



ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE 1

Julia Wertz's journey as a graphic novelist is as unconventional as it is inspiring. Unlike many artists who immerse themselves in comics from childhood, Wertz's initiation into the world of graphic novels came in her late teens and early twenties. Her discovery of the raw, honest storytelling in graphic novels, particularly Julie Doucet's "My New York Diary," resonated deeply with her. Wertz's early cartoons, crafted on the backs of bagel orders or during classes, showcase a rough, self-taught style, reflecting her initial hesitancy in both drawing and writing. The launch of her website, humorously named "Fart Party," marked a turning point. Despite its amateurish look, the site gained popularity, surprising Wertz. Her candid and humorous reflections on daily life, presented through her cartoon alter ego, struck a chord with readers. This success led to her first book published by Atomic Book Company, a compilation of her zines.

Wertz's graphic memoirs, "Drinking at the Movies" and "Impossible People," chronicle her tumultuous journey. "Drinking at the Movies" delves into her move from San Francisco to New York, her struggle with alcoholism, and her early career steps. It's a candid portrayal of a chaotic life, yet presented with remarkable honesty and simplicity. "Impossible People," on the other hand, narrates her recovery and transformation. The evolution in her art is evident – the once rough drawings have become more polished, and the detailed backgrounds in her panels reflect her growing fascination with New York City. Her unique storytelling style often begins with a startling image – her cartoon-self in a bewildering situation – followed by a flashback narrative. This technique, consistent in both memoirs, effectively draws the reader into her world. Wertz's openness about her life, including her addiction and recovery, is conveyed without self-pity or glorification, making her story relatable and compelling. Wertz credits cartooning with playing a pivotal role in her recovery and life transformations. Post-recovery, she faced challenges in continuing her art but eventually found her way back. Today, she contributes monthly cartoons to The New Yorker and is working on a new book about her experiences as a mother, promising a lighter and more humorous tone compared to "Impossible People." Her upcoming work, hinted to be titled "Bury Me Already (It's Nice Down Here)," captures the paradoxical emotions of early motherhood – the overwhelming love amidst exhaustion. Wertz's journey, from a hesitant artist to a celebrated graphic novelist and a reflective mother, is a testament to the transformative power of art and storytelling in navigating life's complexities.

Source: Julia Wertz and the Art of the Possible, Book and Film Globe, 4 Jan 2024

Q.1) Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the author's views on her early artistic endeavors?

- (A) She regarded her early cartoons as masterpieces.
- (B) She felt her initial drawings lacked confidence.
- (C) She believed her website's name hindered her success.

(D) She was surprised by the complexity of her first book.

Q.2) "The evolution in her art is evident – the once rough drawings have become more polished, and the detailed backgrounds in her panels reflect her growing fascination with New York City." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (A) Wertz's art remained static in style throughout her career.
- (B) New York City had little influence on the thematic elements of her art.
- (C) The improvement in Wertz's art mirrored her personal growth and recovery.
- (D) The focus on detailed backgrounds detracted from the narrative of her memoirs.

Q.3) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (A) An instructional guide on graphic novel creation.
- (B) A critical analysis of contemporary graphic novels.
- (C) A biographical account of a graphic novelist's journey.
- (D) A theoretical exploration of artistic techniques in graphic novels.

Q.4) "Her unique storytelling style often begins with a startling image – her cartoon-self in a bewildering situation – followed by a flashback narrative." This sentence implies that:

- (A) Wertz's storytelling lacks coherence and order.
- (B) Flashback narratives are a universal technique in graphic novels.
- (C) Startling images are essential to engaging the reader in graphic memoirs.
- (D) Wertz employs a distinctive narrative technique to engage readers.

Q.5) What does the word 'tumultuous' as used in the passage, mean?

- (A) Peaceful and uneventful.
- (B) Marked by rapid changes and instability.
- (C) Focused on artistic development.
- (D) Influenced by external criticism.

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PASSAGE 2

Netflix's documentary "Bad Surgeon" presents the chilling tale of Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, a thoracic surgeon whose story intertwines a gripping thriller with grotesque realities. Macchiarini, with his charismatic persona, embodied an almost cinematic blend of heroism and villainy, captivating the medical world, media, and numerous women with his revolutionary organ regeneration technique. His narrative, seemingly plucked from a dark romance, beguiled a global audience, including prestigious medical institutions and the media, all too eager to embrace the next medical breakthrough. Macchiarini's allure was undeniable - a composite of charisma and scientific brilliance, draped in the allure of Italian fashion. His rise was meteoric, fueled by the uncritical acceptance of his groundbreaking claims. However, "Bad Surgeon" meticulously unravels the shocking lack of scrutiny from those spellbound by Macchiarini's charm. This collective oversight enabled a catastrophic fraud, leading to profound human suffering. The documentary parallels Macchiarini's deceit with notorious con artists like Bernie Maddoff, highlighting a shared trait: an alarming absence of empathy. Macchiarini's tale took a sinister turn as his personal and professional deceptions became intertwined. His romantic entanglements, including with a veteran NBC news producer, were as fanciful as his professional claims, involving delusions of grandeur and deceit. His narrative seduced not only his romantic interests but also venerable institutions like the Karolinska Institute, which overlooked stringent background checks in favor of the allure of groundbreaking research. The documentary shifts focus to the real heroes: a group of Swedish surgeons and investigative journalists who dared to question Macchiarini's narrative. They embarked on a painstaking quest to expose the truth, risking their careers and personal well-being. Their investigation revealed alarming omissions in Macchiarini's research, notably the lack of animal trials before human surgeries.

A poignant moment occurs when they uncover the tragic case of Julia Tuulik, a former Russian dancer whose postoperative suffering after receiving Macchiarini's synthetic windpipe was heart-wrenching. Her story, and those of other patients, revealed a pattern of neglect and tragic outcomes. "Bad Surgeon" emphasizes not just the ease of exposing Macchiarini's web of lies but the frustrating difficulty in bringing him to justice. The whistleblowers faced severe institutional backlash, with one contemplating suicide due to the immense pressure. Yet, their perseverance was instrumental in sparking a public outcry, leading to legal actions against Macchiarini. As of late 2023, Macchiarini faces imprisonment for causing bodily harm, and several of his research papers have been retracted for falsification. Despite these developments, Macchiarini maintains his innocence, arguing the inherent risks in experimental surgeries. His story serves as a sobering reminder of the perils of unbridled ambition and the importance of rigorous scientific and ethical scrutiny.

Source: The Doctor Will Kill You Now, Book and Film Globe, 3 Jan 2024

Q.1) "His narrative seduced not only his romantic interests but also venerable institutions like the Karolinska Institute, which overlooked stringent background checks in favor of the allure of groundbreaking research." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (A) The Karolinska Institute was primarily attracted to Macchiarini's personal charm.
- (B) Macchiarini's innovative research methods justified the lack of background checks.
- (C) The Karolinska Institute prioritized the potential of groundbreaking research over thorough vetting.
- (D) Macchiarini's narrative was solely focused on personal relationships.

Q.2) Which of the following words from the passage means 'fraudulent'?

- (A) Charismatic.
- (B) Catastrophic.
- (C) Grotesque.
- (D) Deceit.

Q.3) "This collective oversight enabled a catastrophic fraud, leading to profound human suffering." This sentence implies that:

- (A) The fraud was unintentional but had severe consequences.
- (B) The oversight was necessary to uncover the fraudulent activities.
- (C) Human suffering was a direct result of the negligence of collective oversight.
- (D) The fraud was primarily financial in nature.

Q.4) What according to the author is essential about the experience of being a whistleblower?

- (A) It is a rewarding and universally applauded role.
- (B) It involves significant personal and professional risks.
- (C) Whistleblowers often gain immediate positive recognition.
- (D) The experience is generally stress-free and straightforward.

Q.5) "The documentary parallels Macchiarini's deceit with notorious con artists like Bernie Maddoff, highlighting a shared trait: an alarming absence of empathy." Which of the following is the most convincing conclusion from this statement?

- (A) Macchiarini and Bernie Maddoff had similar methods of deceit.
- (B) The documentary exclusively focuses on comparing various con artists.
- (C) An absence of empathy is a key trait in both Macchiarini's and Maddoff's deceptions.
- (D) Bernie Maddoff's case was less severe than Macchiarini's.

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PASSAGE 3

"A Christmas Bestiary," reprinted by Fantagraphics, brings to life the eerie folklore of December's dark creatures, vividly capturing the essence of those who punish naughty children. Originally published in Denmark in 2017 and translated into English by Christopher Sand-Iversen, this 112-page hardback showcases Benni Bødker's engaging prose and John Kenn Mortensen's Gothic pen-and-ink drawings, reminiscent of Edward Gorey's work with hints of Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll. The book delves into the myths of Europe, featuring a diverse array of trolls, goblins, and anthropomorphic animals from Scandinavia, Germany, England, France, Russia, Greece, and Italy. Each creature is accompanied by a succinct description, a "Danger Level" rated in pine cones, and practical "Survival Tips." The notorious Krampus, a German/Austrian legend, is categorized as a five-cone threat, especially notorious on "Krampus Night." Bødker humorously suggests avoiding skiing in the Alps in December as a survival strategy.

Grýla, an Icelandic troll with three heads and an appetite for children, is a formidable presence, heightened by her extended family, including The Yule Lads and the monstrous Yule Cat. These creatures, while lesser threats, are still significant, with The Yule Lads causing mischief and the Yule Cat preying on the lazy. Bødker's advice? Steer clear of Iceland in December. The Scandinavian myth of The Wild Hunt stands out as a five-cone threat. These wandering ghosts claim fallen food on Christmas Eve and will seize people instead if not appeased. This legend, possibly influencing J.R.R. Tolkien's Nazgul, involves Odin leading the undead in a spectral procession.

The book also explores more benign entities like Knecht Ruprecht, Santa's Germanic companion who rewards good children and disciplines the naughty. Other intriguing characters include the Basque Olentzero, a proto-Santa figure, and Père Fouettard, a three-cone menace known for distributing coal to misbehaving children, famously depicted in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Between these extremes are creatures of varying threat levels, such as Russia's Baba Yaga, Poland's Gwiazdor, Denmark's The Gloso, and the Scandinavian Yule Goat. Bødker and Mortensen present these tales with whimsy and a light touch, making "A Christmas Bestiary" an enjoyable read. The book is an ideal holiday gift for those intrigued by folklore and Yuletide terrors.

Source: A Very Scary Christmas, Book and Film Globe, 5 Dec 2023

Q.1) "Each creature is accompanied by a succinct description, a 'Danger Level' rated in pine cones, and practical 'Survival Tips.'" In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (A) The book provides extensive historical background for each creature.
- (B) The creatures are ranked based on their popularity in folklore.
- (C) The descriptions and ratings enhance the reader's understanding of the creatures' significance.
- (D) Survival Tips are given as a humorous addition without practical value.

Q.2) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (A) A comprehensive guide to global folklore.
- (B) An academic treatise on mythological creatures.
- (C) A whimsical exploration of Yuletide folklore.
- (D) A scientific analysis of European myths.

Q.3) "The notorious Krampus, a German/Austrian legend, is categorized as a five-cone threat, especially notorious on 'Krampus Night.'" This sentence implies that:

- (A) Krampus is considered less dangerous than other folklore creatures.
- (B) Krampus Night is a widely celebrated festive occasion.
- (C) The danger level of Krampus is among the highest in the book.
- (D) Krampus is a benign figure in German and Austrian folklore.

Q.4) What does the word 'anthropomorphic' as used in the passage, mean?

- (A) Relating to animals that behave like humans.
- (B) Creatures that are mythical and legendary.
- (C) Animals that are native to a specific region.
- (D) Beings with supernatural powers.

Q.5) "Bødker and Mortensen present these tales with whimsy and a light touch, making 'A Christmas Bestiary' an enjoyable read." Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- (A) The book is a serious and academic exploration of Christmas folklore.
- (B) The presentation style of the book detracts from the authenticity of the folklore.
- (C) The whimsical and light approach enhances the book's appeal and readability.
- (D) Mortensen's illustrations overshadow Bødker's prose in the book.

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PASSAGE 4

November saw the release of new novels by Nnedi Okorafor and Cory Doctorow, each set in near-future dystopias. Doctorow's "The Lost Cause" unfolds in Burbank, California, focusing on themes like MAGA politics, climate change, and urban planning. In contrast, Okorafor's novel spans across Africa, weaving tales of magic, post-slavery PTSD, and a transformed continental landscape. Despite their different settings and themes, both novels center on young men grappling with the loss of their parents in worlds of chaos. Doctorow's protagonist, Brooks Palazzo, orphaned by a climate-induced plague in Canada, finds himself in Burbank living with his MAGA grandfather. The arrival of refugees from drought-stricken areas creates tension, leading Brooks to convert his inherited house into a communal living space. Doctorow's narrative, rich in detail, echoes the Fifth National Climate Assessment, depicting a United States besieged by environmental disasters and internal migration. This backdrop serves as a commentary on potential liberal political outcomes and the severe impacts of climate change. "The Lost Cause" explores the collaboration between government and civil society in mitigating climate change, despite resistance from climate deniers.

Okorafor's "Like Thunder," part of The Desert Magician's Duology, follows the journey of Dikéogu, a "Changed One" with weather-manipulating abilities. Sold into slavery by his uncle with his parents' consent, Dikéogu's narrative unfolds through an audio file he left behind, translated and preserved as his mental state deteriorates. The story is set in a world where spontaneous forests appear, immigrants from another world settle, children are born with meta-human powers, and magic militias target these individuals. Dikéogu's gradual loss of mental coherence mirrors the novel's magical and tumultuous world.

Both novels present young men confronting rapidly changing worlds with unique resources at their disposal. These protagonists embody the traits typical of late teenage boys - a sense of invincibility, growing autonomy, and relational insecurity - which mirror the existential threats their worlds face. The novels differ in their approach to salvation: Doctorow leans towards pragmatic optimism and planning, while Okorafor opts for a blend of hope and magical incoherence. Readers' preferences may hinge on their own beliefs about the best path to salvation in a world of uncertainty and transformation. Whether it's through strategic planning or embracing the unpredictable and magical, both "The Lost Cause" and "Like Thunder" offer compelling narratives about young individuals navigating dystopian futures.

Source: Dystopia Now, Book and Film Globe, 4 Dec 2023

Q.1) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (A) A comparative literary analysis of two dystopian novels.
- (B) An instructional guide for writing dystopian fiction.
- (C) A biographical account of Nnedi Okorafor and Cory Doctorow.
- (D) A scientific report on climate change and its effects.

Q.2) "Doctorow's protagonist, Brooks Palazzo, orphaned by a climate-induced plague in Canada, finds himself in Burbank living with his MAGA grandfather." This sentence implies that:

- (A) Brooks Palazzo's relocation was voluntary and desired.
- (B) The story is set in a world unaffected by environmental issues.
- (C) Brooks Palazzo faces challenges adapting to his new environment.
- (D) The grandfather is a supportive figure who shares Brooks' views.

Q.3) "Okorafor's 'Like Thunder,' part of The Desert Magician's Duology, follows the journey of Dikéogu, a 'Changed One' with weather-manipulating abilities." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (A) Dikéogu's abilities are common and unremarkable in the novel's world.
- (B) The story primarily focuses on the technical aspects of weather manipulation.
- (C) Dikéogu's abilities significantly influence the course of the narrative.
- (D) The novel is set in a world where magic does not impact the characters' lives.

Q.4) "These protagonists embody the traits typical of late teenage boys - a sense of invincibility, growing autonomy, and relational insecurity - which mirror the existential threats their worlds face." Which of the following can be inferred about the author's views on the protagonists?

- (A) The protagonists are portrayed as immature and incapable of facing challenges.
- (B) The protagonists' personal traits are unrelated to the themes of the novels.
- (C) The author views the protagonists' traits as reflections of their dystopian settings.
- (D) The author believes the protagonists should be older to effectively handle their situations.

Q.5) "Whether it's through strategic planning or embracing the unpredictable and magical, both 'The Lost Cause' and 'Like Thunder' offer compelling narratives about young individuals navigating dystopian futures." Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- (A) The novels fail to provide realistic solutions to the challenges faced by the protagonists.
- (B) Both novels present a pessimistic view of the future.
- (C) The different approaches of the protagonists are central to the novels' appeal.
- (D) The protagonists in both novels rely solely on magic to navigate their worlds.

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PASSAGE 5

TJ Klune's "In the Lives of Puppets," set in a post-apocalyptic world, intricately weaves the tale of Victor Lawson, his adoptive android father Gio, Nurse Ratchet, a medical unit, and Rambo, a vacuum unit. This unconventional family, living in isolation in a forest near the Scrap Yards, is jolted from their tranquility by the arrival of an injured, handsome android named Hap. This event marks the end of their peaceful existence and the beginning of a journey filled with discovery and danger. Victor, named either for optimism or irony, lives a secluded life with Gio, Nurse Ratchet, and Rambo in a cabin and treehouse built by Gio. Their lives change dramatically with the discovery of Hap in the Scrap Yards. Whether it's the arrival of Hap or the spill of Victor's blood, this incident draws the attention of the outside world, setting the story's gears in motion. The narrative is rich in allusions to movie culture, drawing character names from "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "First Blood," and paralleling their journey to the "City of Electric Dreams" with "The Wizard of Oz." The enduring theme of "Heaven" from the 1935 film "Top Hat" underscores the tale.

Klune employs counter-realistic elements to emphasize the importance of organic relationships among sentient beings. This is most evident in the family's repair of Hap with wood, making him resemble a puppet, and in the replacement of Hap and Gio's batteries with a wooden gear system activated by Victor's blood. Blood symbolizes an essential human quality that some characters in the book cherish, while others view it with dangerous contempt. "In the Lives of Puppets" delves into various forms of love beyond the romantic – philia and agape – reflecting Klune's commitment to accurate, positive queer representation in stories. The novel's focus, however, extends to exploring how an electronically dominated society can embrace diverse expressions of love. Klune's narrative is deceptively simple yet occasionally ventures into philosophical realms, both implicitly and explicitly.

The portrayal of the androids, robots, computers, and machines in the novel is undeniably human, drawing parallels to Borat Sagdiyev's portrayal of Kazakhstan, Mr. Ed's representation of the equine condition, and Pinocchio's depiction of the feelings of carved toys. These comparisons highlight that the characters, though non-human, reflect profoundly human experiences and emotions. "In the Lives of Puppets" thus speaks to a human audience, inviting them to see reflections of themselves in its characters, irrespective of their electronic nature.

Source: Somewhere Over the Robot Rainbow, Book and Film Globe, 3 May 2023

Q.1) "Klune employs counter-realistic elements to emphasize the importance of organic relationships among sentient beings." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (A) The novel relies solely on fantastical elements to drive the narrative.
- (B) Counter-realistic elements are used to diminish the value of organic relationships.
- (C) The juxtaposition of counter-realistic elements highlights the significance of genuine connections.
- (D) The narrative dismisses the possibility of authentic relationships between humans and androids.

Q.2) "Blood symbolizes an essential human quality that some characters in the book cherish, while others view it with dangerous contempt." Which of the following is the most convincing conclusion from this statement?

- (A) Blood is depicted as a mundane and insignificant element in the narrative.
- (B) The novel portrays blood as a divisive element among characters.
- (C) All characters in the novel uniformly respect the symbolism of blood.

(D) The importance of blood is overlooked in the development of the story.

Q.3) "The portrayal of the androids, robots, computers, and machines in the novel is undeniably human, drawing parallels to Borat Sagdiyev's portrayal of Kazakhstan, Mr. Ed's representation of the equine condition, and Pinocchio's depiction of the feelings of carved toys." This sentence implies that:

- (A) The novel's non-human characters lack depth and complexity.
- (B) Technology and machinery are depicted as inherently inhuman and cold.
- (C) The non-human characters are anthropomorphized to reflect human experiences.
- (D) The novel is a critique of the over-reliance on technology in society.

Q.4) "The narrative is rich in allusions to movie culture, drawing character names from 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' and 'First Blood,' and paralleling their journey to the 'City of Electric Dreams' with 'The Wizard of Oz.'" In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (A) The novel lacks originality due to its heavy reliance on movie culture.
- (B) Movie culture is used as a superficial tool to engage readers.
- (C) The allusions to movie culture enrich the narrative and its thematic depth.
- (D) The characters' development is independent of the allusions to movie culture.

Q.5) "The novel's focus, however, extends to exploring how an electronically dominated society can embrace diverse expressions of love." Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- (A) The novel primarily addresses the negative impacts of technology on society.
- (B) The exploration of love is limited to romantic relationships between humans.
- (C) The novel examines the intersection of technology and varied forms of love.
- (D) Diverse expressions of love are seen as incompatible with an electronically dominated society.

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

PASSAGE -1

The pink city, Jaipur warmed up to the [2] [1] Grand Trophy Tour here today at the Rajasthan International Centre. The three glittering trophies of the prestigious [1] were received by Major General Rai Singh Godara, GOC, 61 Sub Area in an energetic ceremony which was later jointly flagged off by the Major General; General K K Repswal, SM, VSM Retd and Brigadier Kuldeep Gulia, Indian Army Retd and also were the Guest of Honours of the event. Amongst the other dignitaries to be present at the ceremony were, Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, Honourable Cabinet Minister, Water Resource Department, Rajasthan Government; Lal Chandra Katariya, Honourable Agricultural Minister, Rajasthan Government; Dharmendra Singh Rathore, President, Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation; Krishna Kumar Tak, Chairman, Rajasthan United Football Club (RUFC); Ashutosh Pant, Independent Director and President, CSR Committee, Indian Oil Corporation Limited; Rajat Mishra, Former National Footballer and Founder Director, RUFC and Col Navneet Thiara, Nodal Officer, [1] Committee were also present during the function. Jaipur hosted the Durand trophies for the second consecutive year which is the sixth stop of the trophies which will travel the length and breadth of the country during this month. The Trophy Tour will be finally flagged in, at Kolkata on August 1, 2023.

Speaking on the occasion, said, "Major General Rai Singh Godara, GOC, 61 Sub Area, We feel honoured and excited to host the trophies of the [1] for a second consecutive year at Jaipur. The Indian Army is always at the forefront of supporting sports and providing the best platform and facilities for sportspersons. Rajasthan United, the club from Jaipur who had created a stir during the previous edition of Durand, will be up against the best again this year. I wish all the teams participating in this tournament the best of wishes to have a wonderful tournament. The [2] [1] is scheduled to be held in Kolkata, Guwahati and Kokrajhar From August 3, 2023, to September 3, 2023 while the final of the tournament will be played at Yuva Bharati Krirangan (VYBK), Kolkata. This time the Durand Cup will have 24 teams, up from 20 last time, including all 12 Indian Super League (ISL) sides. Service teams from neighbouring foreign countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal will also be participating in the legacy tournament, making foreign participation in the legendary tournament happen after a long gap of [3] years. [4] in Assam will also be the newest addition to the Durand host city roster this year which will see a local Bodoland team vying for the top honour."

Source: 132nd Durand Cup tournament to be organized in Kolkata, Adda247, July 2023

Q.26) The Pink City Jaipur warmed up for which grand trophy tour as indicated by [1] in the passage?

- (A) FIFA World Cup
- (B) Indian Premier League (IPL)
- (C) Durand Cup
- (D) UEFA Champions League

Q.27) Jaipur is hosting the _____ edition of the Grand Trophy Tour as indicated by [2] in the passage.

- (A) 100th
- (B) 120th
- (C) 132nd
- (D) 150th

Q.28) The 132nd Durand Cup will witness foreign participation after a hiatus of how many years as indicated by [3] in the passage.

- (A) 25 years
- (B) 27 years
- (C) 30 years
- (D) 32 years

Q.29) Which city is the new addition to the host cities for the 132nd Durand Cup as indicated by [4] in the passage?

- (A) Guwahati
- (B) Kolkata
- (C) Kokrajhar
- (D) Jaipur

Q.30) Which of the following statements is true about the Durand Cup?

- I. The Durand Cup is one of the oldest football tournaments in Asia.
- II. The tournament is named after Sir Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat.
- III. The Durand Cup was first held in the year 1888.

- (A) Only statement I is correct.
- (B) Only statements II and III are correct.
- (C) Only statements I and III are correct.
- (D) All statements I, II, and III are correct.

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PASSAGE- 2

Commonwealth Games champions PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen notched up contrasting wins to advance to the semifinals of the Canada Open Super 500 badminton tournament. Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, stamped her authority over Fang Jie to register her first victory in four meetings against her opponent with a dominating 21-13, 21-7 margin in the women's singles quarterfinals late on Friday night. Later, Sen staved off a spirited fight from German qualifier Julien Carraggi 21-8, 17-21, 21-10 in the men's singles quarterfinal. Sindhu will now face world number one Japan's Yamaguchi and Sen is pitted against fourth seeded Japanese Kenta Nishimoto. The 28-year-old from Hyderabad has a favourable 14-10 head-to-head record against the top seeded Japanese, who had beaten the Indian in their last meeting at Singapore Open this year.

Sen, on the other hand, has a 1-1 record against Nishimoto, having last played him at the 2022 Japan Open. Sindhu looked more alert as she zoomed to a 5-1 lead early on. Her trademark smashes and drops troubled Fang Jie, who also committed lot of unforced errors. The Indian entered the break with a 11-6 lead.

Sindhu was quick on her feet and covered the court well, returning everything thrown at her with ease. With the shuttle going to net a few times, Fang Jie reduced the deficit to 10-14 and then 12-16 but Sindhu finished things with two whipping smashes. The second game started on an even keel with Fang Jie managing a slender 5-3 lead at one stage but Sindhu quickly turned things around, reaching the interval at 11-5 with her opponent finding the net.

Source: Canada Open: PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen enter semifinals after contrasting victories, The Indian Express, July, 2023.

Q.31) Who qualified to the semi-finals of the Canada Open Super 500 Badminton Tournament?

- (A) PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen
- (B) PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal
- (C) Lakshya Sen and Prannoy H.S.
- (D) Prannoy H.S. and Saina Nehwal

Q.32) Who will Sindhu be facing now in the semi-finals?

- (A) Kento Momota
- (B) Yamaguchi
- (C) Lene Køppen
- (D) Mayu Matsumoto

Q.33) Which level of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour is the Canada Open Badminton Tournament classified as?

- (A) Super 1000
- (B) Super 750
- (C) Super 500
- (D) Super 300

Q.34) Which year did the Canada Open Badminton Tournament make its debut?

- (A) 1957
- (B) 1973

- (C) 1999
- (D) 2005

Q.35) Which of the following statements is true about the Canada Open badminton tournament?

- I. The Canada Open is part of the BWF World Tour Super 300 level.
- II. The tournament has been hosted in different Canadian cities each year since its inception.
- III. The Canada Open is recognized as one of the oldest badminton tournaments in North America.

- (A) Only statement I is correct.
- (B) Only statements II and III are correct.
- (C) Only statements I and III are correct.
- (D) Only Statement II is correct.

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PASSAGE- 3

On July 4, 2023, India hosted the [1] Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in a virtual format. The summit was chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who also delivered the keynote address. The theme of India's chairmanship of the SCO was [2] which stands for Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection, which is derived from the acronym coined by the [3] at the 2018 SCO Qingdao Summit. The summit was an opportunity for the SCO member states to discuss a range of issues, including security, economic cooperation, and connectivity. One of the key outcomes of the summit was the official accession of Iran to the SCO. Iran's membership is seen as a major boost for the organization, as it will give the SCO a greater presence in the Middle East. The summit also saw the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, which reaffirms the SCO's commitment to fighting terrorism, separatism, and extremism. The declaration also calls for the formation of a "more representative" and multipolar world order in the global interest. In addition to the New Delhi Declaration, the summit also saw the adoption of two thematic joint statements. The first statement focuses on cooperation in countering the radicalisation leading to separatism, extremism, and terrorism. The second statement focuses on cooperation in the field of digital transformation. The [1] SCO Summit was a successful event that saw the SCO member states reaffirm their commitment to cooperation and collaboration. The summit also saw the addition of a new member state, which will give the SCO a greater presence in the Middle East.

Source: SCO Summit 2023 Live Updates: Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif addresses the 23rd SCO Summit, Live Mint, July, 2023.

Q.36) India hosted _____ Shanghai cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in virtual format as indicated by [1].

- (A) 3rd
- (B) 13th
- (C) 14th
- (D) 23rd

Q.37) What was the Theme of India's Chairmanship of the SCO as indicated by [2]?

- (A) Towards a SECURE SCO
- (B) Fighting Terrorism and Extremism
- (C) Economic Cooperation and Connectivity
- (D) Formation of a Multipolar World Order

Q.38) Who among the following had introduced Secure SCO as indicated by [3]?

- (A) Xi Jinping
- (B) Narendra Modi
- (C) Vladimir Putin
- (D) Shehbaz Sharif

Q.39) How many member countries are part of the SCO?

- (A) 5
- (B) 8

(C) 10

(D) 7

Q.40) Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

Statement I: The SCO was established in 2001.

Statement II: Afghanistan is an observer state in the SCO.

Statement III: The primary focus of the SCO is on security and counterterrorism cooperation.

Which of the following options is correct?

(A) Only Statement I is correct.

(B) Only Statement II is correct.

(C) Only Statement III is correct.

(D) All of the Statements are correct.

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PASSAGE- 4

India has made significant strides in the digital payment space in recent years. One of the most important developments has been the introduction of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). UPI is a real-time payment system that allows users to transfer money between bank accounts using a mobile phone. It is simple, secure, and convenient, and has quickly become the most popular digital payment method in India. UPI has been so successful that it is now being adopted by other countries around the world. In July 2023, France announced that it would be adopting UPI. This was followed by similar announcements from Singapore, the UAE, Oman, Bhutan, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and the BENELUX markets. The adoption of UPI by these countries is a testament to the strength and flexibility of the platform. UPI is a scalable and adaptable system that can be easily integrated into existing payment infrastructure. This makes it a valuable tool for countries that are looking to modernize their payment systems and improve financial inclusion. In addition to its international adoption, UPI is also being used by Indian travelers. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with different countries to build a huge acceptance network for RuPay and UPI. This means that Indian travelers can now use their UPI-enabled mobile phones to make payments in their destination countries. The adoption of UPI by other countries is a major achievement for India. It is a sign that India is a leader in the digital payment space and that its innovations are being recognized around the world. UPI is also a boon for Indian travelers, as it allows them to make payments conveniently and securely while abroad.

Source: 'France to soon start using India's UPI payment mechanism ': PM Modi, Live Mint, July, 2023.

Q.41) Which organization is responsible for the development and promotion of UPI?

- (A) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- (B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (C) Ministry of Finance
- (D) Indian Banks Association (IBA)

Q.42) Which of the following is NOT a part of the acceptance network for RuPay and UPI in other countries?

- (A) Belgium
- (B) Netherlands
- (C) Luxembourg
- (D) France

Q.43) When was UPI launched in India?

- (A) August 2016
- (B) September 2016
- (C) October 2016
- (D) April 2016

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

Statement I: NPCI is a not-for-profit company promoted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Statement II: NPCI develops and operates retail payment systems in India.

Statement III: NPCI facilitates inter-bank transactions.

- (A) Only Statement I is true.
- (B) Only Statement II is true.
- (C) Only Statements I and II are true.
- (D) Statements I, II, and III are true.

Q.45) When was NPCI established?

- (A) 2009
- (B) 2010
- (C) 2011
- (D) 2012

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PASSAGE- 5

[1] is a city on the east coast of India that has been designated as the new executive capital of Andhra Pradesh. The city is strategically located on the Bay of Bengal and is home to a number of important industries, including steel, shipbuilding, and IT. The city has a long and rich history. The city was founded in the 11th century by the Eastern Ganga dynasty and was later ruled by the Vijayanagara Empire, the Qutb Shahi dynasty, and the British. In the 20th century, it became a major industrial center and played an important role in India's independence struggle. The decision to make [1] the new executive capital of Andhra Pradesh was made by the state government in January 2023. The government's plan is to have three capitals for Andhra Pradesh: [2], which will be the legislative capital; [3], which will be the judicial capital; and [1], which will be the executive capital. The government has argued that the tri-capital plan will help to decentralize development in Andhra Pradesh and promote balanced growth across the state. However, the plan has been met with opposition from some quarters, who argue that it will be expensive and wasteful. The Supreme Court is currently hearing a case challenging the tri-capital plan. The court is due to hear the case again in December 2023. In the meantime, the government has said that it will go ahead with its plans to shift the state's administration to [1] from September 2023.

There are a number of benefits to making [1] the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. The city is already a major economic and industrial hub, and it has a strong infrastructure in place. It is also located on the coast, which gives it access to international trade routes. In addition, [1] is a relatively young city, which means that it has a lot of potential for growth. The city is also home to a number of educational institutions, which will help to attract and retain talent.

There are also a number of challenges that will need to be addressed if [1] is to become the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. The city will need to expand its infrastructure to accommodate the growth that is expected to follow. The government will also need to address the concerns of those who are opposed to the tri-capital plan. Despite the challenges, there are a number of reasons to believe that it will be a successful capital for Andhra Pradesh. The city has a strong foundation on which to build, and the government is committed to making the tri-capital plan a success.

Source: New Andhra Pradesh capital | A capital spreads its wings, India Today, July 2023

Q.46) Which of the following is the new capital of Andhra Pradesh as indicated by [1]?

- (A) Vijayawada
- (B) Amaravati
- (C) Visakhapatnam
- (D) Tirupati

Q.47) Which of the following will be the legislative capital of Andhra Pradesh as indicated by [2]?

- (A) Vijayawada
- (B) Amaravati
- (C) Visakhapatnam
- (D) Tirupati

Q.48) Which of the following will be the Judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh as indicated by [3]?

- (A) Vijayawada
- (B) Amaravati
- (C) Visakhapatnam
- (D) Kurnool

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The tri-capital plan for Andhra Pradesh will be successful because Visakhapatnam is a well-established city with a strong infrastructure.

Statement II: The tri-capital plan for Andhra Pradesh will be unsuccessful because it will be expensive and wasteful.

Statement III: The success of the tri-capital plan for Andhra Pradesh will depend on the government's ability to address the concerns of those who are opposed to it.

Which of the statement/statements is/are correct?

- (A) Statement I only
- (B) Statement II only
- (C) Statement III only
- (D) Statements I and II

Q.50) Which of the following was the capital of Andhra Pradesh before Visakhapatnam?

- (A) Kurnool
- (B) Amaravati
- (C) Hyderabad
- (D) Vijayawada

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PASSAGE- 6

India has embarked on a mission to become the fourth country in the world to achieve a controlled landing on the moon with the successful launch of [1]. The spacecraft, named after the Sanskrit term for "moon vehicle," took off from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota**, Andhra Pradesh. The launch drew crowds at the space center and attracted over 1 million viewers on YouTube. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) confirmed via Twitter that [1] was in a precise orbit and had begun its journey to the moon. The spacecraft's health was reported as normal. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to express his pride in the achievement, hailing it as a testament to the dedication and ingenuity of Indian scientists. [1] is India's second attempt at a soft landing on the moon, following the unsuccessful Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019. The first lunar probe, Chandrayaan-1, successfully orbited the moon and crash-landed on its surface in 2008. The latest mission consists of a lander, propulsion module, and rover, with the goal of safely landing on the lunar surface, collecting data, and conducting scientific experiments to enhance our understanding of the moon's composition. India's aim is to accomplish the challenging feat of landing near the unexplored South Pole of the moon, where the terrain is more demanding. Soft-landing on the moon has only been achieved by three other countries: the United States, Russia, and China. The engineers behind the Chandrayaan-3 mission have been working tirelessly for years, building on the previous achievements of Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2. Chandrayaan-1 made a significant discovery by detecting water molecules on the moon's surface, while Chandrayaan-2 successfully entered lunar orbit but encountered a setback when its rover crash-landed. Despite the setback, Prime Minister Modi expressed his commitment to India's space program and its ambitions. Prior to the recent launch, he stated that the day would be remembered as a landmark moment for India's space sector. The [1] mission, which has cost approximately \$75 million, is expected to cover a distance of over 300,000 kilometers (186,411 miles) and reach the moon in the coming weeks. The mission holds great promise for India's scientific endeavors and represents another significant step forward in the country's space exploration program.

Source: India launches historic Chandrayaan-3 mission to land spacecraft on the moon, CNN, July, 2023.

Q.51) India has embarked on a mission to become the fourth country in the world to achieve a controlled landing on the moon with the successful launch of _____ as indicated by [1] in the passage.

- (A) Chandrayaan-1
- (B) Chandrayaan-2
- (C) Chandrayaan-3
- (D) Gaganyaan

Q.52) The "moon craft" launched recently, took off from _____?

- (A) Kennedy Space Center
- (B) Baikonur Cosmodrome
- (C) Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota
- (D) Tanegashima Space Center

Q.53) Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar mission, was launched in which year?

- (A) 2005
- (B) 2007
- (C) 2008
- (D) 2010

Q.54) The lander of Chandrayaan-2 was intended to make a soft landing in the unexplored region of the moon known as the:

- (A) South Pole-Aitken Basin
- (B) Sea of Tranquility
- (C) Mare Imbrium
- (D) Copernicus Crater

Q.55) Consider the following statements about the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

Statement I: ISRO was founded in the year 1972 and its headquarters is located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Statement II: ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission was a success in placing a rover on the lunar surface.

Statement III: ISRO's primary objective is to advance space technology and use its applications for various national tasks.

Which of the following statements about ISRO are incorrect?

- (A) Statement I only
- (B) Statement II only
- (C) Statement III only
- (D) Statements I and II

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LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE - 1

The ITP Act was passed on December 30, 1956 to prevent 'the commercialisation of vices' and the 'trafficking of females'. Section 2 defines a "brothel" to include "any house, room, or place, or any portion of any house, room or place, which is used for purposes [of sexual exploitation or abuse] for the gain of another person or for the mutual gain of two or more prostitutes." The term "prostitution" is defined as "the sexual exploitation, or abuse of persons, for commercial purposes." Section 5 penalises anyone who "procures or attempts to procure a person, with or without their consent, for prostitution purposes." It also punishes those "inducing persons to go from any place, for prostitution purposes, to become inmates of, or frequent, a brothel." Causing or inducing persons to engage in prostitution is punishable with rigorous imprisonment for 3–7 years, along with a Rs 2,000 fine. However, if such an offence is committed against a person's will or a child, the maximum sentence can be extended to fourteen years or life.

In the present case, the petitioner was found as a customer in a brothel and arrested. Accused of offences under the ITP Act's Sections 3 (keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as one), 4 (living on prostitution earnings), 5 (procuring, inducing, or taking persons for prostitution), 7 (punishing prostitution in or around public places), the accused filed a plea before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Alappuzha, seeking to be discharged. He contended that since he was a customer, he cannot be implicated for any offence under the ITP Act, added that procedural safeguards for protecting the interests of victims and offenders, weren't complied with in his case. Section 15(5) and 15(5A) of the ITP Act contain provisions which mandate producing the offender before the magistrate, and their medical examination to determine age, sexually transmitted diseases (if any), and injuries caused due to sexual abuse. However, the district court rejected the plea and directed that charges be framed against him. The aggrieved petitioner thus moved the Kerala High Court against the lower court's order.

Noting that the term "procure" isn't defined in the 1956 Act, the court observed that the word must be understood in the context in which it's used, bearing in mind the Act's objective of suppressing immoral trafficking or preventing prostitution. Although the word 'procure' refers to getting possession of or obtaining something, the court construed it to mean those getting or obtaining "domain over a person" for prostitution. Therefore, the court upheld the lower court order and dismissed the petitioner's plea, concluding that a consumer also comes within the purview of Section 5.

The Kerala High Court ruling has expanded the meaning of the term "procure" in Section 5 of the ITP Act, by adding that a customer will be held liable in addition to pimps/brothel-keepers who "hire" persons for prostitution. Previously, high courts have expressed differing opinions on whether a brothel customer can be held liable under the ITP Act. In December 2022, the Kerala HC in *Mathew vs the State of Kerala* ruled that a customer caught in a brothel can be prosecuted under the ITP Act. "Section 7(1) of the Act penalises two types of persons for indulging in prostitution within the areas specified. Those persons are (i) the person who carries on prostitution and (ii) the person with whom such prostitution is carried on," the HC said, adding that the act of immoral traffic cannot be perpetrated or carried on without a 'customer'. Prior to that ruling, however, the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka HCs in *Goenka Sajan Kumar vs The State Of AP* (2014) and *Sri Sanaulla vs State Of Karnataka* (2017) ruled against prosecuting brothel customers under sections 3-7 of the ITP Act.

Source: A brothel 'customer' can be charged under ITP Act: What the Kerala HC has said, The Indian Express, January 3rd, 2024

Q.56) Rohan, a resident of Kerala, was found in a reputed massage parlor that was secretly operating as a brothel. During a police raid, it was discovered that the parlor offered sexual services to its clients. Rohan, who was present at the time of the raid, insisted that he was there only for a massage and was unaware of the illegal activities. Despite his claims, he was arrested and charged under Section 5 of the ITP Act for procuring prostitution services. Rohan argues that as a mere customer who was unaware of the brothel's operations, he cannot be held liable under the Act. He also contends that his presence in the parlor does not necessarily imply his involvement in procuring sexual services. Is Rohan liable under Section 5 of the ITP Act for procuring prostitution services, based on his presence in a massage parlor that was operating as a brothel?

- A. Yes, because being found in the premises of a brothel is sufficient to establish liability for procuring under the ITP Act.
- B. No, as there is no evidence to prove that Rohan was aware of or involved in the procurement of sexual services.
- C. Yes, because the Act implicates customers as part of the chain of procurement, regardless of their awareness or intentions.
- D. No, as the Act only penalizes those who are directly involved in the management or operation of a brothel.

Q.57) Anita, a resident of Alappuzha, was arrested in a raid at a suspected brothel. The police, without producing her before a magistrate or conducting a medical examination as mandated by the ITP Act, charged her with offenses under Sections 3 and 4 of the Act. Anita claims that she was merely a cleaner at the establishment and had no involvement in its alleged illegal activities. Her lawyer argues that the failure to follow the procedural safeguards of Section 15(5) and 15(5A) of the ITP Act, specifically the lack of a medical examination and not being produced before a magistrate immediately after arrest, should result in the charges being dropped. Can the charges against Anita be dropped due to the non-compliance with procedural safeguards under Sections 15(5) and 15(5A) of the ITP Act?

- A. Yes, because the procedural safeguards are mandatory, and their non-compliance invalidates the charges against her.
- B. No, as the procedural safeguards are only applicable to persons directly involved in prostitution, not to workers like cleaners.
- C. Yes, because the absence of a medical examination and not being produced before a magistrate immediately after arrest are grounds for dismissal of charges.
- D. No, as procedural safeguards are discretionary and their non-compliance does not necessarily affect the validity of the charges.

Q.58) Vikram, a landlord in Karnataka, rented out his property to a tenant, Priya, who unknown to him, used the premises as a brothel. The police raided the property and discovered its use for prostitution. Vikram received a regular rental income from Priya, which was higher than the market rate. The police, suspecting that the inflated rent was a share of the prostitution earnings, charged Vikram under Section 4 of the ITP Act for living on the earnings of prostitution. Vikram contends that he was unaware of the illegal activities and his only connection to the property was as a landlord receiving legitimate rental income. Is Vikram liable under Section 4 of the ITP Act for living on the earnings of prostitution based on the fact that he received inflated rent from a tenant who used his property as a brothel?

- A. Yes, because receiving inflated rent from a property used for prostitution automatically implicates him under Section 4 of the ITP Act.
- B. No, as there is no direct evidence showing Vikram's knowledge or involvement in the prostitution activities conducted on his property.
- C. Yes, because the Act penalizes anyone who financially benefits from prostitution, regardless of their direct involvement.
- D. No, as the Act requires clear evidence of intentional participation or support of prostitution activities, which is not evident in Vikram's case.

Q.59) Deepak, a resident of Mumbai, was arrested near a well-known red-light area where he was waiting for a friend. Unbeknownst to him, his friend was involved in prostitution in that area. The police, conducting a raid, arrested Deepak on suspicion of being involved in prostitution activities. Deepak argues that he was simply in the area to meet a friend and had no involvement or interest in the prostitution activities. He also contends that his presence in the area, without any direct participation in prostitution, should not be grounds for arrest under Section 7 of the ITP Act. Is Deepak liable under Section 7 of the ITP Act for being present in a known red-light area, despite his claim of having no involvement in the prostitution activities?

- A. Yes, because presence in a known red-light area is sufficient to establish liability under Section 7 of the ITP Act.
- B. No, as there is no evidence to indicate that Deepak was involved in or there for the purpose of engaging in prostitution.
- C. Yes, because the Act penalizes anyone found in areas known for prostitution, regardless of their actual intent or involvement.
- D. No, as the Act specifically targets those who engage in prostitution or facilitate it, not individuals who are merely present in the vicinity.

Q.60) Sunita, a minor from Hyderabad, was coerced into prostitution by a local gang. The police, in a raid, arrested not only the gang members but also Sunita under the presumption of her being a willing participant. The ITP Act provides for harsher penalties for offenses involving minors or non-consensual victims. Sunita's lawyer argues that as a coerced minor, Sunita should be considered a victim under the Act, and not a perpetrator. The prosecution, however, maintains that her active involvement in the activities, regardless of coercion, renders her liable under the Act. Should Sunita be considered a victim and thus exempt from liability under the ITP Act, given her status as a coerced minor involved in prostitution?

- A. Yes, because the Act provides protection and exempts minors, especially those coerced into prostitution, from being treated as perpetrators.
- B. No, as her active involvement in prostitution activities, regardless of her age and coercion, makes her liable under the Act.
- C. Yes, as the Act emphasizes the protection of minors and non-consensual victims from harsh penalties and criminal liability.
- D. No, because the Act does not differentiate between willing and coerced participants in determining liability for prostitution activities.

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PASSAGE - 2

Gangster Goldy Brar, the mastermind behind the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, was declared a designated terrorist by the Centre under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on Monday (January 1). Amendments introduced in 2019 brought in provisions by which the Centre can declare individuals — not only organisations — as designated terrorists. Here is how this works. The words “terror” or “terrorist” are not defined, but the UAPA defines a “terrorist act” as any act committed with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country. While the original Act dealt with “unlawful” acts related to secession; anti-terror provisions were introduced in 2004. The 2019 Bill sought to empower the central government to designate an individual a “terrorist” if they are found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in an act of terror. A similar provision already existed in Part 4 and 6 of the legislation for organisations that can be designated as a “terrorist organisation”. Home Minister Amit Shah, during a debate on the Bill in Lok Sabha, stressed on the need to designate individuals as terrorists to root out terrorism.

The central government may designate an individual as a terrorist through a notification in the official gazette, and add his name to the Fourth Schedule to the UAPA. The government is not required to give an individual an opportunity to be heard before such a designation. At present, in line with the legal presumption of an individual being innocent until proven guilty, an individual who is convicted in a terror case is legally referred to as a terrorist, while those suspected of being involved in terrorist activities are referred to as terror accused. The 2019 amendment did not clarify the standard of proof required to establish that an individual is involved, or is likely to be involved, in terrorist activities. The designation of an individual as a global terrorist by the United Nations is associated with sanctions including travel bans, freezing of assets and an embargo against procuring arms. The 2019 amendment, however, did not provide any such detail. The amendment also gave the Centre the power to remove a name from the schedule when an individual makes an application. If an application filed by an individual declared a terrorist is rejected by the government, they have the right to seek a review within one month after the application is rejected. Under the amendment, the central government set up a review committee comprising a chairperson (a retired or sitting judge of a High Court) and three other members. The review committee will be empowered to order the government to delete the name of the individual from the schedule that lists “terrorists”, if it considers the order to be flawed. Apart from these two avenues, the individual can also move the courts challenging the government’s order.

Source: Gangster Goldy Brar declared designated terrorist under UAPA: What this means, The Indian Express, January 1st, 2024.

Q.61) Vikrant, a reputed journalist, has been vocally critical of certain governmental policies. Recently, he published a series of articles scrutinizing government actions in counter-terrorism operations. The government, suspecting Vikrant's involvement in terrorist activities based on undisclosed intelligence, designated him as a terrorist under the UAPA without a prior hearing. Vikrant's assets were frozen, and he faced severe travel restrictions. He claimed that his rights were violated as he was not given an opportunity to present his case before being declared a terrorist. Which of the following is legally correct regarding Vikrant's designation as a terrorist under the UAPA?

- (a) Vikrant's designation as a terrorist is unlawful since the UAPA mandates a prior hearing for individuals before such a designation.
- (b) The government's action is lawful as the UAPA allows the designation of an individual as a terrorist without a prior hearing, based on intelligence inputs.
- (c) Vikrant can only challenge his designation after being convicted in a terror-related case, as per UAPA provisions.
- (d) The UAPA requires that an individual must be declared a global terrorist by the United Nations before being designated as a terrorist in India.

Q.62) Vedika, a social activist, was recently involved in a protest against a controversial law. Following the protest, certain violent incidents occurred in the vicinity, which the authorities believe were instigated by the protest. Based on circumstantial evidence and testimonies of undisclosed witnesses,

the government designated Vedika as a terrorist under the UAPA, alleging her involvement in orchestrating the violence. Vedika contends that the evidence against her is speculative and not conclusive. In the context of Vedika's designation as a terrorist under the UAPA, which of the following statements is legally accurate?

- (a) The designation is valid only if based on conclusive proof of Vedika's direct involvement in terrorist activities.
- (b) Vedika's designation is lawful as the UAPA permits the government to designate someone as a terrorist based on circumstantial evidence and intelligence inputs.
- (c) The UAPA requires a unanimous decision by a judicial panel for an individual's designation as a terrorist.
- (d) Vedika must be provided with detailed evidence against her and an opportunity to counter the allegations in court before her designation as a terrorist.

Q.63) Vishal, a well-known author, was designated as a terrorist under the UAPA following the publication of his book, which was alleged to promote separatist ideologies. The government claimed his writings were a threat to the unity and integrity of India. Vishal vehemently denied these allegations and applied for a review of his designation, asserting that his book was purely academic and did not incite any form of violence. The government rejected his application. Vishal then sought to approach the review committee set up under the UAPA to challenge the government's decision. Which of the following actions can Vishal lawfully take following the rejection of his application for review of his terrorist designation under the UAPA?

- (a) Vishal must accept the government's decision as final since the UAPA does not allow for further appeal after the initial review.
- (b) He can directly approach the Supreme Court for the removal of his name from the terrorist list without going through the review committee.
- (c) Vishal can seek a review from the review committee comprising a chairperson (a retired or sitting judge of a High Court) and three other members within one month of the application's rejection.
- (d) He is required to wait for a conviction in a terror-related case before he can challenge his designation as a terrorist.

Q.64) Vinay, a former member of a political group, was designated as a terrorist under the UAPA due to his alleged involvement in inciting communal violence. Five years later, after extensive investigations, no concrete evidence was found linking him to any terrorist activities, and he was acquitted in all related legal proceedings. Vinay then applied to the central government for the removal of his name from the Fourth Schedule to the UAPA. However, the government denied his application, citing unspecified ongoing intelligence reports. Vinay believes this decision to be arbitrary and unsupported by evidence. Based on the above situation, which of the following is the most appropriate legal course of action for Vinay to remove his name from the terrorist list under the UAPA?

- (a) Vinay must wait for a formal declaration from the United Nations clearing his name before he can apply for removal from the list.
- (b) Since Vinay has been acquitted in all legal proceedings, the government is obligated to automatically remove his name from the terrorist list.
- (c) Vinay should seek intervention from the Ministry of Home Affairs for an immediate removal of his name, bypassing the review committee.
- (d) If the government rejects his application, Vinay has the right to seek a review from the review committee set up under the UAPA.

Q.65) Vibha, an environmental activist, was involved in several international campaigns against deforestation. During a campaign in a foreign country, she was falsely implicated in an incident of eco-terrorism. Subsequently, she was designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations. The Indian government, following this designation, added Vibha's name to the Fourth Schedule to the UAPA, leading to various sanctions including freezing of assets and travel bans. Vibha claims that the UN

designation was based on incorrect information and seeks to challenge her designation under the UAPA in India. In the light of Vibha's designation as a global terrorist by the United Nations, which of the following statements is correct regarding her legal position under the UAPA?

- (a) Vibha cannot challenge her designation under the UAPA in India since the UN designation is binding and final.
- (b) The Indian government is required to independently verify the UN designation before adding Vibha's name to the terrorist list under the UAPA.
- (c) The UN designation automatically validates Vibha's designation under the UAPA without the need for any further evidence or review.
- (d) Vibha has the right to apply for the removal of her name from the terrorist list under UAPA and can seek a review if the application is rejected by the government.

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PASSAGE - 3

Although the term “witness” is widely used in criminal law, it hasn’t been defined properly in the statute books. However, Section 161 CrPC dealt with the examination of witnesses and allowed investigating police officers to orally examine anyone “supposed to be acquainted” with the case’s facts and circumstances. It also said the witness is bound to answer all questions “truly” but needn’t answer questions that expose them to criminal charges, penalties, or forfeiture. Notably, Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which has replaced the CrPC, states that every state government shall prepare and notify a Witness Protection Scheme for the state to ensure the protection of witnesses. In *Swaran Singh vs. State of Punjab* (2000), the SC observed that a criminal case is built upon the edifice of evidence that is admissible in law, and for that, witnesses are of paramount importance. And yet, witnesses in India are mistreated, given no facilities, and face the danger of bodily harm, death, abduction, and threats, besides other forms of mental and physical harassment. Several witnesses also turn hostile. A hostile witness does not tell the truth at the instance of the party calling him. Parties expect witnesses to testify in their favour; however, some don’t oblige. In cases like the Jessica Lal murder case or the Salman Khan hit-and-run case, the prosecution failed after witnesses turned hostile. The Fourteenth Report of the Law Commission came out in 1958 and highlighted the tribulations commonly encountered by witnesses, like difficulty in accessing courts owing to expenses, travel, time, and frequent adjournments. Besides this, the Law Commission’s 154th and 178th reports that came out in 1996 and 2001, respectively, also discussed various facets of witness protection.

Based on the suggestions made in the 178th Report, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003, was proposed. Amendment) Bill, 2003’s Statement of Object and Reasons said, “It is widely felt that criminal cases in the courts fail because statements by witness(es) are reneged either out of fear or allurements. To prevent the evil of witness turning hostile, it is proposed to amend sections 161, 162 and 344 of, and to insert new sections 164A and 344A in, the CrPC. The Bill didn’t address the lack of power trial courts have in protecting witnesses but made it mandatory for police to record witness statements before a magistrate. Although there are inbuilt protections in laws such as Section 195A IPC, Sections 151–52 of the Indian Evidence Act, and Section 327 CrPC, like criminalising threatening of witnesses, prohibiting parties from asking insulting questions to witnesses and empowering magistrates to shield court proceedings from the public, among others, it wasn’t until December 2018 that the SC drew up a nationwide Witness Protection Scheme. Acting on PIL for the protection of witnesses in the *Asaram Bapu* case, a Bench of Justices AK Sikri and SA Nazeer observed in *Mahender Chawla vs. Union of India* (2019) that witnesses turned hostile due to inadequate protection by the state and directed the Centre, states, and UTs to “enforce” the scheme “in letter and spirit” until the Parliament enacts a law on it. Consequently, the scheme was drawn up by the Centre with inputs from 8 states/UTs, legal services authorities of five states, civil society, high courts and police. It was finalised in consultation with the National Legal Services Authority.

Source: Security for 2002 Gujarat riots witnesses withdrawn: Everything you need to know about witness protection in India, The Indian Express, December 31, 2023.

Q.66) In a small town in India, a local politician, Mr. Arjun Singh, is accused of corruption. The prosecution's key witness, Ravi Kumar, a clerk in Mr. Singh's office, initially provided a statement to the police detailing Mr. Singh's illegal activities. However, as the trial date approaches, Ravi starts receiving anonymous threats warning him against testifying. Despite this, Ravi is determined to appear in court. On the day of the trial, he changes his testimony, claiming he had fabricated his initial statement due to personal grudges against Mr. Singh. The prosecution suspects that Ravi has turned hostile due to the threats but lacks concrete evidence. In the context of the above situation, which of the following is the most legally accurate analysis regarding Ravi Kumar's change in testimony and the prosecution's position?

(a) Ravi's change in testimony is legally acceptable as witnesses have the right to alter their statements in court if new evidence or personal realizations arise, and the prosecution cannot challenge this alteration without direct evidence of coercion or threat.

(b) The prosecution can immediately demand a re-investigation into Mr. Singh's case, focusing on the threats to Ravi Kumar, as his change in testimony indicates clear witness tampering.

(c) Since Ravi Kumar has turned hostile, the prosecution must accept his revised testimony and cannot pursue any further action against him, as per the legal protections afforded to witnesses under Section 161 of the CrPC.

(d) The prosecution may request the court to consider the circumstances under which Ravi Kumar changed his testimony, including the possibility of him being threatened, as per the observations in *Swaran Singh vs. State of Punjab*, emphasizing the importance of witness protection.

Q.67) In a high-profile environmental violation case in India, an activist, Priya Deshmukh, is the primary witness against a large corporation accused of illegal deforestation. After agreeing to testify, Priya receives multiple threats and reports them to the police. Consequently, she is placed under the Witness Protection Scheme. Despite this, one day before her court appearance, Priya is attacked by unidentified assailants and hospitalized, unable to attend the court hearing. The prosecution alleges that the corporation is behind the attack, though there is no direct evidence linking them to the incident. In light of Priya Deshmukh's situation, how should the legal system and the authorities proceed according to the principles and directives mentioned in the passage?

(a) The court should postpone the hearing until Priya recovers and can testify, as her absence due to the attack undermines the fairness of the trial, and the effectiveness of the Witness Protection Scheme should be re-evaluated.

(b) Priya's prior statements under the Witness Protection Scheme can be directly admitted as evidence in court, bypassing the need for her physical presence, given the attack and her status as a protected witness.

(c) The attack on Priya, despite the protection, indicates a failure of the Witness Protection Scheme, leading to an automatic mistrial, and the case must be dismissed as per legal standards.

(d) The court is obliged to continue the trial without Priya's testimony, considering the attack on her as an unrelated incident, and the prosecution must rely on other available evidence.

Q.68) In a controversial land dispute case in Mumbai, Anil Kapoor, a local real estate developer, is accused of using illegal means to acquire land. The key witness, Vikram Patel, a former employee of Kapoor, initially provided a statement to the police implicating Kapoor in fraudulent activities. However, during the trial, Vikram unexpectedly retracts his statement, claiming he was coerced by a rival company to falsely accuse Kapoor. The prosecution, suspecting that Vikram has been pressured or bribed by Kapoor to turn hostile, finds it challenging to prove this without direct evidence. What are the legal considerations and actions that can be taken in response to Vikram Patel's sudden retraction of his statement, in the context of the established legal framework and past case precedents mentioned in the passage?

(a) The prosecution can immediately charge Vikram Patel with perjury for retracting his statement, as his action directly undermines the judicial process and the credibility of the witness.

(b) The court must accept Vikram's retracted statement without question, as witnesses have the legal right to change their testimony if they believe their initial statements were made under duress or coercion.

(c) Vikram's retraction of his statement should prompt the court to dismiss the case against Anil Kapoor, as the key witness's testimony is no longer reliable.

(d) The prosecution may investigate the circumstances leading to Vikram's retraction, considering the possibility of him turning hostile due to external pressures, and seek to introduce other corroborating evidence to strengthen their case.

Q.69) In a bribery case involving a high-ranking government official, Mr. Rajesh Gupta, in Delhi, a key witness, Sunita Singh, an accountant, initially gives a detailed statement to the police implicating Mr. Gupta. To strengthen the case and prevent Sunita from turning hostile, the prosecution arranges for her statement to be recorded before a magistrate. However, just before the scheduled recording, Sunita disappears under mysterious circumstances. Rumors suggest that she has been bribed or threatened to avoid appearing before the magistrate. The prosecution is now in a dilemma regarding the next steps in the absence of Sunita's recorded statement. Given the situation, what are the appropriate legal actions

or considerations that should be taken by the prosecution and the court, in line with the legal framework and the proposals in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003?

- (a) The prosecution should seek an immediate adjournment of the case until Sunita Singh is located, as her recorded statement before the magistrate is crucial for the case's continuity.
- (b) The court can consider Sunita's initial statement to the police as admissible evidence, even without it being recorded before a magistrate, due to the exceptional circumstances of her disappearance.
- (c) The disappearance of Sunita Singh leads to the automatic dismissal of the case against Mr. Rajesh Gupta, as the key witness is unavailable to record her statement before a magistrate.
- (d) The prosecution may explore alternative evidence and witnesses, while also seeking a police investigation into Sunita's disappearance, to address potential witness tampering and continue building their case against Mr. Gupta.

Q.70) In a corporate fraud case in Bangalore, a senior employee, Mr. Ajay Verma, is accused of embezzling funds. During the investigation, a junior employee, Nisha Sharma, is identified as a potential witness who might have relevant information. When questioned by the investigating officers, Nisha hesitates to answer certain questions, fearing that her responses might incriminate her in the fraud. The officers assure her that she is only a witness and not an accused in the case. However, Nisha remains apprehensive about revealing information that could potentially lead to her facing criminal charges. In the given scenario, how should the legal process accommodate Nisha Sharma's concerns about self-incrimination during the investigation, in accordance with the principles stated in Section 161 of the CrPC and relevant legal precedents?

- (a) Nisha Sharma is obligated to answer all questions posed by the investigating officers, regardless of her concerns, as her status as a witness overrides any potential self-incrimination risks.
- (b) The investigating officers must assure Nisha Sharma that her responses will not be used against her in any future criminal proceedings, encouraging her to provide the necessary information without fear of self-incrimination.
- (c) Nisha Sharma has the right to refuse to answer any questions that might incriminate her, as per the legal protections against self-incrimination provided to witnesses under Section 161 of the CrPC.
- (d) The court can grant Nisha Sharma immunity from prosecution based on the information she provides, thereby obliging her to disclose all relevant details to the investigating officers.

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The Delhi Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (DCDRC) last month directed fashion brand Lifestyle to pay a customer Rs 3,000 for charging him Rs 7 for a paper carry bag.

Such a penalty is not rare. In October, a Bengaluru-based consumer court imposed a fine of Rs 3,000 on Ikea, a furniture company, for charging Rs 20 for a bag which had its logo. In January, a store in Chandigarh was asked to pay Rs 26,000 by a Chandigarh Consumer Court as it asked a customer to pay Rs 10 for a carry bag. Despite these rulings, retailers have continued to argue that no law bans them from charging the customer for a carry bag. We take a look. The roots of the problem go back to 2011, when the Centre brought out the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules which mandated that “no carry bags shall be made available free of cost by retailers to consumers”. Carry bags in this case meant plastic bags, and the rule was meant to curb the use of plastic bags. Retailers, however, exploited this rule and started charging for paper and cloth bags as well, which was not explicitly mentioned in the rules. Moreover, civic bodies had to determine the price of the plastic carry bags first, taking into consideration the cost of inputs and the cost of waste management. But this didn't happen.

Noticing that retailers were charging for paper bags and civic bodies had failed to fix the cost of carry bags, the Union government amended these rules in 2016. It introduced a new section called “Explicit pricing of carry bags”, which asked retailers selling plastic bags to pay a certain amount as a plastic waste management fee and also to put up notices in outlets stating that plastic bags would be provided only on payment. However, even this didn't work. The government brought another amendment in 2018 which altogether omitted the 2016 section. The new rules didn't mention anything about the pricing of carry bags and, like previous rules, didn't say anything specific about paper carry bags. Therefore, retailers argue that there is no law which explicitly states that carry bags have to be supplied for free to the customers. They say the Plastic Waste Management Rules do not forbid the sale of all plastic carry bags by the stores to the customers, and there is no bar imposed on stores on charging money for carry bags. Since December 31, 2022, there has been a ban on the sale of plastic carry bags which are thinner than 120 microns.

Another point raised by retailers is a concept called ‘polluters pay’ — it requires that those who are responsible for pollution bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment. Retailers hold customers as polluters and therefore, charge them for the plastic carry bags. Yes, they can but several consumer courts have held that charging consumers for bags without informing them beforehand is illegal. For instance, in the recent Lifestyle case, the consumer court in Delhi held that providing information about carry bag charges during the payment process causes harassment to the customer. It also affects the consumer's right to make an informed decision to opt for a specific outlet or not, the court added. Similarly, in 2021, a consumer court in Hyderabad ruled that the retailer, who was sued by a consumer, must provide free carry bags to all customers if the bags have the company's logo printed on them. However, the court also held that the retailer was at liberty to charge for the plain carry bags (without logos) with prior intimation and consent of the customers. The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum in Chandigarh in a 2020 judgement called the practice of not providing prior information to the consumer about the cost of the paper bag ‘arbitrary’ and ‘highhanded’.

Source: Can retailers charge you for carry bags? Here's what consumer court orders say, The Indian Express, December 28, 2023.

Q.71) Mr. Rajeev Sharma visited a renowned clothing store, 'Elegant Attire'. At the checkout, he was surprised to be charged Rs. 15 for a paper carry bag, which also had the store's logo. The charge for the bag was not displayed anywhere in the store nor mentioned by the staff during his shopping. Mr. Sharma felt this was unfair and decided to challenge this practice. He remembered a similar case where a consumer court in Hyderabad ruled that retailers must provide free carry bags if they have the company's logo on them, but could charge for plain carry bags with prior intimation and consent of the customers. 'Elegant Attire' argues that they are within their rights to charge for the bag as there is no explicit rule prohibiting the sale of paper carry bags. Based on the given situation, which of the following is the most legally appropriate action for Mr. Sharma to pursue?

(a) Mr. Sharma should accept the charge as the store has the right to sell paper carry bags, and there is no requirement for prior intimation.

- (b) Mr. Sharma can legally demand a refund for the carry bag charge since the store did not provide prior intimation, and the bag had the store's logo.
- (c) Mr. Sharma should pay the charge as 'polluters pay' principle applies, making him responsible for the environmental cost of the carry bag.
- (d) Mr. Sharma has no legal basis to challenge the charge as the Plastic Waste Management Rules do not forbid the sale of all plastic carry bags.

Q.72) In Chennai, a local supermarket 'Green Grocers' has been selling plastic carry bags at a price of Rs. 5 each to its customers. The price was set arbitrarily by the supermarket management without any consultation or guidelines from the local civic body. A regular customer, Mrs. Anitha Krishnan, aware of the rules requiring civic bodies to fix the price of plastic carry bags, raised a complaint against 'Green Grocers'. She argued that the supermarket's practice of setting the price for plastic carry bags without any standardized guideline was illegal. 'Green Grocers' countered that in the absence of any clear directive from the local civic body, they were free to set their prices for the plastic carry bags. In the given situation, what is the most legally appropriate conclusion regarding 'Green Grocers' pricing of plastic carry bags?

- (a) 'Green Grocers' is legally justified in setting their price for plastic carry bags as the local civic body has not provided any pricing guidelines.
- (b) Mrs. Krishnan's complaint is valid as 'Green Grocers' should provide plastic carry bags for free until the local civic body sets a price.
- (c) 'Green Grocers' should immediately cease selling plastic carry bags as selling them without a price set by the civic body is illegal.
- (d) Mrs. Krishnan's complaint lacks legal standing since the supermarket has the autonomy to price their carry bags in the absence of civic body guidelines.

Q.73) A large electronics store 'Tech World' decided to charge Rs. 20 for each branded cloth carry bag, following the 2018 amendment to the Plastic Waste Management Rules. Before this amendment, 'Tech World' had a policy of providing cloth carry bags for free. A law student, Ms. Priya Banerjee, challenged this new charging policy, arguing that the removal of the 'Explicit pricing of carry bags' section in the 2018 amendment did not automatically grant retailers the right to charge for cloth carry bags, especially when such bags are used as a marketing tool with the store's branding. 'Tech World' defends its policy by stating that the 2018 amendment's silence on the pricing of non-plastic carry bags gives them the flexibility to charge for cloth carry bags. Considering the legal context provided, which of the following options is most legally tenable for Ms. Banerjee to argue against 'Tech World's' cloth carry bag charging policy?

- (a) Ms. Banerjee should acknowledge that the 2018 amendment allows 'Tech World' to charge for cloth carry bags as it does not explicitly prohibit such charges.
- (b) Ms. Banerjee can argue that charging for cloth carry bags with the store's branding is illegal, as the 2018 amendment does not grant explicit permission for such charges.
- (c) Ms. Banerjee should demand that 'Tech World' provide cloth carry bags for free, as the 2018 amendment implies all carry bags should be supplied without charge.
- (d) Ms. Banerjee's challenge is valid, as the 2018 amendment's silence on cloth carry bags implies that retailers cannot charge for them, especially if they are branded.

Q.74) In Mumbai, a popular bookstore, 'Book Haven', implemented a policy where customers are charged Rs. 10 for a biodegradable carry bag. The bookstore justifies this charge based on the 'polluters pay' principle, arguing that it is the customers who ultimately dispose of these bags and therefore should bear the cost. A frequent customer, Mr. Vikram Mehta, a local environmental activist, contests this charge. He argues that since the bags are biodegradable and part of the store's environmental initiatives, the 'polluters pay' principle does not apply, and customers should not be charged. 'Book Haven' asserts that the principle is applicable regardless of the bag's biodegradability, as the end disposal still lies with the consumer. In the given scenario, what is the most legally sound argument that Mr. Mehta can present against the 'Book Haven's' application of the 'polluters pay' principle?

- (a) Mr. Mehta should accept the charge, as the 'polluters pay' principle rightly applies to all types of carry bags, including biodegradable ones.
- (b) Mr. Mehta can argue that charging for biodegradable bags contradicts the environmental purpose of the 'polluters pay' principle, as these bags do not cause significant pollution.
- (c) Mr. Mehta should demand that 'Book Haven' provide non-biodegradable bags for free, as the 'polluters pay' principle should not apply to them.
- (d) Mr. Mehta has no legal basis to contest the charge, as the 'polluters pay' principle universally applies to all carry bags, regardless of their environmental impact.

Q.75) In Hyderabad, a high-end jewelry store, 'Glitter Gems', has a policy of charging Rs. 50 for a luxury paper carry bag. This charge is only disclosed to customers at the time of payment. A customer, Mrs. Sunita Reddy, who was not informed about the bag charge until the payment process, felt that this practice was deceptive and infringed on her right to make an informed decision. She recalls a consumer court ruling in Delhi where it was held that providing information about carry bag charges during the payment process causes harassment to the customer and affects their right to an informed decision. 'Glitter Gems' argues that since the carry bags are a luxury item, different rules apply, and they are not obliged to inform the customer about the charge until the point of sale. In this scenario, what is the most legally valid stance that Mrs. Reddy can take regarding the charge for the luxury paper carry bag?

- (a) Mrs. Reddy should pay the charge, as luxury items like the carry bag offered by 'Glitter Gems' are exempt from the requirement of prior intimation of charges.
- (b) Mrs. Reddy can legally demand that the charge be waived, as the late disclosure violates her right to an informed decision, irrespective of the luxury status of the bag.
- (c) Mrs. Reddy has no legal recourse, as the store's policy on luxury carry bags does not violate any consumer protection norms.
- (d) Mrs. Reddy should accept the charge, as the consumer court ruling in Delhi does not apply to high-end retailers like 'Glitter Gems'.

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Under the BNS, offences related to causing damage to public property now carry a graded fine, which means the fine corresponds to the amount of damage caused.

Promise to marry: The BNS introduces Clause 69 that seems to ostensibly tackle the “love jihad” narrative by criminalising “deceitful” promise to marry. The phrase “sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape” essentially criminalises consensual sexual activity too. “Whoever, by deceitful means or by making promise to marry to a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same, has sexual intercourse with her, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine,” the provision reads adding that “deceitful means” shall include the false promise of employment or promotion, inducement, or marrying after suppressing identity.

Mob lynching: The BNS provisions codify offences linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders, for cases when a mob of five or more individuals commits murder based on factors such as race, caste, community, or personal belief. The provision has punishment that extends from life imprisonment to death. In its earlier version, the Bill had proposed a minimum sentence of seven years, but this was brought at par with murder. The Supreme Court in 2018 had asked the Centre to consider a separate law for lynching.

Organised crime: For the first time, tackling organised crime is brought under the realm of ordinary criminal law. There are several special state legislations for prevention and control of criminal activity by organised crime syndicates or gangs, the most popular being the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999. These special laws prescribe vast powers of surveillance and relax standards of evidence and procedure in favour of the state, which is not found in ordinary criminal law.

Interestingly, in the new legislation, the punishment for attempt to commit organised crime and for committing organised crime is the same, but a distinction is drawn based on whether a death is caused or not by the alleged offence. For cases involving death, the punishment ranges from life imprisonment to death but where there is no death involved, a mandatory minimum sentence of five years is prescribed which may extend to life imprisonment. A separate category of “petty organised crime” has also been brought in, which criminalises “theft, snatching, cheating, unauthorised selling of tickets, unauthorised betting or gambling, selling of public examination question papers.” An earlier version of the Bill used the overbroad words, “Any crime that causes general feelings of insecurity among citizens”, to describe petty organised crime, but that has been dropped in the current version. However, while the provision is aimed at tackling small law and order issues in everyday policing, it is unclear how this would be different from ordinary theft, etc.

Terrorism: Importing large parts of the language in defining “terror activities” from the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, the BNS brings terrorism under the ambit of ordinary criminal law. According to an analysis by National Law School of India University, Bangalore, the definition of “terrorist” borrows from the Philippines Anti-Terrorism Act, 2020. Crucially, the offence involving terror financing is broader in the BNS than in UAPA. It is unclear how both the UAPA and the BNS will operate concurrently, especially when procedurally the UAPA is more stringent and the cases are heard in special courts.

Attempt to suicide: The BNS introduces a new provision that criminalises “whoever attempts to commit suicide with the intent to compel or restrain any public servant from discharging his official duty”, and prescribes a jail term which may extend to one year with community service. This provision could be invoked to prevent self-immolations and hunger strikes during protests.

Source: Indian Penal Code to Nyaya Sanhita: What’s new, what is out, what changes, The Indian Express, December 22, 2023.

Q.76) In the bustling city of Chennai, a protest against a controversial environmental policy turns chaotic. A group of protesters, led by Rohan Mehta, become agitated and damage a series of public installations, including traffic lights, park benches, and a public art installation. The total damage is estimated to be around ₹5 lakhs. Rohan, a well-known environmental activist, is arrested and charged with causing damage to public property. During the trial, the prosecution argues for a fine that corresponds to the total damage caused, as per the BNS provisions. Considering the provisions of the BNS and the estimated damage caused, what should be the legal approach to determining the fine for Rohan Mehta?

- (a) Rohan should be fined an amount equivalent to double the estimated damage, ₹10 lakhs, as a punitive measure to deter similar actions in the future.
- (b) The fine imposed on Rohan should exactly match the estimated damage of ₹5 lakhs, adhering to the principle of the graded fine system under the BNS.
- (c) A minimal symbolic fine of ₹50,000 should be imposed on Rohan, considering the protest's cause and his role as an environmental activist.
- (d) Rohan should be exempted from any fine, as the protest was in public interest, and the damage caused was a result of collective action rather than his sole responsibility.

Q.77) In Pune, Aarav Sharma, a young software engineer, enters into a relationship with Priya Joshi, a colleague, under the pretext of being a single man genuinely interested in marriage. In reality, Aarav is already married and conceals this fact from Priya. After a year of relationship, Priya discovers the truth about Aarav's marital status and files a complaint against him, accusing him of deceitful promise to marry for engaging in a sexual relationship with her. Based on the legal framework of the BNS, how should Aarav Sharma's actions be legally interpreted and addressed?

- (a) Aarav's actions are legally defensible as the relationship was consensual, and the law does not cover cases where the accused is already married.
- (b) Aarav Sharma can be prosecuted under Clause 69 of the BNS for deceitfully engaging in a sexual relationship with Priya Joshi by concealing his marital status and falsely promising marriage.
- (c) Since Aarav did not explicitly promise marriage in writing, he cannot be held liable under the BNS for any deceitful promise.
- (d) The case should be dismissed as it pertains to personal relationships, and the BNS does not apply to matters of personal deceit or infidelity within relationships.

Q.78) In a rural village in Uttar Pradesh, a violent incident occurs where a mob of seven people, instigated by deep-seated caste prejudices, attacks and kills a man belonging to a lower caste. The attack is sparked by a false rumor that the victim, Vikas Yadav, desecrated a local temple, a claim later proven to be unfounded. The police arrest the mob members, including the main instigator, Rajat Singh. The prosecution argues that this case falls under the purview of the BNS provisions on mob lynching and hate-crime murders, given the caste-based motivations of the attackers. In light of the BNS provisions and the nature of the crime, what should be the legal treatment of the mob members, particularly Rajat Singh, the instigator?

- (a) Rajat Singh and the mob members should be charged with ordinary murder, as the BNS provisions on mob lynching do not apply to caste-based violence.
- (b) The mob members, including Rajat Singh, should receive a minimum sentence of seven years imprisonment, as per the original version of the BNS bill.
- (c) All mob members, with Rajat Singh receiving a harsher sentence, should be prosecuted under the BNS provisions for mob lynching and hate-crime murders, potentially facing life imprisonment or death penalty due to the caste-based motivation of their crime.
- (d) Only Rajat Singh should face charges under the BNS provisions for mob lynching, while the other mob members should be tried for lesser charges of assault or manslaughter.

Q.79) In Kolkata, a notorious gang leader, Rakesh Banerjee, known for his involvement in various illegal activities, is finally apprehended. The prosecution charges him with organized crime under the BNS, including multiple instances of extortion, illegal arms trafficking, and being complicit in a violent clash that resulted in severe injuries but no fatalities. The defense argues that since no deaths occurred due to Rakesh's activities, the punishment should be on the lower end of the spectrum as prescribed by the BNS for non-lethal organized crime. Given Rakesh Banerjee's charges and activities, what is the appropriate legal approach to sentencing under the BNS's provisions for organized crime?

- (a) Rakesh Banerjee should face a mandatory minimum sentence of seven years, as per the original version of the BNS for organized crime offenses.

(b) Since no deaths resulted from Rakesh's criminal activities, he should receive a mandatory minimum sentence of five years, which may extend to life imprisonment as per the BNS provisions for organized crime without fatalities.

(c) Rakesh should receive the maximum punishment of life imprisonment or death penalty, considering the severity and range of his organized criminal activities, despite the absence of fatalities.

(d) The case against Rakesh should focus only on individual crimes like extortion and arms trafficking, as organized crime charges under the BNS require evidence of resulting deaths.

Q.80) In Bangalore, a social activist, Maya Singh, stages a hunger strike outside a government office, protesting against a recent policy change. She declares that she will fast unto death unless the government revokes the policy. The protest gains significant public attention. On the fifth day of her hunger strike, the local authorities intervene, citing the BNS provision against attempts to commit suicide to compel public servants. Maya argues that her actions are a form of peaceful protest and not an attempt to compel or restrain public servants from their duties. In this scenario, how should Maya Singh's hunger strike be legally interpreted under the BNS provisions related to attempts to commit suicide with the intent to influence public servants?

(a) Maya's hunger strike is a legitimate form of protest, and the BNS provisions do not apply as there is no direct intent to compel or restrain public servants in the discharge of their duties.

(b) Maya should be prosecuted under the BNS for attempting to commit suicide with the intent to compel public servants, as her declaration of fasting unto death directly aims to influence government policy.

(c) The local authorities must negotiate with Maya to end her hunger strike, as the BNS provisions are only applicable in cases of self-immolation or more direct forms of suicide attempts.

(d) Maya's actions are considered a criminal offense under the BNS, but she should only be subjected to community service and not imprisonment, given the nature of her protest.

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PASSAGE - 6

The Supreme Court (on January 04), while allowing the criminal appeal of the accused-appellant, observed that during a trial, the prosecution could not seek to prove a fact that the witness has not stated in his/her statement under Section 161 (Examination of witnesses by police) of the Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973. "Prosecution cannot seek to prove a fact during trial through a witness which such witness had not stated to police during investigation. The evidence of that witness regarding the said improved fact is of no significance." observed a three-judge bench of Justices B. R. Gavai, P.S. Narasimha, and Aravind Kumar. If witnesses had failed to mention in their statements, under Section 161 of the CrPC, about the involvement of an accused, their subsequent statement before the court during the trial regarding the involvement of that particular accused could not be relied upon. The Court also expressed its dissatisfaction with the findings of the Punjab & Haryana High Court as it convicted one accused (appellant) for murder but acquitted the other co-accused. The top court observed that if the evidence was not sufficient to prove the case of the co-accused, such evidence could not be used to implicate the appellant. "According to us, if the evidence of PW 3 and PW 4 was not sufficient to prove presence of Rani Kaur at the appellant's house, as a natural corollary, such evidence cannot be relied on to conclude that the appellant was present in the house. The manner in which the High Court has sought to distinguish the case of the appellant from Rani Kaur is perverse and does not seem to impress us." The case, mired in marital discord, saw Kaur's husband, Darshan Singh, and his illicit partner, Rani Kaur, initially convicted of her murder. The crux of the prosecution's argument rested on circumstantial evidence, as the murder lacked any direct eye-witnesses. The case's genesis lay in the strained marriage between Amrik Kaur and Darshan Singh, exacerbated by Singh's extramarital relationship with Rani Kaur. The prosecution alleged that on the night of May 18-19, 1999, Singh and Rani Kaur poisoned Amrik Kaur, leading to her death. The trial court's conviction, which was partially upheld by the High Court – affirming Singh's guilt while acquitting Rani Kaur – led to this appeal. The Supreme Court, in its observation, underscored the absence of direct witnesses to the incident. The Court emphasized that for circumstantial evidence to be credible, it must be cogently and firmly established. This led to a reevaluation of the presence of Singh and Rani Kaur in the appellant's house on the night of the incident, a critical circumstantial element. Significantly, the Court noted the defence's suggestion of suicide by the deceased, stressing that the burden of proof for the accused under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure does not extend to "beyond all reasonable doubt". The accused is only required to create a doubt, with the onus then shifting back to the prosecution to establish their guilt without reasonable doubt. Ultimately, the Supreme Court found that the circumstance of Singh and Rani Kaur's presence in the house on the night of the murder was not convincingly proven beyond reasonable doubt. The judgment reinforced the principle that in cases reliant on circumstantial evidence, there must be a complete and unbroken chain of evidence. A gap or a "snap" in this chain entitles the accused to the benefit of the doubt. This principle was crucial in this case, where alternative explanations for the circumstances undermined the prosecution's narrative, thereby highlighting the intricate balance of legal principles in criminal jurisprudence.

Source: Prosecution Can't Seek To Prove In Trial A Fact Which Witness Hasn't Told Police During Investigation : Supreme Court, Live Law, January 5th, 2024.

Q.81) Rajesh, a local businessman, was accused of murdering his business partner, Amit. The prosecution's case primarily relied on the testimony of two witnesses, Sunita and Manish, who initially did not mention Rajesh's involvement during their statements under Section 161 CrPC to the police. However, during the trial, both witnesses altered their testimonies, implicating Rajesh in the crime. The trial court convicted Rajesh based on this altered testimony. Rajesh appealed to a higher court, challenging the conviction on the grounds that the witnesses' testimonies at trial were significantly different from their statements to the police. Based on the principles highlighted in the passage, should the appellate court consider the altered testimonies of Sunita and Manish in convicting Rajesh?

- (a) Yes, because the testimony of Sunita and Manish during the trial is crucial and should be the basis for the conviction, regardless of their initial statements to the police.
- (b) No, because the testimonies of Sunita and Manish at trial, which differ from their statements to the police under Section 161 CrPC, cannot form the basis of conviction.

- (c) Yes, because the witnesses are allowed to improve their testimonies during the trial, and their improved statements are valid for convicting Rajesh.
- (d) No, because the prosecution has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Rajesh was involved, and the altered testimonies of the witnesses are unreliable.

Q.82) Anjali was on trial for the alleged theft of confidential documents from her employer. The key evidence against her was a set of fingerprints found on the documents, which the prosecution claimed matched Anjali's. However, during the trial, the defense presented evidence that Anjali had been out of town on the day the documents were believed to have been stolen. The prosecution's case hinged on circumstantial evidence, as there were no direct witnesses to the theft. The trial court convicted Anjali based on the fingerprint evidence. Anjali appealed, arguing that the circumstantial evidence was not conclusive and that alternative explanations existed for her fingerprints being on the documents. Considering the principles discussed in the passage, should the appellate court uphold Anjali's conviction based solely on the fingerprint evidence?

- (a) Yes, because the fingerprint evidence directly implicates Anjali, and circumstantial evidence is sufficient for a conviction in theft cases.
- (b) No, because the conviction is based solely on circumstantial evidence, and there is a plausible alternative explanation for Anjali's fingerprints on the documents.
- (c) Yes, because the presence of Anjali's fingerprints on the documents is a strong circumstantial evidence, and her alibi does not necessarily contradict the prosecution's case.
- (d) No, because the prosecution must prove beyond reasonable doubt that Anjali was present at the scene, and the fingerprint evidence alone does not conclusively establish this.

Q.83) Vaibhav was accused of embezzling funds from his company. The prosecution's case was based on the testimony of a co-worker, Priya, who claimed to have seen Vaibhav manipulating financial records. However, during cross-examination, it was revealed that Priya's statement to the police under Section 161 CrPC did not mention witnessing Vaibhav's actions. Instead, she only mentioned overhearing a conversation about financial irregularities. The trial court overlooked this inconsistency and convicted Vaibhav based on Priya's testimony. Vaibhav appealed, contending that Priya's testimony was unreliable and should not have been the basis for his conviction. Should the appellate court overturn Vaibhav's conviction based on the inconsistency in Priya's testimony?

- (a) Yes, because Priya's testimony at trial contradicts her statement under Section 161 CrPC, making it unreliable for convicting Vaibhav.
- (b) No, because Priya's testimony in court is a valid piece of evidence, and the court is entitled to rely on it for conviction, despite the inconsistencies.
- (c) Yes, because the inconsistency in Priya's testimony indicates a potential fabrication or misunderstanding, which undermines the entire prosecution case.
- (d) No, because the primary focus should be on the content of Priya's testimony at trial, not on her initial statement to the police.

Q.84) In a hypothetical case in India, Ravi was accused of assaulting his neighbor, Arun. The prosecution's case largely rested on the testimony of another neighbor, Meena, who claimed to have seen Ravi entering Arun's house around the time of the alleged assault. However, during the trial, it was revealed that Meena had not mentioned seeing Ravi in her initial statement under Section 161 CrPC to the police. Instead, she had only reported hearing noises from Arun's house. The trial court found Ravi guilty based on Meena's courtroom testimony. Ravi appealed, asserting that Meena's testimony was inconsistent and should not have been considered for his conviction. Considering the legal principles discussed in the passage, should the appellate court overturn Ravi's conviction based on the inconsistency in Meena's testimony?

- (a) Yes, because Meena's testimony at trial, which differs from her statement to the police under Section 161 CrPC, renders it unreliable for convicting Ravi.

- (b) No, because the trial court is entitled to rely on Meena's testimony at trial, which provides direct evidence of Ravi's involvement in the assault.
- (c) Yes, because the discrepancy between Meena's trial testimony and her police statement suggests that her observation of Ravi might be a later addition, weakening its credibility.
- (d) No, because the alteration in Meena's testimony could be due to a better recollection of the events, and thus it is admissible and significant for the conviction.

Q.85) In a fictional scenario in India, Deepak was on trial for allegedly defrauding his company. The prosecution's argument was primarily based on the testimony of a junior accountant, Neeraj, who initially stated under Section 161 CrPC to the police that he was unaware of any fraudulent activities. However, during the trial, Neeraj changed his testimony, claiming he had seen Deepak altering financial records. The defense argued that Neeraj's changed testimony was unreliable. Despite this, the trial court convicted Deepak, citing Neeraj's detailed account at trial as a key factor. Deepak appealed, challenging the reliance on Neeraj's inconsistent testimony for his conviction. Should the appellate court maintain Deepak's conviction despite the inconsistency in Neeraj's testimony?

- (a) Yes, because Neeraj's initial ignorance of the fraud does not necessarily contradict his later testimony of witnessing Deepak's actions.
- (b) No, because Neeraj's testimony at trial, which deviates from his statement to the police under Section 161 CrPC, is unreliable and should not be used for conviction.
- (c) Yes, because the court must consider the entirety of Neeraj's testimony, including his revised statements at trial, to establish the truth.
- (d) Yes, because although Neeraj's testimony changed, the detailed nature of his account at trial provides sufficient grounds for conviction, considering there is no other evidence directly contradicting it.

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CRITICAL REASONING

PASSAGE 1

Donald Trump's proposal to establish an "American Academy," aimed at countering 'woke' universities, highlights the deep ideological conflicts permeating education. His plan to fund this institution through taxes on large university endowments reflects a broader struggle around educational curricula and campus activism. This battle of ideologies, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, mirrors a global trend where identity and ideology overshadow hard data and science. In the midst of this ideological clash, advancements in AI, like ChatGPT, are reshaping the educational landscape. Teachers are grappling with AI-assisted student work, raising questions about the future of the humanities. The role of these disciplines is increasingly critical in a world where AI may dominate communication, but human subjectivities continue to define our private and public selves, and the legacies we pass on through education and scholarship. My experiences in India and the United States have revealed the fluidity of identity in humanities research and teaching. In the US, debates around the humanities have evolved from culture wars to a backlash against critical race theory and multiculturalism. The influence of social media in shaping educational policy is evident, as is the legislative pushback against progressive academic disciplines.

In India, the government's National Education Policy (NEP) committee, to which I contributed, initially embraced interdisciplinary liberal arts. However, the final policy reflected a strong influence of high-Sanskritic Hinduism, revealing the ideological manipulation of humanities education. This saffronwashing of multidisciplinary content underscores the power of the humanities in shaping ideological narratives. The humanities' ability to reconstruct history and rhetoric is both powerful and perilous, evident in the ideological battles over curriculum in both the US and India. The discomfort of the privileged often manifests as denial, facilitated by the very disciplines they challenge. The humanities, thus, play a crucial role in constructing and deconstructing meaning, symbol, and identity. The importance of the humanities is paradoxically highlighted by their exploitation in ideological conflicts. While economics and technology may have marginalized these disciplines, they could regain centrality if AI takes over routine tasks, prompting a shift towards more creative and imaginative thinking. However, the enduring impact of the humanities lies in their ideological resonance, audible across the political spectrum. The future of the humanities is fraught with potential, both inspiring and intimidating. It falls upon us, as humanists, to navigate this complex landscape and determine the role these disciplines will play in shaping understanding, identity, and ideology in an increasingly AI-influenced world.

Source: Ideology's assault, The Telegraph India, 3rd Jan 2024

Q.86) Based on the passage, which of the following would most likely be the author's view on the role of the humanities in the context of AI's influence on education?

- (A) The humanities will become obsolete as AI advances in performing routine tasks.
- (B) Humanities play a crucial role in balancing AI's dominance in communication with human subjectivities.
- (C) The focus on humanities in education will diminish due to the increasing reliance on AI for factual data.
- (D) AI advancements will render the study of humanities irrelevant in shaping public and private identities.

Q.87) How does the passage suggest the role of social media in shaping educational policy?

- (A) Social media has a negligible impact on educational policy decisions.
- (B) Social media primarily promotes progressive academic disciplines in education.
- (C) Social media influences educational policy, as seen in legislative pushbacks against certain academic disciplines.
- (D) The passage suggests that social media is wholly responsible for the formulation of educational policies.

Q.88) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the "saffronwashing" of multidisciplinary content in India's National Education Policy (NEP)?

- (A) The NEP committee was composed of members from diverse ideological backgrounds.
- (B) There is substantial evidence of high-Sanskritic Hinduism's influence in the final NEP.
- (C) The initial drafts of the NEP included a strong focus on Western liberal arts education.
- (D) Most Indian universities have resisted implementing the NEP's guidelines.

Q.89) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage regarding the discomfort of the privileged in the context of humanities education?

- (A) The privileged actively seek to expand their understanding through diverse humanities perspectives.
- (B) The privileged are often in denial about social issues, a stance facilitated by the disciplines they challenge.
- (C) The privileged primarily support the inclusion of critical race theory in humanities curricula.
- (D) Discomfort among the privileged is unrelated to their stance on humanities education.

Q.90) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the future of the humanities in an increasingly AI-influenced world?

- (A) The humanities will be completely replaced by AI in all aspects of education and research.
- (B) Humanities will regain centrality in education as AI takes over routine tasks, fostering a shift towards creative thinking.
- (C) The focus on humanities will diminish as AI becomes the primary tool for communication and data analysis.
- (D) AI advancements will lead to a uniform global perspective in humanities, eliminating cultural differences.

PASSAGE 2

Pakistan's military establishment has striven for 'strategic depth' in Afghanistan for decades. For the idea to work, the regime in Afghanistan needs to be a close ally of Pakistan. The seizure of power by the Taliban in 2021 was, therefore, perceived to be the realisation of a long-cherished strategic doctrine for Pakistan. However, this triumph was short-lived as fault lines — new and old — began to emerge within weeks of the Taliban taking control.

Ever since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan has received a huge influx of Afghan refugees. In October 2023, Pakistan's caretaker government ordered nearly 1.7 million undocumented Afghan refugees to leave the country. The Afghan nationals were blamed for the spike in terror attacks in Pakistan and accused of being involved in the drugs trade. But this does not explain the whole picture. Pakistan has been demanding that the Taliban government act against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Islamabad believes that the recent terrorist attacks in different provinces of Pakistan had support from across the border. The Taliban leadership in Kabul, however, rejected Pakistan's claims and pressed upon Islamabad to solve its internal problems without blaming the Taliban. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs of Pakistan, stated that Islamabad has shared detailed information with the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan about the locations of TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Some reports suggest that Pakistan will not restrain itself from conducting surgical strikes on TTP hideouts in Afghanistan in the wake of another terrorist attack.

It appears that Islamabad is unhappy with the Taliban regime in Kabul. Pakistan's caretaker prime minister, Anwar ul Haq Kakar, has said that relations with Afghanistan would not improve until a "legitimate government" takes office there. When read between the lines, can it be inferred that Kakar's statement suggested that Pakistan is mulling over withdrawing its support for the Taliban? If such a step is pursued by the Pakistan government, it could have implications on the legitimacy of the Taliban regime in international relations. Apart from expelling Afghan immigrants, Pakistan has imposed restrictions on the transit of Afghan goods through Pakistan: this would hurt Afghanistan's economy. The question is this: why is the Taliban not acting against TTP-sponsored terrorism? The truth is that the Taliban and the TTP are ideologically aligned. The latter helped the Taliban during its fight against American forces; the Taliban is now returning the favour. The TTP seeks to establish an Islamic emirate on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border along the lines of the Taliban regime in Kabul. The situation, it can be argued, bears proof of the failure of Islamabad's strategic vision.

Source: Chill in the warmth, The Telegraph India, 3rd Jan 2024

Q.91) Based on the passage, which of the following would most likely be the author's view on the expulsion of Afghan refugees by Pakistan's caretaker government?

- (A) The expulsion is primarily due to Pakistan's dissatisfaction with the Taliban's inability to control terror activities.
- (B) The decision to expel Afghan refugees is based solely on their involvement in the drugs trade.
- (C) The expulsion is a strategic move to alleviate internal economic pressures in Pakistan.
- (D) The decision is influenced by Pakistan's desire to maintain good diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.

Q.92) As per the passage, which one of the following is a reason for Pakistan's unhappiness with the Taliban regime in Kabul?

- (A) The Taliban's refusal to allow transit of Afghan goods through Pakistan.

- (B) The Taliban's support for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) against American forces.
- (C) The Taliban's rejection of Pakistan's claims about TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan.
- (D) The Taliban's decision to form an Islamic emirate on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Q.93) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the relationship between the Taliban and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)?

- (A) The Taliban has consistently opposed the TTP's ideology and operations.
- (B) The Taliban and TTP share ideological alignment and have historically supported each other.
- (C) The TTP is actively seeking to undermine the Taliban's regime in Afghanistan.
- (D) The Taliban views the TTP as a primary threat to its regime in Kabul.

Q.94) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the failure of Islamabad's strategic vision in Afghanistan?

- (A) The Taliban's policies have led to increased stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.
- (B) Pakistan has received international support for its stance against the Taliban.
- (C) The Taliban regime has become increasingly independent of Pakistan's influence.
- (D) The strategic depth sought by Pakistan in Afghanistan has enhanced regional security.

Q.95) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage regarding Pakistan's caretaker government's order for undocumented Afghan refugees to leave the country?

- (A) The order is a humanitarian effort to protect Afghan refugees from the rising terror attacks in Pakistan.
- (B) The decision is a strategic response to the Taliban's failure to address Pakistan's security concerns.
- (C) The expulsion is aimed at improving Pakistan's economic situation by reducing the refugee population.
- (D) The order reflects Pakistan's commitment to uphold international laws on refugees and asylum seekers.

PASSAGE 3

A birthday is seldom complete without birthday bumps. It was thus fitting that the Trinamul Congress witnessed a rather bumpy birthday — its foundation day — this year when the old guard — loyal lieutenants of Mamata Banerjee — crossed swords with those who stand with the heir-apparent, Abhishek Banerjee. The exchange of fire between Subrata Bakshi and Kunal Ghosh, the representatives of the two warring factions, epitomised the contest between the vieux and the nouveau segments. The war of words can be attributed to differences in opinion between Ms Banerjee and her nephew. Apparently, the two are not on the same page on a number of prickly issues. These include disagreements over Mr Banerjee's formula to pick candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, his endorsement of an age ceiling and the one-person, one-post principle, and inputs on organisational changes. The Bengal chief minister's decision to press the pause button on the campaign to demand the release of frozen Central funds — an initiative that was being led by Mr Banerjee — has added fuel to the fire. Such troubles in the TMC's First Family are not new: they have taken place and been resolved in the past. But the timing of the present tiff is said to be hampering the party's preparations for the general elections. That has added to the anxiety in the ranks.

What is risible though is the attempt to describe the exchange of fire as an instance of 'internal democracy'. The freedom to express opinion, especially by the rank and file, is a rarity in Indian political outfits. Regimented political entities, such as the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Left outfits, take their cue from those at the top of the hierarchy. At the other end are political organisations that function around a single — singular — person or family. Traditionally, the Congress and regional parties — the Trinamul Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, among others — have belonged to this category. The BJP under Narendra Modi has also become one such entity. Here, the chain of command begins and ends with the supreme leader. Differences of opinion — 'internal democracy' — begin to sharpen with the weakening of the paterfamilias or, in the TMC's case, when the materfamilias does not see eye to eye with the political heir. The lieutenants merely get to choose which leader they would side with by reading the tea leaves. This, by no stretch of the imagination, is a template of inner democracy. It has another name: factional feuding.

Source: Family spat: Editorial on the exchange of fire between two factions in the Trinamul Congress, The Telegraph India, 4th Jan 2024

Q.96) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the nature of 'internal democracy' in Indian political parties?

- (A) Internal democracy is a common and well-practiced concept in most Indian political parties.
- (B) Indian political parties, including the Trinamul Congress, showcase genuine internal democracy through open expression of differing opinions.
- (C) The concept of internal democracy in parties like the Trinamul Congress is often a facade for factional feuding.
- (D) Internal democracy in Indian political parties is strongest in the presence of a singular, supreme leader.

Q.97) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the Trinamul Congress's current internal conflicts are not a new phenomenon?

- (A) The Trinamul Congress has a long history of resolving internal disputes swiftly and effectively.

- (B) Similar conflicts within the Trinamul Congress have occurred and been resolved in the past.
- (C) The Trinamul Congress has always functioned with a strong central leadership, preventing any internal disputes.
- (D) Internal conflicts within the Trinamul Congress are solely based on personal disagreements and not on policy issues.

Q.98) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the leadership structure in Indian political parties like the Trinamul Congress?

- (A) These parties function democratically with equal power distributed among all members.
- (B) The leadership in these parties is often centralized around a single person or family.
- (C) All members of these parties have the freedom to express their opinions openly and without repercussions.
- (D) These parties prioritize internal democracy over the centralization of power.

Q.99) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the portrayal of factional feuding in the Trinamul Congress as 'internal democracy'?

- (A) The Trinamul Congress has a history of encouraging diverse opinions and debate within the party.
- (B) Instances of open disagreement within the Trinamul Congress are often followed by punitive actions against dissenters.
- (C) The Trinamul Congress has a well-established mechanism for resolving internal disputes through democratic voting.
- (D) Factional conflicts within the Trinamul Congress are rare and usually involve minor policy disagreements.

Q.100) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's description of factional feuding within the Trinamul Congress?

- (A) Factional feuding is an inevitable outcome in political parties centered around a singular leader or family.
- (B) The Trinamul Congress is unique among Indian political parties in experiencing factional feuding.
- (C) Political parties with strong central leadership are more effective in policy implementation.
- (D) Factional feuding within political parties is typically unrelated to ideological differences.

PASSAGE 4

Every New Year's Eve in Germany, a unique tradition unfolds as families gather around televisions to watch "Dinner for One," a British sketch unknown in its homeland yet a cultural staple in Germany. Since 1972, this sketch has been an integral part of German New Year's celebrations, renowned for being the most-repeated television program ever as per the Guinness Book of World Records. The black and white sketch features Miss Sophie, celebrating her birthday with imaginary guests, brought to life by her butler, James. The humor emerges as James, increasingly intoxicated, trips over a tiger skin rug while serving and drinking for Miss Sophie's absent friends. The catchphrase, "The same procedure as last year, madam?" followed by "The same procedure as every year, James," encapsulates the sketch's repetitive, ritualistic humor. Originally a 1920s British cabaret piece, "Dinner for One" gained fame in Germany after being brought there by entertainer Peter Frankenfeld in 1963. Performed by British comedians Freddie Frinton and May Warden, its 18-minute runtime made it a convenient filler between larger broadcasts, and it soon became a beloved tradition on Norddeutscher Rundfunk, a Hamburg-based network.

In Germany, this sketch is seen as emblematic of British humor and a nostalgic nod to traditionalism. Stefanie Bolzen, writing for The Guardian, notes the German perception of British society as class-divided and eccentric, a notion reinforced by this sketch. However, its colonial undertones, such as the tiger skin rug and the serving of mulligatawny soup, a dish from Tamil Nadu, are often overlooked in Germany. This ignorance may stem from Germany's limited engagement with colonialism compared to Britain's extensive history. "Dinner for One" has inspired countless adaptations, including colorized and puppet versions, cookbooks, themed restaurants, and even a commemorative stamp. German fans celebrate this comedy in various ways, from recreating the dinner to playing drinking games, echoing James' inebriation. Its appeal lies partly in its portrayal of an intimate party, resonating with those who find solace in smaller gatherings or miss departed loved ones. The sketch's enduring popularity in Germany can be attributed to its celebration of tradition and the comfort found in its predictable humor. The repetitive slapstick, marked by the butler's growing drunkenness and the repeated interactions between him and Miss Sophie, offers a sense of stability and continuity. Amidst the chaos of life, "Dinner for One" provides a familiar, humorous ritual, encapsulating the joy of tradition and the reassurance of the "same procedure every year."

Source: Shared table, The Telegraph India, 2nd Jan 2024

Q.101) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the significance of the sketch "Dinner for One" in Germany?

- (A) "Dinner for One" is appreciated in Germany solely for its humor and not for any cultural or traditional reasons.
- (B) The sketch is emblematic of British humor and traditionalism, resonating with the German audience.
- (C) The popularity of "Dinner for One" in Germany is primarily due to its extensive runtime.
- (D) The sketch is popular in Germany because it accurately represents British society and its class divisions.

Q.102) How does the author suggest the sketch "Dinner for One" has impacted German New Year's celebrations?

- (A) By becoming an integral and traditional part of the celebrations since its introduction.
- (B) By overshadowing other important cultural traditions during New Year's in Germany.

- (C) By changing the way Germans perceive and celebrate New Year's Eve.
- (D) By promoting British culture over German traditions during New Year's celebrations.

Q.103) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the sketch "Dinner for One"?

- (A) Its humor is universally understood and appreciated in all cultures.
- (B) The sketch has been equally popular in its homeland, Britain, as in Germany.
- (C) It represents a ritualistic and predictable form of humor that offers comfort and stability.
- (D) The colonial undertones of the sketch are a primary reason for its popularity in Germany.

Q.104) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about "Dinner for One" being a representation of British humor and traditionalism as perceived by Germans?

- (A) Most Germans believe "Dinner for One" accurately portrays typical British social gatherings and customs.
- (B) British people also watch "Dinner for One" as a New Year's tradition, similar to Germans.
- (C) The sketch has been integrated into academic studies in Germany as an example of British cultural humor.
- (D) Other British comedy sketches have failed to gain the same level of popularity in Germany.

Q.105) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's description of the colonial undertones in "Dinner for One"?

- (A) The German audience is largely aware of and appreciates the colonial implications in the sketch.
- (B) Germany's limited engagement with colonialism has influenced its perception of the sketch's colonial elements.
- (C) The colonial aspects of the sketch are the primary reason for its enduring popularity in Germany.
- (D) The sketch's humor is independent of its colonial undertones and would be equally popular without them.

PASSAGE 5

N.R. Narayana Murthy's recent endorsement of a 70-hour work week has sparked a vital discussion on its profound implications for class dynamics, gender disparities, and the psychological health of the workforce. Such a work culture, rooted in privilege, overlooks the harsh realities faced by those from economically weaker sections and lower castes, for whom extended working hours are not a choice but a necessity. The ethical dilemma of imposing productivity expectations on already disadvantaged groups is significant, as highlighted by the International Labour Organization's reports on how long working hours exacerbate economic hierarchies and systemic inequalities. The proposed work week also reflects traditional male privilege, where men, often unburdened by domestic responsibilities, can dedicate more hours to work. In contrast, women face the double burden of professional and household duties. World Bank data confirms the gender disparities in the workforce, leading to unequal labor distribution. Without addressing these gender inequities, advocating for a 70-hour work week would only perpetuate male privilege and undermine equality and inclusion. This issue transcends economic and gender disparities, significantly impacting mental well-being. Prolonged working hours blur the boundaries between professional and personal life, creating an environment conducive to burnout. Research by the World Health Organization and various mental health institutions has established the adverse effects of overworking on mental health, diminishing overall productivity and personal fulfillment.

Furthermore, the debate must consider the context of India's youth unemployment crisis. The "State of Working India 2023" report indicates that over 40% of Indian graduates are unemployed, challenging the narrative that longer working hours ensure financial stability. The emphasis should shift from encouraging unsustainable work hours to addressing the structural issues in the job market and creating meaningful employment opportunities. Current data from the ILO shows that Indians already work an average of 47.7 hours per week, one of the highest rates globally, yet this has not translated into increased productivity. A critical examination of the 70-hour work week proposal is necessary, focusing on collective well-being and opening dialogues on how labor intersects with class, caste, gender, mental, and physical health. As society progresses, the measure of productivity should evolve from mere hours worked or GDP figures to encompass the well-being and prosperity of every society member. This approach requires a comprehensive understanding of the diverse challenges faced by different segments of the workforce and a commitment to fostering a work culture that prioritizes health, equity, and sustainability.

Source: All work, no play, The Telegraph India, 2nd Jan 2024

Q.106) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the proposed 70-hour work week?

- (A) It is a necessary measure to increase productivity and financial stability in the current economic climate.
- (B) The 70-hour work week overlooks the realities of economically weaker sections and lower castes for whom extended working hours are a necessity, not a choice.
- (C) The proposal will equally benefit all segments of society, including women and disadvantaged groups.
- (D) A 70-hour work week will successfully address the youth unemployment crisis in India.

Q.47) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that advocating for a 70-hour work week would perpetuate male privilege and undermine equality and inclusion?

- (A) Data showing that men and women equally share domestic responsibilities in addition to their professional duties.
- (B) Evidence that women, on average, already work more hours than men when combining professional and household duties.
- (C) Research indicating that longer working hours have no impact on gender disparities in the workforce.
- (D) Studies demonstrating that men are more efficient than women in professional settings.

Q.108) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the impact of long working hours on mental health?

- (A) Prolonged working hours have no significant effect on the mental well-being of the workforce.
- (B) Long working hours contribute to a balanced professional and personal life, enhancing overall productivity.
- (C) Overworking leads to diminished mental health, negatively impacting productivity and personal fulfillment.
- (D) The mental health effects of overworking are offset by the financial stability it provides.

Q.109) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the need for a critical examination of the 70-hour work week proposal?

- (A) Most countries with higher average working hours than India have shown a significant increase in productivity.
- (B) Data indicating that the average working hours in India are already higher than the global average, yet this has not translated into increased productivity.
- (C) Surveys revealing that the majority of the workforce in India prefers longer working hours for additional income.
- (D) Evidence showing that countries with shorter working hours have higher rates of unemployment.

Q.110) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's discussion of the ethical dilemma of imposing productivity expectations on disadvantaged groups?

- (A) Disadvantaged groups have the same opportunities as others to choose their working hours.
- (B) Extended working hours are equally feasible and acceptable for all sections of society.
- (C) Disadvantaged groups are often compelled to work longer hours due to economic necessity, not choice.
- (D) Imposing productivity expectations does not significantly affect the economic hierarchies within society.

DATA INTERPRETATION

PASSAGE - 1

In 2023, Maplewood Town's main health clinic provided a comprehensive report on its annual performance, offering key insights into various aspects of its healthcare services. Over the year, the clinic recorded a total of 24,000 patient visits, with a diversified range of services: 40% of these visits were for general check-ups, 30% for specialized consultations, and the remaining 30% for emergency services. The clinic maintained a robust staffing structure with a total of 120 employees, encompassing doctors, nurses, and administrative staff. The staffing ratio was balanced at 1:2:1 between doctors, nurses, and administrative personnel, respectively. This distribution ensured efficient patient care and operational management. Consultation times varied across services, averaging 30 minutes for general check-ups, 45 minutes for specialized consultations, and 20 minutes for emergency services. These timeframes reflect the clinic's commitment to providing thorough and timely medical attention. A significant highlight of the clinic's performance was patient satisfaction and health outcomes. An impressive 95% of patients reported satisfaction with the services they received, and 85% of the cases were successfully treated or managed, indicating a high standard of medical care. Additionally, the clinic actively engaged in community health initiatives, conducting 50 programs focused on preventive care and health education. These programs were well-received, with about 2,500 residents participating, demonstrating the clinic's dedication not only to treating illnesses but also to promoting overall health and wellness in the community. Overall, the annual performance report of Maplewood Town's health clinic in 2023 showcases its effective healthcare delivery, staff efficiency, and a strong focus on community health engagement, contributing significantly to the well-being of the town's residents.

Q.111) How many total staff hours were spent on general check-ups at Maplewood Town's health clinic in 2023?

- (a) 4,800 hours
- (b) 4,200 hours
- (c) 4,500 hours
- (d) 5,000 hours

Q.112) What is the total number of nurses working at Maplewood Town's health clinic?

- (a) 50 nurses
- (b) 55 nurses
- (c) 60 nurses
- (d) 65 nurses

Q.113) How many hours were spent by the clinic staff on specialized consultations in 2023?

- (a) 4,800 hours
- (b) 5,400 hours
- (c) 5,100 hours
- (d) 5,700 hours

Q.114) What was the total number of hours spent by Maplewood Town's health clinic staff on emergency services in 2023?

- (a) 2,200 hours
- (b) 2,300 hours
- (c) 2,376 hours
- (d) 2,400 hours

Q.115) If each staff member at Maplewood Town's health clinic conducted an equal number of general check-ups, specialized consultations, and emergency services, how many of each did a single staff member conduct in 2023?

- (a) 70 general check-ups, 50 specialized consultations, 50 emergency services
- (b) 75 general check-ups, 55 specialized consultations, 55 emergency services
- (c) 80 general check-ups, 60 specialized consultations, 60 emergency services
- (d) 85 general check-ups, 65 specialized consultations, 65 emergency services

PASSAGE – 2

Greenfield City, in its demographic analysis for the year 2023, presents a detailed picture of its population and various socio-economic characteristics. The city had a total population of 200,000 residents, experiencing a growth rate of 2% over the year. This growth reflects the city's evolving dynamics and its appeal as a residential area. The age distribution of the population is diverse, with children (ages 0-14) representing 20%, adults (ages 15-64) making up the largest segment at 60%, and seniors (ages 65 and above) comprising the remaining 20%. This distribution indicates a balanced age structure, with a substantial proportion of the population in the working-age group. Educational attainment among adults shows that 40% have a college degree or higher, which suggests a relatively educated population. High school graduates, including those with some college education but no degree, account for 50%, while the remaining 10% did not complete high school. Employment statistics reveal a healthy job market, with an employment rate of 75% among adults. The major sectors contributing to employment are Technology (30%), Healthcare (25%), and Education (15%). Unemployment stands at 5%, a relatively low figure that points to the city's robust economy, while the remaining percentage includes non-working segments like students, homemakers, and retirees. Housing and living arrangements in Greenfield City show that it had 80,000 housing units, with an average household size of 2.5 persons. The housing market is split between owner-occupied units (60%) and rentals (40%), highlighting a diverse range of living arrangements catering to different population groups. Overall, Greenfield City's demographic analysis for 2023 provides valuable insights into the population's growth, age structure, educational background, employment status, and housing conditions, painting a comprehensive picture of the city's demographic and socio-economic fabric.

Q.116) What was the population of Greenfield City at the beginning of 2023 before the annual growth?

- (a) 194,000 residents
- (b) 195,000 residents
- (c) 196,000 residents
- (d) 197,000 residents

Q.117) How many adults in Greenfield City do not have a high school diploma?

- (a) 10,000 adults
- (b) 12,000 adults
- (c) 11,000 adults
- (d) 13,000 adults

Q.118) How many households are there in Greenfield City, based on the average household size and the total number of housing units?

- (a) 75,000 households
- (b) 78,000 households
- (c) 80,000 households
- (d) 82,000 households

Q.119) What is the total number of Greenfield City residents employed in the Technology sector?

- (a) 25,000 residents
- (b) 27,000 residents
- (c) 26,000 residents
- (d) 28,000 residents

Q.120) How many residents of Greenfield City are part of the labor force but currently unemployed?

- (a) 4,000 residents
- (b) 4,500 residents
- (c) 5,000 residents
- (d) 4,800 residents

Answers and Explanations

1. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage explicitly states that Wertz's early cartoons showcased a rough, self-taught style, reflecting her initial hesitancy in both drawing and writing. This indicates that she felt her initial drawings lacked confidence. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that Julia Wertz considered her early cartoons as masterpieces. Instead, it describes her early work as rough and self-taught, reflecting hesitancy in drawing and writing. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not mention that Wertz believed the name of her website ("Fart Party") hindered her success. In fact, it suggests the opposite, as the website gained popularity despite its amateurish look. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss Wertz's feelings about the complexity of her first book. It mainly focuses on her early cartoons and website before her first book was published.

2. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage describes the evolution of her art, with more polished drawings and detailed backgrounds, alongside the narrative of her personal growth and recovery, implying a correlation between the two. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that there was an evolution in Wertz's art, indicating a change in style rather than remaining static. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage indicates that the

detailed backgrounds in her panels reflect her growing fascination with New York City, suggesting a significant influence on her art. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the focus on detailed backgrounds detracted from the narrative. It simply highlights the evolution and improvement in her art style.

3. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage narrates the life and career of Julia Wertz, a graphic novelist, detailing her personal and professional experiences. This aligns well with the characteristics of a biographical account. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not provide instructional content on how to create graphic novels. It focuses more on the journey of a specific artist rather than offering guidance. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage does not analyze contemporary graphic novels in a critical manner. It mainly tells the story of Julia Wertz without providing a critical evaluation of other works. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage does not delve into artistic techniques used in graphic novels in a theoretical or in-depth manner. It is more focused on the personal story of the artist rather than exploring artistic techniques.

4. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because the sentence directly describes Wertz's distinctive narrative technique, which starts with a startling image and then moves into a flashback narrative, indicating her method of engaging readers. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Wertz's storytelling lacks coherence and order. Instead, it highlights her unique style, which does not equate to a lack of coherence. Option (B) is incorrect because, while the passage describes Wertz's use of flashback narratives, it does not state that this is a universal technique in all graphic novels. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage implies that startling images are part of Wertz's unique style, but it does not claim them to be essential for engaging readers in all graphic memoirs.

5. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because in the context of the passage, 'tumultuous' is used to describe Wertz's journey, particularly in "Drinking at the Movies," which delves into her move to New York, struggles with alcoholism, and early career steps. These aspects point to a life marked by rapid changes and instability. Option (A) is incorrect because 'tumultuous' generally means the opposite of peaceful and uneventful. It implies a state of turmoil or disturbance, which is not synonymous with peacefulness. Option (C) is incorrect because 'tumultuous' does not specifically refer to artistic development. While Wertz's artistic journey is part of her life, the term itself is more broadly associated with upheaval or disorder. Option (D) is incorrect because 'tumultuous' does not imply being influenced by external criticism. It refers more to internal struggles or chaotic circumstances.

6. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage indicates that the Karolinska Institute was captivated by the allure of Macchiarini's groundbreaking research, leading them to overlook stringent background checks. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage states that Macchiarini's narrative seduced the Karolinska Institute, but it emphasizes their attraction to the potential of his research, not just his personal charm. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage does not justify the lack of background checks with Macchiarini's research methods. Instead, it criticizes the oversight. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that Macchiarini's narrative influenced both his personal relationships and professional interactions, not just the former.

7. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because 'deceit' directly refers to the act of deceiving or misleading, which is synonymous with fraudulent behavior. The passage details Macchiarini's deceitful actions, like his fraudulent research claims and personal deceptions. Option (A) is

incorrect because 'charismatic' refers to possessing charm or appeal, not fraudulence. It describes Macchiarini's persona but does not imply dishonesty. Option (B) is incorrect because 'catastrophic' means causing great damage or suffering, and while it describes the consequences of Macchiarini's actions, it does not directly imply fraudulence. Option (C) is incorrect because 'grotesque' means comically or repulsively ugly or distorted, which is used to describe the nature of the narrative but does not equate to being fraudulent.

8. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the sentence directly links the "collective oversight" to enabling the "catastrophic fraud," which then led to "profound human suffering." This suggests that the neglect in oversight was a direct cause of the suffering that ensued. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not imply that the fraud was unintentional. It suggests that the fraud was catastrophic and led to suffering, but does not comment on the intention behind it. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence implies that the collective oversight was a contributing factor to the fraud, not a necessary element in uncovering it. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not specify the nature of the fraud as being primarily financial. It focuses more on the catastrophic and human impact of the fraud.

9. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage describes the experience of the Swedish surgeons and investigative journalists as involving risks to their careers and personal well-being. This suggests that being a whistleblower involves significant personal and professional risks. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that being a whistleblower is universally applauded or consistently rewarding. It focuses more on the challenges they face. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that whistleblowers gain immediate positive recognition. Instead, it highlights the backlash and challenges they faced. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that one of the whistleblowers even contemplated suicide due to immense pressure, indicating that the experience is far from stress-free and straightforward.

10. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the statement directly highlights the shared trait of an "alarming absence of empathy" in both Macchiarini's and Maddoff's cases, making this the most convincing conclusion. Option (A) is incorrect because the statement does not specifically say that Macchiarini and Bernie Maddoff had similar methods of deceit. It draws a parallel in terms of a shared trait, not necessarily the methods. Option (B) is incorrect because the statement does not imply that the documentary's exclusive focus is on comparing various con artists. It mentions the parallel as a part of its narrative, not the sole focus. Option (D) is incorrect because the statement does not compare the severity of Maddoff's case with Macchiarini's. It focuses on the shared trait rather than the severity of their actions.

11. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the inclusion of a succinct description, a danger level rating, and practical survival tips would likely enhance the reader's understanding of each creature's significance and characteristics in folklore. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not specify that the book provides extensive historical background for each creature. It focuses on descriptions, danger levels, and survival tips, not detailed history. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage does not mention that the creatures are ranked based on popularity. The 'Danger Level' rating system is mentioned, but it is based on threat, not popularity. Option (D) is incorrect because, while the 'Survival Tips' may contain elements of humor, the passage does not indicate that they are provided solely as a humorous addition without practical value.

12. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage describes the book, "A Christmas Bestiary," as exploring various myths related to creatures that punish naughty children during the Yuletide season, using a tone that is whimsical and engaging. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the book is a comprehensive guide to global folklore. It specifically focuses on Yuletide folklore from various parts of Europe. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage does not describe the book as an academic treatise, which would imply a more scholarly and in-depth analysis of mythological creatures. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the book offers a scientific analysis of myths. It is presented more as a whimsical and engaging exploration rather than a scientific study.

13. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because being categorized as a five-cone threat indicates that Krampus is considered highly dangerous within the context of the book, likely among the highest danger levels assigned to the folklore creatures featured. Option (A) is incorrect because categorizing Krampus as a "five-cone threat" implies a high danger level, not a lesser danger compared to other creatures. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence does not imply that Krampus Night is a festive occasion. It suggests notoriety, but not necessarily celebration. Option (D) is incorrect because being described as "notorious" and a "five-cone threat" indicates that Krampus is not a benign figure but rather a threatening one in German and Austrian folklore.

14. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because 'anthropomorphic' refers to attributing human characteristics to non-human entities, such as animals. The passage mentions "anthropomorphic animals," suggesting animals that are given human-like qualities or behaviors. Option (B) is incorrect because while 'anthropomorphic' can be used in the context of myths and legends, the word itself specifically refers to the human-like characteristics given to non-human entities, not just to mythical or legendary creatures. Option (C) is incorrect because 'anthropomorphic' does not specifically relate to animals native to a specific region. It is about the human-like attributes given to animals, irrespective of their geographic origin. Option (D) is incorrect because 'anthropomorphic' does not inherently imply supernatural powers. It focuses on human-like traits or behaviors in non-human entities.

15. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because describing the presentation as "whimsy and a light touch" suggests that this approach contributes positively to the book's appeal and readability, making it an enjoyable read. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence describes the book as being presented with "whimsy and a light touch," which contradicts a serious and academic tone. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence does not suggest that the presentation style detracts from the folklore's authenticity. Instead, it implies that the style makes the book more enjoyable. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not provide any indication that Mortensen's illustrations overshadow Bødker's prose. It comments on the overall presentation of the book, not the dominance of one aspect over another.

16. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the passage provides a comparative analysis of two dystopian novels, "The Lost Cause" by Cory Doctorow and "Like Thunder" by Nnedi Okorafor. It discusses the themes, settings, and narrative styles of both novels, making it a comparative literary analysis. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage does not provide instructions or guidelines for writing dystopian fiction. It focuses on analyzing existing novels rather than instructing on how to write them. Option (C) is incorrect because, while the passage mentions Nnedi Okorafor and Cory Doctorow, it does not focus on their biographies but on their respective novels. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage does not present a scientific

report on climate change. Although "The Lost Cause" touches on climate change, the passage itself is focused on literary analysis.

17. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the sentence sets up a situation where Brooks Palazzo, orphaned and relocated, is now living with his MAGA grandfather in Burbank. This context, especially the political difference implied by the MAGA reference, suggests that Brooks may face challenges in adapting to his new environment. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not imply that Brooks Palazzo's relocation to Burbank was voluntary or desired. It states that he was orphaned and then found himself living with his MAGA grandfather, suggesting a situation born out of necessity rather than choice. Option (B) is incorrect because the mention of a "climate-induced plague" directly contradicts the idea of a world unaffected by environmental issues. The setting is clearly impacted by environmental disasters. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not provide enough information to conclude that the grandfather is supportive or that he shares Brooks' views. The use of "MAGA" suggests potential political and ideological differences between Brooks and his grandfather.

18. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the specific mention of Dikéogu being a 'Changed One' with weather-manipulating abilities suggests that these abilities are central to his character and likely have a significant influence on the events and course of the narrative. Option (A) is incorrect because the term 'Changed One' implies that Dikéogu's abilities are special or unusual, making them remarkable in the novel's world rather than common. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence does not indicate that the story focuses primarily on the technical aspects of weather manipulation. It mentions Dikéogu's abilities, but not the technicalities of how they work. Option (D) is incorrect because mentioning a character with weather-manipulating abilities implies that magic plays an important role in the world of the novel, affecting the characters' lives.

19. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage suggests that the author sees the protagonists' traits (sense of invincibility, growing autonomy, and relational insecurity) as mirroring the existential threats in their dystopian worlds, indicating a reflection of their settings. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not imply that the protagonists are immature or incapable. Instead, it discusses their traits as typical for their age, without suggesting incapacity. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage explicitly makes a connection between the protagonists' traits and the existential threats of their worlds, indicating a relationship between their personal traits and the novels' themes. Option (D) is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that the author believes the protagonists should be older. The focus is on how their current traits as late teenagers relate to their circumstances.

20. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the sentence highlights the different approaches (strategic planning in 'The Lost Cause' and embracing the unpredictable and magical in 'Like Thunder') as key elements that make the narratives compelling, suggesting these approaches are central to the appeal of the novels. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not suggest that the novels fail to provide realistic solutions. It mentions different approaches (strategic planning or embracing magic), but not their success or realism. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence does not necessarily imply a pessimistic view of the future. It speaks to the narratives' compelling nature, not their optimism or pessimism. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence clearly states that one novel focuses on strategic planning while the other on magic. It does not imply that both rely solely on magic.

21. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the sentence implies that the use of counter-realistic elements (like androids and robots) serves to underscore the significance of genuine connections among sentient beings, including those that are non-human. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the novel relies solely on fantastical elements. It indicates that these elements are used for a specific purpose, not as the sole narrative driver. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage states that counter-realistic elements are employed to emphasize, not diminish, the importance of organic relationships. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the narrative dismisses authentic relationships between humans and androids. On the contrary, it highlights the depth of these relationships despite the non-human nature of some characters.

22. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the statement suggests that blood, as a symbol of an essential human quality, is viewed differently by various characters – some cherishing it, others viewing it with contempt. This implies that blood acts as a divisive element in how characters perceive and value human qualities. Option (A) is incorrect because the statement does not depict blood as mundane or insignificant. Instead, it is described as symbolizing an essential human quality, indicating its significance in the narrative. Option (C) is incorrect because the statement clearly indicates a divergence in the characters' views towards blood – it is not uniformly respected but viewed differently by different characters. Option (D) is incorrect because the statement implies that blood plays an important symbolic role in the novel, not that its importance is overlooked.

23. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the comparison to characters like Borat, Mr. Ed, and Pinocchio, who are known for their human-like traits despite being non-human, implies that the novel's non-human characters are also anthropomorphized to reflect human experiences and emotions. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence suggests the opposite: the androids, robots, computers, and machines are portrayed with human-like qualities, indicating depth and complexity. Option (B) is incorrect because the portrayal of these entities as "undeniably human" suggests that they are not depicted as inhuman and cold, but rather with qualities that resonate with human experiences. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not indicate that the novel is a critique of technological reliance. It focuses on the human-like portrayal of non-human characters.

24. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the inclusion of allusions to movies like 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,' 'First Blood,' and 'The Wizard of Oz' suggests that these references are used to enrich the narrative, adding thematic depth and layers of meaning. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not suggest a lack of originality; instead, it highlights the use of allusions to movie culture as a storytelling technique, which can add layers of meaning rather than detract from originality. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence does not imply that movie culture is used superficially. It suggests that these allusions are integral to the narrative, indicating a purposeful and meaningful use. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not provide information about the independence of character development from movie allusions. It only indicates that movie culture is woven into the narrative.

25. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the sentence explicitly states that the novel's focus extends to exploring how a society dominated by electronics can embrace different forms of love, suggesting an examination of how technology intersects with various expressions of love. Option (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not suggest that the novel's primary focus is on the negative impacts of technology. Instead, it discusses how technology interacts

with expressions of love. Option (B) is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the novel explores diverse expressions of love, not just romantic relationships, and not just among humans. Option (D) is incorrect because the sentence implies the opposite: it suggests that diverse expressions of love can indeed find a place in an electronically dominated society, not that they are incompatible.

26. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because Jaipur, referred to as the Pink City, prepared for the Durand Cup, a prestigious football tournament. The Durand Cup, established in 1888, is one of the oldest football tournaments in Asia, and Jaipur's involvement in this grand event highlights the city's growing prominence in the Indian sports landscape.

27. Explanation: Option (C) is correct as it denotes the 132nd edition of the Durand Cup. The Durand Cup's long history, dating back to the late 19th century, is reflected in this significant number, marking its continued relevance and legacy in the realm of football.

28. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because it indicates a 27-year gap in foreign participation in the Durand Cup. This hiatus highlights the evolving nature of the tournament, which has seen changes in participation and format over the years. The reintroduction of foreign teams adds an international dimension to the tournament, enhancing its prestige and competitiveness.

29. Explanation: Option (C) Kokrajhar is correct. Kokrajhar, located in Assam, represents a new geographical area for the Durand Cup, extending the tournament's reach and influence. This inclusion reflects the Durand Cup's ongoing efforts to promote football across different regions in India, bringing the game to new audiences and fostering regional talent.

30. Explanation: Option (C) is correct as it correctly identifies two true statements about the Durand Cup: Statement I, which asserts that the Durand Cup is one of the oldest football tournaments in Asia, and Statement III, which states that the Durand Cup was first held in 1888. These facts underscore the historical significance and longevity of the Durand Cup in the Asian football arena.

31. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as it includes PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, both prominent Indian badminton players known for their exceptional performances in international tournaments. Their qualification to the semi-finals of the Canada Open Super 500 Badminton Tournament demonstrates their high skill level and consistent performance in the sport.

32. Explanation: Option (B) is correct. Yamaguchi, a well-known Japanese badminton player, is recognized for her agility and skill on the court. The matchup between PV Sindhu and Yamaguchi in the semi-finals promises a high-level and competitive game, showcasing the talents of two of the top players in women's badminton.

33. Explanation: Option (C) is correct as it accurately classifies the Canada Open Badminton Tournament as part of the BWF World Tour Super 500 category. This level signifies the tournament's importance and ranking in the global badminton circuit, attracting top players and offering significant ranking points.

34. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as it states that the Canada Open Badminton Tournament debuted in 1957. This date reflects the long-standing history of the tournament

in North America and its role in promoting and developing badminton in the region over the decades.

35. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because it accurately states that the Canada Open has been hosted in different Canadian cities each year since its inception. This highlights the tournament's role in bringing high-level badminton to various locations in Canada, thereby enhancing the sport's visibility and popularity across the country.

36. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because it indicates that India hosted the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit. Hosting the 23rd edition showcases India's active and significant role in the SCO, emphasizing its commitment to regional cooperation and development within the organization.

37. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as it highlights the theme "Towards a SECURE SCO" under India's chairmanship. This theme underscores India's focus on enhancing security, stability, and cooperation among SCO member countries, reflecting its priorities and vision for the organization.

38. Explanation: Option (B) is correct as it identifies Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, as the introducer of the "Secure SCO" concept. This initiative reflects Modi's emphasis on security and counter-terrorism efforts within the SCO framework, aligning with broader regional and global objectives.

39. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because it correctly states that there are 8 member countries in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This number signifies the SCO's substantial regional influence and the diverse range of nations collaborating under its umbrella for mutual benefit and security.

40. Explanation: Option (D) is correct as all the statements accurately describe the SCO. Statement I correctly states that the SCO was established in 2001, highlighting its relatively recent formation. Statement II accurately notes that Afghanistan is an observer state in the SCO, signifying the organization's regional scope and inclusivity. Statement III correctly identifies the primary focus of the SCO on security and counterterrorism cooperation, reflecting the organization's main objectives and areas of collaboration.

41. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is the organization responsible for the development and promotion of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). NPCI, being an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, plays a crucial role in the advancement and widespread adoption of UPI, a revolutionary step in digital payments.

42. Explanation: Option (D) is correct as it identifies France as not being a part of the acceptance network for RuPay and UPI. This indicates that, unlike other listed countries, France does not have the necessary agreements or infrastructure to support RuPay and UPI transactions, which are part of India's expanding digital payment system.

43. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because UPI was launched in India in April 2016. The launch of UPI marked a significant milestone in India's digital payment landscape, introducing a system that allows instant, real-time inter-bank transactions through mobile platforms.

44. Explanation: Option (D) is correct as all the statements accurately describe the NPCI. Statement I correctly states that NPCI is a not-for-profit company promoted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Statement II is true as NPCI develops and operates various retail payment systems in India. Statement III accurately mentions that NPCI facilitates inter-bank transactions, playing a crucial role in streamlining and securing digital payments across different banks.

45. Explanation: Option (B) is correct as it correctly identifies 2010 as the year when the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was established. The establishment of NPCI in 2010 marked a significant step in the evolution of payment systems in India, aimed at creating an integrated system for secure and efficient retail payments.

46. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because Visakhapatnam is designated as the new executive capital of Andhra Pradesh. This decision reflects the state's strategic planning to distribute administrative functions across multiple cities, with Visakhapatnam being a key city with robust infrastructure and economic significance.

47. Explanation: Option (B) is correct as it identifies Amaravati as the legislative capital of Andhra Pradesh. Amaravati is planned to host the legislative assembly and other key legislative functions, playing a crucial role in the state's governance and political activities.

48. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because Kurnool is designated as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh. This selection is part of the state's tri-capital plan, aiming to decentralize and balance the distribution of administrative powers across different regions.

49. Explanation: Option (C) is correct as it correctly identifies Statement III as true. The success of the tri-capital plan for Andhra Pradesh indeed depends on the government's ability to address the concerns of various stakeholders, including those opposed to the plan. This statement reflects the complexity and challenges inherent in implementing such a significant administrative change.

50. Explanation: Option (B) is correct as it identifies Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh before the proposal of Visakhapatnam as the new executive capital. Amaravati was conceived as the new capital following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where Hyderabad became the capital of the latter.

51. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because Chandrayaan-3 is India's mission aimed at achieving a controlled landing on the Moon. This mission represents India's continued efforts in lunar exploration, following the previous Chandrayaan missions, and positions India as a key player in space exploration.

52. Explanation: Option (C) is correct as it correctly identifies the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota as the launch site of the recent lunar mission. This space center is India's primary launch site and plays a crucial role in the country's space exploration endeavors.

53. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because Chandrayaan-1, India's first mission to the Moon, was launched in the year 2008. This mission marked a significant milestone in India's space program, establishing it as an emerging space power.

54. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as it identifies the South Pole-Aitken Basin as the intended landing region for Chandrayaan-2's lander. This area is of particular interest for scientific research due to its unique geological features and potential for water ice.

55. Explanation: The incorrect statement is Option (B) - Statement II. ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission did not succeed in placing a rover on the lunar surface, as the lander Vikram lost communication shortly before the planned soft-landing. Statements I and III are correct: ISRO was founded in 1969, not 1972, and its primary objective is indeed to advance space technology for national development.

56. Explanation: Option B is correct because, according to the passage, the term "procure" in Section 5 of the ITP Act is interpreted to mean obtaining "domain over a person" for prostitution. Rohan's mere presence in the parlor, without evidence of intent or awareness, does not constitute procuring. Option A is incorrect because mere presence in a brothel does not automatically establish liability for procuring under the ITP Act. The Act requires an active involvement or intention to procure sexual services. Option C is incorrect because the Act does not automatically implicate customers as part of the procurement chain. The liability depends on the active involvement or intention to procure sexual services. Option D is incorrect as the Act does not limit its penalization only to those directly involved in the management or operation of a brothel. It also encompasses those who procure or attempt to procure persons for prostitution. However, in Rohan's case, the lack of evidence of his involvement in procurement makes this option not applicable.

57. Explanation: Option A is correct because, according to the ITP Act, procedural safeguards like producing the offender before a magistrate and conducting a medical examination are mandatory. The non-compliance with these safeguards can be a valid ground for challenging the legality of the arrest and subsequent charges, as they are crucial for ensuring the rights and proper treatment of the accused. Option B is incorrect because the procedural safeguards under Sections 15(5) and 15(5A) of the ITP Act apply to all persons arrested under the Act, regardless of their role or involvement level in the alleged activities. Option C is incorrect because, while the absence of a medical examination and not being produced before a magistrate are significant procedural lapses, they alone do not automatically lead to the dismissal of charges. The court would also consider the overall context and evidence in the case. Option D is incorrect as the procedural safeguards in the ITP Act are not merely discretionary but mandatory. Their non-compliance can impact the legal process and the rights of the accused, potentially affecting the validity of the charges.

58. Explanation: Option B is correct because, according to the passage, liability under Section 4 of the ITP Act hinges on direct evidence of knowledge or involvement in the prostitution activities. Vikram's claim of unawareness and his role as merely a landlord without evidence of his intentional involvement in or support of the prostitution activities, distances him from liability. Option A is incorrect because merely receiving inflated rent does not automatically implicate a landlord under Section 4 of the ITP Act. The Act requires evidence of intentional involvement or direct financial benefit from the act of prostitution. Option C is incorrect because the Act does not penalize any and all financial benefits derived from prostitution. It specifically targets those who knowingly live on the earnings of prostitution, implying a requirement for awareness or direct involvement. Option D is correct as it aligns with the legal principle that liability under Section 4 of the ITP Act requires clear evidence of intentional participation or support of prostitution activities. Vikram's lack of demonstrated intentional involvement or support makes this option applicable.

59. Explanation: Option B is correct because, according to the passage, liability under Section 7 of the ITP Act requires evidence of involvement in or purposeful presence for engaging in prostitution. Deepak's claim of being there for an unrelated reason, without evidence of his involvement in

prostitution, aligns with this principle. Option A is incorrect because mere presence in a known red-light area does not automatically establish liability under Section 7 of the ITP Act. The Act requires involvement in or facilitation of prostitution activities. Option C is incorrect because the Act does not penalize mere presence in areas known for prostitution. It targets specific conduct related to engaging in or facilitating prostitution. Option D is correct as it emphasizes that the ITP Act targets individuals actively engaged in or facilitating prostitution. Deepak's mere presence in the vicinity, without evidence of such engagement or facilitation, does not constitute a violation of Section 7.

60. Explanation: Option A is correct because the ITP Act recognizes minors, especially those coerced into prostitution, as victims rather than perpetrators. This aligns with the Act's provisions for harsher penalties for offenses against minors and non-consensual victims, emphasizing their protection and exemption from liability. Option B is incorrect as the Act specifically addresses the situation of minors and coerced individuals. It distinguishes between willing participants and those like Sunita, who are victims of coercion, especially considering her minor status. Option C is correct as it underscores the Act's focus on protecting minors and non-consensual victims from criminal liability and harsh penalties. Sunita, as a coerced minor, falls under this protective provision. Option D is incorrect because the ITP Act indeed differentiates between willing participants and coerced or minor victims in prostitution activities. This differentiation is crucial in determining liability and the severity of penalties under the Act.

61. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that under the UAPA, the government can declare an individual a terrorist without a prior hearing. The amendment to the UAPA specifically allows for such a designation through a notification in the official gazette, and the individual's name is then added to the Fourth Schedule to the UAPA. Vikrant's case falls under this provision. Option (a) is incorrect because the UAPA does not require a prior hearing before designating an individual as a terrorist. The government's actions are in line with the legal provisions of the UAPA. Option (c) is incorrect as the UAPA does not stipulate that an individual can only challenge their designation after being convicted in a terror-related case. Individuals declared as terrorists have the right to seek a review or move the courts challenging the government's order. Option (d) is incorrect because the UAPA does not require that an individual must be declared a global terrorist by the United Nations before being designated as a terrorist in India. This is a separate process and is not a prerequisite under the UAPA for designating an individual as a terrorist.

62. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage highlights that the 2019 amendment to the UAPA does not clarify the standard of proof required to establish that an individual is involved, or is likely to be involved, in terrorist activities. This implies that circumstantial evidence and intelligence inputs might be sufficient for the government to designate an individual as a terrorist under the UAPA, as in Vedika's case. Option (a) is incorrect because the UAPA does not explicitly require conclusive proof of direct involvement in terrorist activities for an individual's designation as a terrorist. The lack of clarity on the standard of proof in the amendment allows for a broader interpretation, which can include circumstantial evidence. Option (c) is incorrect as the UAPA does not stipulate that a unanimous decision by a judicial panel is required for the designation of an individual as a terrorist. The decision is taken by the government and not a judicial panel. Option (d) is incorrect because, under the UAPA, the government is not obligated to provide detailed evidence against an individual nor an opportunity to counter the allegations in court before their designation as a terrorist. This is consistent with the provision that allows the government to declare an individual a terrorist without a prior hearing.

63. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage states that under the UAPA, an individual declared a terrorist has the right to seek a review from a review committee if their application is rejected by the government. This committee comprises a chairperson (a retired or sitting judge of a High Court)

and three other members. Vishal's decision to approach the review committee within one month of the rejection of his application is in line with this provision. Option (a) is incorrect as the UAPA does not consider the government's decision as final and allows for further appeal. Individuals have the right to seek a review from the review committee. Option (b) is incorrect because, under the UAPA, the first step after the rejection of an application is to approach the review committee, not directly the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court might be approached later, but only after exhausting the remedy provided by the UAPA. Option (d) is incorrect as individuals do not need to wait for a conviction in a terror-related case to challenge their designation as a terrorist. The UAPA allows them to seek a review from the review committee as soon as their application is rejected by the government.

64. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because, as per the passage, under the UAPA, an individual has the right to apply for the removal of their name from the terrorist list, and if the government rejects this application, they can seek a review from the review committee. This committee comprises a chairperson and three other members. Vinay's situation fits this provision, and he can lawfully seek a review from this committee. Option (a) is incorrect as the UAPA does not require a formal declaration from the United Nations for an individual to apply for the removal of their name from the terrorist list. The process is governed by national law, not international declarations. Option (b) is incorrect because, under the UAPA, acquittal in legal proceedings does not automatically obligate the government to remove an individual's name from the terrorist list. The individual must still follow the procedure laid out in the UAPA for removal. Option (c) is incorrect as seeking intervention from the Ministry of Home Affairs directly, bypassing the review committee, is not a legal course of action prescribed under the UAPA. The proper procedure involves applying to the government and, if rejected, approaching the review committee.

65. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because, as per the passage, the UAPA allows an individual to apply for the removal of their name from the terrorist list, and if this application is rejected by the government, the individual can seek a review from the review committee. This applies even if the individual is designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations, as the UAPA governs the process of designation and review within India. Option (a) is incorrect as the UN designation does not make the UAPA designation in India binding and final. Individuals like Vibha have the right under UAPA to challenge their designation in India, regardless of the UN's decision. Option (b) is incorrect because the UAPA does not explicitly require the Indian government to independently verify the UN designation before adding someone's name to the terrorist list under the UAPA. The passage does not mention any such obligation. Option (c) is incorrect as the UN designation does not automatically validate an individual's designation under the UAPA without the need for further evidence or review. The individual still has legal avenues to challenge this designation under the UAPA in India.

66. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because, as per the legal precedent set in *Swaran Singh vs. State of Punjab* and the emphasis on witness protection, the prosecution can request the court to consider the circumstances leading to the change in testimony, including the possibility of threats, thereby upholding the integrity of the legal process and the protection of witnesses. Option (a) is incorrect because the mere right to alter testimony does not negate the legal implications of a witness turning hostile, especially under suspicious circumstances. The prosecution can question the credibility of such alterations. Option (b) is incorrect because the prosecution cannot demand a re-investigation based solely on witness testimony alteration. The process requires substantial evidence of witness tampering or other legal grounds. Option (c) is incorrect because the prosecution is not bound to accept a hostile witness's revised testimony at face value. They can challenge it and bring attention to potential threats or coercion, especially if there are grounds to believe the witness is being intimidated.

67. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because postponing the hearing respects the witness's safety and the importance of their testimony, acknowledging the challenges faced despite the Witness Protection Scheme. The incident also calls for a review of the scheme's effectiveness. Option (b) is incorrect because while the Witness Protection Scheme provides safety measures, it does not allow for automatic admission of prior statements as evidence without the witness's in-court testimony, except under specific legal provisions. Option (c) is incorrect because an attack on a witness, though serious, does not automatically lead to a mistrial. The legal system must assess each case's circumstances and decide based on the fairness and integrity of the trial. Option (d) is incorrect as it neglects the impact of the attack on the witness and the trial's integrity. The court must consider such incidents, especially when they potentially compromise the effectiveness of the Witness Protection Scheme and the witness's ability to testify.

68. Explanation: Option (d) is correct. The prosecution's approach to investigate the reasons behind Vikram's retraction aligns with legal precedents where the possibility of external pressures on witnesses is considered. Introducing other corroborating evidence can also help to maintain the integrity of the case despite the challenges posed by a hostile witness. Option (a) is incorrect because charging a witness with perjury requires clear evidence that the witness knowingly and willfully made false statements. Simply retracting a statement does not automatically constitute perjury. Option (b) is incorrect as the court is not obligated to accept a retracted statement without scrutiny. The legal system allows for the examination of the reasons behind such retractions, especially in cases of suspected witness tampering. Option (c) is incorrect because the retraction of a statement by a key witness does not automatically lead to the dismissal of a case. The court needs to consider the overall evidence and the credibility of the witness's retraction.

69. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. In light of Sunita's disappearance, the court may consider her initial statement to the police as part of the evidence, especially if it was given under circumstances ensuring its reliability. This aligns with the legal principle of ensuring justice by considering all available evidence. Option (a) is incorrect because an adjournment depends on various factors, including the availability of other evidence and witnesses. The absence of one witness's recorded statement does not necessarily halt the entire legal process. Option (c) is incorrect because the unavailability of a key witness does not automatically lead to the dismissal of a case. The legal system allows for the case to proceed based on the overall evidence and circumstances. Option (d) is also a viable option. The prosecution's pursuit of alternative evidence and an investigation into the witness's disappearance are practical steps in dealing with potential witness tampering, which aligns with the legal efforts to protect witnesses and uphold the integrity of the judicial process.

70. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. Nisha Sharma's right to refuse to answer questions that might incriminate her is protected under Section 161 of the CrPC. This provision safeguards witnesses from self-incrimination during the investigation process. Option (a) is incorrect because, under Section 161 of the CrPC, a witness is not compelled to answer any question that may expose them to criminal charges. This legal provision upholds the right against self-incrimination. Option (b) is incorrect because while investigating officers can provide assurances, they cannot guarantee that a witness's statements will not be used against them in future proceedings, especially if the witness's involvement in the crime is later uncovered. Option (d) is incorrect as the decision to grant immunity is typically made by the court or relevant legal authorities, not during the initial stages of investigation. It involves a more complex legal process and is not automatically applied in all cases involving witness testimonies.

71. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because, as per the Hyderabad consumer court ruling, retailers must provide free carry bags if they have the company's logo on them, and prior intimation and consent are required for charging for plain carry bags. 'Elegant Attire' failed to provide prior

intimation, and the bag had the store's logo. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage indicates that charging consumers for bags without prior intimation is considered illegal by consumer courts, especially when the bags carry the store's logo. Option (c) is incorrect because the 'polluters pay' principle does not automatically apply in this context. The principle holds polluters responsible for environmental harm, but in this case, the issue is about the retailer's obligation to inform the consumer about additional charges. Option (d) is incorrect because, even though the Plastic Waste Management Rules do not explicitly forbid the sale of all plastic carry bags, consumer courts have ruled that charging for carry bags, especially those with the store's logo, without prior information is illegal.

72. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because, in the absence of specific pricing guidelines from the civic body, the supermarket arguably retains a degree of autonomy in setting prices for plastic carry bags. However, this action may still be subject to legal scrutiny based on consumer protection laws and the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage suggests that the pricing of plastic carry bags should be determined by civic bodies. The supermarket's unilateral decision to set the price without guidelines goes against the spirit of the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules. Option (b) is incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that plastic carry bags should be provided for free in the absence of pricing guidelines by the civic body. The issue here is about the lack of standardized pricing, not the provision of free bags. Option (c) is incorrect because the absence of a price guideline from the civic body does not automatically imply that selling plastic carry bags is illegal. The issue is about the arbitrary pricing by the supermarket, not the sale of the bags per se.

73. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Ms. Banerjee can argue that while the 2018 amendment removed the explicit pricing section, it did not categorically allow retailers to charge for cloth carry bags, particularly those used for branding purposes. This argument leverages the ambiguity in the amendment and the consumer court rulings regarding charges for carry bags with store branding. Option (a) is incorrect because the absence of explicit prohibition in the 2018 amendment does not necessarily grant the legal right to charge for cloth carry bags. The legal ambiguity does not automatically validate 'Tech World's' charging policy. Option (c) is incorrect as the 2018 amendment does not imply that all carry bags, including cloth bags, should be provided free of charge. The amendment's silence on this issue leaves room for interpretation, but it does not mandate free distribution. Option (d) is incorrect. The absence of specific guidelines in the 2018 amendment regarding cloth carry bags does not automatically imply a prohibition on charging for them. While Ms. Banerjee's challenge may raise valid concerns, the amendment's silence on the matter does not definitively support her argument.

74. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Mr. Mehta can argue that charging for biodegradable carry bags under the 'polluters pay' principle is not justifiable, as these bags, by their nature, are less harmful to the environment compared to non-biodegradable alternatives. This undermines the bookstore's rationale for applying the principle. Option (a) is incorrect because the application of the 'polluters pay' principle in this context is debatable. The principle typically applies to activities causing significant environmental harm, which may not be the case with biodegradable bags. Option (c) is incorrect. The demand for free non-biodegradable bags does not align with the 'polluters pay' principle, which aims to internalize the environmental costs of pollution. Moreover, this option does not directly address the issue of biodegradable bags. Option (d) is incorrect because the blanket application of the 'polluters pay' principle to all types of carry bags, without considering their environmental impact, is not legally sound. The principle's primary intent is to address significant environmental damages, which may not align with the context of biodegradable carry bags.

75. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Mrs. Reddy can argue that the late disclosure of the carry bag charge infringes on her right to make an informed decision. The consumer court ruling in Delhi

supports this stance, emphasizing the importance of informing customers about additional charges before the payment process, irrespective of the product's nature. Option (a) is incorrect because the luxury status of the carry bag does not exempt 'Glitter Gems' from the obligation to inform customers about additional charges prior to the payment process. Consumer rights to prior intimation and informed decision-making apply universally, regardless of the item's luxury status. Option (c) is incorrect. The policy of 'Glitter Gems' could potentially violate consumer protection norms, particularly the right to be informed, which is a fundamental consumer right. The nature of the product (luxury or otherwise) does not negate the need for prior intimation of additional charges. Option (d) is incorrect. The consumer court ruling in Delhi regarding the timing of disclosing additional charges is applicable in this context. The status of the retailer as high-end does not alter the fundamental consumer rights, including the right to an informed decision before incurring any additional charges.

76. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Under the BNS's provisions for a graded fine corresponding to the damage caused, Rohan should be fined an amount equal to the estimated damage, which is ₹5 lakhs in this case. Option (a) is incorrect because the BNS stipulates a graded fine system that corresponds to the actual amount of damage caused, not a punitive doubling of the damage amount. Option (c) is incorrect because the BNS mandates that the fine should correspond to the actual damage caused. A symbolic or minimal fine does not adhere to this principle. Option (d) is incorrect because exemption from fines for damage to public property is not provided under the BNS, regardless of the cause or the nature of the collective action involved. The law requires accountability for the actual damage caused.

77. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Under Clause 69 of the BNS, Aarav's actions of concealing his marital status and falsely leading Priya to believe in a potential marriage can be construed as a deceitful promise to marry, making him liable for prosecution. Option (a) is incorrect because the BNS criminalizes deceitful promises to marry, including concealing crucial information like marital status, regardless of the consensual nature of the relationship. Option (c) is incorrect because the law under BNS does not specify that the promise to marry needs to be in writing. Deceitful conduct and false promises, verbal or otherwise, are sufficient for legal action. Option (d) is incorrect. The BNS explicitly addresses deceitful promises to marry, which includes cases where one party enters into a relationship under false pretenses, as seen in Aarav and Priya's situation. The law applies irrespective of the personal or private nature of the relationship.

78. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. According to the BNS, the mob members, especially the instigator Rajat Singh, should be prosecuted for mob lynching and hate-crime murders due to the caste-based motivation of their attack. The nature of the crime makes them eligible for severe penalties, including life imprisonment or the death penalty. Option (a) is incorrect because the BNS explicitly codifies offenses linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders, including those based on caste, which applies in this scenario. Option (b) is incorrect because the BNS has updated its provisions, and the minimum sentence of seven years has been revised to align with punishments for murder, which includes life imprisonment to death penalty. Option (d) is incorrect as the entire mob, involved in a hate-crime murder based on caste, falls under the ambit of the BNS provisions for mob lynching. All participants in such a crime are subject to the specified severe punishments, not just the instigator.

79. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Under the BNS, for cases of organized crime where no death is involved, the mandatory minimum sentence is five years, which may extend to life imprisonment. This aligns with Rakesh Banerjee's charges, where his activities resulted in injuries but no fatalities. Option (a) is incorrect because the BNS has specific provisions for organized crime, and the mandatory minimum sentence is not fixed at seven years but is dependent on the nature of the crime, especially concerning fatalities. Option (c) is incorrect because the maximum penalties of life imprisonment or

death penalty under the BNS's provisions for organized crime are typically reserved for cases involving fatalities. Option (d) is incorrect as the BNS allows for the prosecution of organized crime as a collective offense, not just based on individual criminal acts. The absence of fatalities does not preclude the applicability of organized crime charges under the BNS.

80. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Maya's hunger strike, while a form of protest, may not directly fall under the BNS provisions concerning attempts to commit suicide to compel or restrain public servants. The intent behind her action is to protest a policy, not necessarily to compel or restrain public servants from performing their duties. Option (b) is incorrect because the legal interpretation of Maya's intent is crucial. While her actions are a form of protest, it needs to be legally established whether her intent was specifically to compel or restrain public servants, as required by the BNS provisions. Option (c) is incorrect as the BNS does not differentiate between forms of suicide attempts in its application. The key factor is the intent behind the act, not the method of the suicide attempt. Option (d) is incorrect because whether Maya's actions warrant criminal prosecution and the type of punishment should be determined based on a clear legal interpretation of her intent and the specific provisions of the BNS. The decision between imprisonment and community service depends on the legal findings of her actions' intent.

81. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because, as per the passage, the Supreme Court observed that the prosecution cannot seek to prove a fact during trial through a witness which such witness had not stated to the police during the investigation. Therefore, the altered testimonies of Sunita and Manish, which are inconsistent with their initial statements under Section 161 CrPC, cannot be relied upon for convicting Rajesh. Option (a) is incorrect because it contradicts the principle laid down by the Supreme Court that altered testimonies that deviate from initial statements to the police are of no significance in a trial. Option (c) is incorrect as it misinterprets the legal position; witnesses cannot 'improve' their testimony in a manner that contradicts their earlier statements without affecting the credibility of such testimony. Option (d) is incorrect because it addresses the broader concept of reasonable doubt and does not specifically relate to the issue of witness testimony inconsistency as highlighted in the passage.

82. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because, according to the passage, the Supreme Court emphasized that for circumstantial evidence to lead to a conviction, it must be cogently and firmly established without any alternative explanation. In Anjali's case, the alternative explanation that she was out of town provides a significant gap in the prosecution's narrative. Option (a) is incorrect because it ignores the requirement for circumstantial evidence to be conclusive and free of alternative explanations. Option (c) is incorrect as it fails to acknowledge the importance of the alternative explanation provided by Anjali's alibi, which casts doubt on the reliability of the circumstantial evidence. Option (d) is incorrect because it misinterprets the principle; while it correctly states the need for proof beyond reasonable doubt, it does not adequately address the specific issue of the strength and exclusivity of circumstantial evidence in this case.

83. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it aligns with the Supreme Court's observation that a witness's testimony during trial, which deviates from their statement to the police under Section 161 CrPC, cannot be the basis for conviction. This inconsistency in Priya's testimony, where her trial statements differ from her initial police statement, makes her testimony unreliable for convicting Vaibhav. Option (b) is incorrect as it contradicts the Supreme Court's position that testimonies inconsistent with initial statements to police are not reliable for conviction. Option (c) is incorrect because it speculates about fabrication or misunderstanding without concrete evidence. While inconsistency may raise doubts, it does not automatically indicate fabrication. Option (d) is incorrect as it disregards the legal principle that the credibility of a witness's testimony is compromised if it significantly differs from their earlier statement under Section 161 CrPC.

84. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it aligns with the Supreme Court's observation that a witness's testimony during trial, which is inconsistent with their statement under Section 161 CrPC to the police, cannot be the basis for a conviction. Meena's altered testimony, which added new information not present in her initial statement, makes it unreliable for convicting Ravi. Option (b) is incorrect as it overlooks the crucial aspect of the reliability of a witness's testimony when it changes substantially from the initial statement to the police. Option (c) is incorrect because, while it correctly notes the discrepancy, it speculates on the reason for the change in testimony without concrete evidence. Option (d) is incorrect as it fails to recognize that a significant alteration in testimony, even if due to better recollection, affects the credibility of that testimony in the context of legal proceedings.

85. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because it acknowledges that while Neeraj's testimony changed, the detailed nature of his revised account at trial could still be considered credible, especially in the absence of other evidence directly contradicting his claims. This option aligns with the principle that while consistency in testimony is ideal, the court can still consider detailed and specific testimony even if it differs from initial statements, as long as it is not directly contradicted by other evidence. Option (a) is incorrect as it does not directly address the change in Neeraj's testimony and its impact on the reliability of his evidence. Option (b) is incorrect because it overlooks the possibility that a witness's testimony, even if inconsistent, can still be credible if it is detailed and uncontradicted by other evidence. Option (c) is incorrect because it suggests that all aspects of a testimony should be considered without addressing the critical issue of the reliability of testimony that changes significantly from the initial police statement.

86. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage emphasizes the critical role of humanities in a world where AI may dominate communication, but human subjectivities continue to define our private and public selves. This suggests the author believes in the importance of humanities in balancing AI's influence. Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that humanities will become obsolete. Instead, it indicates their enduring impact and potential revival in the face of AI's routine task takeover. Option (C) is incorrect as the passage does not imply a diminishing focus on humanities due to AI but rather highlights their increasing importance in the context of AI. Option (D) is incorrect because the passage suggests that the humanities will remain relevant in shaping identities, contrary to the idea that AI advancements will render them irrelevant.

87. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage mentions the influence of social media in shaping educational policy, particularly in the context of legislative pushbacks against progressive academic disciplines. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage clearly indicates the influence of social media on educational policy, contradicting the idea of a negligible impact. Option (B) is incorrect because, while the passage acknowledges the influence of social media, it does not specify that this influence is primarily in promoting progressive disciplines. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not claim that social media is wholly responsible for educational policy formulation, but rather highlights its influence among other factors.

88. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage discusses the strong influence of high-Sanskritic Hinduism in the final NEP, suggesting ideological manipulation. Evidence supporting this influence would strengthen the author's argument about the "saffronwashing" of the policy. Option (A) is incorrect as the diverse composition of the NEP committee does not directly support the argument about the specific ideological influence in the final policy. Option (C) is incorrect because the focus on Western liberal arts in initial drafts does not

necessarily strengthen the argument about the influence of high-Sanskritic Hinduism in the final NEP. Option (D) is incorrect as resistance by universities to implementing the NEP's guidelines does not directly strengthen the argument about the ideological manipulation in the policy's formation.

89. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage mentions the discomfort of the privileged often manifesting as denial, facilitated by the very disciplines they challenge. This aligns with the idea that the privileged may be in denial about social issues. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the privileged actively seek diverse humanities perspectives; rather, it implies a tendency towards denial. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not state that the privileged primarily support critical race theory; instead, it implies resistance or denial of such perspectives. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage directly links the discomfort of the privileged to their stance on humanities education, contradicting the idea that there is no relation.

90. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage suggests that while AI may take over routine tasks, this could lead to a resurgence in the importance of humanities, fostering more creative and imaginative thinking. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage does not imply a complete replacement of the humanities by AI, but rather a shift in their role. Option (C) is incorrect because, contrary to a diminishing focus, the passage suggests a potential increase in the importance of humanities in the context of AI's influence. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that AI advancements will lead to a uniform global perspective in humanities; it emphasizes the enduring impact of humanities in maintaining cultural and ideological diversity.

91. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the passage suggests that the expulsion of Afghan refugees is linked to Pakistan's dissatisfaction with the Taliban's failure to act against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the subsequent terror attacks in Pakistan. Option (B) is incorrect as the passage states that blaming Afghan nationals for involvement in the drugs trade does not explain the whole picture, indicating that this is not the sole reason for their expulsion. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not mention any economic pressures in Pakistan as a reason for the expulsion of Afghan refugees. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage indicates that Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan are strained, particularly due to the Taliban regime, which contradicts the idea of maintaining good diplomatic relations.

92. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage indicates that Pakistan's dissatisfaction with the Taliban regime is partly due to the Taliban's rejection of Pakistan's claims about the locations of TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage states that Pakistan has imposed restrictions on the transit of Afghan goods, not the Taliban. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage mentions the TTP's support for the Taliban against American forces, not the other way around. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage discusses the TTP's aim to establish an Islamic emirate, not a decision made by the Taliban regime.

93. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage states that the Taliban and the TTP are ideologically aligned and have supported each other in the past, with the TTP helping the Taliban during its fight against American forces. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage suggests an ideological alignment between the Taliban and TTP, contradicting the idea of consistent opposition. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the

TTP is seeking to undermine the Taliban regime; rather, it suggests a supportive relationship between the two. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not present the TTP as a primary threat to the Taliban's regime in Kabul, but rather as an ideologically aligned group.

94. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage suggests that Islamabad's strategic vision in Afghanistan was based on the assumption of having influence over the Taliban regime. The Taliban becoming increasingly independent of Pakistan's influence would therefore strengthen the author's argument about the failure of this vision. Option (A) is incorrect as increased stability and prosperity in Afghanistan under the Taliban would not necessarily indicate a failure of Islamabad's strategic vision. Option (B) is incorrect because international support for Pakistan's stance does not directly relate to the success or failure of its strategic vision in Afghanistan. Option (D) is incorrect as the enhancement of regional security due to Pakistan's strategic depth in Afghanistan would contradict, rather than strengthen, the argument about the failure of Islamabad's strategic vision.

95. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage suggests that the decision to order nearly 1.7 million undocumented Afghan refugees to leave Pakistan is linked to Islamabad's dissatisfaction with the Taliban's inaction against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), indicating a strategic response to security concerns. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage does not frame the order as a humanitarian effort; rather, it implies a response to security issues. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not mention economic improvement as a reason for the expulsion of Afghan refugees. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the order is a reflection of Pakistan's commitment to international laws on refugees and asylum seekers.

96. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage criticizes the portrayal of factional feuding within the Trinamul Congress as an instance of 'internal democracy', suggesting that what is claimed to be internal democracy is actually factionalism. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage implies that internal democracy is not a common practice in Indian political parties, particularly those centered around a single person or family. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage argues that the freedom to express differing opinions, which is a key aspect of internal democracy, is rare in Indian political parties like the Trinamul Congress. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage suggests that the concept of internal democracy weakens with a singular leader, contradicting the idea of it being strongest in their presence.

97. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage mentions that troubles in the TMC's First Family, referring to internal conflicts, are not new and have taken place and been resolved in the past. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage does not specifically state that the Trinamul Congress has resolved internal disputes swiftly and effectively, only that similar conflicts have occurred before. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage implies that despite the presence of strong central leadership, the Trinamul Congress has experienced internal conflicts. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not limit the conflicts within the Trinamul Congress to personal disagreements, but also includes policy issues such as the strategy for Lok Sabha polls and organizational changes.

98. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage explicitly states that political organizations like the Trinamul Congress traditionally function around a single person or family, indicating a centralized leadership structure. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage suggests that power is not equally distributed among all members but is centralized around a

specific leader or family. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage mentions that the freedom to express opinion, especially by the rank and file, is a rarity in these parties, contradicting the idea of open expression without repercussions. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage criticizes these parties for masquerading factional feuding as internal democracy, suggesting they do not prioritize true internal democracy over centralized power.

99. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because if instances of open disagreement within the Trinamul Congress are often followed by punitive actions against those who dissent, it would reinforce the author's argument that what is being labeled as 'internal democracy' is in fact factional feuding, as true internal democracy would allow for open disagreement without fear of repercussions. Option (A) is incorrect as it contradicts the author's argument; the author implies that the portrayal of factional feuding as internal democracy is misleading, and a history of encouraging diverse opinions would weaken this argument. Option (C) is incorrect because the presence of a democratic mechanism for resolving disputes would suggest genuine internal democracy, which is contrary to the author's argument. Option (D) is incorrect as it downplays the severity of factional conflicts within the Trinamul Congress, which would weaken the author's argument about the mislabeling of these conflicts as internal democracy.

100. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the author discusses factional feuding within the Trinamul Congress in the context of its leadership structure centered around a single person or family. This implies an assumption that such feuding is a likely outcome in parties with similar leadership structures. Option (B) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the Trinamul Congress is unique in this regard; it mentions other parties like the Congress, DMK, BSP, SP, RJD, and even the BJP under Narendra Modi as having similar centralization. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not make any claims about the effectiveness of policy implementation in relation to the leadership structure of political parties. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not specifically address whether factional feuding is related to ideological differences or not.

101. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage states that in Germany, "Dinner for One" is seen as emblematic of British humor and a nostalgic nod to traditionalism, indicating its cultural and traditional significance to the German audience. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage suggests that the sketch's appeal in Germany goes beyond just humor, encompassing elements of cultural and traditional resonance. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage mentions its 18-minute runtime as a reason for its initial broadcast convenience, not as the primary reason for its popularity. Option (D) is incorrect as, while the passage notes that the sketch reinforces the German perception of British society as class-divided and eccentric, it does not state that this is the sole or primary reason for its popularity in Germany.

102. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the passage states that "Dinner for One" has been an integral part of German New Year's celebrations since 1972, indicating its significant impact as a traditional component of these celebrations. Option (B) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the sketch overshadows other cultural traditions during New Year's in Germany. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not imply that the sketch has changed the overall perception or celebration of New Year's Eve in Germany, but rather that it has become a part of the existing traditions. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not indicate that the sketch promotes British culture over German traditions; instead, it is portrayed as an adopted tradition within the German cultural context.

103. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage describes how the sketch's repetitive, ritualistic humor, particularly the interactions between James and Miss Sophie, provides a sense of stability and continuity, which is a key aspect of its appeal in Germany. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage does not claim that the humor of "Dinner for One" is universally understood and appreciated; it specifically focuses on its reception in Germany. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage mentions that "Dinner for One" is relatively unknown in its homeland, Britain, contrasting its immense popularity in Germany. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the colonial undertones are the primary reason for its popularity in Germany; it mentions these undertones as an often overlooked aspect.

104. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because if most Germans believe that "Dinner for One" accurately portrays typical British social gatherings and customs, it would reinforce the author's argument that the sketch is emblematic of British humor and traditionalism in the German perception. Option (B) is incorrect as it does not directly support the argument about the German perception of the sketch; the passage mentions that the sketch is unknown in Britain. Option (C) is incorrect because while integration into academic studies might indicate recognition of its cultural significance, it doesn't directly strengthen the argument about German perceptions of British humor and traditionalism. Option (D) is incorrect as the lack of popularity of other British comedy sketches in Germany does not necessarily strengthen the argument about "Dinner for One" being a specific representation of British humor and traditionalism as perceived by Germans.

105. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage suggests that the colonial undertones, such as the tiger skin rug and mulligatawny soup, are often overlooked in Germany, potentially due to Germany's limited engagement with colonialism compared to Britain's extensive history. This implies an assumption that the German perception of these elements is influenced by their historical context. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage implies that the colonial implications are often overlooked in Germany, contradicting the idea that the audience is largely aware of and appreciates these implications. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the colonial aspects are the primary reason for the sketch's popularity; it highlights other factors such as ritualistic humor and tradition. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not make any explicit claims about the independence of the sketch's humor from its colonial undertones or about its potential popularity without these elements.

106. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage states that a 70-hour work week, rooted in privilege, overlooks the harsh realities faced by those from economically weaker sections and lower castes, indicating that the author views it as problematic for these groups. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage does not support the idea that a 70-hour work week is necessary for productivity or financial stability; rather, it criticizes this notion. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage highlights that such a work culture exacerbates gender disparities and economic hierarchies, suggesting that it would not benefit all segments of society equally. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage references the "State of Working India 2023" report, indicating high unemployment rates among graduates, which challenges the narrative that longer working hours ensure financial stability.

107. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the passage states that advocating for a 70-hour work week reflects traditional male privilege and overlooks the double burden of professional and household duties faced by women. Therefore, evidence showing that women

already work more hours than men when combining professional and household duties would support the author's conclusion that a 70-hour work week would exacerbate gender inequalities. Option (A) is incorrect as it contradicts the author's argument. Data showing equal sharing of domestic responsibilities would weaken the argument that a 70-hour work week perpetuates male privilege. Option (C) is incorrect because it directly opposes the author's stance. Research indicating that longer working hours have no impact on gender disparities would undermine, not support, the conclusion about perpetuating male privilege. Option (D) is incorrect as it is irrelevant to the argument about gender disparities in total working hours; efficiency in professional settings does not address the issue of unequal labor distribution between professional and household duties.

108. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage explicitly states that prolonged working hours create an environment conducive to burnout and that research by the World Health Organization and various mental health institutions has established the adverse effects of overworking on mental health, diminishing overall productivity and personal fulfillment. Option (A) is incorrect as the passage argues the opposite, stating that long working hours negatively affect mental well-being. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage suggests that long working hours blur the boundaries between professional and personal life, which is contrary to the idea of enhancing overall productivity and balance. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage does not mention that the financial stability provided by long working hours offsets the negative impact on mental health.

109. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because it aligns with the author's argument in the passage. The passage mentions that Indians already work an average of 47.7 hours per week, one of the highest rates globally, yet this has not translated into increased productivity. Therefore, data indicating that India's average working hours are higher than the global average without a corresponding increase in productivity would support the need for a critical examination of the 70-hour work week proposal. Option (A) is incorrect as it would actually weaken the author's argument by suggesting that longer working hours lead to increased productivity. Option (C) is incorrect because the preference for longer working hours for additional income does not address the critical concerns raised by the author about the impact of such hours on class dynamics, gender disparities, and mental health. Option (D) is incorrect as it focuses on unemployment rates rather than the productivity and well-being issues raised by the author in relation to long working hours.

110. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the passage discusses the ethical dilemma of imposing productivity expectations on already disadvantaged groups, highlighting that for these groups, extended working hours are not a choice but a necessity. This implies an assumption that disadvantaged groups are often compelled to work longer hours due to economic necessity. Option (A) is incorrect as it contradicts the passage's implication that disadvantaged groups do not have the same flexibility or choice in their working hours compared to more privileged sections. Option (B) is incorrect because the passage suggests that extended working hours are not equally feasible or acceptable for all, especially for economically weaker sections and lower castes. Option (D) is incorrect as the passage clearly states that long working hours exacerbate economic hierarchies and systemic inequalities, implying that imposing productivity expectations does affect economic hierarchies.

111) Answer: (a) 4,800 Hours

Explanation:

To calculate the total staff hours spent on general check-ups, we need to consider the number of general check-ups and the average time spent per check-up.

From the dataset:

- Total patient visits: 24,000
- Percentage of visits for general check-ups: 40%
- Average time per general check-up: 30 minutes

First, we find the total number of general check-ups:

$40\% \text{ of } 24,000 = 0.40 * 24,000 = 9,600$ general check-ups

Next, we convert the average time per check-up to hours since there are 60 minutes in an hour:

$30 \text{ minutes} = 0.5 \text{ hours}$

Finally, we calculate the total staff hours for general check-ups:

$9,600 \text{ general check-ups} * 0.5 \text{ hours per check-up} = 4,800 \text{ hours}$

Therefore, staff at Maplewood Town's health clinic spent a total of 4,800 hours on general check-ups in 2023.

112) Answer: (c) 60 nurses.

Explanation:

To determine the total number of nurses working at the clinic, we need to use the information about the staff composition and total staff count.

From the dataset:

The total number of staff members at the clinic is 120.

The ratio of doctors to nurses to administrative staff is 1:2:1.

This ratio means that for every 1 doctor, there are 2 nurses and 1 administrative staff member.

The ratio can be understood as 4 parts in total – 1 part doctors, 2 parts nurses, and 1 part administrative staff.

Since nurses represent 2 out of 4 parts in this ratio, they make up half of the staff. Therefore, the number of nurses is half of the total staff:

$\text{Half of } 120 \text{ staff members} = 120 / 2 = 60 \text{ nurses.}$

Thus, there are 60 nurses working at Maplewood Town's health clinic.

113) Answer: (b) 5,400 hours.

Explanation:

To calculate the total hours spent on specialized consultations, we need to consider the number of specialized consultations and the average time spent per consultation.

From the dataset:

- Total patient visits in 2023: 24,000
- Percentage of visits for specialized consultations: 30%
- Average time spent per specialized consultation: 45 minutes

First, calculate the total number of specialized consultations:

$30\% \text{ of } 24,000 \text{ visits} = 0.30 * 24,000 = 7,200$ specialized consultations

Next, convert the average consultation time from minutes to hours. Since 60 minutes make an hour, 45 minutes is equivalent to 0.75 hours.

Finally, calculate the total hours spent on specialized consultations:

$7,200 \text{ specialized consultations} * 0.75 \text{ hours per consultation} = 5,400 \text{ hours}$

Therefore, the clinic staff spent a total of 5,400 hours on specialized consultations in 2023.

114) Answer: (c) 2,376 hours.

Explanation:

To determine the total hours spent on emergency services, we'll use the number of emergency service visits and the average time spent per visit.

From the dataset:

- Total patient visits in 2023: 24,000
- Percentage of visits for emergency services: 30%
- Average time spent per emergency service visit: 20 minutes
- First, calculate the total number of emergency service visits:
- $30\% \text{ of } 24,000 \text{ visits} = 0.30 * 24,000 = 7,200 \text{ emergency service visits}$

Next, convert the average consultation time for emergency services from minutes to hours. Since 60 minutes make an hour, 20 minutes is equivalent to $\frac{1}{3}$ of an hour or about 0.33 hours.

Finally, calculate the total hours spent on emergency services:

- $7,200 \text{ emergency service visits} * 0.33 \text{ hours per visit} \approx 2,376 \text{ hours}$

Therefore, the clinic staff spent approximately 2,376 hours on emergency services in 2023.

115) Answer: (c) 80 general check-ups, 60 specialized consultations, 60 emergency services.

Explanation:

First, we need to determine the total number of each type of visit and then divide these numbers by the total staff count.

From the dataset:

- Total patient visits: 24,000
- Staff at the clinic: 120
- General check-ups: 40% of total visits
- Specialized consultations: 30% of total visits
- Emergency services: 30% of total visits
- Calculating the number of each type of visit:
- General check-ups: $40\% \text{ of } 24,000 = 0.40 * 24,000 = 9,600$
- Specialized consultations: $30\% \text{ of } 24,000 = 0.30 * 24,000 = 7,200$
- Emergency services: $30\% \text{ of } 24,000 = 0.30 * 24,000 = 7,200$

Now, divide these numbers by the total number of staff (120) to find out how many of each type a single staff member conducted:

- General check-ups per staff member: $9,600 / 120 = 80$
- Specialized consultations per staff member: $7,200 / 120 = 60$
- Emergency services per staff member: $7,200 / 120 = 60$

Therefore, each staff member conducted 80 general check-ups, 60 specialized consultations, and 60 emergency services in 2023.

116) Answer: (c) 196,000 residents, rounding to the nearest thousand.

Explanation:

The dataset states that Greenfield City had a population of 200,000 residents at the end of 2023, after experiencing a population growth rate of 2% over the year. To find the population at the beginning of the year, we need to calculate what number would result in 200,000 after a 2% increase.

A 2% increase means the population at the beginning of the year was 100%, and it grew to 102% by the end of the year. Since 102% is represented by 200,000 residents, we can find 100% (the population at the beginning of the year) by dividing 200,000 by 1.02 (since 102% is equal to 1.02).

So, the population at the beginning of 2023 was $200,000 / 1.02$, which equals approximately 196,078 residents.

117) Answer: (b) 12,000 adults.

Explanation:

From the dataset, we know that 10% of the adult population in Greenfield City did not complete high school. The adult population represents 60% of the total population of 200,000 residents. First, calculate the total number of adults:

60% of 200,000 residents = $0.60 * 200,000 = 120,000$ adults.

Then, find the number of adults without a high school diploma:

10% of the adult population = $0.10 * 120,000 = 12,000$ adults.

Therefore, 12,000 adults in Greenfield City do not have a high school diploma.

118) Answer: (c) 80,000 households.

Explanation:

From the dataset, we have two key pieces of information: the total number of housing units in Greenfield City and the average household size. The city has 80,000 housing units, and the average household size is 2.5 persons.

To find the number of households, we need to consider that each housing unit represents one household (since a household can occupy only one housing unit, irrespective of its size). Therefore, the number of households in Greenfield City is equal to the number of housing units. Thus, there are 80,000 households in Greenfield City.

119) Answer: (b) 27,000 residents.

Explanation:

To find the number of residents employed in the Technology sector, we need to use the information about the employment rate and the sector-specific employment distribution.

From the dataset:

- The employment rate among adults in Greenfield City is 75%.
- 30% of the employed adults work in the Technology sector.
- The adult population is 60% of the total population of 200,000 residents.
- First, calculate the total number of adults:
- 60% of 200,000 residents = $0.60 * 200,000 = 120,000$ adults.

Next, find the number of employed adults:

75% of 120,000 adults = $0.75 * 120,000 = 90,000$ employed adults.

Then, calculate the number of adults employed in the Technology sector:

30% of 90,000 employed adults = $0.30 * 90,000 = 27,000$ adults.

Therefore, 27,000 residents of Greenfield City are employed in the Technology sector.

120) Answer: (d) 4,800 residents.

Explanation:

To calculate the number of unemployed residents in Greenfield City, we need to use the unemployment rate and the size of the labor force.

From the dataset:

- The employment rate among adults is 75%.
- The unemployment rate is 5%.
- The adult population constitutes 60% of the total population of 200,000 residents.
- First, calculate the total number of adults:
- 60% of 200,000 residents = $0.60 * 200,000 = 120,000$ adults.

Next, determine the size of the labor force (both employed and unemployed adults). Since the employment rate is 75%, the labor force size will be larger than the number of employed adults. The labor force includes both employed (75%) and unemployed (5%) adults, totaling 80% of the adult population:

80% of 120,000 adults = $0.80 * 120,000 = 96,000$ adults in the labor force.

Finally, calculate the number of unemployed adults:

5% of the labor force = $0.05 * 96,000 = 4,800$ unemployed adults.

Therefore, there are 4,800 residents of Greenfield City who are part of the labor force but are currently unemployed.

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