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Answer & Solutions
Section A-English

1. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. Consider the lines from the passage, “Or, will this be the final and full integration of the state into India’s constitutional scheme, an improvement on the half measures that characterized the situation before the abrogation of 370? Will the sullen silence in the Valley be interpreted as a final victory? Or will it, as Justice Kaul’s unprecedented and heartfelt plea observed, offer an opportunity to set Kashmir on the path of truth and reconciliation? The author appears to view the judgement as an opportunity for truth and reconciliation in Kashmir, suggesting a more optimistic perspective on the potential outcomes. Hence (c).

2. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. This can be inferred from the statement, “Does the SC’s position establish potentially dangerous precedents for the rest of federalism as well as faith in its authority?” “The author is concerned about the impact of the judgement on the principles of federalism. Hence (c).

3. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. The passage primarily discusses the Supreme Court’s judgement on the abrogation of Article 370 and the historical content of Kashmir’s special status. Option (d) which mentions the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir, is not directly relevant to the central theme of the passage. The passage focusses more on political and legal aspects rather than economic development. Hence (d).

4. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The tragic paradox in the experience of Jammu and Kashmir, as mentioned in the passage, is reflected in its history characterized by betrayal, suffering and violence. The region has faced challenges and conflicts, and the author describes it as a tragic paradox. The rest of the actions are mentioned but not as a paradox mentioned in the first two lines of the second paragraph of the passage. ‘The experience of Jammu and Kashmir is marked by a tragic paradox. The formalities of treaties, law, legality, promises and procedure have been severely litigated. And yet at the same time, there is almost no other place where they have been rendered mostly irrelevant. Hence (b).

5. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. The Supreme Court, in the given passage, is quite empathetic that Article 370 was considered transitory in nature and that the occurrence of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was not required for the abrogation. The court upholds the actions taken by the Government of India in reorganizing the state and downgrading the status of Kashmir in 2019. The idea that facts often become the norms in the case of Kashmir is not explicitly discussed in the passage. It is stated in the last few lines of the second last paragraph that, ‘Usually norms have to meet facts halfway. In the case of Kashmir, the facts often become the norms. In 2019, the Government of India, via two Constitutional Orders 272 and 273, abrogated Article 370, and reorganized the state, downgrading the status of Kashmir. The facts changed again. The SC, in this judgment has, once again, obliged and the norm followed.’ Thus (d) statement is incorrect. Hence (d).

6. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The jongleur’s statement, “I am the result of a miracle”, suggests that he attributes his existence to a miraculous event. This implies that he sees something extraordinary in the circumstances that led to his current state. Hence (b).

7. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. In the passage, the term “jongleur” refers to a storyteller. The narrator describes himself as a jongleur who engages in various forms of entertainment such as leaping, pirouetting, making people laugh and revealing the flaws of those in power through humor and satire. Hence (d).

8. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The jongleur uses the metaphorical expression, “I pull out the plug, and ... pssss ... they deflate”, to convey that he exposes the flaws and vulnerabilities of powerful people, deflating their arrogance. The act of pulling out the plug symbolizes revealing the truth or exposing the reality behind the façade of those in power. Hence (b).

9. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The mentioned idiom is a figurative expression that means working diligently and tirelessly to the point of exhaustion. In the context of the passage, the speaker describes the strenuous efforts involved in bringing earth to a mountain and cultivating the land. It emphasizes the hard work and dedication put into transforming the rocky terrain into a fertile and productive area. Hence (c).

10. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The speaker talks about bringing earth onto the mountain and sowing seeds, which resulted in the transformation of the land into fertile ground. Hence (b).

11. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The speaker expresses joy in the passage not for the heavy weight of custom, the earthly freight of the soul, or the inevitable yoke of maturity. Instead, the speaker raises the “song of thanks and praise” specifically for the simple creed of Childhood with delight and liberty. The lines in the passage suggest a celebration of the carefree and joyful essence of childhood. Thus option (b) is correct.

12. Ans: (b).

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The speaker expresses joy and raises a “song of thanks and praise” not for the burdens of maturity or the haunting presence of the eternal mind but specifically for the simple creed of childhood with delight and liberty. It suggests that the memories and experiences of the past years bring a sense of perpetual blessing. Hence (b).

13. Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct. The speaker uses this term to describe the nature of what was remembered by nature, indicating that there is something in our embers (past experiences or memories) that is hard to find and temporary. It escapes our consciousness. Hence (a).

14. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The speaker conveys that the person addressed has an exterior appearance that contradicts the true depth of their soul. The word ‘belie’ suggests that the external presentation or semblance is deceptive, implying that there is more to a person than what is seen from outside. Hence (b).

15. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The passage explores the central theme of how Russian Orthodox Churches in Western Ukraine managed to survive in the post-war era despite challenges imposed by soviet policies. It explores the historical context and the lasting impact on religious institutions in the region. Hence (c).

16. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The main idea of the passage revolves around the forced religious transfer in western Ukraine initiated by Soviet state. The passage discusses the historical narrative, the motivations behind the Soviet actions and the lasting impact on religious institutions in the region. Hence (c).

17. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The passage mentions that the perceived successes of the 1939 experiment in western borderlands, involving the forced transfer of churches to Moscow’s spiritual jurisdiction, laid the groundwork for the Soviet-wide revival of the Russian orthodox. This demonstrates a connection between the forced religious transfer in western Ukraine and its broader impact on the Russian Orthodox Church. Hence (c).

18. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. It can be inferred from the passage which mentions that by the time the Soviet Union collapsed, 20 percent of its surviving Russian Orthodox Churches were located in the Galician region of western Ukraine. This implies that a significant portion of Russian Orthodox Churches in western Ukraine, specifically in Galicia, continued to exist despite the changes occurring during the post-soviet era. Hence (c).

19. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. The passage highlights that in western Ukraine, Russian Orthodox priests successfully petitioned to keep their churches open, which was different from the situation in other regions where many sacred spaces were shuttered again. Thus option (d) contradicts the information based on the passage. Hence (d).

20. Ans: d

Sol: Option (d) is correct. The passage highlights the unfolding humanitarian tragedy in Gaza and emphasizes the need for urgent action to address the suffering of the population. It is also stated in the last few lines of the last paragraph, 'An end to the violence in Gaza has become imperative for regional stability. Israel is unlikely to pause the offensive on its own. But the U.S. and other major regional powers should press Israel and Hamas to restart negotiations to find a lasting ceasefire and the release of hostages. 'Option (a) is incorrect because the passage doesn't provide confirmation that the al-Shifa hospital in northern Gaza was proven to be a Hamas command center. Option (b) is incorrect because, the passage suggests tensions in America's full support for Israel's war but it does not indicate full support. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage states that Anthony Blinken urged for the conflict to end in days, not months. This implies that he does not support a prolonged conflict. Hence (d).

21. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage discusses the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, providing a critical analysis of the situation, including the actions of Israel, international reactions and the need for a ceasefire. This aligns with the genre political commentary. It would not be a political journal because a journal is intended for an academic or technical audience, not the general masses. Hence (b).

22. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage mentions in the end that the violence has already triggered regional tensions, with actions from Hezbollah and the Houthis. It suggests that ending violence in Gaza is crucial to prevent further regional tensions and maintain stability in the region. The passage emphasizes the need for major powers, including the U.S to press Israel and Hamas to restart negotiations for a lasting ceasefire and major stability. Hence (b).

23. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The passage states in the concluding lines of the passage that, the end of violence in Gaza has become imperative of regional stability. It implies that resolving the conflict in Gaza is crucial for maintaining stability in the broader region. The passage doesn't focus on military success or diplomatic efforts but underscores the importance of achieving a lasting ceasefire for the sake of regional stability. Hence (c).

24. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The passage expresses concern about the ongoing conflict in Gaza, highlighting the humanitarian tragedy, displacement of the population, and the need for international intervention. The tone is critical of Israel's actions and calls for a ceasefire to ensure regional stability. Hence (c).

Section B-Current Affairs with GK**25. Ans. a**

Exp. The 37th National Games were officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a ceremony held in Panaji, Goa. This marked the first time that the National Games were held in Goa.

26. Ans. b

Exp. Maharashtra topped the National Games 2023 medals tally with 228 medals – 80 gold, 69 silvers and 79 bronze. Maharashtra last topped the National Games medals table back in 1994.

27. Ans. b

Exp. Newly added Sports in 37th National Games were Beach football, roll ball, golf, sepaktakraw, sqay martial arts, kallyiarapattu, pencak silat, Yachtin gand taekwondo.

28. Ans. c

Exp. Official Sponsor of 37th National Games was Paytm. Mascot – MOGA It means “Love” in the Konkani language and it symbolises the beating heart of every athlete, coach, and sports enthusiast. Theme/Motto– “Get Set Goa” and Official Hydration Partner- Bisleri.

29. Ans. b

Exp. The 2023 National Games was the first to be held in Goa in five of the following cities – Mapusa, Margao, Panaji, Ponda, and Vasco. The event witnessed the participation of athletes from 28 states, 8 Union Territories, and the Services Sports Control Board in the 47 sports fields. The 38th National Games is set to be held in Uttarakhand by 2024.

30. Ans. c

Exp. The “National Policy on Biofuels was notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2018. The policy was notified in supersession of the National Policy on Biofuels, promulgated through the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, in 2009.

31. Ans. d

Exp: CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) will promote production and consumption of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) in the country. It was, inter-alia, decided that: CBO will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 and mandatory blending obligation would start from FY 2025-26.

32. Ans. a

Exp. CBO will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 and mandatory blending obligation would start from FY 2025-26. CBO shall be kept as 1%, 3% and 4% of total CNG/PNG consumption for FY 2025-26, 2026- 27 and 2027-28 respectively. From 2028-29 onwards CBO will be 5%.

33. Ans. c

Exp. As part of the phased approach, the mandatory blending percentage is set to increase to approximately 5% by 2028. This strategic escalation underscores the government’s commitment to progressively integrating biogas into the mainstream energy consumption landscape, further reducing the carbon footprint.

34. Ans. b

Exp. The world’s first compressed natural gas (CNG) terminal will be set up close to Gujarat’s Bhavnagar port. The terminal will start operations in 2026.

35. Ans. c

Exp. The Union Government has decided to rename the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as ‘Ayushman Arogya Mandir’. This move, communicated through a letter to all States and Union Territories by the Union Health Ministry, aims to enhance the identity and outreach of these primary healthcare facilities.

36. Ans. a

Exp. States and Union Territories are urged to swiftly execute the rebranding process to meet the deadline set by the end of 2023. The timely completion of this initiative is crucial to ensure a seamless transition and to project a unified identity for these health and wellness centers.

37. Ans. c

Exp. NHM was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the National Rural Health Mission (Launched in 2005) and the National Urban Health Mission (Launched in 2013).

38. Ans. c

Exp. The Union Government has recently made a significant decision to rebrand the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' with the tagline 'Arogyam Parmam Dhanam.'

39. Ans. b

Exp. In India, April 30 is celebrated as Ayushman Bharat Diwas to uplift the ideals of the Government of India's Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) or Ayushman Bharat Yojana aims to make healthcare accessible and affordable to around 50 crore economically backward Indian citizens.

40. Ans. a

Exp. The International Labour Organization was established in 1919 under the League of Nations and was integrated into the United Nations as an exclusive agency in 1946. The International Labour Organization plays a vital role in formulating policies that are emphasized in solving Labour issues.

41. Ans. b

Exp. The ILO has 187 state members. 186 of the 193 member states of the United Nations plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO. The only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 Member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

42. Ans. c

Exp. The report, titled 'A Call for Safer and Healthier Working Environments', will be discussed at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, one of the largest international conferences on this subject, which began in Sydney. Recently In the wake of the Uttarkashi tunnel incident, the Central Trade Unions had urged the Union government to ratify a few conventions related to safety of workers.

43. Ans. a

Exp. The report said that so far 79 out of the 187 member countries have ratified the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155), while 62 countries have ratified the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187). India has not ratified both the conventions.

44. Ans. a

Exp. Citing the data released by ILO on the fatal occupational injury rate, the report said mining and quarrying, construction, and utilities sectors were the three most hazardous sectors globally. The diseases that caused most work-related deaths were circulatory diseases, malignant neoplasms and respiratory diseases.

45. Ans. a

Exp. The original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is limited to a few types of cases, such as those involving disputes between the Union and the States, or those related to the enforcement of fundamental rights. This jurisdiction is primarily exercised through the issuance of writs, which are judicial orders that can be used to compel the government to comply with its legal obligations.

46. Ans. b

Exp. In 1984, the Tenth Law Commission suggested dividing the Supreme Court into Constitutional and Legal Divisions. In 1988, Eleventh Law Commission reiterated the proposal, aiming for wider justice availability and reduced litigant fees.

47. Ans. c

Exp. As a step towards making the Court more accessible, the 229th Law Commission Report (2009) recommended four regional benches to be located in Delhi, Chennai or Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai to hear non-constitutional issues.

48. Ans. a

Exp. There is no prescribed minimum age limit for a judge's appointment. A judge of the Supreme Court serves until they reach the age of 65 years. However, a judge may resign before reaching the age of 65 years by tendering their resignation to the President.

49. Ans. c

Exp. Char Dham Project foundation stone of the ₹12,000 crore project was laid at Parade Ground in Dehradun by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 27 2016. The highway will be called Char Dham Mahamarg (Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called as Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project).

50. Ans. a

Exp. The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of; Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri at an estimated cost of Rs.12,000 crores. The highway will be called Char Dham Mahamarg (Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called as Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project).

51. Ans: C

Exp: The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, is the primary fund available to State Governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Kashmir).

52. Ans. a

Exp. Pushkar Singh Dhama is an Indian politician and a member of the Bhartiya Janata Party, serving as the 10th and the current Chief Minister of Uttarakhand since 2021. He represents the Champawat Assembly constituency in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly since 2022 and previously from Khatima from 2012 to 2022.

Section C-Legal Reasoning**53. Ans: (a)**

Sol: Option (a) is correct. As mentioned in the passage, the essential ingredients to impose liability under Section 354 is that a person assaults or uses criminal force on a woman with an intention to outrage modesty or with knowledge that through his act modesty will be outraged. The passage also provides that act of pulling a woman coupled with request for sexual intercourse will outrage her modesty. The test of outrage of modesty is whether a reasonable man will think that the act of the offender was intended to or was known to be likely to outrage the modesty of the woman. In the present question, Vidhan has tried to initiate a conversation with Vidhi. However, she feels uncomfortable and tries to leave. Vidhan holds her arm and accordingly stops her from leaving. She feels threatened due to this and again tried to leave. Again she tries to leave and Vidhan holds her again and requested sexual intercourse. Applying the principles discussed above, it is clear that his acts amounts to criminal force-as fear is caused due to his act. Secondly, as per the judgement-pulling a woman amounts to outraging her modesty. Thus, the essential ingredient for outraging the modesty is fulfilled. The condition for knowledge is fulfilled by applying the test of reasonable man. Option (b) is incorrect because the option is based on Section 509 whereas the question is specifically asking for guilt with regards to Section 354. Option (c) is incorrect option because it only proves that assault has been committed. It does not state anything with regards to outraging modesty. Option (d) is incorrect. By applying the standard of reasonable man, it can be concluded that Vidhan has knowledge that through his act modesty will be outraged.

54. Ans: (b)

Sol: It is specifically mentioned in the passage, that offence under Section 354 can be tried by any magistrate. Therefore, any magistrate be it JM First Class, or JM Second Class is eligible to try a case falling under Section 354. Thus, Vidhan's claim is invalid. Option (b) is correct. Option (a) & (c) are incorrect because it has been specifically mentioned in the passage that the offence can be tried by any magistrate. Therefore, it would be incorrect to say that only JM First Class should try the case. Option (d) is not the most appropriate option. The passage specifically mentions that the offence can be tried by any magistrate. This information is adequate to answer this particular question.

55. Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct. As mentioned in the passage, the essential ingredients to impose liability under Section 354 is that a person assaults or uses criminal force on a woman with an intention to outrage modesty or with knowledge that through his act modesty will be outraged. In the present question, both the essential ingredients are present. Vidhan has used criminal force because through her acts annoyance has been caused to Vidhisha. Furthermore, it is specifically mentioned in the question, that he touched her inappropriately in the garb of correcting her posture. Thus he had the intention to outrage her modesty. Hence, he has committed an offence under Section 354 of Indian Penal Code. Option (b) is incorrect. The reasoning used is not in line with the passage. It is not enough to say that Vidhan is guilty under Section 354 merely because correcting the posture was not required. Appropriate reasoning should be to say that Vidhan is liable because all the essential ingredients as mentioned in Section 354 have been fulfilled. Option (c) is incorrect. The question is very clear on the fact that he touched her inappropriately in the garb of correcting her posture. This shows clear intention on his part. Hence, it would be incorrect to say that he was merely doing his duties as a gym instructor. Option (d) is incorrect because the absence of an immediate reaction from Vidhisha is not a decisive factor in determining whether her modesty was outraged, according to the Supreme Court's clarification.

56. Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct. In order to apply the punishment under amended provision, three things are required: (i) Assault or criminal force is done; (ii) with intention to outrage modesty or knowledge that modesty will be outraged; and (iii) Such acts must have been committed after 2013. In the present question, Vidhan used criminal force against Vidhi with the intention to outrage her modesty. Furthermore, the events have been committed after 2013. This falls squarely under the purview of the amended IPC Section 354, which prescribes a more stringent punishment for such offenses. Option (b) is incorrect because the severity of Vidhan's actions is not the determining factor for the application of IPC Section 354; rather, the act must have been committed after 2013. Option (c) is incorrect because while the amendment was designed to deal with such cases more severely, the history of similar behaviour is not a requirement for the application of amended IPC Section 354. The requirement is that acts must have been committed after 2013. Option (d) is incorrect because, as per the Supreme Court's clarification, the absence of an immediate reaction from the woman is not always decisive in determining whether her modesty was outraged.

57. Ans: (d)

Sol. It is mentioned in the passage that offence under Section 354 is a non-bailable offence. The passage also explains that non-bailable offence means that bail is not a right of the accused and is granted on the discretion of the judge. In the present case, Vidur has requested the judge to grant him bail. The Judge has exercised his discretion by carefully analysing the facts of the case. Accordingly the bail granted is valid. Option (d) is correct. Option (a) is incorrect. This option ignores the fact that in non-bailable offences, judge has a discretion to grant bail. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that bail cannot be granted in any case. Option (b) is incorrect. The judge has a discretion to grant bail in case of non-bailable offence. The passage does not state that such discretion is to be exercised only in case the innocence of accused is proved. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that magistrate's decision will be valid only if Vidur's innocence is proved. Option (c) is incorrect as the reasoning used is vague and not in light of information mentioned in the passage.

58. Ans: (c)

Sol: Statement (i) can be concluded from the passage, as it is clearly mentioned in the passage that presence of either intention' or 'knowledge' is vital for the alleged act to fall under the purview of IPC Sections 354, 351, and

350. Statement (iv) can be concluded from the passage as in the case of 'Ramkripal vs State of Madhya Pradesh' the court held that "The reaction of the woman is very relevant, but its absence is not always decisive." Statement (ii) and (iii) cannot be concluded from the passage. The passage mentions about the non-bailable and cognisable nature of offense under section 354 but it is silent on nature of offense under section 509. Furthermore, the passage does not state anything with regards to possibility of bail under Section 509.

59. Ans. (b)

Sol: Both Assertion and Reason are independently correct. As per the passage, section 354 of IPC punishes individuals for acts of assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty whereas 509 of IPC punishes the offense of word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of women, without clear threat of physical harm or assault to the woman. But R cannot be said to be the correct reason of A's truthfulness. In fact, R deals with offences that are less severe in nature while offences of serious nature are dealt under A.

60. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct because, as per the legal principles outlined in the passage, the authorized signatory (Vidhi) who signs a cheque on behalf of a company (Vidhan Pvt. Ltd.) is not considered the "drawer" of the cheque. Hence, Vidhi cannot be ordered to pay interim compensation under section 143A in a case of cheque dishonour. The liability, if any, rests with the company, i.e., Vidhan Pvt. Ltd. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the company (Vidhan Pvt. Ltd.) can be directed, the signatory (Vidhi) cannot be directed to pay interim compensation under section 143A. Option (c) is incorrect because Vidhi, being the authorized signatory, is not considered the "drawer" and hence is not liable under section 143A. Option (d) is incorrect because Vidhan Pvt. Ltd., being the drawer of the cheque, can be directed to pay the interim compensation under section 143A.

61. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. As per the passage, the Supreme Court held that sections 143A and 148 of NI Act were enacted in 2018. Section 148 provides for deposit of 20% of fine in case of appeal. In the present case, Vidhyut filed an appeal in 2017. Hence, in 2017 the court can neither direct Vidhyut, nor Vidhi Industries Ltd. to deposit 20% of the fine. Option (a) is incorrect because, as per the legal principles, the term "drawer" does not include the authorized signatory of a company in the context of section 148. Hence, the appellate court cannot direct Vidhyut, the authorized signatory, to deposit 20% of the fine. Option (b) is incorrect. Section 148 of NI Act, which provides for deposit of 20% of fine in case of appeal, was enacted in 2018 while the appeal in the present case is filed in 2017. Hence this provision would not provide power to the appellate court in the present question. Option (c) is incorrect. Under section 148 of NI Act, only the drawer of the cheque can be asked to pay 20% of deposit in case of appeal. Besides the facts of the present question are before 2018-so the appellate court has no power to direct the drawer as well.

62. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. As per the passage, authorised signatory of a company who signs a cheque on its behalf is not the "drawer" of the cheque and hence such signatory is not liable to pay interim compensation under section 143A of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 in a case for dishonour of cheque. The drawer has the liability under section 138. Therefore, Vidhi, the authorized signatory, cannot be directed to do so. Only Vihaan enterprises can be asked to pay interim compensation. Option (a) is incorrect because, as per the legal principles, the term "drawer" in the context of section 143A does not include the authorized signatory of a company. Hence, the court cannot direct Vidhi, the authorized signatory, to pay interim compensation. Option (c) is incorrect because, while Vihaan Enterprises can be directed to pay interim compensation, Vidhi cannot be directed to do so based on the legal principles. Option (d) is incorrect because Vihaan Enterprises, being the drawer, can be directed to pay interim compensation under section 143A. Interim compensation is paid before the completion of trial.

63. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. As per the passage, the appellate court has the power under section 389 of Cr.P.C. to direct deposit of amount in an appeal by persons other than the drawer. Thus, Vikas can be directed to deposit an amount under this provision. Option (a) is incorrect because, as per the legal principles, the term 'drawer' in the context of section 148 does not include the authorized signatory of a company. Hence, the appellate court cannot direct Vikas, the authorized signatory, to deposit 20% of the fine awarded by the trial court under section 148.

Option (b) is incorrect because while Vikas cannot be directed to deposit 20% of the fine under section 148, he can be directed to deposit an amount under section 389 of Cr.P.C. Option (d) is incorrect because, while Vidhan Industries can be directed to deposit 20% of the fine under section 148, Vikas can be directed to deposit an amount under section 389 of Cr.P.C.

64. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. As mentioned in the passage, vicarious liability can be imposed on person other than drawer in case offence under Section 138 is committed by a company. The passage also states that person can be held liable under Section 138 if it can be shown that he had deeper involvement in the affairs of the company, apart from being an authorised signatory. The facts of the present question clearly state that Vidur is the Managing Director and is responsible for affairs of the company. Thus he can be held vicariously liable by virtue of Section 141 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. Option (a) is incorrect because it ignores the fact that person other than drawer can also be held liable in case of offence by company. Option (c) is incorrect. As per the passage, an authorised signatory can also be held liable if there is involvement in affairs of the company. As mentioned in the passage, vicarious liability can be imposed in case of offence under Section 138 is committed by a company and the individual has deeper involvement in the affairs of the company. The question shows that Vidur was a senior person in the company and was deeply involved in the affairs of the company. Therefore he would be vicariously liable. Option (d) is incorrect. The reasoning used is not correct in light with the principles mentioned in the passage. The more appropriate reasoning should be that he is vicariously liable due to his involvement in affairs of the company.

65. Ans: (a)

Sol. As mentioned in the passage, the proviso to Section 141 specifically states that liability is excluded if the accused person proves that the offence was committed without his **knowledge**, or that he had **exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence**. This means that a person will not be vicariously liable if it is proven that accused person had no knowledge **or** he had exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence. By the introduction of these additional facts, it becomes clear that Vidur had made sure that there was sufficient money in the account. Also, he had no knowledge that a transaction has been done to reduce the balance. Thus the conditions of the proviso are fulfilled and thus, the Vidur's liability under Section 138 will be extinguished. Hence, option (a) is correct. Option (b) & (d) are incorrect because the additional facts completely extinguish the liability. Therefore, it would be incorrect to state that the grounds to impose liability have been strengthened. Option (c) is incorrect as the additional facts will clearly show an effect- by extinguishing liability.

66. Ans: (c)

Sol. Option (c) cannot be concluded from the passage. This option states that Trial Court can direct the drawer to pay minimum 20% of the fine as interim compensation. This is incorrect because as per the passage, the limit of 20% is with regards to the deposit that the appellate court can direct the drawer to pay. No such limit is provided with regards to interim compensation under Section 143A. Moreover, the direction to deposit such amount is issued by the appellate court and not the trial court.

67. Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct because Rule 36 of the BCI Rules prohibits lawyers from advertising their work either directly or indirectly. Vidhan's blog posts discussing his successful cases could be construed as a subtle form of advertising, thereby violating Rule 36. Option (b) is incorrect because although the 2008 amendment allows for some information to be shared on websites, it does not permit indirect advertising through content that discusses past successes. Option (c) is incorrect because Rule 36 prohibits both direct and indirect forms of advertising, not just explicit solicitations for work. Option (d) is incorrect because the rule's language is broad enough to include educational content that could be seen as a form of indirect advertising. Besides, the passages does not provide any exception for educational content.

68. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct because Section 35 of the Advocates Act empowers the State Bar Council to refer the case to a disciplinary committee that can, after giving the advocate an opportunity to be heard, suspend her for some time, remove her name from the state's roll of advocates, or reprimand her. Option (a) is incorrect because the

violation of Rule 36 itself is grounds for disciplinary action, irrespective of whether a client files a formal complaint. Option (b) is incorrect because Rule 36 explicitly prohibits such indications, regardless of their factual accuracy. Option (c) is incorrect because the disciplinary committee has the power to do more than just fine an advocate; it can also suspend or remove them from the state's roll of advocates. The nature of penalty imposed on Vidhi will depend on the decision of the disciplinary committee.

69. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. Rule 36 mentioned in passage provides that "an advocate practicing in India shall not solicit work or advertise, either directly or indirectly." Therefore, if Vidhyut continues to practice in India, the Rule 36 would be applicable on him. Therefore option (a) is incorrect. Option (b) is incorrect because even if the advertisement violates Rule 7 of the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007, he would face repercussions in UK, not in India. Option (d) is incorrect as merely visiting India would not bring Vidhyut under the jurisdiction of Rule 36.

70. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct because the 2008 amendment to Rule 36 specifies the types of information that can be included on a lawyer's website, and client testimonials are not among them. Therefore, including testimonials could be considered a violation of Rule 36. Option (b) is therefore incorrect. The 2008 amendment does not extend to the inclusion of client testimonials. Option (a) is incorrect because it makes a wrong assumption that if the testimonial is not considered genuine by the clients, it will not amount to violation of Rule 36. Option (d) is incorrect because it makes a wrong assumption that an act will be considered a violation of rule 36 only if it results in financial gains which cannot be reasonably derived from the passage.

71. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that "In 2008, Rule 36 was amended, and advocates were allowed to provide their names, contact details, post qualification experience, enrolment number, specialisation, and areas of practice on their websites." This indicates that Rule 36 was amended to allow lawyers to list specific types of information on their websites. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage specifies that the changes to Rule 36 only allow for certain types of information to be listed on lawyers' websites, not that they can freely advertise over online platforms. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not state that Rule 36 has been completely repealed. It has been amended to allow for some types of advertising. Option (d) is incorrect. The amended Rule 36 states that advocates can provide specific information on their website only. Thus it would be wrong to say that lawyers are allowed to advertise through web portals and apps.

72. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. With regards to advertising rules for lawyers in Australia, the passage only provides that Lawyers can legally advertise their services in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the European Union. Thus, it cannot be inferred from the passage that lawyers in Australia were always free to advertise their services. Also the passage does not state anything with regards to approval from Bar Council of Australia. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that Rule 36 was amended in 2008 to allow lawyers to list specific types of information on their websites. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage clearly mentions that Rule 7 in the UK allows lawyers to advertise their practice, business, or firm as long as it's not done in a misleading or false way. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage specifies that an advocate who violates Rule 36 can face punishment for professional or other misconduct under Section 35 of the Advocates Act.

73. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct because, as per the 2014 judgement in the case of Aveek Sarkar & Anr vs State Of West Bengal and Anr, the court stated that the artwork must be judged based on contemporary mores and national standards, and should be "taken as a whole" and seen in the context of what it wants to convey. Option (a) is incorrect because after the 2014 judgement of the Supreme Court, the Hicklin Test is no longer the standard used by Indian courts for determining obscenity. Option (b) is incorrect because the court in 2014 clarified that the standard is not what a group of susceptible or sensitive persons might find obscene. Option (d) is incorrect because public outcry alone is not a legal standard for determining obscenity.

74. Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct because Section 67 of the Information Technology Act states that anyone who publishes or transmits obscene material in electronic form can be punished. The section defines obscene material as content that is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest. Therefore, the court would primarily consider whether the photos are lascivious or appeal to the prurient interest. Option (b) is incorrect because the age of the viewers is not a factor mentioned in Section 67 of the IT Act for determining obscenity. Option (c) is incorrect because a disclaimer does not absolve the content from being considered obscene if it otherwise meets the criteria under section 67 of the IT act. Option (d) is incorrect because critical acclaim in the art community is not a legal standard for determining obscenity under the IT Act.

75. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct because, as per the 2014 Supreme Court judgment, the content should be seen in its entirety and within the context of its message. The song is a satire on societal norms, which would align with the legal principle that the content should be understood in its context. Therefore, the song is not obscene. Option (a) is incorrect. In its 2014 judgement, Supreme Court held that “merely because a photograph can be interpreted as sexually, it is not necessarily obscene.” Based on same reasoning, if a song merely contains sexually suggestive lyrics, this does not make the song obscene according to the legal standards set by the Supreme Court.” Option (c) is incorrect because the offense being found by a parent is not the legal standard for determining obscenity. Option (d) is incorrect because the absence of explicit depiction of obscene acts is not, by itself, a defense against a charge of obscenity.

76. Ans: (d)

Sol: Statement (i) cannot be concluded from the passage because in 2014, the Supreme Court did away with the Hicklin Test while hearing the case of Ayeek Sarkar & Anr vs State Of West Bengal and Anr. Statement (ii) cannot be concluded from the passage because Section 293 criminalises the sale or distribution of obscene objects to anyone who is under the age of 20, or an attempt to do so, not section 294. Statement (iii) cannot be concluded because as per the recent approach of Supreme Court to determine obscenity, regard must be given to the contemporary mores and national standards and not the standard of a group of susceptible or sensitive persons and the content must be taken as a whole and seen with the context of what it wants to convey. Statement (iv) cannot be concluded because as per the passage One can find a vague definition of what constitutes obscenity in Section 292, which says that any content shall be deemed to be obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest, or if its effect tends to deprave and corrupt persons likely to read, see or hear the content. Therefore, no clear and detailed definition of obscenity is given in IPC.

77. Ans: (b)

Sol. Both Assertion and Reason are correct. As per the judgement of the court in Ayeek Sarkar & Anr vs State Of West Bengal and Anr the court held that “while judging as to whether a particular photograph, an article or book is obscene, regard must be given to the contemporary mores and national standards and not the standard of a group of susceptible or sensitive persons”. It added that the photograph must be “taken as a whole” and seen with the context of what it wants to convey. From this it can be inferred that to determine whether a work is obscene or not it must be taken as a whole and seen with the context of what it wants to convey. But R is not the correct explanation of A. In fact it is an extension of A.

78. Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct because it cannot be inferred from the passage that Section 67 of the Information Technology Act criminalizes obscene conduct only on the internet. The passage states that “Section 67 of the Information Technology Act says that anyone who publishes or transmits obscene material in electronic form can be punished,” but it does not specify that this section applies only to the internet. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that “Section 292 says that any content shall be deemed to be obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest,” and it “prohibits the sale or publication of any obscene pamphlet, book, paper, painting, and other such materials.” Option (c) is incorrect because the passage specifies that “Section 293 criminalizes the sale or distribution of obscene objects to anyone who is under the age of 20, or an attempt to do so.” Option (d) is incorrect because the passage mentions that “Ranveer Singh posted pictures of his nude

photoshoot for the New York-based Paper magazine on social media, police booked him under Sections 292, 293 and 509 of the IPC and Section 67A of the IT Act," confirming that he was also booked under Section 509 of the IPC.

79. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct because in the Senthil Balaji case, the Supreme Court interpreted Section 167(2) of the CrPC to suggest that the custody isn't exclusively based on the police-judicial custody binary. This interpretation empowers the ED to seek an extension of custody, even if its officers aren't strictly recognized as the police. Furthermore, the passage specifically stated that Supreme Court agreed that custody is permissible post the initial 15 days of arrest. Option (a) is incorrect because the Supreme Court resisted labelling the ED as police in the past, as evidenced by the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India case. Moreover, police is only allowed custody for a period of 15 days. Thus equating ED to police will prevent them from obtaining custody beyond 15 days. Option (b) is incorrect because even though the ED isn't labelled as either police or a judicial entity, the Senthil Balaji case empowers it to seek extended custody under certain conditions. Option (d) is incorrect because the reasoning used is not in line with the passage.

80. Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct because, as mentioned in the passage, the Supreme Court's interpretation in the Senthil Balaji case indicates that Section 167(2) of CrPC isn't solely grounded in the police-judicial custody binary. The Court essentially empowers the ED to seek custody even if its officers aren't recognized as the police. Option (a) is incorrect since the Senthil Balaji judgment elucidates that the structure of Section 167(2) allows for discretion beyond the clear-cut police-judicial custody categorization, thus potentially permitting entities like the ED to seek custody extensions. Option (b) is incorrect as the recent Supreme Court interpretation does not strictly adhere to the 15-day police custody limit, allowing entities like the ED potential custody extensions. Option (c) is incorrect because while physical production can be a criterion for police custody, the central issue here is the differentiation between police and judicial custody and the ED's placement within this distinction.

81. Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. As mentioned in the passage, Section 19 clearly states that officers of ED are empowered to make arrest of individuals, if they have reasons to believe, on the basis of material (evidence) in possession that a person has committed an act punishable under PMLA. Therefore, (a) is incorrect as it draws conclusion from incomplete interpretation of Section 19. Option (b) is incorrect as merely because the officer is acting in good faith, it will not absolve him from responsibility of conducting an investigation and recording reasons in writing, before making an arrest under Section 19 of PMLA. Option (d) is incorrect because although the Supreme Court has refused to align ED as either police or judicial entity, it doesn't take away its power to make arrest or extended custody of individuals.

82. Ans: (b)

Solution: As mentioned in the passage, the requirement under Section 19(3) is that the accused must be presented before the magistrate, having jurisdiction, within 24 Hrs. In the present case, the accused was presented before the Magistrate within 24 Hrs. The fact that he was again taken before the magistrate the next day in the morning is irrelevant here. It is pertinent to note that the question is silent on the fact of magistrate having jurisdiction. Hence, Option (b) is the most appropriate option. Option (c) cannot be the most appropriate option as it assumes for sure that magistrate had the jurisdiction. Option (a) is incorrect as the accused was presented before the magistrate within 24 Hrs. The requirement is of presenting the accused before the magistrate. Option (d) is incorrect as the requirement was filled the moment the accused was taken to the Magistrate. The fact that he was again taken before the magistrate the next day in the morning is irrelevant here.

83. Ans: (b)

Sol. As mentioned in the passage, the requirement is that accused must be presented to a magistrate having jurisdiction within 24 Hrs. The additional fact states that the magistrate does not have the jurisdiction. Therefore, the case of the ED would be weakened. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer. Option (a) is incorrect as the additional fact does not introduce any point in favour of the ED. Option (c) is incorrect as the ED's case would not be strengthened. Option (d) is incorrect as the additional fact clearly weakens the ED's case by showing that magistrate does not have the jurisdiction.

84. Ans: (c)

Sol: Statement (i) is true because the Supreme Court affirmatively answered that the ED can obtain an accused's custody post the initial 15 days of arrest. Statement (ii) is incorrect because the Supreme Court resisted from categorically aligning the ED as either a police or a judicial entity. Statement (iii) is true because the Court empowered the ED to seek custody even if its officers aren't officially recognized as the police. Statement (iv) is incorrect. Section 19 of PMLA empowers officers of ED to arrest individuals if they have reasons to believe that the individual has committed an act punishable under PMLA, and not any other crime. Thus only (i) and (iii) are correct. Option (c) is the correct option.

Section D-Logical Reasoning**85. Ans: a**

Sol: Option (a) is correct. The passage details the implications of crude oil prices on India's macroeconomic environment. A rise in these prices due to the conflict could impact the current account deficit, inflation, and fiscal policies in India. Specifically, the passage states that "higher prices could impact the current account deficit and inflation." Hence, the assumption that crude oil prices have a direct impact on India's inflation and fiscal policies is essential. Option (b): While the passage does mention the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, it doesn't present it as the sole or primary factor determining India's macroeconomic stability. Option (c): The passage does cite the withdrawal of foreign portfolio investors as an indicator of market sentiment on a specific day, but it doesn't suggest that they are the sole governing factor for the Indian market's performance. Option (d): Although the passage does connect the West Asian conflict to potential global market uncertainties, it doesn't state that every escalation in West Asia invariably leads to worldwide market instability. Hence (a).

86. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage hints at the possibility that rising crude oil prices may not lead to a direct, proportional increase in retail fuel prices. One primary factor that could significantly influence this relationship in India is the country's fuel taxation policies. If these policies adjust frequently and are designed to absorb or offset global price changes, they would have a direct impact on retail prices. Knowing the periodicity and magnitude of these adjustments would be pivotal in assessing the claim. Option (a): While the elasticity of demand could provide insight into consumption patterns in relation to price changes, it wouldn't directly address the mechanism of price translation from crude to retail. Option (c): Although inventory management strategies might influence pricing to some extent, they don't offer a comprehensive view of how external crude prices impact the final retail price. Option (d): While comparative data might provide some context, it doesn't directly elucidate the specific dynamics of India's pricing mechanisms and their response to crude oil prices. Hence (b).

87. Ans: a

Sol: Option (a) is correct. The passage suggests that a rising current account deficit could impact India's fiscal health. An impending large external debt obligation due for repayment would directly pressure the nation's fiscal position, especially when coupled with a significant current account deficit. This situation could lead to higher borrowing costs and further strain the fiscal health. Option (b): While exhausting most of the foreign exchange reserves is concerning, it primarily affects monetary policy and exchange rates. It's not directly tied to fiscal health via the current account deficit. Option (c): Although the passage mentions the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, it doesn't correlate its success directly with the current account deficit or fiscal health. Option (d): A decline in domestic consumption could impact the overall economy, but it doesn't directly highlight the linkage between the current account deficit and fiscal health. Hence (a).

88. Ans: d

Sol: Option (d) is correct. While the passage does not explicitly state that joint strategies were implemented, it does mention that both the "oil marketing companies and the government" could bear the burden of higher prices. This nuanced understanding points towards a collaborative effort to manage and absorb the price escalation. Option (a): Tapping into strategic reserves might seem like a direct method to combat rising prices. However, this is not mentioned or hinted at in the passage as a measure to keep retail prices stable. Option (b): A significant increase in domestic production can explain stable retail prices. But again, the passage doesn't allude to any sudden surge in domestic production that would counterbalance the increased costs. Option (c): Financial hedging can be an

effective strategy to insulate against volatile prices. But the passage does not specify any hedging strategies as the reason for the stability in retail prices. Hence (d).

89. Ans: d

Sol: Option (d) is correct. The passage continually emphasizes the reverberations of the West Asian conflict on global markets, the risk of crude oil prices, and the uncertainty it brings. The passage closes with a mention of preserving macroeconomic stability, suggesting that any disturbances, like the one in the corridor, might disrupt this stability. Option (a): Though India's domestic production can have an influence, the passage does not imply that it can single-handedly counterbalance the effects of disruptions in the corridor. Option (b): The passage doesn't claim that crude oil prices are the 'sole' determinant of India's fiscal health, but it does highlight their significant role. Option (c): The passage doesn't specifically talk about India's strong financial reserves insulating it from any macroeconomic implications. Hence (d).

90. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The passage posits that contemporary eyes may perceive classical gardens, such as those crafted by Page, as rigid and somewhat devoid of soul due to their stringent control over nature. This claim is juxtaposed against the rising trend of 'wild' gardening, which is inclined towards biodiversity. The subtle assumption here is that Page's classical designs equate to an attempt to exercise rigid control over nature (Option c), as the contrast is drawn against more naturalistic approaches. While option (a) seems tempting, the passage doesn't explicitly state that Page's designs lack ecological considerations. Option (b), suggesting a universal rejection, is too absolute given the nuanced discussion in the passage. Option (d) is misleading as the passage highlights a shift in design preferences, not constancy. Hence, option (c) is the most fitting assumption, as it aligns with the shift in perception discussed in the passage. Hence (c).

91. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage subtly delves into the trajectory of landscape design preferences, indicating a gradual pivot from Page's classical designs towards more naturalistic and ecologically-focused gardens. Option (b), suggesting that Page's designs subtly misaligned with evolving horticultural paradigms, encapsulates this nuanced shift. The other options, while closely related, don't perfectly align with the information provided. Option (a) introduces the idea of historical preservation, which is not the focus of the passage. Option (c) implies the designs were inherently flawed for long-term preservation, which isn't supported by the text. Option (d) suggests that a lack of signature style led to redesigning, which, while true, doesn't directly explain why his designs were remodelled or destroyed. Hence, Option (b) is most accurate, requiring a nuanced understanding of the shift in landscape design preferences detailed in the passage. Hence (b).

92. Ans: d

Sol: Option (d) is correct. The passage posits that Page might be viewed as an 'outmoded artist' due to the evolving preferences for naturalistic gardens over his formal, classical designs. Each option subtly addresses this argument. Option (a), asserting critics' appreciation, doesn't necessarily weaken the argument about being 'outmoded'. Option (b), which speaks of Page's experimentation, does show an alignment with modern preferences but doesn't directly counter the notion of being 'outmoded'. Option (c) suggests influence but doesn't explicitly convey a shift in public perception. However, Option (d) directly weakens the argument by introducing the notion of a burgeoning nostalgia for classical designs, which counters the notion of Page being 'outmoded'. By stating that there is a resurgence in the appreciation for designs similar to Page's, it diminishes the idea that modern preferences have left him behind. Hence (d)

93. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The question revolves around reinforcing the assertion that, notwithstanding acclaim, the significance of Page's career stays enigmatic. Each option subtly pertains to this obscurity. Option (a) hints at a lack of academic scrutiny but doesn't tie it directly to the obscurity of his career significance. Option (b) introduces the idea of inaccessibility but doesn't address the impact on his significance. Option (d), while suggestive of a lack of recognition among peers, doesn't necessarily correlate with career obscurity. Option (c) however, unequivocally strengthens the claim by stating that discourse in the field seldom acknowledges Page's

contributions. This directly implies that despite his acclaim, the larger conversation within his profession fails to recognize his significance, thus bolstering the assertion of obscurity. Hence (c).

94. Ans: a

Sol: Option (a) is correct. The paradox stems from the incongruity between Page's celebrated status and his lack of a distinct signature style. Options (b), (c) and (d), while plausible, do not fully address the core of the paradox. Option (b) suggests that Page may not have had creative control, but it doesn't account for his celebrated status. Option (c) introduces the idea that his designs were changed, but this doesn't explain why he didn't have a signature style to begin with. Option (d) emphasizes his focus on historical and philosophical elements but doesn't speak to why this would preclude a signature style. Option (a), on the other hand, provides a clear resolution: Page deliberately chose not to establish a signature style, opting instead to showcase his versatility. This choice aligns with his celebrated status, as his deliberate versatility could be seen as a unique strength rather than a lack of signature style. Hence (a).

95. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. This question demands a nuanced understanding of economic principles and the role of interest rates in both currency value and economic growth. The assumption underlying the decision of central banks, as mentioned in the passage, subtly implies that the long-term impact of controlling inflation through higher interest rates, such as stabilizing currency value, is considered more significant than any short-term slowdowns this may cause. Option (a) is closely related but does not delve deep into the subject, making it a plausible but not the most fitting answer. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage explicitly mentions varying dynamics among developed economies. Option (d), although intricate, presents a misleading simplicity in stating the relationship between interest rates and inflation control. Option (c) requires multi-layered understanding, aligning closely with the actions and projections discussed in the passage while ensuring specificity and complexity. Hence (c).

96. Ans: a

Sol: Option (a) is correct. This question demands a nuanced approach to discerning the most impactful factor that could potentially undermine the robustness of the US economic momentum. All options present scenarios that are unfavourable but not necessarily indicative of a lack of robustness. Option (b), although negative, doesn't necessarily undermine robust economic momentum. Option (c) speaks to consumer behaviour, which can be fickle and doesn't directly correlate with undermining economic momentum. Option (d), while unfavourable, does not indicate an undermining of the economy as a whole. Hence (a).

97. Ans: a

Sol: Option (a) is correct. Navigating through the complexities of the information provided requires discerning the ECB's approach from the nuances in inflation and growth projections. Option (a) is correct as it aligns with the ECB's projections of a slow decrease in inflation rates and marginal increases in growth, suggesting a cautious and gradual approach to stabilization. Option (b), suggesting a laissez-faire approach, doesn't align with the ECB's active involvement in maintaining steady interest rates. Option (c) might seem plausible but the word 'aggressive' is inconsistent with the modest projections provided in the passage. Option (d), while articulating an active approach, misaligns with the data by emphasizing immediacy, contradicting the longer timeframes in the ECB's projections. Hence (a).

98. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The question demands discernment of what data would be most instrumental in evaluating the central banks' decisions. Options (a), (c) and (d), while providing relevant insights, are tangential to the immediate impact of unchanged interest rates. Option (a) focuses on real estate, which is just a fragment of the overall economy. Option (c) offers a historical perspective, which might not necessarily mirror the current economic conditions and dynamics. Option (d), although relevant, pertains more to external trade dynamics rather than internal economic stability. On the other hand, option (b), data on long-term consumer confidence indices, provides a direct insight into the public's perception and behaviour in response to the unchanged interest rates, which in turn influences spending and investment. Thus, it becomes a crucial metric to gauge the effectiveness of the central banks' decisions on the economy, addressing the question at its core. Therefore, while all options

provide useful economic insights, option (b) aligns most closely with the immediate context of the question. Hence (b).

99. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The paradox lies in the juxtaposition of strong economic growth and high inflation in the US. While all options allude to factors contributing to economic growth, option C uniquely addresses both facets of the paradox. The passage mentions that the GDP growth and labour market in the US are strong, but it also mentions that inflation is above the 2% target set by the Fed. Options (a), (b) and (d), specifically delve into reasons for economic growth but do not elucidate why inflation remains high. Option (a) refers to technological advancements and (d) mentions start-ups, which are contributors to economic growth but don't inherently explain inflation. Option (b), discussing foreign direct investments, again focuses on growth without connecting to inflation. Hence (c).

100. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage implies that one of the museum's strongest points is highlighting the nature of censorship itself. This suggests that the museum's effectiveness in challenging censorship could be most accurately gauged by assessing whether visitors' understanding of censorship has been influenced post-visit, aligning with the museum's mission. Option (a) is a trap because while it quantifies the censored works, it doesn't directly address the effectiveness of the museum's mission. Option (c) might seem correct because it indicates a direct effect of censorship, but again, it does not measure the museum's impact on visitors' understanding. Option (d) is misleading because even though diversity is important, it doesn't directly inform us about the museum's success in challenging censorship perceptions. Hence (b).

101. Ans: a

Sol: Option (a) is correct. The passage hints at the restraint used in artworks taking on Islam, partly due to the risk involved, which is context-dependent. For the museum to consider showcasing a depiction of the Prophet Muhammad, it assumes that the societal context would become more receptive to such controversial art, making it a feasible addition to the museum in the future. Option (b) is incorrect as it focuses on the practical aspect of security, not the societal acceptance which the passage suggests is the critical factor for such a display. Option (c) while plausible, is not directly supported by the passage, which does not discuss legal issues but rather the broader societal response. Option (d) regarding the artistic value outweighing offense, is tempting but doesn't directly tie to the passage's emphasis on societal context and the museum's criterion for displaying artwork. Hence (a).

102. Ans: d

Sol: Option (d) is correct. It most effectively weakens the argument that Goya's self-censorship was solely due to fear of the Inquisition. If the public's taste was shifting away from satire, it would imply that market forces, rather than just fear of persecution, could have influenced Goya's decision to withdraw his works. Option (a) is tempting as it points to acclaim, which could suggest that fear of the Inquisition was not the only factor at play. However, it does not directly counter the sole motivation being fear. Option (b) introduces a potential internal conflict in Goya (artistic dissatisfaction), but still acknowledges his fear of the Inquisition, thus not completely negating the original argument. Option (c) provides an economic rationale, yet the fact that Goya had other sources of income doesn't directly undermine the specified motive of fear. Hence (d).

103. Ans: a

Sol: Option (a) is correct. It directly strengthens the claim that corporate actions can suppress free expression by presenting a scenario where a corporation (a social media platform) actively diminishes the visibility of certain political content, which is an exercise of power that can limit free speech. Option (b), while also a form of suppression, implicates government advisories rather than solely corporate decision-making, which dilutes the focus on corporate actions. Option (c) involves corporate influence but in a context where multiple entities (festival organizers, sponsors) are involved, making it less direct. Option (d) involves institutional suppression but highlights influence from external entities (alumni donors) over direct institutional policy. Hence (a).

104. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The assertion that a ban on super-shoes would be "regressive and difficult to enforce" implicitly assumes that the practicalities of implementing such a ban are complex. Option (c) correctly identifies this subtlety by referring to the "logistical intricacies" of overseeing super-shoe use. Option (a), while discussing the attributes of super-shoes, doesn't directly address the enforceability of a ban. Option (b), although related to the debate on fairness, doesn't touch the practical aspects of enforcement. Option (d), despite talking about the acceptance of technology in sports, doesn't provide insight into why enforcing a ban would be challenging. Option (c), demands a deeper understanding of the passage. Hence (c).

105. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage states that despite bans on advanced equipment like polyurethane swimsuits, athletes eventually catch up in performance, hinting that it is not just the equipment but also advancements in athletes themselves that contribute. Option (b), inquiring about the parallel between athletes' physiological augmentations and gear progression, directly addresses this aspect, making it the most pertinent to evaluating the argument. Option (a) while discussing the influence of sports equipment, doesn't delve into the mootness of bans in light of athlete performance. Option (c) explores the universal acceptance of technological innovations but doesn't directly connect to the mootness of bans with respect to athlete advancements. Option (d), although discussing advancements in training methodologies, doesn't directly correlate with the impact of equipment bans on performance enhancements. Hence (b).

106. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The author's argument emphasizes the celebration of athletes' achievements without discrediting them due to the technology used. Option (b), stating that super-shoes do not compromise the integrity of the competition, aligns with this stance and strengthens the argument against banning them. Option (a), while pointing out the efficacy of super-shoes, does not address the concern of integrity and fairness in competition. Option (c), despite being valid, focuses on the gradual acceptance of technology and doesn't directly strengthen the author's argument. Option (d), while ensuring equitable availability, doesn't speak to the reason why athletes' achievements should be celebrated regardless of technology. Thus, option (b), by addressing the core concern of fairness, emerges as the best option to strengthen the author's argument. Hence (b).

107. Ans: c

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The passage asserts that race results are not skewed due to the unavailability of super-shoes since they are mandated to be accessible to all athletes. Option (c) directly challenges this claim by indicating that discrepancies in distribution logistics could lead to unequal availability, thereby undermining the assertion. (a), while introducing an element of performance variability, doesn't directly speak to the availability issue. Option (b), seems confusing but it does not challenge the claim about availability. Option (d) discusses market dynamics and design distinctions but doesn't necessarily imply unequal access. Hence, Option (c) is the best scenario to undermine the claim as it directly addresses the assertion regarding availability. Hence (c).

108. Ans: b

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage subtly elucidates that technological advancements, such as super-shoes, have aided athletes in outperforming previous records, yet it refrains from positing these innovations as the unequivocal impetus behind these feats. Option (a) is dismissible as it attributes an absolute transformation to technological innovations, a stance the passage does not adopt. Option (c) is similarly extreme, suggesting an immutable tethering which is not explicitly conveyed in the passage. Option (d) introduces a perspective on sportsmanship, which, albeit mentioned, is not the focal point in the context of the relationship being probed. Option (b), while nuanced, harmonizes with the passage's insinuation that technology acts as an ancillary catalyst, complementing but not singularly dictating the enhancement of athletic performances. It demands the participant to reconcile the instances of record-breaking with the accompanying technological narrative, making it a discerning inference that aligns well with the passage's subtleties. Hence (b).

Section E-Quantitative Techniques

109. Ans. d

Sol. COMMON EXPLANATION,

	Vidhi	Vidhan	Vidyut	Vidya
Ola	$7X = 1050$	$1200 * 5/6 = 1000$	$360 * 7/6 = 420$	$1200 * 120\% = 1440$
Ather	$8X = 1200$	1200	$1200 * 4/5 = 960$	$1800 - 1440 = 360$
Total	2250	2200	1380	1800

Now,

Required % difference = $(1000 - 360)/1000 = 640/1000 = 64\%$ less

Hence, option (d) is correct.

110. Ans. b

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Ratio = $420 : 1200 = 7 : 20$

Hence, option (b) is correct.

111. Ans. a

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Price of Ola scooter = 2 lac

Price of Ather scooter = $2 \text{ lac} * 4/5 = 1.6 \text{ lac}$

Difference between revenue generated = $2 * 1000 - 1200 * 1.6 = 2000 \text{ lac} - 1920 \text{ lac} = 80 \text{ lac}$

Hence, option (a) is correct.

112. Ans. c

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Average = $(1200 + 1200 + 960 + 360)/4 = 3720/4 = 930$

Hence, option (c) is correct.

113. Ans. c

Sol. COMMON EXPLANATION,

	V1	V2	V3	V4
Males	640	$1300 - 840 = 460$	$660 * 1/2 = 330$	$1910 * 50\% = 955$
Females	$640 * 7/8 = 560$	$1400 - 560 = 840$	660	$1910 * 50\% = 955$
Total	$640 + 560 = 1200$	$2500 - 1200 = 1300$	990	$5400 - 990 - 1200 - 1300 = 1910$

Now,

Ratio = $460 : 660 = 46 : 66 = 23 : 33$

Hence, option (c) is correct.

114. Ans. d

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Required % difference = $(955 - 840)/840 = 115/840 = 13.6\%$

Use approximation,

$120/840 = 1/7 = 14.28\%$ which is near to 13.6%.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

115. Ans. a

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Salary of each male = 24000

Salary of each female = $24000 * 125\% = 30000$

So,

Total monthly salary of employees = $955 * 24000 + 955 * 30000 = 955 * 54000 = 5.157 \text{ cr}$

Hence, option (a) is correct.

116. Ans. b

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Total number of males in V1 after increasing = $640 * 110\% = 704$

Total number of females in V1 after decreasing = $560 * 6/7 = 480$

Difference = $704 - 480 = 224$

Hence, option (b) is correct.

117. Ans. d

Sol. COMMON EXPLANATION,

For article V1,

MP = 1000, D% = 50%, SP = $1000 * 50\% = 500$, P% = 25%, CP = $500 * 4/5 = 400$,

For article V2,

MP = 1400, D% = 20%, SP = $1400 * 80\% = 1120$, P% = 14.28%, CP = $1120 * 7/8 = 980$,

For article V3,

MP = 1800, D% = 25%, SP = $1800 * 75\% = 1350$, P% = 25%, CP = $1350 * 4/5 = 1080$,

Now, according to the question,

Difference = $980 - 400 = 580$,

Hence, option (d) is correct.

118. Ans. b

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Average = $(400 + 980 + 1080)/3 = 2460/3 = 820$

Hence, option (b) is correct.

119. Ans. a

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Required % difference = $(270 - 280)/280 = 10/280 = 1/28 = 3.57\%$

Use approximation,

$1/30 = 3.33\%$ which is near to 3.57%.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

120. Ans. c

Sol. Following the COMMON EXPLANATION,

Ratio = $500:1120 = 50:112 = 25:56$

Hence, option (c) is correct.

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