the Approach to the Seventh Plan.
(c) As income rises, there is an upward movement along the hierarchy in the demand for consumer goods.	(d) There was a rise in the consumption of cereal until the mid-seventies.
4. Prices of protective food have risen because
 

(a) Prices of cereals have come down.	(b) There is no agricultural development.
(c) There is inadequate supply to demand.	(d) Price of non-cereal food has come down.
5. In the Approach to the Seventh Plan, the overall impression was that priority should be given to:
 

(a) The thrust in the food grains production	(b) Increase consumption of protective foods.
(c) Focus on the Non-food products	(d) The identification of consumer behavior.

**PASSAGE II**

Sacred Nature explores religious practices and philosophical ideas that were fundamental to the way people experienced nature in the past, and how myths, rituals, poetry, and music had a profound effect on their mental life. With nature coming full throttle to assert its immense power in recent times, there is an urgent need to return to the spiritual traditions of treating nature with reverence which gave birth to Confucianism and Taoism in China, Hinduism and Buddhism in India, monotheism in Israel, as well as rationalism in Greece. The classic expression of the Greeks called kenosis, personified by Gandhi as 'emptying of the self' helps liberate us from egotism. It opens up a new understanding of ourselves and a fresh perception of the world around us. Needless to say, application of such thoughts, perceptions and practices have much to offer. Even for those who may not like hymns of devotion, Armstrong's subtle exploration of the sacredness of nature can push them into thinking about reconnecting with

nature. In a world where nature is rapidly receding from everyday life, there is a need to bring nature back into our collective consciousness.

Armstrong suggests a completely new worldview, a belief in nature's innate power to redeem itself. Unless we develop an aesthetic appreciation of nature and devise an ethical programme to guide our thoughts and behaviour, we will soon run out of time for ourselves. The threats are indeed looming large, and are quite often irreversible. There is a need to evoke the romanticism of Wordsworth and Keats to incorporate into human lives insights and practices that will help in meeting today's serious challenges because nature's processes are dynamic, ephemeral, and their origins are hidden from view.

Pulling central themes from the world's religious traditions - from gratitude to compassion, non-violence to sacrifice - Armstrong offers practical steps to develop a new mind-set to rekindle the sense of the sacred. Reflective and insightful, the book is a primer on how environmental science needs to be redesigned as a subject. In such times of climate change when icecaps are melting, wildfires are raging and floods are rampant, there is no time for partying anymore.

**6.** What is the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Different people have different ways of experiencing the solace of nature.
- (b) World's religious traditions for protecting the power of nature should be rekindled to our collective consciousness.
- (c) The world is going through a tough time for the conservation of nature.
- (d) The different traditions represent different kinds of perception towards the nature and they can save the earth.

**7.** What can be inferred as common between the understanding of nature by Gandhi and Armstrong?

- (a) They both believed in the modern way to preserve nature.
- (b) They both believed in the philosophy of emptying of the self in nature.
- (c) They both had a fresh and insightful motive towards nature.
- (d) They worked collectively for the new world of better nature.

**8.** Following are the potential threats to the nature as mentioned in the passage except:

- (a) People will soon run out of time for themselves.
- (b) The nature is receding rapidly from our day to day life.
- (c) The loss in the perseverance of nature is irreversible.
- (d) Nature's processes are dynamic, transitory and hidden from view.

**9.** What does the author mean by 'There is a need to evoke the romanticism of Wordsworth and Keats' in the context of the passage?

- (a) The author wanted to explain the requirement of romanticism in the nature's balance as it will grow love in humans' lives.
- (b) The author is trying to merge the romanticism with human lives as nature's process are unexpected and dynamic.
- (c) The author wants people to change their lifestyle for the nature as its process is dynamic.
- (d) The author wants people to be familiar with the nature's ephemeral and dynamic view.

**10.** What are the views of the author on Armstrong's exploration of nature?

- (a) The author criticizes the exploration of nature by Armstrong as it lacks the belief in nature's power.
- (b) The author holds a deep resentment towards the ideology of Armstrong being too modern for the world.
- (c) The author appreciates the exploration of Armstrong by calling it reflective and insightful.
- (d) The author is ambivalent showing both positive and negative side of Armstrong's exploration.

### PASSAGE III

In 1786, Joshua Reynolds painted a portrait of the surgeon and anatomist John Hunter. Reynolds depicted Hunter gazing into the distance, caught in mid-thought, quill in hand. On the table in front of him, apart from inkwell and paper, are some books, one propped open to a page comparing the skulls and arm bones of humans and apes. Next to the books is an anatomical specimen under a glass dome. In the upper right-hand corner is a mantel holding another anatomical specimen in a glass jar. A pair of large skeletal feet suspended in the air next to the jar hint at the large skeleton attached to them and hanging from the ceiling. The painting was well known, particularly after an engraving of it was made in 1788, and the dangling feet were also famous. Their inclusion in the portrait indicated that Hunter owned them and the skeleton to which he had re-attached them. However, in life, they had belonged to the 'Irish Giant' Charles Byrne.

I first saw Byrne's skeleton decades ago in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, among jars of preserved anatomical specimens that included an 18th-century bishop's cancerous rectum. The last time I saw the skeleton, in 2016, I was not allowed to photograph it. The following year, the outcome of the case of an ancient skeleton in the United States brought to a head long-simmering issues surrounding the rights of the dead against the rights of museums to display their remains and of scientists to learn from them. The contrasts are many between Byrne and the man who died 8,500 years ago and was buried along what is now known as the

Columbia River near Kennewick in Washington State. Nonetheless, there are similarities between them. They share stories of identity and ownership in the aftermath of colonialism. More broadly, both men seem to epitomise science's appropriation of individual identities in the service of a larger impersonal goal of knowledge that presumably will benefit humankind. By this argument, a dead body has no value other than as a source of information. Yet the stories of these two men, vastly separated in place and time, are not merely stories of a cold and rapacious science, but of the intertwined desires and beliefs that the living project onto the dead, both in the 18th century and today, both among scientists and among others who lay claim to the bodies of the dead. The dead themselves know nothing about it.

For several years, Charles Byrne, born in 1761 in County Derry, exhibited himself for a fee to the public at fairs, in taverns and coffeehouses, and at private homes across Ireland and Britain. Newspaper advertisements and broadsides breathlessly proclaimed him to be the tallest man in the world, at a height of 8 ft 2 in. We know little about him apart from his height, which was actually about 7 ft 7 in (2.31 m). His parents were of normal size but, since he hired himself out for money while still in his teens, they were most likely poor. His handlers dressed him in the height of 1780s fashion, with silk stockings and lace cuffs, and broadsides posted on walls across London announced his arrival in April 1782. The broadside described 'The Modern Living Colossus, Or, Wonderful IRISH-GIANT' noting his 'admirable Symmetry and Proportion' and his 'Vivacity and Spirit'.

Source- <https://aeon.co/essays/do-the-dead-have-a-right->

**11.** According to the passage, when did the portrait painted by Joshua Reynolds become conventional?

- (a) When the portrait was discovered by the 'Irish Giant' Charles Byrne.
- (b) When the portrait was engraved two years later.
- (c) When Reynolds attached a large skeleton from the ceiling.
- (d) When one propped open to a page comparing the skulls and arm bones of humans and apes.

**12.** Based on the passage, what can be understood from the rights of the dead against the rights of museum?

- (a) The case of an ancient skeleton being used as a piece of art for entertainment.
- (b) The case against the scientists who displayed a real skeleton for learning purposes.
- (c) The case in the US against the Hunterian Museum for using real skeleton for scientists' studies.
- (d) The case against the scientists using an ancient skeleton for their personal uses.

**13.** Which of the following statements is not true according to the information provided in the passage?

- (a) A dead body has no value other than as a source of information.
- (b) The exhibited height of Charles Byrne was different from his actual height.
- (c) The portrait of the surgeon and anatomist John Hunter had some parts of his skeleton.
- (d) There were some similarities between the skeletons of Byrne and the man who died 8,500 years ago.

**14.** What similarity did the author find between Byrne and the man who died 8500 years ago except?

- (a) Both of them had experienced the aftermath of the colonialism.
- (b) Both of them shared the vision of spreading knowledge that would benefit humankind.
- (c) Both of them believed that the dead knows nothing about the surroundings.
- (d) Both of them shared a story of intertwined desires and beliefs that the living projects onto the dead.

**15.** Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Both Hunter and Byrne resided in the US.
- (b) The portrait of Hunter originally was painted by Byrne.
- (c) Charles Byrne made his livelihood with the help of his height.
- (d) The portrait of Hunter was made to respect his sacrifice of corpse.

#### PASSAGE IV

Violence has played a great part in the world's history. It is today playing an equally important part and probable it will continue to do so for a considerable time. It is impossible to ignore the importance of violence in the past and present. To do so is to ignore life. Yet violence is undoubtedly bad and brings an unending trail of evil consequences with it. And worse even than violence are the motives of hatred, cruelty, revenge and punishment which very often accompany violence. Indeed, violence is bad, not intrinsically, but because of these motives that go with it. There can be violence without these motives; there can be violence for a good object as well as for an evil object. But it is extremely difficult to separate violence from these motives, and therefore, it is desirable to avoid as far as possible. In avoiding it; however, someone cannot accept a negative attitude of sub-mitting to bad and far greater evils. Submission to violence or the acceptance of an unjust regime based on violence is against the spirit of non-violence. The non-violent method, in order to justify itself, must be dynamic and capable of changing such a regime of social order.

**16.** The word 'dynamic' in the concluding line of the passage means:

- (a) Active
- (b) Energetic
- (c) Capable of change and progress
- (d) All of the above

17. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Only violence can be used against violence. (b) Violence is not inherently ill  
 (c) Violence is a historically accepted fact. (d) Violence cannot be ignored.

18. The connotation of “There can be violence without these motives” is in:

- (a) Practical (b) Reality (c) Dream (d) Impractical

19. ‘Indeed, violence is bad, not intrinsically, but because of these motives that go with it’. This suggests:

- (a) Violence is innately good.  
 (b) Violence is bad only when it is associated with certain motives.  
 (c) Violence is bad because the people who exercise it are bad.  
 (d) Violence is basically bad.

20. Non-violence, according to the writer, means:

- (a) Violence without the evil motives. (b) Giving in to the tyranny of the powerful.  
 (c) Accepting violence as a fact of life. (d) None of the above.

### PASSAGE V

It was spring in 2016 when I first visited Tanizaki’s farm. The air was warm. The nearby mountains were thick with emerald forests of Japanese cedar, konara oak and hinoki cypress. A troop of wild red-faced monkeys stopped foraging to watch us as we walked by. And woven through it all – air, water, land, plants, and living bodies – were unseen radioactive pollutants. Almost everything now carried invisible traces of the 2011 meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Tanizaki began taking measurements. With his Geiger counter, he showed me how radioactive elements were indifferent to the cartographic logic of the state. In some places, the radiation level dropped low, becoming almost insignificant. But here and there, beside a ditch or near a pond, the level was elevated dangerously high. Tanizaki called these areas ‘hot spots’ and they were scattered across the landscape, even within supposedly ‘safe’ zones on government maps. Contamination in Fukushima, he believed, was structured in a way that no state was prepared to solve.

A decade after the 2011 meltdown, the region remains contaminated by industrial pollution. Though attempts at removing pollutants continue, a new realisation has taken hold among many of Fukushima’s farmers: there’s no going back to an uncontaminated way of life. Watching Tanizaki measuring industrial pollution in a toxic landscape neglected by the state, I began to wonder: is this a future that awaits us all?

As an anthropologist interested in contamination, Fukushima throws into sharp relief the question of what it means to live in a permanently polluted world. That is why I began coming to Japan, and spending time with farmers such as Tanizaki. I wanted to understand the social dynamics of this new world: to understand how radioactivity is governed after a nuclear disaster, and how different groups clash and collaborate as they attempt to navigate the road to recovery. I expected to find social bonds pushed to breaking point. Stories of post-disaster collapse circulate in our collective consciousness – tales of mistrust, fear and isolation, accompanied by images of abandoned homes and towns reclaimed by plants and wildlife. And I found plenty of that. A sense of unravelling has indeed taken hold in rural Fukushima. Residents remain uncertain about the adverse health effects of living in the region. Village life has been transformed by forced evacuations and ongoing relocations. And state-sponsored attempts at revitalisation have been ineffective, or complete failures. Many communities remain fragmented. Some villages are still abandoned.

Source- <https://aeon.co/essays/life-in-fukushima-i>

21. Which of the following can best express the conditions of people in Japan after the 2011 meltdown?

- (a) Unfathomable (b) Incurable (c) Hopeless (d) Buoyant

22. Why did the author spend more time with the farmers of Japan?

- (a) To work on the betterment of their condition.  
 (b) To understand how radioactivity is controlled after the nuclear disaster.  
 (c) To understand the livelihood of the farmers post the nuclear disaster.  
 (d) To experience the aftermath of the disaster.

23. How did the life of rural Fukushima look after the nuclear disaster?

- (a) It had brought the people of Fukushima together to fight against the disaster  
 (b) The feeling of uncertainty and fear remained years after the disaster  
 (c) The farmers left all the hopes to lead a life again in the village  
 (d) All of the above

24. What was the belief of Fukushima’s farmers after the meltdown?

- (a) Their life would be restored soon after the disaster.  
 (b) Measures must be taken to go back to uncontaminated way of life.  
 (c) Hopelessness of not getting a way to go back to a normal life.  
 (d) Hopeful that slowly things will get better in the village.

**Section B-Current Affairs with GK**
**PASSAGE VI**

According to a report released by the Environment Ministry, India's leopard population experienced an 8% increase, rising from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022. The survey concentrated on approximately 70% of the animals' anticipated habitat, which includes India's tiger reserves and protected forest areas. Unlike tigers, which are primarily confined to forest reserves, leopards exhibit greater adaptability and are often found in substantial numbers in villages and even cities. They are known to prey on cattle, leading to conflicts and increased mortality rates. The analysis, led by the Wildlife Institute of India, focused on forest areas where a similar survey was conducted in 2018. Forest surveyors covered a distance of 6,41,449 km to assess carnivore signs and estimate prey abundance. Camera traps were set up at 32,803 locations, capturing a total of 4,70,81,881 photographs. The data indicates that while the leopard population has grown, it has not experienced the same level of growth as the tiger population. Y V Jhala, former dean of the Wildlife Institute of India, mentioned that this increase is marginal. However, he expressed satisfaction in managing the current status quo, especially considering that leopards remain tempting targets for poachers.

**25.** Which region in India has the highest population of leopards according to the report on the Status of Leopards in India 2022?

- (a) Central India and Eastern Ghats (b) Western Ghats  
 (c) Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains (d) Northern Plains

**26.** What is the primary aim of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?

- (a) To conserve all species globally  
 (b) To protect endangered species of big cats  
 (c) To work towards the conservation of seven major big cat species  
 (d) To establish big cat reserves in member countries

**27.** How many out of the seven major big cat species are found in India?

- (a) Three (b) Four (c) Five (d) Six

**28.** Which State has the largest leopard population as per the recent report-

- (a) Karnataka (b) Maharashtra (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Madhya Pradesh

**29.** Which organization provided financial support to the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)?

- (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
 (b) World Bank  
 (c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
 (d) Greenpeace

**PASSAGE VII**

World Water Day, commemorated annually on [1], serves as a poignant reminder of the criticality of freshwater, a message that resonates even more profoundly this year in light of the pressing water scarcity crisis gripping Bengaluru. This vibrant tech hub finds itself grappling with an acute shortage of water resources, a predicament exacerbated by erratic monsoons and the depletion of groundwater reservoirs. As we observe this day, the United Nations' unwavering advocacy for the sustainable stewardship of freshwater resources gains heightened significance. The overarching theme of this year's World Water Day underscores a fundamental truth: water holds the power to either foster harmony or ignite conflict within societies. Tensions invariably escalate when water becomes scarce, contaminated, or when communities vie fiercely for access to this life-sustaining resource. The key to addressing these challenges lies in fostering cooperation that balances the diverse water needs of all stakeholders. Indeed, the nexus between water, prosperity, and peace is unmistakable. The Specter of mass migrations and political upheavals looms large, underscoring the imperative for robust water cooperation frameworks as integral components of national strategies to navigate the complexities of climate change. Central to our collective resilience is the understanding that water, when managed equitably and sustainably, can serve as a beacon guiding us out of crises. The path to harmony among communities and nations lies in uniting behind principles of fair and responsible water usage. This imperative transcends mere rhetoric; it necessitates concrete actions both on the global stage through United Nations conventions and at the grassroots level through local initiatives. By harnessing the power of international cooperation and steadfast commitment to equitable water management practices, we can surmount the water crisis peacefully. World Water Day stands not only as a day of reflection but also as a clarion call for concerted action to safeguard our most precious resource for generations to come.

**30.** What has been redacted by [1] in the passage?

- (a) 22 March (b) 15 April (c) 7 June (d) 3 September

**31.** What is the theme of UN's World Water Day for the year 2024?

- (a) Water for Prosperity (b) Water for Peace (c) Water for Sustainability (d) Water for Development



- 32.** The official celebrations of World Water Day 2024 took place at UNESCO headquarters. Where is the headquarters of UNESCO located?  
 (a) New York, USA (b) Geneva, Switzerland (c) Paris, France (d) Rome, Italy
- 33.** Which Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) does World Water Day aim to support?  
 (a) SDG 1 (b) SDG 3 (c) SDG 6 (d) SDG 13
- 34.** How many people lacked access to safely managed drinking water in 2022, according to the UN World Water Development Report 2024?  
 (a) 1.4 billion (b) 2.2 billion (c) 3.3 billion (d) 4.4 billion

### PASSAGE VIII

Northern Ireland's Parliament made history by appointing an Irish nationalist as First Minister for the first time. This milestone marks a significant shift in a state that was established a century ago to uphold the dominance of pro-British unionists. [1] appointment, resulting from a watershed 2022 election, reflects the growing influence of Sinn Féin in the British region. Sinn Féin, whose ultimate aspiration is a united Ireland, sees this achievement as bringing that dream "within touching distance." This development coincided with Sinn Féin's pro-British rival, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), ending a two-year boycott of the power-sharing government. This change followed a recent agreement with the British government aimed at easing trade frictions. The rise of a new generation of Sinn Féin politicians, not directly associated with the region's long-standing conflict between Irish nationalists and pro-British unionists, is becoming increasingly apparent. Security measures were stringent around the assembly building, although no disturbances were observed. A small group of trade union members protested regarding the impact of the government shutdown on workers' wages. Both the Irish and British Prime Ministers have expressed openness to exploring reforms in the political framework once the devolved government is fully operational.

- 35.** Which of the following will be replaced by [1] in the passage?  
 (a) Mary Lou McDonald (b) Michelle O'Neill (c) Arlene Foster (d) Naomi Long
- 36.** Which of the following is a sovereign country consisting of Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England?  
 (a) United States of America (USA) (b) Great Britain  
 (c) United Kingdom (UK) (d) None of the Above
- 37.** Northern Ireland was formerly part of the Ulster province, which lies to the north of modern-day Ireland. Who initiated the official policy of migration to Ulster in 1609?  
 (a) King Henry VIII (b) Queen Elizabeth I (c) King James I (d) King Charles II
- 38.** Which framework will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol, as recently negotiated between the UK Government and the European Union?  
 (a) Belfast Agreement (b) London Framework (c) Windsor Framework (d) Edinburgh Protocol
- 39.** The framework which replaced Northern Ireland Protocol introduced a green lane and red lane system for goods. Which lane must goods destined for Ireland or the rest of the EU take?  
 (a) Green lane (b) Red lane (c) Both a and b (d) Neither a nor b

### PASSAGE IX

Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, recently faced a significant development as he was apprehended by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) regarding a case tied to the capital's liquor policy. This marked a historic event in India, as never before had a sitting Chief Minister been subject to arrest. The focal point of the case involves accusations of money laundering associated with the formulation of the excise policy, allegedly favouring specific individuals at the public's expense. The arrest of Arvind Kejriwal is intertwined with what is known as the "liquor policy scam." This investigation, spearheaded by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), delves into potential wrongdoings related to the liquor trade in Delhi. The ED, a federal entity tasked with upholding economic laws and combatting financial crimes, has been probing alleged irregularities surrounding Delhi's liquor policy. The crux of the matter revolves around suspicions that certain individuals, including Mr. Kejriwal, manipulated the policy to gain undue advantages. It is purported that these individuals received kickbacks in exchange for these favourable conditions, all to the detriment of the general populace. Despite being summoned nine times by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with this case, Mr. Kejriwal consistently disregarded these summons, asserting their illegitimacy and deeming them politically motivated.

- 40.** The Enforcement Directorate is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with the investigation of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws. In which year was the 'Enforcement Unit' renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'?  
 (a) 1952 (b) 1957 (c) 1960 (d) 1964
- 41.** What was the proposed reduction in the age of alcohol consumption in Delhi under the new policy?  
 (a) From 25 to 18 (b) From 30 to 21 (c) From 21 to 16 (d) From 18 to 14

**42.** Who is the current director of Enforcement Directorate?

- (a) Rahul Navin (b) Sanjay Agrawal (c) Atul Karwal (d) Piyush Anand

**43.** Under what provision of the Constitution can the Lt. Governor cite 'failure of constitutional machinery in the state' as a reason for the President's rule in Delhi?

- (a) Article 356 (b) Article 239AB (c) Article 370 (d) Article 51

**44.** President of India and Governors of states are the only constitutional post holders who are immune from civil and criminal proceedings until his/her term ends, as per the law. Which article of the Constitution provides immunity to the President of India and Governors of states from civil and criminal proceedings?

- (a) Article 352 (b) Article 360 (c) Article 361 (d) Article 363

### PASSAGE X

The political landscape in Tamil Nadu has been stirred by the ruling party's electoral pledge to halt the Mokedatu dam project, a move that has emboldened the opposition BJP. This commitment is intertwined with the broader context of Tamil Nadu's alignment within the INDIA alliance, led by the Congress party. The Mokedatu dam initiative, designed as a multi-faceted endeavour encompassing provisions for both potable water supply and power generation, centers on the creation of a crucial balancing reservoir in the vicinity of Kanakapura. At present, the state administration has diligently advanced the project by submitting a comprehensive and detailed project report to the Union government. This critical dossier is presently under scrutiny, having transitioned from the purview of the Water Management Authority to the Central Water Commission for meticulous examination and deliberation. Concurrently, the state government awaits the indispensable clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, as a substantial portion of the proposed project area traverses through forested terrain, necessitating stringent environmental evaluations and regulatory approvals.

**45.** Where is the Mokedatu Dam Project located?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu

**46.** Mokedatu Dam Project built on which River?

- (a) Godavari (b) Krishna (c) Mahanadi (d) Cauvery

**47.** How does Article 262 of the Indian Constitution empowers Parliament in regard to interstate disputes?

- (a) Provide for arbitration between states  
 (b) Adjudicate disputes or complaints related to inter-State rivers or river valleys  
 (c) Transfer all water-related disputes to the Supreme Court  
 (d) None of the above

**48.** Which of the following acts has been enacted by Parliament under Article 262 to address interstate water disputes?

- (a) River Board Act, 1956 (b) Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956  
 (c) Both a and b (d) National Water Resources Act, 1956

### PASSAGE XI

The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) stands as a watershed moment for India, representing its inaugural comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with European nations. In a podcast delving into the nuances of this accord, the emphasis is placed on its pivotal role in broadening India's trade horizons, thereby fostering a diversified network of global economic alliances. Srivastava, through insightful commentary, elucidates the trajectory of India's trade policies, underlining the strategic significance of forging ties with the EFTA bloc. The agreement's intricacies, spanning investment commitments, market access concessions granted by India to EFTA nations, and the integration of contemporary imperatives such as sustainability, labour standards, and intellectual property rights, are expounded upon by Srivastava. This discourse extends to a nuanced analysis of the enforceability of investment obligations, alongside the potential ramifications for India's economic growth trajectory. In essence, the TEPA not only symbolizes a landmark achievement in India's trade narrative but also sets a precedent for future negotiations with Western counterparts. Its multifaceted nature, encompassing economic, social, and regulatory dimensions, underscores the intricacy and foresight embedded within contemporary international trade agreements, particularly those with substantial geopolitical implications.

**49.** Which of the following countries is NOT part of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) bloc that signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with India?

- (a) Iceland (b) Switzerland (c) Finland (d) Liechtenstein

**50.** When was the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) established?

- (a) 1945 (b) 1950 (c) 1960 (d) 1975

**51.** In terms of India's trade, where does the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) rank as a trading partner (2020-21)?

- (a) 5<sup>th</sup> (b) 7<sup>th</sup> (c) 9<sup>th</sup> (d) 11<sup>th</sup>

**52.** Which European Free Trade Association (EFTA) country is identified as the largest trading partner of India?

- (a) Iceland (b) Norway (c) Switzerland (d) Liechtenstein

## Section C-Legal Reasoning

### PASSAGE XII

After being passed in the Rajya Sabha on December 4, the Post Office Bill, 2023 was brought to the Lok Sabha for consideration on December 13. The Bill once enacted will be applicable prospectively. Seeking to repeal the 125-year-old Indian Post Office Act of 1898, which is prospective in application, the Bill contains provisions that allows the Centre to intercept, open, or detain any item, and deliver it to customs authorities. Notably, Section 9 of the Bill allows the Centre to, by notification, empower any officer to “intercept, open or detain any item” in the interest of state security, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergency, public safety, or contravention of other laws. This provision also allows post officers to hand over postal items to customs authorities if they are suspected to contain any prohibited item, or if such items are liable to duty. This is similar to Sections 19, 25, and 26 of the 1898 Act. Section 19(1) disallowed persons from sending by post “any explosive, dangerous, filthy, noxious or deleterious substance, any sharp instrument not properly protected, or any living creature which is either noxious or likely to injure postal articles” or postal service officers in the course of transmission. Furthermore, the power to intercept any prohibited or restricted articles during transmission by post, or any postal article for public good during emergency or in the interest of public safety could also be exercised by the government and its officials under Sections 25 and 26 of the 1898 Act. The Law Commission in 1968, while examining the 1898 Act, observed that the term emergency is not explicitly defined, thereby allowing significant discretion while intercepting goods.

Besides this, Section 10 exempts the Post Office and its officer from “any liability by reason of any loss, mis-delivery, delay, or damage in course of any service provided by the Post Office,” except such liability as may be prescribed under any law. Moreover, the 2023 Bill removes all penalties and offences under the 1898 Act. For example, offences committed by post office officials such as misconduct, fraud, and theft, among others, have been deleted entirely. At the same time, if anyone refuses or neglects to pay the charges for availing a service provided by the Post Office, such amount shall be recoverable “as if it were an arrear of land revenue due” from them. The present Bill has removed Section 4 of the 1898 Act, which allowed the Centre the exclusive privilege of conveying by post, from one place to another, all letters, effectively, this exclusivity was already lost by the 1980s, with the rise of private courier services. Since neither the Post Office Act of 1898, nor the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 had defined the term “letter” anywhere, courier services bypassed the 1898 law by simply calling their couriers “documents” and “parcels”, rather than “letters.” The 2023 Bill, for the first time, regulates private courier services by bringing it under its ambit. While the government acknowledges its lack of exclusivity, it has also widened the ambit of the law in order to intercept and detain any postal article, as opposed to just letters.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “What is the new Post Office Bill, and why did Shashi Tharoor criticise it?” Indian Express, December 16, 2023.

**53.** A courier company in Delhi, “V-Express,” regularly handles sensitive documents and parcels. Following the enactment of the Post Office Act, 2023, one of V-Express’s parcels, suspected to contain prohibited materials, is intercepted and opened by postal authorities on the basis of a genuine lead as per which the parcel contained items which may be used by terrorist to cause harm to the nation. In response, the company files a suit against the authorities and argues that this action is a violation of their clients’ privacy and confidentiality. In the light of the passage, decide what will be the decision of the Court.

- (a) The Court will rule in favour of V-Express, as the interception of the parcel violates the privacy and confidentiality of the sender and recipient.
- (b) The Court will rule in favour of the postal authorities, as they are legally empowered to intercept and examine parcels under the new law.
- (c) The Court will rule in favour of V-Express and declare that the action of the postal authorities is illegal in the absence of court’s order.
- (d) The Court will rule in favour of the postal authorities and order a regulatory review of the parcel interception to ascertain if it aligns with the intended purposes of the new law.

**54.** A resident of Ranchi, Vivek, sends a parcel through the government postal service to his friend in Indore. The parcel is delayed and, upon arrival, is found to be damaged, resulting in the loss of valuable contents. Vivek decides to sue the Post Office for compensation under the provisions of the recently enacted Post Office Act, 2023. In the light of the passage what should be the decision of the court on this matter?

- (a) The Court will rule in favour of Vivek, as the exemption under the new law does not absolve the Post Office of basic service quality and consumer rights.
- (b) The Court will rule in favour of the Post Office, acknowledging the legal exemption provided under the new law for cases of loss or damage.
- (c) The Court will rule that the exemption under the new law applies, but will order the Post Office to pay compensation to Vivek on ground of negligence.
- (d) The Court will rule in favour of Vivek, declaring the provisions of new law unconstitutional for being overly broad and against public interest.

**55.** A private courier service based in Indore, "Vidhi Couriers," has bypassed the Post Office Act of 1898 by labelling its deliveries as "documents" and "parcels" instead of "letters." Following the enactment of the Post Office Act, 2023, the government files a lawsuit against Vidhi Couriers for previously bypassing the exclusive privilege of the government to convey letters. Vidhi Couriers argues that their practice was legal under the 1898 Act, as it did not explicitly define "letters". Considering the changes brought by the Post Office Bill, 2023, what should be the decision of the court in this dispute?

- (a) The Court will rule in favour of the government to penalize Vidhi Couriers for circumventing the 1898 Act.
- (b) The Court will rule in favour of Vidhi Couriers, recognizing that their actions were legal under the 1898 Act.
- (c) The Court will rule that Vidhi Couriers pay a fine based on the 2023 Bill's regulations, as a deterrent against similar actions by other courier services.
- (d) The Court will decide the case in favour of the Vidhi Couriers and will impose a cost on government for wasting the time of Court.

**56.** Varsha, availed the services of the government post office for delivery of a product. Upon completion of delivery, she discovers that the product is not what she ordered. Varsha learns that the package was mistakenly swapped with another during transit due to negligence by the Post Office. She demands compensation from the Post Office for the error. On denial by them she files a suit for compensation in court. In light of the Post Office Bill, 2023, what should be the decision of court in this case?

Note: The consumer protection act provides for compensation to consumer in case of loss caused due to acts by any service provider including the post office.

- (a) The Court will rule in favour of Varsha, as the post office provider is specifically liable under the Consumer protection laws in India.
- (b) The Court will uphold the exemption to post office under the new law, even in cases of evident negligence, as per the provisions of the Bill.
- (c) The Court will rule that the Post Office shall compensate Varsha as it is their duty to not misplace the goods.
- (d) The Court will dismiss Varsha's claim, emphasizing that the liability exemption in the Post Office Bill, 2023, is comprehensive and applies to all service-related issues, including mis-delivery.

**57.** Based on the passage about the Post Office Bill, 2023, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Bill allows the Centre to intercept, open, or detain any postal item, aligning with the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.
- (b) The Bill introduces new provisions that were not present in the Indian Post Office Act of 1898, such as the power to intercept postal items.
- (c) The 2023 Bill restricts the government's ability to intercept postal items compared to the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.
- (d) The 2023 Bill continues the exclusive privilege of the Centre to convey all letters by post, as stated in the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.

**58.** Based on the passage about the Post Office Bill, 2023, which of the following cannot be inferred?

- (a) The 2023 Bill allows for the interception and detention of any postal article, not just letters, expanding the scope of the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.
- (b) The 2023 Bill exempts the Post Office and its officers from liability for any loss, mis-delivery, delay, or damage in the course of postal services.
- (c) The 2023 Bill introduces regulations for private courier services, which were not explicitly covered under the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.
- (d) The 2023 Bill maintains the exclusive privilege of the Centre to convey all letters by post, as was the case in the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.

### PASSAGE XIII

In the wake of the migrant crisis, several states have amended existing labour laws, either suspending them altogether or increasing working hours. One aspect of the crisis is that the labour net-importing states have seen a labour shortage, driving up wages. This prompted some states to take steps to restrict migrant labour from returning home. Article 19 (1)(d) and Article 19 (1)(e) of the Constitution guarantees all citizens of India the fundamental right "to move freely throughout the territory of India" and "to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India" respectively. Only reasonable restrictions can be imposed on this right in the interests of public order, security of the State, or the sovereignty and integrity of India.

To be compelled to work violates Article 23 of the Constitution of India, which provides a "right against exploitation" prohibiting human trafficking, begar, and forced labour. In PUDR vs Union of India (1982), the Supreme Court held that laws protecting contract labour and inter-state migrant workmen were intended to ensure basic human dignity; violating these laws would violate the right to life under Article 21. Further, the Court held that "forced labour", prohibited by Article 23 included not just physical force but also the threat of imprisonment or fine or it compulsion arising from hunger and poverty, want and destitution. The word 'force' includes force arising from the compulsion of economic circumstances which leaves no choice of alternatives to a

person in want and compels him to provide labour or service though the remuneration received for it is less than the minimum wage. Hence, removing protections from such threats and compulsions, would also violate this right. Yet, rather than encouraging workers to return by securing wages and improving working conditions, the amendments introduced by the states are removing basic labour law protections.

The Trade Unions Act, 1926, for one, even though the right to form associations, including a trade union, is a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution of India. The UP ordinance also retains only the “safety and security” provisions of the Factories Act — excluding the chapter on health and provisions relating to hazardous processes. These include detailed provisions for cleanliness, ventilation, overcrowding, drinking water, and urinals — all of which surely become more important during a global health pandemic, not less. The right to health of workmen has been recognised as a part of the right to life (under Article 21 of the Constitution) in a number of judgments — including providing PPEs to workers exposed to hazardous conditions.

The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), though unenforceable before courts, are constitutionally-mandated goals for the State to work towards when making laws. The DPSP enjoin the State to ensure that the “operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment” (Article 39), to “make effective provision for securing the right to work” (Article 41), “to secure to all workers a living wage, better conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.” (Article 43). It is tempting to see the pandemic as an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to push through labour reforms. Even so, it is unclear that the wholesale abrogation of the labour law system benefits either labour or industry.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Changes proposed to labour laws are unconstitutional”, The Indian Express.

**59.** Due to labour shortages and subsequent rise in the prices of labour, induced by lockdowns due to Covid, the government of State of Madhya Pradesh, which is a labour net-importing state, cancelled the trains to states where the labourers belong to. This was done to ensure economic welfare of the state. This restricted the labourers from returning to their home states and they were forced to stay in Madhya Pradesh. Decide whether the act of government of Madhya Pradesh is in consonance with the provisions mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Yes, as the government has the right to impose restrictions of movement of labour for the economic welfare of the State.
- (b) Yes, as the state was facing labour shortages which led to rise in labour prices and decline in production capacity.
- (c) No, as government cannot restrict the right of labourers to move freely across the country on any ground.
- (d) No, as the restrictions imposed are in violation of the right guaranteed Article 19 (1) (d).

**60.** In the previous question, certain facts are substituted. The reason behind the cancellation of the trains was the chaos created by lakhs of labourers leaving for their home state. This large scale migration lead to disturbance of the public order. What will be the impact of these substituted facts on the validity of the action taken by State of Madhya Pradesh?

- (a) The substituted facts would make the State’s action valid as it is in consonance with Article 19(1)(d) of the Constitution of India.
- (b) The substituted facts would make the State’s action invalid as it still violates the provisions mentioned in passage.
- (c) The substituted facts would have no impact on validity of the State’s action.
- (d) The substituted facts would make the State’s action invalid as it has failed to ensure free movement of labourers and maintain public order.

**61.** Which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage?

- I. The UP ordinance does not retain the “safety and security” provisions of the Factories Act.
- II. The UP ordinance excludes the chapter on health and provisions relating to hazardous processes.
- III. The Government has enacted laws to protect the right to secure to all workers a living wage, better conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.

- (a) Only I & III
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only I and II
- (d) All of the above

**62.** Recently, the Central government has brought certain changes in the labour law. One of the amendments brought by the Central Government allows the employers to pay less than a living wage and exempts them from providing better conditions of work and ensuring a decent standard of life, in emergency situation. Vidhan, a leader of a Trade Union, challenged this amendment in Supreme Court for violation of Article 43 of the Constitution. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan will succeed?

- (a) Yes, as the amendment violates Article 43 which directs the State to secure to all workers a living wage, better conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.
- (b) Yes, as the amendment is in conflict with all the fundamental rights mentioned in Part III of the Constitution.
- (c) No, as the amendment does not completely violate Article 43 and only allows for exceptions in emergency situations.
- (d) No, as Article 43 is just a DPSP and cannot be enforced before Courts.

**63.** In order to improve the working conditions of labour, Government of Madhya Pradesh increased the minimum wage rate to Rs. 500 per day through a new resolution. Vikas Constructions, a leading construction company, continues to hire labour at previous wage rate of Rs. 400 per day. When authorities inquired about it, Vikas revealed that the labourers are not forced to work at lower wage rate. They are willingly working because they are poor and won't be able to secure work anywhere else. Decide whether the work done by labourer's amounts to forced labour?

- (a) No, as the labourers are working willingly at the wage offered by Vikas Constructions.
- (b) No, as Rs. 400 per day is a good wage rate.
- (c) Yes, as the labourers are under a compulsion to work below minimum wage rate due to poverty.
- (d) Yes, as the labourers are not able to meet their daily needs at the wage rate provided to them by Vikas Constructions.

**64.** To ensure rehabilitation of the individuals undergoing sentence for their crimes, the Government of India has decided to employ these individuals to perform public construction works. These people are mandatorily required to engage in these works for a long hours. They are not provided any remuneration for the work done by them. The prisoners cannot refuse to do this work. When they try to refuse, the Government threatens them of increased imprisonment. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The employment is valid as this is the way prisoners will be rehabilitated.
- (b) The employment is invalid as even prisoners have a right to live dignified life.
- (c) The employment is valid as prisoners are already undergoing imprisonment and therefore the threat of additional imprisonment does not violate Article 23.
- (d) The employment is invalid under Article 23 as it amounts to forced labour.

**65.** If Parliament enacts a law to regulate operation of the economic system so as to ensure that it does not result in the concentration of wealth, then:

- (a) Such a law would be valid and will give statutory recognition to a DPSP.
- (b) Such a law would be valid but will not be enforceable before a court of law.
- (c) Such a law would be invalid as Parliament does not have the power to make such a law.
- (d) Such a law would be invalid as it violates Article 23 of the Constitution of India.

#### PASSAGE XIV

The latest decision of the Supreme Court in July 2023, on the right of Hindu daughters to ancestral property corrects an obvious anomaly in the interpretation of a crucial amendment in 2005 to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (HSA). The verdict settles the question whether the coparcenary right of daughters comes into effect only if the father through whom they claim that right was alive on the day the amendment came into force. The apex court has now categorically ruled that the daughters' right flow from their birth and not by any other factor such as the existence of their fathers. In other words, it has rejected the common misinterpretation that only daughters of coparceners who were alive on that day of amendment, could get an equal share in property. The court has rightly recognised that the amendment conferred equal status as a coparcener on daughters in Hindu families, and this right accrued by birth. The amendment came into effect from September 9, 2005, but with a provision that partitions or testamentary disposition that had taken place prior to December 20, 2004 — the date on which the amendment Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha — will remain valid and unaffected by the change. This led to the interpretation that the daughters' coparcenary rights, being prospective, would not come into effect unless both the coparcener father and his daughter were alive on September 9, 2005. This position was crystallised in a 2015 judgment of the Supreme Court in Prakash and Others vs. Phulavati in 2015. This judgment now stands overruled. A coparcener, according to the Hindu Succession Act of 1956, refers to an individual who receives a legal right to ancestral property by birth.

The court's reasoning in July 2023 decision is unexceptionable. First, it locates the origin of the coparcenary right in one's birth. Second, it finds that there is no necessity for a predecessor coparcener to be alive for one to acquire that status, as what is relevant is birth within the degrees of succession to which it extends. In that sense, the legislation, even though it comes into effect on a prescribed date, is retroactive in its application as it is linked to birth, an antecedent event. It also underscores that the legislation makes it clear that the daughter's rights are the same "as that of a son," and "as if she had been a son at the time of birth". The coparcenary status given to daughters has been a subject of reform in many States, particularly in south India, long before the UPA regime brought in the amendment for the whole country. The legislative aim behind the amendment, was that a flagrant discrimination between sons and daughters in entitlement to an equal share in coparcenary property, that is property inherited from one's father, grandfather or great-grandfather, should be done away with. It is indeed welcome that the apex court has sought to give full effect to this intent by setting at rest doubts arising from varying interpretations. Section 30 of HSA provides that any Hindu may dispose of by will or other testamentary disposition any property, which belongs to them. Disposing typically refers to lawful process of transferring ownership of property.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled “Daughters have equal birth right to inherit property: Supreme Court”, published in The Hindu.

**66.** Vidhan and Vidhi have three children: A, B and C (in descending order of age). A and C being males and B being the female. Vidhi died, leaving all her property for Vidhan through testamentary succession i.e., a will. Vidhan was involved in a fatal car accident on August 8, 2005, leaving behind the three children as the only living members of the family. Soon after the death of Vidhan, a dispute regarding division of property arose between 3 children and the suit finally reached to Court in 2016 after failure of all attempts to resolve the dispute amicably. In light of the settled legal position as on 2016, who among the following would inherit the property of Vidhan?

(a) Only A is eligible to inherit the property of Vidhan under Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as he is the eldest Son of the family.

(b) Only A and C are eligible to inherit the property of Vidhan under Hindu Succession Act, 1956 because B's coparcenary rights did not come into effect as Vidhan was not alive on September 9, 2005.

(c) All the three children would be eligible as 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 recognizes that the daughter's rights are the same as that of a son.

(d) Only B and C are eligible to inherit the property of Vidhan under Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as they are younger children of the family and A, being the elder should give away his share in the property.

**67.** In the previous question, assume that a fact is substituted. Vidhan passed away on September 10, 2005. In the light of the substituted fact, who would inherit the property?

(a) Only A is eligible to inherit the property of Vidhan under Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as he is the eldest Son of the family.

(b) Only A and C are eligible to inherit the property of Vidhan under Hindu Succession Act, 1956 because they are the only male members of the family.

(c) All the three children as 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 recognizes that the daughter's rights are the same as that of a son.

(d) Only B and C are eligible to inherit the property of Vidhan under Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as they are younger children and A, being the elder son should give away his share in the property.

**68.** Vidhisha is Vishal's daughter. She was born in 1996. Her father was an industrialist possessing multiple properties which was his ancestral property. Besides Vidhisha, Vishal had two sons. On the death of Vishal in 2002, property was partitioned between both sons only. In 2007, Vidhisha has challenged the inheritance on the basis of the 2005 amendment. Decide whether she can successfully challenge the inheritance?

(a) Yes, the 2005 amendment provided coparcenary rights to daughters originating from birth.

(b) Yes, both sons and daughters have equal claim on property of father irrespective of any partition.

(c) No, as property was partitioned before the amendment and thus it is valid and will not be affected by the amendment.

(d) No, as it is against customary practices for daughters to claim a share in their father's property.

**69.** Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): After the amendment in 2005 to the Hindu Succession Act, daughters have an equal right as that of son in the property of father.

Reason (R): The debate regarding constitutional validity of the amendment in 2005 was finally settled by the Supreme Court in 2023.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.

(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.

(c) A is true but R is false.

(d) A is false but R is true.

**70.** With regards to the position of the rights of the daughters in the ancestral property as per the amendment in 2005, which of the following is incorrect?

(a) After the amendment in 2005 to the Hindu Succession Act, daughters' right are same as that of a son. .

(b) The aims behind the amendment in 2005 was to end the discrimination between sons and daughters in entitlement to an equal share in coparcenary property.

(c) A daughter will be entitled to rights in the property only if they father is alive on September 9, 2005.

(d) Amendment even though it comes into effect on a prescribed date, is retroactive in its application as it is linked to birth, an antecedent event.

**71.** Vidhika, a 60 year old female, was a philanthropist and social worker who dedicated all her life in the service of society. After her death, a dispute arose between her 2 sons regarding inheritance of the large estate she left behind. It was discovered that through her will, she has donated property belonging to her. Through such donation the ownership in the property was transferred to an NGO. Her sons challenged this will in court claiming that being the legal heirs, they have a right to inherit her property. Decide whether Vidhika's act was in consonance with the legal principles mentioned in the passage.

(a) No, as she already has 2 sons, she cannot dispose her property to NGO.

- (b) No, as she has already dedicated her life to the society, she must leave her property to her sons.  
 (c) Yes, as she is authorised to dispose her property through will.  
 (d) Yes, as the NGO will use the property for the welfare of the society, which was the last wish of Vidhika.

### PASSAGE XV

Unlike in the US, police atrocities in India do not have exclusive racial underpinnings. Indian policemen, when they turn rogue, become dangerous criminals and murderers in uniform who torture the meek and bully the powerless with impunity, caste and community notwithstanding.

One of the worst crimes in a civilized society under the Rule of Law is perhaps the death of a person in police custody. Article 21 of the Constitution of India provides that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law." Life or personal freedom has been held to include the right to live with human dignity and includes within its ambit a personal guarantee against torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. A person can move to the higher courts for judicial remedies under Article 32 & 226 in case of deprivation of Fundamental Rights.

Article 22 of the Constitution of India guarantees protection against arrest and detention in some instances. It declares that no person shall be detained in custody without being informed about the grounds of arrest. Article 22 also directs that person arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest judicial Magistrate within 24 hours of such arrest.

Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India provides that the accused shall not be compelled to be a witness against himself as this would amount to self-incrimination. Section 330 & 331 of the Indian Penal Code provides for punishment in case the officials voluntarily inflicting any injury to arrested persons for extorting confession. Section 330 deals with simple hurt whereas Section 331 deals with grievous hurt. Also, as per Section 25 and 26 of the Indian Evidence Act 1872, any confession made to the police officer is not admissible in evidence.

In *Nandini Satpati v. P.L Dani*, the Court held that physical threats or violence, psychological torture, atmospheric pressure, environmental coercion and tiring interrogation by police lead to violations of law.

In the case of *Ragbir Singh v. State of Haryana*, where police used violence to force a confession from a suspect in the theft, the Court noted that when the defenders of the law violate human rights, the lives and liberty of citizens are in peril. Accordingly, the Court awarded a life sentence to the police officer responsible for the suspect's death in the police lockup.

Section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) governs the conditions for retaining a person in custody in India in order to further an investigation. A person may be held in police custody for up to 15 days on a magistrate's instructions, according to Section 167 of the CrPC. A judicial magistrate may remand someone to any type of custody lasting up to 15 days.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Institutionalised Brutality", published in *Tribune India*.

**72.** Vidhan, a 19 year old resident of Indore was arrested by the police on suspicion of committing a theft. During the interrogation, Vidhi, a police officer, was asking questions from Vidhan regarding his presence near the place where the crime took place. Vidhan, being a young guy, got frightened and tries to escape. While trying to run away from the custody, he falls down and is seriously injured. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhi can be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan for extorting confession?

- (a) Vidhi can be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan as he was seriously hurt in the process of interrogation.  
 (b) Vidhi can be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan as she voluntarily threatened Vidhan which led to serious injury.  
 (c) Vidhi cannot be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan as she did not cause any injury to him.  
 (d) Vidhi cannot be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan only if she can prove that her questions were not intimidating.

**73.** In the previous question. Assume that an additional fact is added. While Vidhan was trying to escape, another police official named Vidhyut started chasing him. He warned Vidhan that if he does not stop, he will shoot. Listening to the warning Vidhan stopped and was taken back to custody. Vidhyut then beats Vidhan badly during interrogation. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhyut can be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan?

- (a) Vidhyut can be punished as he should not have beaten Vidhan after he had stopped.  
 (b) Vidhyut can be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan as he voluntarily caused injury to Vidhan.  
 (c) Vidhyut cannot be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan as he initially tried to escape the custody.  
 (d) Vidhyut cannot be punished for inflicting injury on Vidhan as he was merely trying to get information from Vidhan which is normally a part of interrogation process.

**74.** Vishal, a deadly criminal, was arrested by the police on suspicion of committing a rape and murder of a minor. When he was in the lockup, he was beaten up and was given a cruel treatment during interrogation. His eyeballs were punctured and he was beaten by rods. Giving up to such torture, he confessed his crime. In light of the legal principles laid down in the passage, decide whether the acts of police is valid?



- (a) Yes, as such act was necessary to ensure that Vishal confesses to the crime.  
 (b) Yes, as Vishal was a deadly criminal and it was necessary to torture him.  
 (c) No, as subjecting Vishal to such torture amounts to violation of his right to life.  
 (d) No, as they could have gotten him to confess even without such torture

75. Which of the following statement(s) are incorrect as per the above passage?

- (i) Police atrocities in India have exclusive racial underpinnings.  
 (ii) Article 22 provides certain exceptions where a person arrested is not required to be presented before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours.  
 (iii) Use of physical force to cause injury to arrested person is necessary to constitute violation of law.

(a) (i) and (ii) only                      (b) (ii) and (iii) only                      (c) (i) and (iii) only                      (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)

76. Vidhi, a 32 year old women, was arrested for allegedly committing the offense of fraud. Later, she was taken to a Magistrate who issued an order to extend her custody to police for 10 days. Which of the following fact(s), if true, would bring her arrest in consonance with the conditions mentioned in the Article 22 of the Constitution?

- (i) That she was informed about her grounds of arrest within a reasonable time.  
 (ii) That she was presented before an executive magistrate within 24 hours.  
 (iii) That she was not compelled to be a witness against herself.

(a) (i) and (ii) only                      (b) (ii) and (iii) only                      (c) (i) only                      (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)

77. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Section 330 & 331 of the Indian Penal Code provides punishment for officials for voluntarily inflicting injury to arrested persons for extorting confession

Reason (R): Death in custody is one of the worst crimes in a civilized society under the Rule of Law.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.  
 (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.  
 (c) A is true but R is false.  
 (d) A is false but R is true.

### PASSAGE XVI

The Centre introduced the Aarogya Setu app last month ostensibly to keep track of those infected with Covid virus. The app asks for a person's name, age, gender, and health status and travel history. The app also mandatorily asks the users to provide location access. This is nothing but continuous surveillance on a citizen's movement. In *Kharak Singh vs. the State of UP (1962)*, the Supreme Court held that any citizen can enjoy freedom of movement anywhere for personal purposes as per article 19 of Indian Constitution, and any hindrance or surveillance in their movement amounts to violation of this right. In this case, the Supreme Court held that Regulation 236 of the UP Police Regulations violated Article 21 of the Constitution as it provided the power for continuous surveillance to the authorities.

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by the then Chief Justice J. S. Khehar ruled on August 24, 2017, that the Right to Privacy is a fundamental right of the citizens of India under the Constitution enshrined under Right to life and liberty under Article 21. Thus, right to privacy is not mentioned explicitly but is a part of right to life. In their judgement, the judges unanimously declared that Indians enjoy a fundamental right to privacy which is intrinsic to life and liberty. This judgment overruled two earlier judgments of the Supreme Court that held the right to privacy is not protected by the Constitution.

Right to life and privacy also include right to internet. In the case of *Faheema Shirni vs State of Kerela*, the Kerala high court said that cell phones and web access through it are an integral part of the everyday life and forms a part of rights given under article 21 of the constitution. The court took the view that the option to get to the web has been added something extra to the basic right to life and freedom, just as protection under Article 21. The Parliament has power to enact legislations to empower Central government and the State governments of India to impose a restrictions on internet services in any location in the territory of India in case of an emergency situation to maintain public peace and tranquillity.

Article 13 of the Constitution says: "All laws in force in the territory of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution in so far as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void." It means that the laws that were in force during the foreign rule that denied or curtailed fundamental rights stood null and void in independent India. In view of this, any executive order issued by any authority after the promulgation of the Constitution that curtails or denies the fundamental rights enjoyed by the citizens should be considered to be ultra vires of the Constitution and therefore void ab initio.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled "Aarogya Setu app is an arbitrary intrusion into privacy; bid to subvert the Constitution through backdoor," published in National Herald.

**78.** In 2015, Vidhan, a seasoned lawyer, challenged the validity of a pre-constitutional law. The law enabled the police to search any house or establishment, at any time, on the suspicion of any illegal activity. Vidhan argued that the law violates the right to Privacy of Individuals, as it provides arbitrary and unrestricted power to police to search any house or establishment as per their wish. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The law will be held as void in entirety as it is inconsistent with Right to privacy mentioned in Article 21.
- (b) The law will be held as void to the extent it is inconsistent with Right to privacy mentioned in Article 21.
- (c) The law will not be held as void as right to privacy was not mentioned in the Constitution.
- (d) The law will not be held as void as it allows police to search any house or establishment, at any time, only on the reasonable ground of suspicion of any illegal activity.

**79.** The Parliament of India, recognising the escalating challenges posed by proliferation of fake news and misinformation over social media platforms, enacted a ground-breaking law aimed at empowering the state to address this pressing issue. Under the new law, the state governments are granted authority to impose restrictions on use of internet in instances where the dissemination of any information deemed critical to the policies and functioning of the government. The law was challenged by Vikram in Supreme Court for violation of the Constitution. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The new law is constitutionally valid as it is enacted with the legislative intent of combating dissemination of information deemed critical to policies and functioning of government.
- (b) The new law is constitutionally valid as the Parliament has power to empower state government to impose restrictions on use of Internet.
- (c) The new law is constitutionally invalid as Right to Internet is a fundamental Right provided explicitly in the Constitution.
- (d) The new law is constitutionally invalid as the parliament cannot empower the government to impose restrictions on use of internet on such grounds.

**80.** Assume that in the previous question, a fact is substituted. Under the new law, the state governments are granted authority to impose restrictions on use of internet in instances where the dissemination of any information which can potentially cause disruptions in public order and insight communal violence. What would be the impact of the substituted fact on Vikram's challenge?

- (a) The substituted fact would strengthen Vikram's challenge.
- (b) The substituted fact would weaken Vikram's challenge.
- (c) The substituted fact would have no effect on Vikram's challenge.
- (d) The substituted fact would strengthen Vikram's challenge as the law provides arbitrary powers to the government.

**81.** The Government of Madhya Pradesh brings a regulation to make it mandatory for all the residents of the state to install "FreeFood" App in order to enjoy the benefits of the free ration scheme of the government. Once the app is installed, it asks the users to provide continuous location access which can be accessed and monitored by government agencies. Vidhyut, a resident of the State, challenged this law on the ground of violation of the constitution. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The regulation is constitutionally valid as it is brought with the legislative intent of providing free food to residents.
- (b) The regulation is constitutionally valid as only the beneficiaries of the government scheme are required to install such app.
- (c) The regulation is constitutionally invalid as continuous location access which can be monitored and accessed by authorities' amounts to surveillance.
- (d) The regulation is constitutionally invalid as the government cannot ensure security of the individual's location data.

**82.** Which of the following statements cannot be concluded from the passage?

- I. Article 19 of the Indian Constitution allows only Indian citizens to enjoy freedom of movement anywhere for personal purposes.
  - II. Article 13 of the Constitution provides power to the State to make laws inconsistent with Part III the Constitution.
  - III. Right to internet is a part of Right to life since its inception.
- (a) Only I and II                      (b) Only I and III                      (c) Only II and III                      (d) All I, II and III

**83.** Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Right to Privacy is a fundamental right of the citizens of India under the Constitution.

Reason (R): It is explicitly mention under Article 21 of the Constitution.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.

(d) A is false but R is true.

**84.** If Parliament enacts a law to deal with increasing threat of terrorism in the Indian Territory of Kashmir and by such law empowers the Central government and the State governments to impose a complete ban on internet services in Kashmir, then which of the following statement is correct?

- (a) Such a law would be valid as restrictions can be imposed on access to internet services in all cases.
- (b) Such a law would be valid in light of the principles laid down by the Court in *Faheema Shirni v. State of Kerala*.
- (c) Such a law would be invalid as the Parliament does not have the power to make such a law.
- (d) Such a law would be invalid as right to internet is an absolute right.

### Section D-Logical Reasoning

#### PASSAGE XVII

The drone — widely imagined as a weapon of war — is symbolic of the potency of the military-industrial complex. For more than a decade now, drones have been used by the United States of America in its military campaigns in West Asia and the Middle East. The unmanned aerial vehicle — the eyes in the sky, so to speak — became an agent of destruction after the Predator drone operated by the US was ‘enhanced’ with Hellfire missiles. Unsurprisingly, drones have since become quite common in modern conflicts around the world: Azerbaijan employed them to reclaim Nagorno-Karabakh; Ukraine is using them extensively in its defence of its territory against Russia; Africa has also seen the use of drones for military purposes. Little wonder then that the market for military drones is expected to be worth \$17 billion by 2027. But drones, like all technology, have a dual character: they have the potential to be used not for war but for the greater good. The use of a drone to deliver basic medicines to healthcare centres in Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh is one recent example of its humanitarian potential. Not only did the drone deliver essential medicines to a remote village in less than a quarter of the time it usually takes to reach by road but it also carried back pathological samples for testing. In fact, this is not the first time that the Indian Council of Medical Research has undertaken such a task: previously, it used drones to deliver Covid-19 vaccines to inaccessible areas in Manipur and Nagaland. Increasingly, drones are also being used around the world for other purposes, ranging from the survey of forested areas and the conduction of hydrological analyses to gathering data on crop health.

The wide-ranging application of drones proves an essential point: the character of a technological advancement is determined by the way it is harnessed. The internet evolved as a tool to connect people and help democratise access to information; yet, it has now been weaponised to spread misinformation. Artificial Intelligence, the latest marvel in the technology block, it is feared, has the ability to disrupt lives, labour and economies in a way that is unprecedented. But it also has the ability to revolutionise a number of spheres of human activity, including medicine and disaster-mapping. The real challenge, therefore, is to find a balance between the inception of technology and the simultaneous creation of a concomitant moral fibre concerning their usage. The gap between the two is quite a chasm.

**Source: Two-faced, The Telegraph Online, October 23, 2023**

**85.** Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the character of a technological advancement is determined by the way it is harnessed?

- (a) Drones are primarily used for military purposes and have caused significant destruction.
- (b) The internet was initially designed for military communication but has democratized access to information.
- (c) Artificial Intelligence has the potential to disrupt lives, labor, and economies.
- (d) Drones have been used to deliver basic medicines to healthcare centres in remote areas.

**86.** Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) The market for military drones will definitely exceed \$17 billion by 2027.
- (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research has only used drones for medical purposes.
- (c) The internet has solely been weaponized to spread misinformation.
- (d) Technology inherently possesses both positive and negative potentials depending on its application.

**87.** Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- (a) Drones should be exclusively used for humanitarian purposes.
- (b) Artificial Intelligence is a marvel that should replace human labor in all sectors.
- (c) The real challenge lies in balancing technological inception with the creation of a moral framework for its usage.
- (d) The internet has failed its original purpose and is now only a tool for misinformation.

**88.** Why would the author have remarked that the market for military drones is expected to be worth \$17 billion by 2027?

- (a) To emphasize the growing economic importance of drones.
- (b) To criticize the military-industrial complex for profiting from war.
- (c) To highlight the urgency of regulating drone technology.
- (d) To suggest that drones are becoming obsolete.

**89.** As per the passage, which one of the following is a humanitarian use of drones mentioned by the author?

- (a) Surveying forested areas for environmental research.
- (b) Conducting hydrological analyses to manage water resources.
- (c) Delivering basic medicines to healthcare centres in remote areas.
- (d) Gathering data on crop health for agricultural improvement.

#### PASSAGE XVIII

Breaking new grounds, an NCP (Nationalist Congress Party) MP (Member of Parliament) Priya Sule on Friday introduced a private member bill in Lok Sabha to legalise same-sex marriage, and provide the same legal rights to married LGBTQIA couples which heterosexual couples are entitled to. Another private member bill was also introduced on a similar issue by DMK MP DNV Senthilkumar S which talked about providing rights to LGBTQIA persons to enable them to live with human dignity. The bill introduced by NCP MP Supriya Sule proposes to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to solemnise such marriages and proposes to fix the age of marriage at 21 years in case both parties are males and 18 years in case both are females. It also proposes to replace the words husband and wife with spouse by amending the various sections of the Special Marriage Act, 1954. In the statement of 'Objects and Reasons' of the bill, Sule said that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (questioning), intersex, and agender (LGBTQIA) individuals still face "persecution, discrimination and social stigma within society". In 2018, the Supreme Court of India struck down section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and decriminalised homosexuality. Citing another Supreme Court judgement, Sule said even after the determination of their sexual orientation, "LGBTQIA individuals are still unable to marry and raise their own families". Underlining that LGBTQIA couples have no access to rights that heterosexual couples are entitled to upon marriage, such as succession, maintenance and pensions, etc, she said, "Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1954, to legalise same-sex marriage, and provide legal recognition to married LGBTQIA couples." It will ensure the right to equality (Article 14) and right to life (Article 21) of the Constitution are upheld, and that LGBTQIA couples are provided the rights they are entitled to, she said. A private member bill is a draft legislation introduced by any MP who is not a minister. Such bills very rarely see the light of the day unlike a 'Government Bill', which a Union minister introduces. So far, only 14 private members' bills have been passed, with six being cleared in 1956 alone.

**90.** Which of the following is true as per the passage?

- (a) A private bill is passed by any member of the parliament of India who is not a minister.
- (b) Only ministers have the right to introduce the private bill in parliament of India.
- (c) Not many private bills are have been passed by the Parliament.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

**91.** Which of the following can be the inferred from the given passage?

- (a) LGBTQIA have the right to explore their sexual identity and introduce the same to society.
- (b) LGBTQIA don't have the legal rights in a marriage as the heterosexuals do.
- (c) LGBTQIA can marry with the person of their choice and raise their family.
- (d) Introduction of private member bill is essential when it comes to LGBTQIA.

**92.** Which of the following can be inferred as per the passage EXCEPT?

- (a) Age of marriage in India for a male is 21 years and for a female it is 18 years.
- (b) Private member bill introduced by Sule is for the equal rights about providing rights to LGBTQIA persons to enable them to live with human dignity.
- (c) Private member bill was also introduced on same sex marriage by DMK MP DNV Senthilkumar S talked about equal rights as the heterosexual marriages do.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

**93.** Which of the following is not a problem faced by LGBTQIA as per the passage?

- (a) Persecution
- (b) Social stigma
- (c) Inferiority Complex
- (d) Maltreatment

**94.** Which of the following would most weaken the argument presented in the passage?

- (a) A decision by Supreme Court that doesn't allow the same sex marriage persons to raise a family.
- (b) The bill proposed by the NCP Member of Parliament Sule is supported by the government and passed with the suggested changes.
- (c) Supreme Court of India struck down section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and decriminalised homosexuality.
- (d) A private member bill is a draft legislation introduced by any MP who is not a minister.

#### PASSAGE XIX

The media's role in long-standing conflicts, such as the Israel-Hamas situation and the lesser-known Manipur conflict in India, reveals its influence and biases. The recent Hamas-Israel clash has sparked a perception war, especially in Western media. Balancing biases of media owners and audience preferences with ground realities in Gaza has been challenging. Since the conflict's onset, 17 journalists have been killed, mostly due to Israeli

airstrikes. The Committee to Protect Journalists' Sherif Mansour highlighted the increased risks for international journalists, leading many to rely on local freelancers for coverage. While US networks sent their star anchors to Israel, local journalists in Gaza faced bombings, outages, and the emotional toll of reporting while living the crisis. Western audience preferences also influenced coverage. MSNBC reportedly lost viewership during the conflict, facing criticism for its anchors' perspectives and refusal to label Hamas attackers as terrorists. Debates arose within media houses about providing context for the conflict and the terminology used to describe it. The BBC and The Guardian faced scrutiny for their coverage, while Israeli newspaper Haaretz criticized Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Social media platforms played pivotal roles. While Hamas was barred from platforms like Meta and Twitter, it effectively used Telegram, seeing a surge in followers post-attack. Israel, on the other hand, launched a vast online campaign in Western countries, showcasing militant violence. Ironically, while the Israel-Hamas conflict received extensive coverage in India, the ongoing Manipur conflict remained largely ignored. Indian media prioritized the foreign conflict, neglecting the domestic one. The Washington Post provided a detailed account of the Manipur situation, highlighting the challenges faced by locals due to internet blackouts and the innovative ways they've adapted. The blackout in Manipur has been so extensive that even grave incidents, like the video showcasing the abuse of Kuki women, only momentarily capture national attention before fading into obscurity.

**Source:** Perception war, The Telegraph Online, October 23, 2023

**95.** Which of the following would most weaken the author's argument that Western media is biased in its coverage of the Israel-Hamas conflict?

- (a) MSNBC lost viewership due to its refusal to label Hamas attackers as terrorists.
- (b) Seventeen journalists have been killed in the conflict, mostly due to Israeli airstrikes.
- (c) The BBC and The Guardian faced scrutiny for their coverage of the conflict.
- (d) Indian media prioritized the Israel-Hamas conflict over the domestic Manipur conflict.

**96.** Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) Social media platforms like Meta and Twitter are unbiased in their treatment of the Israel-Hamas conflict.
- (b) The Committee to Protect Journalists' Sherif Mansour believes that the risks for international journalists have decreased.
- (c) Local journalists in Gaza face more immediate dangers than star anchors from US networks.
- (d) The Washington Post's coverage of the Manipur conflict has led to increased national attention in India.

**97.** Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that the Manipur conflict is largely ignored by Indian media?

- (a) The Manipur conflict has been ongoing for several decades with no resolution in sight.
- (b) The Washington Post's detailed account of the Manipur situation was widely read in the United States but not in India.
- (c) Social media platforms have been actively censoring content related to the Manipur conflict.
- (d) The Committee to Protect Journalists has not issued any statements regarding the safety of journalists in Manipur.

**98.** Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion, as stated in the passage?

- (a) The Committee to Protect Journalists' Sherif Mansour is the most reliable source for understanding the risks faced by journalists.
- (b) Social media platforms like Telegram are more effective for Hamas than platforms like Meta and Twitter.
- (c) Western audience preferences have no influence on the media coverage of the Israel-Hamas conflict.
- (d) Israeli newspaper Haaretz is critical of Prime Minister Netanyahu's role in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

**99.** How does the author suggest that social media platforms played pivotal roles in the Israel-Hamas conflict?

- (a) By stating that Israel launched a vast online campaign in Western countries.
- (b) By mentioning that Hamas was barred from platforms like Meta and Twitter but effectively used Telegram.
- (c) By highlighting that 17 journalists have been killed, leading to a reliance on social media for coverage.
- (d) By noting that MSNBC lost viewership during the conflict, indicating a shift to social media platforms.

### PASSAGE XX

The film "Killers of the Flower Moon" has brought renewed attention to the Osage Reign of Terror, a dark chapter in American history where members of the Osage Nation were systematically murdered for their oil wealth. Yet, even as the film gains acclaim, Oklahoma's educational system is grappling with legislation that inhibits the teaching of this very history. Passed in 2021, the law discourages educators from discussing topics that might cause students "psychological distress" based on their race or sex. The ambiguity of this law has led to self-censorship among teachers, who fear losing their licenses or school accreditation. This isn't just about the Osage history; it's a battle over how America's past, in all its complexity, will be taught to future generations. The Osage were among the world's wealthiest people per capita in the 1920s, thanks to oil reserves on their land. However, their prosperity led to a sinister backlash. The U.S. government imposed white guardians to manage Osage

fortunes, a system rife with corruption and racism. Then came the murders—shootings, poisonings, and even bombings. Officially, at least 24 Osage were killed, but the actual number is believed to be much higher.

The Bureau of Investigation, later renamed the FBI, took up the case and apprehended a key perpetrator in 1926. However, the deeper conspiracy was never fully exposed. Many more Osage had died under suspicious circumstances, but these cases were never adequately investigated. The Reign of Terror was less about a single killer than a culture of killing, involving a network of white citizens, doctors, lawmen, and others who profited from what they openly called the "Indian business." The Osage Nation Congress has called for the repeal of the Oklahoma law, joined by other tribal nations in the state. They argue that the law undermines accurate learning about their own pasts. The movement to suppress uncomfortable elements of American history is not confined to Oklahoma. More than two dozen states have adopted similar laws, leading to a surge in book bans and revised curriculums that mask discomfiting truths. Oklahoma's Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, who encouraged audiences to see "Killers of the Flower Moon," acknowledged the need to clarify the law but no action has been taken. If such policies persist, they will deprive new generations of a complete understanding of history. As Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. stated, understanding the past is crucial for moving forward. The struggle over what is taught in Oklahoma schools is not just a local issue; it's a national reckoning over the soul of American history.

**Source:** The True Story Behind 'Killers of the Flower Moon' The New York Times, October 29, 2023

**100.** Which of the following would most strengthen the author's argument that the Oklahoma law inhibits the teaching of complex American history?

- (a) The law has led to a decrease in the number of history books available in Oklahoma schools.
- (b) Teachers in Oklahoma are actively encouraged to discuss topics that might cause students "psychological distress" based on their race or sex.
- (c) The law has led to self-censorship among teachers, who fear losing their licenses or school accreditation.
- (d) The Osage Nation Congress has not called for the repeal of the Oklahoma law.

**101.** As per the passage, which one of the following is a significant reason for the Osage Nation's wealth in the 1920s?

- (a) The Osage Nation had a highly skilled workforce.
- (b) The U.S. government provided financial aid to the Osage Nation.
- (c) Oil reserves were discovered on Osage land.
- (d) The Osage Nation had a booming tourism industry.

**102.** Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with regarding the role of the Bureau of Investigation in the Osage Reign of Terror?

- (a) The Bureau of Investigation fully exposed the deeper conspiracy behind the murders.
- (b) The Bureau of Investigation was ineffective in apprehending any key perpetrators.
- (c) The Bureau of Investigation apprehended a key perpetrator but did not entirely expose the deeper conspiracy.
- (d) The Bureau of Investigation was primarily concerned with protecting the oil reserves.

**103.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument that the Oklahoma law is part of a national trend to suppress uncomfortable elements of American history?

- (a) More than two dozen states have adopted similar laws, leading to a surge in book bans and revised curriculums.
- (b) Oklahoma is the only state that has passed such a law, and no other states are considering similar legislation.
- (c) The Osage Nation Congress supports the Oklahoma law as it currently stands.
- (d) Oklahoma's Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell has taken action to clarify the law.

**104.** How does the author suggest that the struggle over what is taught in Oklahoma schools is not just a local issue?

- (a) By stating that the Osage Nation Congress has called for the repeal of the Oklahoma law.
- (b) By mentioning that Oklahoma's Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell encouraged audiences to see "Killers of the Flower Moon."
- (c) By asserting that Oklahoma is not the only state where uncomfortable aspects of American history are being suppressed.
- (d) By indicating that the Bureau of Investigation was renamed the FBI and took up the Osage case.

### PASSAGE XXI

Meritocracy has become a leading social ideal. Politicians across the ideological spectrum continually return to the theme that the rewards of life - money, power, jobs and university admission - should be distributed according to skill and effort. The most common metaphor is the "even playing field" upon which players can rise to the position that fits their merit. Conceptually and morally, meritocracy is presented as the opposite of systems such as hereditary aristocracy, in which one's social position is determined by the lottery of birth. Under meritocracy, wealth and advantage are merit's rightful compensation, not the fortuitous windfall of external events. Most

people don't just think the world should be run meritocratically, they think it is meritocratic. In the United Kingdom, 84% of respondents to the 2009 British Social Attitudes survey stated that hard work is either "essential" or "very important" when it comes to getting ahead, and in 2016 the Brookings Institute found that 69% of Americans believe that people are rewarded for intelligence and skill. Respondents in both countries believe that external factors, such as luck and coming from a wealthy family, are much less important. While these ideas are most pronounced in these two countries, they are popular across the globe. Although widely held, the belief that merit rather than luck determines success or failure in the world is demonstrably false. This is not least because merit itself is, in large part, the result of luck. Talent and the capacity for determined effort, sometimes called "grit", depend a great deal on one's genetic endowments and upbringing.

**105.** Which of the following can be true as per the passage?

- (a) People with merit are the only ones who are well-positioned in society.
- (b) People born into noble households aren't really concerned with merit.
- (c) The importance of merit in social advancement can be underestimated.
- (d) For skilled individuals, meritocracy is not a deciding factor.

**106.** Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the author's meritocracy argument?

- (a) The criteria that determine a person's social status are his or her talent and effort.
- (b) Many in society's upper echelons are opposed to meritocracy.
- (c) Even if a person is dedicated, there is no guarantee that his efforts will result in the intended outcome.
- (d) Meritorious people are frequently outperformed by fortunate individuals.

**107.** Which of the following can be deduced from the author's description of "grit"?

- (a) It's a one-of-a-kind luck factor.
- (b) It takes a combination of natural ability and perseverance.
- (c) It is passed down through the generations.
- (d) It's an uncommon feature that only a few people have.

**108.** According to the author's views, which of the following would best fit the blank above in the passage?

- (a) This isn't even taking into account the fortunate circumstances that appear in every success tale.
- (b) Simply embracing meritocracy as a value appears to encourage discrimination.
- (c) At best, the link between merit and outcome is shaky and indirect.
- (d) Meritocracy allows the wealthy and powerful to think of themselves as geniuses who produce results.

### Section E-Quantitative Techniques

#### PASSAGE XXII

**Directions (109- 112):** Study the following information and answer the questions below.

The data provided is about the number of people infected with Covid-19 in two different waves across three cities. In Indore, the total number of infected individuals is 6,000, out of which 2,200 were infected during the first wave and the rest during the second wave. In Bhopal, the number of individuals infected during the first wave of Covid-19 is 20% more than the number of people infected during the second wave in Indore, and the total number of infected individuals from both waves in Bhopal is 7,000. In Ujjain, the number of individuals infected during the second wave of Covid-19 is 10% less than the number of people infected during the first wave in Indore, and the total number of infected individuals from both waves in Ujjain is 5,000.

**109.** What is the average number of persons who were infected only from 1st wave in city Indore and Ujjain?

- (a) 2900
- (b) 1320
- (c) 1180
- (d) 2610

**110.** Find the respective ratio of number of people infected only from 2<sup>nd</sup> wave in city Indore and number of people infected only from 1st wave in city Bhopal?

- (a) 4 : 5
- (b) 5:6
- (c) 3: 6
- (d) 2 : 1

**111.** Find the sum of number of persons infected in 1st waves?

- (a) 9780
- (b) 8062
- (c) 8470
- (d) 8744

**112.** The number of people who were infected from both waves in Bhopal is how much percent more or less than the number of people who infected from both waves in Ujjain?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 30%

#### PASSAGE XXIII

**Directions (113 - 116):** Study the following information and answer the questions below.

The data is about marker and highlighter sold by two different shopkeepers Vidhi and Vidhan. The ratio of number of marker and highlighter sold by Vidhi is 9: 6. Number of highlighters sold by Vidhan is 20% more than number of marker sold by Vidhi. Total number of Marker sold by Vidhan is  $\frac{3}{5}$ <sup>th</sup> of number of highlighters sold by Vidhi. Total items sold by Vidhi is 750. Additionally, Vidhi purchased each marker at Rs.10 and sold it 20% profit and each highlighter at Rs.8 and sold it 25% profit. While Vidhan purchased each marker at Rs.12 and sold it 25% profit and each highlighter at Rs.10 and sold it 20% profit.

**113.** The number of items (Marker and highlighter) sold by Vidhan is what percent of number of items (Marker and highlighter) sold by Vidhi?

- (a) 68% (b) 72% (c) 84% (d) 96%

**114.** Out of total markers sold by each shopkeeper 40% were permanent markers and 60% were removable markers then find the sum of permanent markers sold by Vidhan and removable markers sold by Vidhi?

- (a) 432 (b) 324 (c) 342 (d) 423

**115.** Find the total profit amount earned by Vidhi on selling all items (Marker and highlighter)?

- (a) Rs.1200 (b) Rs.1500 (c) Rs.1300 (d) can't be determined

**116.** Find the total selling price received by Vidhan on selling all items (Marker and highlighter)?

- (a) Rs.9180 (b) Rs.8910 (c) Rs.9810 (d) can't be determined

#### PASSAGE XXIV

**Directions (117 - 120):** Study the following information and answer the questions below.

In a family, there are six people: Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, Vidya, Vidushi, and Vidhit, who are all living together in a house. Vidyut is currently 25 years old. Vidhi is 9 years older than Vidhan, who is 5 years younger than Vidyut. Five years from now, Vidyut's age will be 50% more than Vidya's age. The average age of Vidya and Vidushi is currently 25 years. Four years ago, the ratio between Vidhan's age and Vidhit's age was 8:9.

**117.** Find the respective ratio of ages of Vidushi to Vidhit 6 years after from now?

- (a) 4:3 (b) 41:28 (c) 14:29 (d) 17:28

**118.** What is average of present ages of Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidhit and Vidya?

- (a) 21.5 years (b) 31.5 years (c) 41.5 years (d) 12.5 years

**119.** The present ages of Vidhi and Vidya together is what percent of the present ages of Vidyut and Vidhan together?

- (a) 92.22% (b) 93.33% (c) 94.44% (d) 97.77%

**120.** Find the respective ratio of ages of Vidhi to Vidya, 4 years after from now?

- (a) 19:33 (b) 35:17 (c) 33:19 (d) 17:35



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The concepts discussed in class as well as mocks, really helped with strengthening my fundamentals. I was in constant touch with my mentors, who helped me a lot with my strategy & gave mocks earnestly.