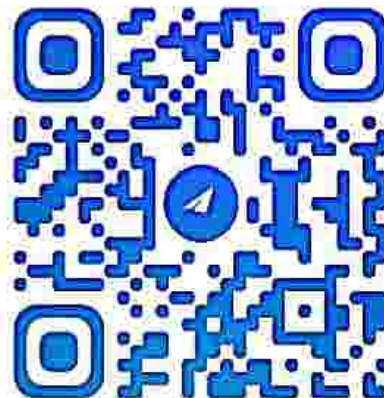




## CLAT 2025 MOCK TEST - 17

Instructions:

- Time allowed: 2 hours.
- Total Questions: 120.
- Try to complete the entire mock, do not get disheartened while doing it.
- Try to concentrate properly for 2 hours, we are with you.
- Do not forget to analyse after you are done.



SCAN ME!

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE****PASSAGE 1**

Something rustled in the bushes outside the kitchen, then a monstrous face appeared in the window: an animal covered in mangy wet fur. It looked at Ray with knowing eyes that in a single glance interrogated him and his intrusive presence in this remote place, trapped in an old farmhouse a mile from the closest neighbors. The creature growled as if to speak and Ray screamed, but the hideous face still stared at him, its eyes shining with some fierce purpose, its crooked teeth glistening sharply from amid the soiled fur, until its so-nearly-human expression changed. In some savage and instinctual way, the thing appeared as startled as he was. It motioned as if to communicate with him through the windowpane: "Is everything okay, Ray?" it asked. "Farkas? You scared the shit out of me."

"Not literally, I hope. Would you mind letting me in?"

Ray unbolted the front door, where Farkas stood dripping

"Come in, come in," he said. "You're absolutely soaked."

"Only on the outside, Ray," Farkas said. "Only on the outside." He sat on the mudroom bench and removed his wellingtons. "I could however use a wee dram if you have some on board."

"I have a bottle I've been saving for a special occasion, in fact. You go sit by the fire." Farkas pulled a chair up. "I'm terribly sorry to frighten you like that," he said. "And I hope I didn't catch you at a bad time, as I don't mean to interrupt what you're doing up here . . . what are you doing up here? I would've telephoned, but that wasn't really an option, now was it?"

Ray dragged another chair next to Farkas's. "I'm grateful for the company. I think I'm going a little stir crazy, in fact. Solitude is a lot less restorative than I thought. It turns out that life off the grid actually kind of sucks."

"You're not the first man to discover that for himself," Farkas said. His voice carried a baritone roundness that in a different life might have lent itself to the opera. He lifted the glass to his nose, which was barely visible through his dense mask of mustache, beard, and eyebrow. "Nor I imagine will you be the last. This would be the eighteen-year-old, if I'm not mistaken."

"You can tell that just from the smell? Slàinte," Ray said.

It was without question the most complex and delectable whisky that had ever crossed his tongue. It tasted the way living on Jura felt, like his humanity could reach a greater richness simply by living in such a rough and untamed land. "You certainly know your whisky. I forgot the water—I'll be right back."

"Don't bother, don't bother. I can drink water at home. And I believe that I've had close to enough of the stuff for one day, and, in any account, malt this good deserves to be taken neat."

"I didn't hear a vehicle pull up—did you walk all the way up here?"

"Sometimes I forget how big this little island truly is. I left my car at the public road and walked the last five miles. That path has destroyed sturdier cars than my own."

"I believe it. But that's still quite a walk. I have to admit I'm beginning to wonder what Orwell was thinking coming all the way up here. It must have been even more remote back then."

"The whole world's shrinking, Ray, at least in one sense, and that's the truth. As I've heard it, however, our Blair didn't get on very well with the locals. He was liked, as

they say, but not well liked. There wasn't much use on Jura back then for socialist intellectuals," he said.

"And now?"

"Funny that you mention it. You did manage to upset Gavin. Don't let it worry you, though. It's not entirely your fault. He may be holding you to blame for some past crimes. There are some old stories—and the details are murky—there are old stories that suggest our Mr. Blair got himself into some hot water while here on Jura. Gavin swears that Blair was responsible for some unpardonable offense against his mother."

**Source: BURNING DOWN GEORGE ORWELL'S HOUSE, Literary Hub, 5 May, 2015.**

Q.1) In the passage, what does the term "neat" refer to in the context of drinking whisky?

- (a) without any mixers or water
- (b) with a splash of lemon
- (c) on the rocks
- (d) alongside a meal

Q.2) Which of the following statements is true about Farkas's arrival at Ray's location according to the passage?

- (a) Farkas arrived by car directly to Ray's doorstep.
- (b) Farkas telephoned Ray before arriving.
- (c) Farkas walked the last five miles to Ray's location.
- (d) Farkas was unfamiliar with the local area.

Q.3) What is the main theme discussed in the passage?

- (a) The challenges of remote living and its psychological impacts
- (b) The technical aspects of whisky production
- (c) The history of automotive development
- (d) The complexities of modern telecommunications

Q.4) Which of the following words best describes the setting in the passage?

- (a) cosmopolitan
- (b) isolated
- (c) bustling
- (d) tropical

Q.5) What does the term "solitude" refer to in the context of the passage?

- (a) A method for enhancing creativity through isolation



- (b) The state of being alone, which Ray finds less restorative than anticipated
- (c) A peaceful experience in nature
- (d) An approach to avoiding social responsibilities

## PASSAGE 2

When *Alexandrian Summer* was first published in Israel in 1978 by Am Oved, the country's most prestigious publisher at that time, the back cover boasted the following statement: "An achievement and innovation in Hebrew Literature." I was living then in the U.S. and had nothing to do with that hazardous claim. Since it was my first novel, I didn't know that the publisher, and not the writer, is accountable for the book jacket copy. I was sure the literary critics wouldn't appreciate such a self appraisal and would hound me even if they'd agree with the assessment. Thank God, the critics didn't take it hard and the only one who seemed to notice the statement, a reviewer for the daily *Maariv* named Shulamith Gilboa, made the remark that "this is one of the rare cases where the back reflects the front."

So I got away with my pants still on. And still, I didn't quite understand what was so innovative about my novel. I always believed I had written a simple, modest and unpretentious book. I was aware that it held a certain attraction, and I felt that the critical acclaim was largely owing to its inherent charm and the love affair that ensued between readers and my novel, but I still couldn't understand what made it so special. Then, one day I realized: "Aha! I know the answer! Israeli literature is usually obsessed with themes like the kibbutz, the Holocaust, the Palestinians, and the Jerusalem Syndrome. People found it refreshing to read about Diaspora Jews— albeit from an Arab country—who were not wretched and pitiable like those from the shtetl! And it's no wonder: It took me 37 years to unleash myself from constraints of the Israeli melting pot that dictated what's in and what's out in Israeli culture, and to have the audacity to think that writing about coquettish decadent Alexandria is as legitimate in Hebrew literature as debating Zionist questions." Putting aside any literary accomplishments, of which I surely cannot be an impartial judge, what made *Alexandrian Summer* special was its social achievement. Here was a book that did not engage with any of the prevailing themes—not out of refusal—but simply because the world I chose to write about, the world I grew up in, was elsewhere.

The book sold well, over 30,000 copies, and eventually went out of print and became a collector's favorite at secondhand bookstores. So I was at peace, I wrote other books, and pursued a career in the theater. But then came an essay written by a serious scholar, a professor from CUNY. In his pioneering book of literary research *After Jews and Arabs, Remaking Levantine Culture*, Ammiel Alkalay crowned *Alexandrian Summer* as "a narrative tour de force that presages a number of developments in Hebrew fiction." Alkalay hailed the unique use of time in the novel, and the alternating narrative points of view from the same individual, yet told years apart: a 10-year-old boy experiencing life, and the same person as an adult reminiscing and reflecting upon his childhood. But in 1978, neither I nor anybody else I was hanging around with knew anything about postmodernism.

**Source: Resurrecting An Extinct Novel: On Rereading 'Alexandrian Summer', Literary Hub, 12 May, 2015.**



Q.6) Which of the following statements are true about the author's perspective on the critical reception of "Alexandrian Summer"?

- (a) The author was initially involved in crafting the book jacket's promotional claim.
- (b) The author believed that the critics would harshly critique the self-appraisal on the book jacket.
- (c) The book failed to receive any critical attention upon its release.
- (d) Shulamith Gilboa was critical of the book's claim on its back cover.

Q.7) What is the central thesis of the above extract from the author's reflection on "Alexandrian Summer"?

- (a) The author intentionally crafted a novel to challenge the traditional themes dominant in Israeli literature.
- (b) The novel's success and uniqueness were primarily due to its innovative narrative techniques and literary style.
- (c) The novel stood out in Hebrew literature for its focus on Diaspora Jews from an Arab country, rather than traditional Israeli themes.
- (d) The critical acclaim of the novel was entirely due to its promotional strategies and not its content.

Q.8) In the light of the above passage, what role does the Israeli melting pot play in the context of the author's literary career?

- (a) It provided a rigid framework that the author eventually rejected in order to innovate within Hebrew literature.
- (b) It served as an inspirational source that consistently guided the author's thematic choices in his novels.
- (c) It acted as a promotional tool to enhance the commercial success of the author's books.
- (d) It functioned as a critical benchmark against which the author's later works were unfavorably compared.

Q.9) Which of the following, used in the passage, suggests that the author's initial uncertainty about the innovative quality of his novel was resolved through external validation?

- (a) The author's realization that writing about Diaspora Jews from an Arab country was a departure from typical Israeli themes.
- (b) The statement on the back cover by Am Oved declaring the novel an "achievement and innovation in Hebrew Literature."
- (c) The essay by Ammiel Alkalay identifying the novel as a narrative tour de force in Hebrew fiction.
- (d) The positive critical reception and the remark by Shulamith Gilboa that the back cover accurately reflected the content.

Q.10) "This would be the eighteen-year-old, if I'm not mistaken." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (a) Farkas is confirming the age of a person present during the conversation.
- (b) Ray is surprised by the advanced age of a guest at his gathering.
- (c) Farkas correctly identifies the age of the whisky by its scent.
- (d) The discussion pertains to the longevity of an item that Ray has kept for many years.

### PASSAGE 3

The last ice cube free-falls into the watery ice bucket. The ice machine rumbles angrily and then sighs, sputtering the last of anything it has, a spray of water coating the miniature glacier at the bottom of the bucket. I touch my wet fingertips to the corners of my dry eyes, blinking until the Aztec-patterned carpet comes into focus, my bare feet blending with the browns and greens, so that I'm convinced my toes are disappearing. I blink again and put one foot in front of the other.

Our limo driver, Happy something or other, rushes me when I push open the door. "Too stiff," he says, digging his tree-trunk fingers into the ice bucket, fishing for a chunk of ice. Behind Happy I see my new Jenny, her prom dress shucked in the corner in favor of her brother's army fatigue T-shirt and boxers, expertly holding a lit cigarette and a bottle of Budweiser in the same hand, waving from the balcony at someone as he passes underneath. The room's population seems to have doubled since my trip to the ice machine, other prom couples having found their way to the suite I rented for me and Jenny. I recognize the two foreign exchange students from Germany, Johann and Gustav, both with their hair dyed so blond they look albino; in the corner opposite the master race is Quentin, a second-year senior, and his date, Yesenia, who Jenny knows is secretly seeing either Johann or Gustav, I can't remember which. Jenny's friend Zach puts his arm around her on the balcony and they scream down at someone, Jenny losing her beer over the edge. The sound of the bottle crashing sends Jenny into hysterics.

Happy finds a piece of ice that will fit into his glass of vodka and tells me he'll be out in the car. He asks if I still need him, essentially asking if it would be better just to send the limo away, to stop the hemorrhage of cash, and I punch him in the face, my knuckles glancing off his flat nose, skimming his left cheek and ear. Happy drops the glass of vodka and, too stunned to say anything, runs out of the room holding his face.

Jenny pretends not to have seen, not wanting to acknowledge what I'm pretending to be capable of. She locks herself in the bathroom with Zach and the laughing continues, drowned out by the arrival of more prom couples, ones I don't recognize, who ask loudly where Jenny is. Someone turns on the television, which is sitting on the floor, as the credenza has been moved out onto the balcony for use as a makeshift bench from which to gawk at the other prom couples streaming into the hotel.

I'm just a kid. The echo in my ear since dinner, Jenny's justification for breaking up after prom, dulling the shine on the evening I'd spent weeks laying out. All gone with those four words. Where normally those words would've seemed a skip in a record to



me, the turntable having been bumped many times before—sometimes my fault, sometimes not—I recognized right there under the white canopy of Octavio's that with the end of the evening, it would be over between us. My ego had conspired with Jenny to set me up for just such a fall: Jenny calling me her old man, whispering her thankfulness at being with someone who was "experienced," praising the maturity of our relationship, expressing her gratefulness at not having to stand around a keg in the desert, groped by novice hands, romanced by the indolent.

**Source: WORLD GONE WATER, Literary Hub, 15 May, 2015.**

Q.11) What is the main theme discussed in the passage?

- (a) The logistical complexities of organizing a prom night event
- (b) The tumultuous emotions and events during a high school prom night
- (c) The commercialization of adolescent social events
- (d) The impact of technological advancements on youth culture

Q.12) "I'm just a kid." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (a) This statement reflects the narrator's realization of his immaturity and lack of readiness for adult responsibilities.
- (b) This sentence indicates that the narrator is legally defending his actions earlier in the evening.
- (c) The narrator uses this expression to highlight his prowess in handling difficult situations despite his age.
- (d) It is a sarcastic remark intended to criticize the superficial nature of prom events.

Q.13) Which of the following statements are true about the narrator's relationship with Jenny according to the passage?

- (a) Jenny openly criticizes the narrator for his immature behavior throughout the evening.
- (b) The narrator feels betrayed by Jenny's lack of support after his confrontation with Happy.
- (c) Jenny appreciates the narrator's maturity and expresses gratitude for his experienced approach to their relationship.
- (d) Jenny and the narrator have a stable and supportive relationship that strengthens over the course of the evening.

Q.14) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (a) Autobiographical essay
- (b) Reflective narrative
- (c) Instructional guide
- (d) Scientific report

Q.15) "I touch my wet fingertips to the corners of my dry eyes, blinking until the Aztec-patterned carpet comes into focus." Which of the following is the most convincing conclusion from this statement?

- (a) The narrator is experiencing emotional distress, leading to physical symptoms of crying.
- (b) The narrator is attempting to adjust his vision to better appreciate the room's decor.
- (c) The narrator is suffering from a visual impairment that requires frequent adjustment of focus.
- (d) The action of touching his eyes is a ritual to prepare for the challenges of the evening.

#### **PASSAGE 4**

A man.

Standing, watching: the beach, the sea. The sea is calm, flat; season indefinite, moment lingering.

The man stands on a boardwalk over the sand.

He wears dark clothes. His face distinct.

His eyes clear.

He does not move. He watches.

The sea, the beach, a few tidal pools, flat surfaces of water.

Between the man who watches and the sea, far off, all the way at the water's edge, someone walking. Another man. Wearing dark clothes. From here his face is indistinct. He walks, going, coming, he goes, comes again, his path is rather long, never changing.

Somewhere on the beach, to the right of the one who watches, a movement of light: a pool empties, a spring, a stream, many-mouthed streams, feeding the abyss of salt. To the left, a woman with closed eyes. Sitting.

The man who walks looks nowhere, looks at nothing, nothing but the sand in front of him. His pace is steady, unceasing, distant.

The triangle is completed by the woman with closed eyes. She is sitting against the wall that separates the beach from the town.

The man who watches is between this woman and the man who walks along the edge of the sea.

Because of the man who walks, constantly, with his slow, even stride, the triangle stretches long, reforms, but never breaks.

This man has the even steps of a prisoner.

Day dwindling.

The sea, the sky, fill the space. Far off, the sea, like the sky, already oxidized by the shadowy light.

Three, three in the shadowy light, a slow-shifting web.

The man is still walking, coming, going, before the sea, the sky, but the man who was watching has moved.

The even sliding of the triangle ceases.

He moves.



He begins to walk.

Someone walks, nearby.

The man who was watching passes between the woman with closed eyes and the other, far away, the one who goes, who comes, a prisoner. You hear the hammering of his steps on the boardwalk. His steps are uneven, hesitant.

The triangle comes undone, reforms. It comes apart. The man passes. You see him, you hear him.

You hear: his pace slacken. The man must be looking at the woman with closed eyes sitting before him.

Yes. The steps stop. He looks at her.

Only the man who walks along the sea continues his movement, his unending prisoner's pace.

The woman is watched.

She sits with her legs stretched out. She is in the shade, huddled against the wall. Eyes closed.

Unaware of being seen. Not knowing she is being watched.

Facing the sea. Blank expression. Hands half-buried in the sand, still, like her body. Strength sapped, shifted toward absence. Stopped short. Not knowing. Unaware.

The steps resume.

Uneven, hesitant, they resume.

They stop again.

Again resume.

The man who was watching has gone by. His steps fade. He can be seen, he walks toward a sea wall between the woman and the one who walks along the shore. Past this sea wall, another town, and farther still, distant, another town, blue, begins to blink with electric lights. Then other towns, more, more of the same.

He comes to the sea wall. He does not pass it.

He stops. Sits.

He sits on the sand, facing the sea. He ceases to see any of it, the beach, the sea, the man who walks, the woman with closed eyes.

For one moment, no one watches, no one is seen: neither the mad prisoner who is still walking along the shore, nor the woman with closed eyes, nor the seated man.

For a moment, no one listens, no one hears.

And then there is a cry: the man who was watching closes his eyes, seized by a feeling that lifts him, lifts him up, lifts his face up to the sky, his face contorts, and he cries out.

**Source: L'AMOUR, Literary Hub, 18 May, 2015.**

Q.16) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (a) Instructional guide
- (b) Psychological thriller
- (c) Reflective essay
- (d) Philosophical allegory

Q.17) "The even sliding of the triangle ceases. He moves. He begins to walk." Which of the following is the most convincing conclusion from this statement?

- (a) The motion of the characters is synchronized to create a continuous flow within the narrative.
- (b) The disruption of the triangle's movement signifies a change in the narrative's direction.
- (c) The characters' actions are metaphorical representations of life's unpredictable nature.
- (d) The character's movement is incidental and does not influence the overall plot.

Q.18) In contemporary literature, how is the relationship between character and setting described in the passage?

- (a) The setting is a vivid backdrop that actively influences the characters' emotional states and actions.
- (b) The characters are completely detached from their environment, highlighting a focus on internal conflict.
- (c) The setting is incidental and does not significantly affect the narrative or the characters' interactions.
- (d) The environment is a static, unchanging space that serves only as a simple stage for character dialogue.

Q.19) Which of the following words best describes the setting in the passage?

- (a) Claustrophobic
- (b) Idyllic
- (c) Melancholic
- (d) Turbulent

Q.20) "The man who was watching has gone by. His steps fade." Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- (a) The observer's presence diminishes as he moves away, leaving the scene quieter and more isolated.
- (b) The observer's actions are becoming increasingly significant and influential to the unfolding events.
- (c) The observer has decided to permanently leave the setting, never to return.
- (d) The observer's movement is creating a loud disturbance, drawing attention to his departure.



**PASSAGE 5**

It wouldn't be polite to ask Dr. Berman if she was listening. He was sitting opposite her in the patient's chair but he was not a patient. He was a young analyst and he had his own analyst, the newly appointed head of the education committee at his institute, Dr. H., whom he had just seen several hours before. Dr. Berman was the young analyst's supervisor. She was supposed to listen to his reports of an analytic patient he was working with and to offer advice and comment on his technique, to deepen his thoughts, to help him, help the patient. It was a good system. The older analyst could see around the corners that the younger analyst could not. Also the older analyst could provide protection and support for the younger in the institute and so create opportunities for him to become a training analyst himself, the head of various faculty committees, to join the international organization, to hold prominent positions in the American Psychoanalytic Association. Ultimately, if he did creative work he himself could be the one who gave opening speeches at meetings, who was respected or feared by his colleagues. Dr. Berman could be, if all went well, his psychoanalytic mother. Or she could not. He knew he had a few long years of work ahead of him before he would be certified to work on his own.

Analysis is not a romance novel. She lived happily ever after with the love of her life in his castle by the sea and developed a vaccine that prevented river blindness was a result to be devoutly pursued but most improbable. The end was more modest, more attainable than that. The end of the analysis would approach when the patient could manage to travel through the debris of his or her past and nod in its direction as it attempted to interrupt the pursuit, the daily boring pursuit of happiness that is all of our right to seek. The young analyst knew that but like a person learning a new language he had to repeat it to himself several times a day.

The young analyst understood that the rest of the world did not think so well of analysts. His own brother who was a physics professor at a university in Minnesota was convinced, and repeated his conviction at every family occasion, that the entire Freudian idea and all its offshoots and its incessant babble was without scientific basis and as dated as their grandfather's pocket watch. The young analyst was not swayed. This is what he wanted to do. This is what interested him. It might be alchemy. The gold it produced might be mere copper, but it had caught him and held him tight. His brother teased him. You could have gone to India and walked about bald, barefoot in an orange robe with a begging cup. At least you would have been earning an honest living. The young analyst went right on. If he was in a cult, so be it. If his work became totally irrelevant because pharmacology replaced him with a cheap cure that came in a bottle, it would have been worth it, worth it for him and he believed, despite his brother, for his patients.

**Source: BALLAD OF THE BLACK AND BLUE MIND, Literary Hub, 20 May, 2015.**

Q.21) What is the main theme discussed in the passage?

- (a) The transformative power of scientific discovery
- (b) The critique of traditional psychoanalytic practices
- (c) The perseverance required to pursue a controversial career
- (d) The familial pressures on professional choices

Q.22) "If he was in a cult, so be it." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (a) The young analyst accepts the marginalization of his profession as inevitable and is resigned to its consequences.
- (b) The young analyst is prepared to defend psychoanalysis as a legitimate scientific practice despite popular beliefs.
- (c) The young analyst believes that his profession should adopt more mainstream scientific methods to gain acceptance.
- (d) The young analyst is seeking to reform psychoanalysis from within to align with his brother's scientific standards.

Q.23) Which of the following, used in the passage, suggests that the young analyst's brother views psychoanalysis as outdated and unscientific?

- (a) The young analyst's brother is a physics professor who repeats his conviction at family occasions.
- (b) The comparison of Freudian ideas to their grandfather's pocket watch.
- (c) The young analyst's unswayed determination to continue his profession.
- (d) The description of the young analyst potentially being replaced by pharmacological advances.

Q.24) What does the term "psychoanalytic mother" refer to in the context of the passage?

- (a) A senior analyst who provides nurturing guidance and protection to a younger analyst.
- (b) A theoretical concept in psychoanalysis describing the foundational relationship dynamics.
- (c) The administrative head of a psychoanalytic education committee.
- (d) A term of endearment used by young analysts for their supervisors.

Q.25) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (a) Autobiographical memoir
- (b) Psychological case study
- (c) Fictional narrative
- (d) Academic thesis



**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND CA****PASSAGE 6**

India is embarking on establishing its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30. This initiative aims to allow the operator the liberty to trade all stored oil, aligning with models seen in countries such as Japan and South Korea. India's current SPR strategy involves partial commercialization, with plans to expand this approach with new SPR projects. India plans to construct two new SPRs, including an 18.3 million barrels facility in Padur, Karnataka, and a 29.3 million barrels SPR in Odisha. These projects will involve private partners who will have the freedom to trade all stored oil locally. The government will retain the first right to the oil in case of supply shortages. The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) has initiated a tender process to assess interest from local and global companies for the Padur SPR project. The goal is to award the tender for design, construction, financing, operation, and transfer by September. The completion timeline is projected at 60 months from the initiation of the project.

India, being the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, seeks to bolster its SPR capacity to mitigate risks associated with global supply disruptions and price fluctuations. Additionally, expanding storage capacity aligns with India's ambition to join the International Energy Agency (IEA), which mandates member countries to maintain a minimum of 90 days of oil consumption.

**Source: India aims for 1st strategic petroleum reserve with pvt company by 2029-30, Business Standard, 5 April, 2024.**

Q.26) What is crude oil primarily composed of?

- (a) Biomass
- (b) Hydrocarbons
- (c) Metal ores
- (d) Silicon compounds

Q.27) What process is used to separate crude oil into different components based on boiling points?

- (a) Catalytic reforming
- (b) Fractional distillation
- (c) Hydrocracking
- (d) Alkylation

Q.28) Which country was the largest producer of petroleum in the world?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Russia
- (c) United States
- (d) China

Q.29) What term is used to describe unrefined petroleum extracted directly from the ground?

- (a) Natural gas
- (b) Bitumen
- (c) Crude oil
- (d) Ethanol

Q.30) In what year was the International Energy Agency (IEA) established?

- (a) 1960
- (b) 1974
- (c) 1982
- (d) 1991

Q.31) How many countries were founding members of the International Energy Agency?

- (a) 17
- (b) 20
- (c) 24
- (d) 28

### PASSAGE 7

At a virtual meeting held on Monday conducted by the Chairman of the Commission Mohd. Suleiman (Qatar) and attended by president of Asian Athletics Association Dahalan Jaman B. Al-Hamad (Qatar), Asian Athletics Association Competition Director C. K. Valson (India) and Secretary General of Asian Athletics Association A. Shuggumarran (Singapore), the calendar of events were discussed among other things. The period of appointment is for four years (2024-2028). "It is great honour to be nominated. I am so happy," said Shiny, the 58-year-old.

Shiny won a silver medal in women's 400m at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, finishing behind P.T. Usha. Both, along with M. D. Valsamma and Vandana Rao won the women's 4x400m relay gold. In the 1994 edition, Usha, Shiny, G. V. Dhanalakshmi and Kutty Saramma clinched the women's 4x400m relay silver in Hiroshima. Shiny also grabbed a bronze in the women's 800m event. Shiny also represented India at the following Olympic Games - 1984 Los Angeles, 1988 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona and 1996 Atlanta. At the 1992 edition, she became the first Indian women to be the flagbearer for the Indian contingent. Shiny received the Arjuna Award in 1985 and Padma Shri in 1998.

**Source: Asian Athletic Commission nominates Shiny Wilson as member, Sportstar, 2 April, 2024.**



Q.32) The Padma Shri award is given for distinguished service in which of the following fields?

- (a) Only science and engineering
- (b) Only arts and culture
- (c) All fields of activities including arts, public affairs, science, sports, medicine, and more
- (d) Only sports and public affairs

Q.33) In which year was the Padma Shri award instituted by the Government of India?

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1954
- (c) 1969
- (d) 1972

Q.34) What is the emblem depicted on the Padma Shri medal?

- (a) A lotus flower
- (b) The national emblem of India
- (c) A peacock
- (d) The map of India

Q.35) When was the Asian Athletics Association (AAA) established?

- (a) 1973
- (b) 1962
- (c) 1980
- (d) 1958

Q.36) Which city hosted the first Asian Athletics Championships under the governance of the Asian Athletics Association?

- (a) Philippines
- (b) Japan
- (c) India
- (d) Indonesia

Q.37) What is the standard length of a running track in athletics?

- (a) 200 meters
- (b) 300 meters
- (c) 400 meters
- (d) 500 meters

**PASSAGE 8**

Mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices continue to cause death and injury, especially in situations of armed conflict. On average, one person is killed or injured by such an explosive device every hour. Many children are among the victims. The use of improvised explosive devices has expanded, terrorizing civilians and threatening humanitarian actors and United Nations personnel. Survivors of explosive hazards with disabilities and others with disabilities living through conflict are the focus of the 2024 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on [1]. The United Nations has called for greater responsiveness to the needs and rights of people with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding settings. This year is the fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2475, which calls upon Member States, and specifically Security Council members, to consider and protect persons with disabilities, to ensure they have access to assistance, and to include them in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Giles Duley, the United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations, will share stories of the people he has spent time with over the last decade, in his legacy of war documentation, through stories, photos, and films. On [1], Mr. Duley will open the photo/audio exhibition "Witnessing a Way Forward" in a public "fireside chat" with Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, at UN Headquarters in New York.

Over the next week, we will bring you stories from Rwanda, Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

"Leave no one behind" is the goal of the 2030 Agenda. And, as disability rights activists have stated for decades: "Nothing about us, without us".

**Source: International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance in Mine Action, United Nations, 4 April, 2024.**

Q.38) When is International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action observed, as observed by [1] in the passage?

- (a) 2nd April
- (b) 4th April
- (c) 6th April
- (d) 8th April

Q.39) What is the main environmental concern associated with open-pit mining?

- (a) air pollution
- (b) water table depletion
- (c) noise pollution
- (d) light pollution

Q.40) Which country is the largest producer of diamonds?

- (a) South Africa
- (b) Russia



- (c) Canada
- (d) Australia

Q.41) Which metal is primarily extracted from the mineral bauxite?

- (a) Aluminum
- (b) Copper
- (c) Iron
- (d) Silver

Q.42) What is the term used to describe the process of restoring land that has been mined to a more natural or economically usable state?

- (a) Land rehabilitation
- (b) Land reclamation
- (c) Land restoration
- (d) Land revitalization

Q.43) Which mineral is commonly known as "fool's gold" due to its misleading gold-like appearance?

- (a) Pyrite
- (b) Chalcopyrite
- (c) Galena
- (d) Quartz

### **PASSAGE 9**

Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist Mirabai Chanu all but qualified for the 2024 Paris Games after she finished third in the women's 49kg Group B event of the IWF World Cup here on Monday.

Returning from a six-month injury lay off, Chanu lifted a total of 184kg (81kg+103kg) at the tournament, which is the final and a mandatory qualifier for the Paris Olympics. With the completion of her event, Chanu has fulfilled the criteria for the Paris Olympics, which is participating in two compulsory events and three other qualifiers.

The 2017 world champion is currently ranked second in the women's 49kg Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) behind China's Jian HuiHua.

The official announcement for the qualification will come after the conclusion of the World Cup when the OQR will be updated. The top 10 lifters from each weight class will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Chanu, who last competed at the Asian Games in September where she suffered a hip tendonitis injury, was not at her best, but was able to make five clean lifts.

Her lifts in the snatch and clean and jerk sections were nowhere close to her personal best efforts.

The 29-year-old has a personal best of 88kg in snatch while she had lifted the then world record of 119kg in clean and jerk at the Asian Championships in 2021.

**Source: 49-kg category: Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu qualifies for Paris Olympic 2024, Business Standard, 2 April, 2024.**

Q.44) Which city hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896?

- (a) Paris, France
- (b) Athens, Greece
- (c) London, England
- (d) Rome, Italy

Q.45) What do the five rings on the Olympic flag represent?

- (a) The five continents of the world
- (b) The five founding countries of the Olympics
- (c) The five ancient Greek gods
- (d) The five disciplines of ancient Olympic Games

Q.46) Who is the most decorated Olympic swimmer of all time?

- (a) Mark Spitz
- (b) Katie Ledecky
- (c) Michael Phelps
- (d) Ian Thorpe

Q.47) Which country won the most medals in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

- (a) China
- (b) USA
- (c) Japan
- (d) Russia

Q.48) Which international body governs the sport of Olympic weightlifting?

- (a) International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- (b) International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
- (c) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
- (d) United Nations Sports Commission (UNSC)

Q.49) In what year did women's weightlifting become an official Olympic sport?

- (a) 1988



- (b) 1992
- (c) 2000
- (d) 2004

**PASSAGE 10**

The [1] National Maritime Day Celebrations were organised by DG Shipping on 05 April 2024 at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, COS, WNC was the Chief Guest at the ceremony.

The Admiral was received by a Guard of Honour by the cadets of the Maritime Training Institute and the Shipping Corporation of India SCI. He presented the prestigious Sagar Samman Varuna and Excellence Awards and Certificates of Recognition to Outstanding Maritime Training Institutes at the event.

In his Address to the audience, the Chief Guest highlighted the symbiotic and collaborative relationship between the Indian Navy and the Merchant Marine in ensuring maritime security and progressing our national and maritime interests. He complimented the Directorate General of Shipping for being at the forefront of India's maritime resurgence and thanked all members of the diverse and vibrant seafaring community for their Service to the nation.

**Source: 61st National Maritime Day celebrated with full Valour, PIB, 6 April, 2024.**

Q.50) This Year saw the \_\_\_\_\_ National Maritime Day Celebrations, as indicated by [1] in the passage.

- (a) 59th
- (b) 61st
- (c) 63rd
- (d) 65th

Q.51) Which of the following is the parent organisation of International Maritime Organisation

- (a) United Nations Security Council
- (b) United Nations General Assembly
- (c) United Nations Economic and Social Council
- (d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.52) When was International Maritime Organisation founded?

- (a) 1948
- (b) 1952
- (c) 1958
- (d) 1964

Q.53) Who is the secretary general of International Maritime Organisation?

- (a) Kitack Lim
- (b) Arsenio Dominguez
- (c) Efthimios Mitropoulos
- (d) Koji Sekimizu

Q.54) Which of the following is the busiest container port in the world?

- (a) Port of Singapore
- (b) Port of Shanghai
- (c) Port of Rotterdam
- (d) Port of Los Angeles

Q.55) Which of the following maritime routes connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean?

- (a) Suez Canal
- (b) Panama Canal
- (c) Strait of Gibraltar
- (d) English Channel

### LEGAL REASONING

#### PASSAGE - 11

The Supreme Court on Friday put the stamp of its unequivocal approval on electronic voting machines (EVMs). Forty years ago, when a voting machine was first used at the Parur Assembly constituency in Kerala, the court had set aside the election and ordered a repoll in 50 of the 85 polling stations. In August 1980, the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL) presented political parties with a prototype voting machine. In 1982, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that the machine would be used as a pilot project in 50 out of 84 polling stations in the Parur constituency during that year's Assembly elections in Kerala. The central government had not sanctioned the use of the machines, but the ECI used its constitutional powers under Article 324, which gives it the power of "superintendence, direction, and control" over elections. In the result declared on May 20, 1982, Sivan Pillai (CPI) beat Ambat Chacko Jose (Cong) by 123 votes. Pillai got 30,450 votes, 19,182 of which were cast using voting machines. Jose challenged the result in the trial court, which upheld the validity of voting via machines, and the result of the election. Jose appealed to the Supreme Court, where a Bench comprising Justices Murtaza Fazal Ali, Appajee Varadarajan, and Ranganath Misra heard the case. The ECI argued that its powers under Article 324 would supersede any Act of Parliament, and if there was conflict between the law and the ECI's powers, the law would yield to the Commission.

In response, Justice Fazal Ali would write, "This is a very attractive argument but on a closer scrutiny and deeper deliberation...it is not possible to read into Art. 324 such



a wide and uncanalised power". The Bench unanimously held that introducing voting machines was a legislative power that only Parliament and state legislatures could exercise (Articles 326 and 327), not the ECI. The ECI also relied on Section 59 of The Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Rule 49 of The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. Section 59 says "votes shall be given by ballot in such manner as may be prescribed", and Rule states the ECI can publish a notification to "direct that the method of voting by ballot shall be followed...at such polling stations as may be specified in the notification". However, the court held that the "manner as may be prescribed" was by using ballot paper, not voting machines. The court also held that the word 'ballot' in its "strict sense" would not include voting through voting machines, and noted that the Centre as a rule-making authority "was not prepared to switch over to the system of voting by machines". The court observed that "if the mechanical process is adopted, full and proper training will have to be given to the voters which will take quite some time".

A bye-election was held on May 22, 1984, which Jose won. But the idea of voting machines would not be abandoned. In 1988, the election law was amended to insert Section 61A, which allowed the ECI to specify the constituencies where votes would be cast and recorded by voting machines. A decade later, EVMs were used at 16 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi. This was expanded to 46 Lok Sabha seats in 1999 and, in 2001, state elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, and West Bengal were entirely conducted using EVMs. By the 2004 Lok Sabha election, EVMs had completely replaced ballot papers at all 543 seats.

**Source: A long way from 1984: when SC junked ECI's first EVM experiment**

Q.56) Mohit, a politician from Rajasthan, is planning to contest in the upcoming Assembly elections. His political adversary, Kunal, expresses concern that the Election Commission of India (ECI) plans to utilize a new electronic ballot system exclusively in the constituency where Mohit is contesting. The ECI proclaims that the system is being introduced as a progressive step under its constitutional powers, citing Article 324 for the "superintendence, direction, and control" of elections. Kunal seeks your advice, claiming this piece of technology is being implemented to influence the election outcome favoring Mohit and demands its disuse arguing that it's a legislative act and not under the purview of ECI's powers. Based on precedent, which option is Kunal's best legal argument to oppose the ECI's unilateral introduction of this electronic ballot system?

- (a) The introduction of electronic voting is a policy decision which lies exclusively within the ambit of the ECI's discretion, and hence Kunal has no grounds to challenge its implementation in court.
- (b) The electronic ballot system's introduction is a legislative action, over which ECI cannot exercise control via Article 324, as only Parliament or state legislatures can authorize such a system.
- (c) The electronic ballot system has already received widespread acceptance across various constituencies, and any objection by Kunal at this stage would be considered a political ploy with no legal merit.
- (d) Since Kunal can challenge the specific use of this system in his constituency under the Conduct of Elections Rules, there is no need to invoke arguments related to Article 324 or legislative powers.

Q.57) Ananya is a historian documenting the evolution of election technology in India. During her research, she discovers that in a 1982 election in Kerala, a prototype voting machine was used based on ECIL's design, without the central government's sanction but under ECI's Constitutional powers. Ananya is curious if this would have been permissible if an amendment, like the one that inserted Section 61A into the election law in 1988, had existed back then. Based on the legal principles laid down by the Supreme Court, what would be the answer to her curiosity?

- (a) The usage of the voting machine in 1982 Kerala elections would have been valid as, with appropriate legal amendment, ECI's decision under Article 324 would've taken precedence over any lack of central government sanction.
- (b) Despite the amendment in election laws, the ECI would still not have the power to override the necessity of central government sanctions when introducing a new voting system.
- (c) The ECI's powers under Article 324 would've sufficed even without central government's sanction if the related amendment had been in place during the 1982 elections.
- (d) Since the amendment specifically allows usage of electronic voting machines, it could have circumvented the requirement for a direct sanction from the central government back in 1982.

Q.58) Deepak is an aspiring political scientist analyzing the operational decision-making powers of election authorities in India. He studies the case where in 1982, Ambat Chacko Jose challenged the election result in the Supreme Court on grounds that the ECI overstepped its boundaries under Article 324 by using voting machines unauthorized by the Centre. Deepak is intrigued by how the Supreme Court interpreted the ECI's reliance on the Representation of the People Act, 1951, particularly Section 59 and Rule 49 of The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. What critical legal consideration would Deepak find in the Supreme Court's interpretation that could inform his analysis of operational decision-making powers?

- (a) The ECI's interpretation of Section 59 and Rule 49 was upheld by the Supreme Court as it ruled these provisions give the Commission the authority to prescribe the manner of voting, including the use of voting machines.
- (b) The Supreme Court found the term 'ballot' in Section 59 in the "strict sense" does not include voting machines, thus limiting ECI's authority to introduce electronic voting without legislative amendment.
- (c) The Supreme Court acknowledged that Rule 49 grants the ECI broad discretion to prescribe any method of voting, thereby affirming ECI's position that it had the authority to introduce voting machines.
- (d) The Supreme Court decision was in favor of the ECI's interpretation that Article 324 allowed it to supersede any Act of Parliament when introducing new technology like voting machines.



Q.59) Priya Sharma, an independent legal consultant, is approached by a political party suspecting discrepancies in the recent Lok Sabha elections held within Tamil Nadu. The party claims that the ECI's decision to use an advanced cryptographic EVM model, which was not enshrined in the existing legislative amendments, has led to an unfair electoral advantage for their rivals. Given that the party also doubts the voters' ability to properly engage with the new machines due to lack of adequate training, they seek guidance on potential grounds for challenging the ECI's decision. What argument should Priya advise the party to assert in court based on the Supreme Court's past ruling?

- (a) The ECI's decision to deploy advanced cryptographic EVM models without incorporating these specific changes into the legislative framework undermines the authority of Parliament and hence can be challenged.
- (b) Since the ECI has constitutional powers under Article 324, the decision to deploy a new model of EVMs cannot be contested and must be accepted by all participating political parties.
- (c) Given that the ECI has conducted training sessions, the claim of electoral unfairness due to voter confusion over the new machines holds no legal substance and cannot be the basis for a challenge.
- (d) The legal argument should focus on the trade secrets and proprietary technology in the cryptographic EVMs, which may have been compromised and led to tampering or biased results.

Q.60) Varun, a young voter in the state of Kerala, is writing a thesis on election jurisprudence and is particularly interested in how conflicts between the powers of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and existing electoral laws have been resolved by the judiciary. He is examining a hypothetical scenario where the ECI, drawing on its supposed success with electronic voting, decides to introduce an AI-based system to predict voter turnout and patterns, disregarding the lack of legislative instrument to sanction such a move. Would the position taken by the Supreme Court in the past provide him with clear guidance for his analysis of this situation?

- (a) The Supreme Court would likely uphold the ECI's use of the AI-based system as an extension of its mandate to improve voting processes under Article 324.
- (b) Varun can argue that while the ECI might cite administrative efficiency, the Supreme Court would require clear legislative authorization for the adoption of such technology-based systems.
- (c) Expecting the Supreme Court to intervene in the predictive analytics utilized by the ECI is improbable, given the broad scope of discretion previously accorded under Article 324.
- (d) The Supreme Court's previous stance suggests that the bench would encourage the ECI's innovative methods as a means to pre-empt potential voting irregularities and uphold election integrity.

Q.61) Rakesh Verma, a political analyst, questions the exclusion of certain polling stations in his home district from utilizing the existing authorized EVMs, instead being



directed to use paper ballots for the upcoming legislative elections. The directive comes straight from the ECI, who claims this as a strategic move citing logistical challenges. Rakesh is considering a legal challenge, insisting that all polling stations within a single constituency should have uniformity in the method of voting to ensure equitable treatment of voters. What aspect of the Supreme Court's verdict on election protocols provides the most solid legal foundation for Rakesh's intended challenge?

- (a) The lack of uniformity breaches the fundamental rights of voters, as per the interpretation of Article 326, which guarantees equal voting power to all citizens.
- (b) Since Section 61A of the election law grants the ECI authority for specifying the use of EVMs, its strategic move to exclude certain stations would not stand legal scrutiny without adequate justification.
- (c) Rakesh should focus on the ECI's misinterpretation of Rule 49, which does not support discrimination between polling stations within the same constituency.
- (d) As the Supreme Court has adjudged, all methods of voting are to be prescribed by ballot unless amended by legislation, so the exclusion from using authorized EVMs is a deviation from this established law.

### **PASSAGE – 12**

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) argued that every voter should be able to verify that their vote has been counted properly after receiving confirmation that it has been cast. Currently, VVPAT slips are counted and matched with the EVM tally only in five randomly selected polling booths per constituency. Justice Khanna acknowledged the voter's right to know that their vote has been recorded and counted accurately, but said "the same cannot be equated with the right to 100% counting of VVPAT slips, or a right to physical access to the VVPAT slips". The voter's rights are protected in other ways, including the seven-second display of the VVPAT slip through the glass window, which enables her to know and verify the serial number, the candidate and the symbol for whom she has voted, the court said. After seven seconds, the slip gets cut from the roll and falls into the box/ compartment attached to the VVPAT. Justice Datta held that voters could approach the Presiding Officer in case there is a mismatch as per the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, which "suitably satisfies the voter's right...to know that his/ her vote has been counted as recorded". Relying on a report by the Citizens' Commission on Elections (chaired by the former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur), ADR argued there is a possibility of EVMs being tampered with or hacked. Justice Khanna said this was "unfounded" — the "microcontroller" used in the EVM has a one-time programmable memory that is unalterable once "burned". However, "to only further strengthen the integrity of the election process", he directed that the microcontroller should be checked for tampering upon the request of the second or third highest polling candidate in an Assembly constituency.

Such a request must come within seven days of the results being declared.

Justice Khanna also directed that the Symbol Loading Units (SLUs) that are used to load candidate names and symbols to the VVPAT unit should be sealed and kept in a strong room with the EVMs for 45 days after the results are declared. Also, they are to be opened, examined, and dealt with in the same manner as EVMs. ADR submitted that the Election Commission of India had acknowledged instances of variance in the

results captured by the EVM and VVPAT. It used the example of a polling station in the Mydukur Assembly seat in Andhra Pradesh during elections in 2019, where the EVM counted 14 more votes than what was recorded by the VVPAT — which the Returning Officer subsequently clarified was because a mock poll conducted earlier had not been cleared. Justice Khanna provided data on the performance of EVMs and held that aside from that one case in Mydukur, there was not a single case of mismatch or defect in the recording of votes in any EVM that was checked. The same was true in the 26 cases of voter complaints about mismatches, he said.

The petitioners said that since the voter can only see the VVPAT slip for seven seconds, there is scope for manipulation of results by maliciously programming the machine to not cut the slip — thus preventing it from being counted. Instead, they said, the slip should be given to the voter who would put it in the ballot box. Justice Khanna said that the tinted glass above the VVPAT slip is meant to maintain secrecy, and that the voter does have a clear view of the slip for seven seconds. The glass window prevents damage and attempts to deface the VVPAT slip, even as it allows the voter to see essential information about the vote she has cast. The court also held that giving voters physical access to the slips would lead to misuse, malpractices, and disputes.

**Source: Full cross-checking, mismatches, return to paper: five arguments SC rejected, The Indian Express, April 27, 2024.**

Q.62) Ankan is a prominent member of the independent "Fidelity in Voting Association" and has been ardently following the election process in his constituency. During the elections, Ankan noticed that, despite the VVPAT displaying his vote correctly, the Presiding Officer denied a physical count of the VVPAT slips beyond the random five per constituency, citing Supreme Court directives. Ankan argues this is a violation of his right to know his vote is accurately counted and files a petition questioning the legal authority behind such a restriction. Based on the passage provided, what can be concluded about the legal correctness of the Presiding Officer's denial for 100% counting of VVPAT slips?

- (a) The denial is legally correct, as the right to know one's vote has been accurately counted does not include the right to 100% VVPAT slip counting.
- (b) The denial is legally incorrect, as Justice Khanna declared that all voters have the right to 100% counting of VVPAT slips.
- (c) The denial is legally incorrect, as the Election Commission of India has stated that VVPAT slips must always be counted and matched.
- (d) The denial is legally correct, provided that Ankan's constituency did not have the highest number of poll contenders.

Q.63) In the state assembly election of Tamluk constituency, the second-highest polling candidate, Vimal, speculates tampering in EVMs and requests an inspection of the used microcontrollers. The request is declined as the election commission was not convinced about substance in the allegations. Vimal approaches the court within the seven-day period after the declaration of the results, seeking retribution based on the principles laid out in the passage. Which aspect of the law supports his demand for the microcontroller's inspection to ensure the integrity of the election process?



- (a) The request must be fulfilled if Vimal can prove that the microcontroller has been affected by a recent cybersecurity breach.
- (b) The request is legally supported as the court has asserted all microcontrollers shall be checked for tampering upon candidate's request within seven days of result declaration.
- (c) The request is to be declined unless there is a reported case of mismatch or defect in any EVM, as per historical election data.
- (d) The request should only be honored if Vimal can present concrete evidence of tampering, given that there were no other instances of EVM discrepancies in the constituency.

Q.64) Aditi, an observant voter from Saundarya Pradesh, experienced a discrepancy during voting — the VVPAT slip was not cut and dropped into the box after her vote. However, the slip was visible for seven seconds, as mandated. She immediately reported the issue, but the Presiding Officer assured her that the vote is recorded and counted accurately, referencing the Supreme Court's stance. Perplexed, Aditi decided to challenge this assurance, claiming it undermines her right to an accurately counted vote. Based on the legal principles stated in the passage, what can be concluded regarding Aditi's assertion against the Presiding Officer's assurance?

- (a) Aditi's assertion is correct, as Justice Khanna has stated all mismatches are to be verified by immediate physical counting.
- (b) Aditi's assertion is incorrect as the passage implies her rights are protected by the VVPAT's seven-second display, despite the slip not dropping into the box.
- (c) Aditi's assertion is incorrect because only the Returning Officer, not the Presiding Officer, has the obligation to address such mismatches.
- (d) Aditi's assertion is correct, since the passage clearly specifies that without the slip dropping into the box, the vote is not considered counted.

Q.65) Priyanka, a seasoned journalist with a keen interest in electoral processes, attends a press conference where the head of the Election Commission reveals that the Symbol Loading Units (SLUs), responsible for loading candidate details into the VVPAT, were found unsealed prior to the vote count in Lok Sabha constituency of Suryanagari. The incident gets Priyanka curious about the legal implications and the adherence to the existing Supreme Court guidelines regarding SLUs. She publishes an investigative article raising concerns over the potential breach of election integrity and the legal consequences of unsealed SLUs. Based on the passage, which statement best addresses the situation regarding the unsealed SLUs prior to the count?

- (a) The incident presents a legally significant concern as SLUs are required to be sealed and kept in a strong room with the EVMs according to the Supreme Court direction.
- (b) There's no legal issue with the unsealed SLUs as long as the microcontroller is checked for tampering upon the request by any candidate.



- (c) The unsealed SLUs are not subjected to any legal scrutiny, as their integrity is unrelated to the counting of VVPAT slips and EVMs.
- (d) If the Election Commission can provide a reasonable explanation for the unsealed SLUs, it doesn't constitute a legal problem or breach of protocol.

Q.66) During the legislative assembly elections in the bustling city of Prakashgarh, Rashmi, a voter advocate, learns of an incident where the Returning Officer clarified a discrepancy of vote counts between the EVM and VVPAT on account of an uncleared mock poll. Rashmi, suspecting a systematic issue, scrutinizes the data on EVM performance shared by Justice Khanna, which validates cases of voter complaints about mismatches but highlights the Mydukur incident as an exception. Armed with this information, Rashmi plans to challenge the overall reliability of the EVM-VVPAT system. Based on the passage, which argument could undermine her challenge regarding the EVM-VVPAT vote count reliability?

- (a) The incident of discrepancy in Mydukur was a one-off situation explained by the uncleared mock poll and does not signify a reliable pattern of errors in the EVM-VVPAT system.
- (b) Since voters have the right to 100% counting of VVPAT slips, any discrepancies reported in the system can simply be verified through physical counting.
- (c) The Returning Officer's clarification in Mydukur proves that all variances across the EVM and VVPAT counts can be justifiably accounted for.
- (d) The occurrence of a single incident does not breach the voter's right to know their vote is accurately counted, as long as the VVPAT slip is displayed for seven seconds.

Q.67) Deepak, a political analyst, is observing the legislative assembly elections in the coastal region of Neelkanthapuram. The election is a close contest, and the third highest polling candidate, Arjun, decides to question the integrity of the electronic voting process by demanding an inspection of the Symbol Loading Units (SLUs) for possible manipulation. Deepak recalls a precedent where the SLUs were required to be treated with the same protocols as the EVMs post-election. Arjun's request is rejected by the Election Commission, which argues that the demand lacks legal standing since there were no reports of actual malfunctions. Arjun is certain that the legal framework supports his request and decides to take legal action. Given the context of the passage, how can the legal basis of Arjun's request best be interpreted?

- (a) Arjun's request is legally unfounded, as the inspection of SLUs is not a provision granted by the Supreme Court directives unless there's explicit evidence of tampering.
- (b) Arjun's request should be legally upheld because SLUs and EVMs are to be treated similarly post-election, and the integrity of SLUs is crucial to the voting process.
- (c) The request has no legal basis as SLUs do not directly record votes, and the Supreme Court's direction pertains exclusively to the EVMs' microcontroller.
- (d) Arjun's request is legally premature, as inspection of SLUs can only occur if there's a reported discrepancy in the EVM vote count after the election results.

### PASSAGE - 13



In October 2017, The New York Times published an investigative story about Weinstein's alleged history of sexual harassment, abuse, and backdoor settlements, saying he paid off at least eight women who accused him of sexual misconduct. He was also said to have used his power in Hollywood to take advantage of young women. Following the allegations, the floodgates for similar accusations against powerful men opened up and saw women raise awareness about fighting back, in what came to be known as the MeToo movement. It also spread to other industries and other parts of the world. Three years later, a New York court found Weinstein guilty of sexually assaulting a former production assistant in 2006 and for the rape of an aspiring actress in 2013. Subsequently, he was convicted of a first-degree criminal sexual act and third-degree rape and sentenced to 23 years in prison. According to The NYT, the Court of Appeals said that Justice James M. Burke, who presided over the case, "erred" in letting prosecutors call witnesses who said Weinstein assaulted them. This was because their accusations were not included in the charges against him. Despite the large number of witnesses, not many could meet the minimum requirements for a criminal trial in the New York case. The NYT said this is for multiple reasons. First, several stories were about sexual harassment, which is a civil violation and not a criminal one. While criminal cases are brought by the state or government to punish offenders for violating criminal laws and may result in imprisonment, fines, probation, and counselling, civil cases are those where the victim sues the accused for compensation for the harm caused by assault. The latter does not result in criminal penalties like imprisonment.

Other witnesses' cases fell beyond the statute of limitations – the period within which legal cases need to be brought to court. The trial proceeded based on the testimonies of two victims, who accused Weinstein of sexual assault but also admitted to consensual sexual activity at other times, The NYT reported. It said experts deemed this as a messy and fragile basis for conviction. Another term central to the decision to overturn the 2020 conviction was the presence of the "Molineux witnesses" also known as "prior bad act" witnesses. Molineux witnesses refer to witnesses who are permitted to testify about criminal acts that the defendant hasn't been charged with committing. The NYT's analysis of the 2020 decision states that a majority of the women weren't named in the charges but still called on as witnesses. The term originated from the New York Court of Appeals decision in 'People v. Molineux' (1991) and allows prosecutors to give proof of a defendant's prior bad acts or crimes to "establish motive, opportunity, intent, common scheme or plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident." In her judgment, Justice Jenny Rivera relied on the 1991 ruling to say that under the state's justice system, the accused has a right to be held to account only for the crime charged. Allegations of prior bad acts may not be admitted against them for the sole purpose of establishing their propensity for criminality. Citing a 1974 ruling of the court in 'People v. Sandoval', the court said the prosecution cannot use "prior convictions or proof of the prior commission of specific, criminal, vicious, or immoral acts". She said that the 2020 verdict, which relied on the Molineux principle, went against the Supreme Court's 1886 ruling in 'Boyd vs. United States'. Here, a note was made of the court's solemn duty to diligently guard the accused's rights regardless of their reputation, the crime charged with, or the pressure to convict.

**Source: Harvey Weinstein's rape conviction overturned: What the court argued, its implications, The Indian Express, April 26, 2024.**



Q.68) Rajan, a well-known film producer in Bollywood, has been alleged to have sexually harassed multiple female colleagues over the past decade. Following a high-profile media expose, five women, led by Priya, filed civil suits against Rajan for sexual harassment. However, Simran, who worked as a script consultant for Rajan's firm six years ago, decided to press criminal charges against him for sexually assaulting her during a script review meeting at his private residence. Unfortunately, her case fell just outside the statute of limitations for sexual assault charges in India, which is three years for the offense in question. She has been called by the prosecution to testify in a different case, where Rajan is accused of raping a junior producer, Rekha, within the statute of limitations. The prosecution wants to use Simran's testimony to show Rajan's propensity for sexual misconduct. How should the court address the admissibility of Simran's testimony?

- (a) Simran's testimony should be allowed as it shows a pattern of Rajan's sexual misconduct and helps establish his motive.
- (b) Simran's testimony is admissible as long as it falls within the definition of sexual harassment and not sexual assault.
- (c) Simran's testimony should be disallowed as it pertains to accusations that are outside the statute of limitations and unrelated to Rekha's case.
- (d) The court should permit Simran's testimony on the grounds of it providing substantial evidence for Rajan's conviction in Rekha's case.

Q.69) Ankit, an Assistant Police Inspector, was at trial for the abuse of an informant, Geeta, who had provided valuable information leading to a drug bust. The prosecutor sought to bring attention to unrelated allegations from Ankit's past; specifically, an incident six years ago where he was reprimanded for accepting a bribe but not formally charged. The defense argued that this was an attempt to sully Ankit's character and was irrelevant to the current charge. Additionally, the defense claimed the inclusion of this testimony would violate Ankit's rights. How should the court handle this situation?

- (a) The court should allow the allegations from the past to be part of the trial to assess Ankit's moral character for truthfulness.
- (b) The court must disallow the inclusion of the six-year-old incident as it does not pertain to crimes of a similar nature nor was it a formal charge.
- (c) The allegations concerning the bribe should be included if they demonstrate Ankit's propensity for dishonest conduct which may be related to the current abuse charge.
- (d) Since the past incident did not lead to a formal charge, it should only be considered for the purpose of cross-examination for credibility but not as substantive evidence.

Q.70) Aditya, a school teacher, was on trial for the molestation of a student, Varun. The prosecution wanted to include testimony from other students who claimed that Aditya had engaged in inappropriate conduct with them as well, but these incidents did not escalate to molestation and were never formally reported. The defense objected, contending that the admission of such testimonies would compromise Aditya's right to a fair trial. The prosecution argued that it established a common



scheme and was essential to demonstrating Aditya's behavior towards his students. Should the court allow the other students' testimonies?

- (a) The students' testimonies must be allowed as they provide context and background to Aditya's inappropriate behavior pattern in his role as a teacher.
- (b) The court should exclude the unreported testimonies as they may prejudice the jury against Aditya based on uncharged and unproven conduct.
- (c) The testimonies should be considered only if they closely resemble the current charge of molestation to prove Aditya's common scheme or plan.
- (d) The testimonies are admissible if they can establish absence of mistake or accident in Aditya's interaction with Varun, substantiating the molestation charge.

Q.71) An influential politician, Girish, has been accused of corruption and misappropriation of funds during his tenure. During the trial, the prosecutor is eager to introduce evidence that Girish had been involved in a separate fraud case twenty years ago, for which he was never charged. The defense argues that this historic allegation has no bearing on the current charges and would only serve to smear Girish's reputation. The judge needs to consider whether this evidence regarding Girish's past conduct can be admitted in light of the legal principles concerning prior bad acts. What should the judge's ruling be on the admissibility of the evidence from the fraud case twenty years ago?

- (a) Admit the evidence as it is crucial to show Girish's consistent fraudulent behavior, thus establishing a pattern of corruption.
- (b) Exclude the evidence, given the significant time gap and the fact that it is unrelated to and charged separately from the current case of misappropriation.
- (c) Allow the evidence since past conduct can be indicative of present character, potentially demonstrating Girish's predisposition to commit fraud and corruption.
- (d) Consider the evidence to demonstrate Girish's familiarity with fraudulent schemes, suggesting he had the necessary knowledge to commit the current alleged corruption.

Q.72) An eminent surgeon, Dr. Alok, is facing charges for criminally negligent homicide after a patient, Rohan, died under his care due to complications from surgery. To bolster their case, the prosecution seeks to introduce complaints from Dr. Alok's former patients about postoperative issues that, while problematic, did not result in significant injury or death. The defense argues that these complaints are irrelevant as they do not relate directly to the charge of criminal negligence in Rohan's case. How should the court rule on the inclusion of the former patients' complaints?

- (a) Allow the complaints to show that Dr. Alok's surgical practices consistently posed a risk to patients, thereby contributing to the case for criminal negligence.
- (b) Exclude the complaints because they concern different circumstances and do not relate to the specific incident of negligent homicide currently in question.
- (c) Accept the complaints as they may help establish a pattern of incompetence that could be linked to the alleged criminal negligence involved in Rohan's death.

(d) Admit the complaints only if they can demonstrate a connection to the particular complication that resulted in Rohan's death and establish a direct link to Dr. Alok's negligence.

Q.73) Kavya, a journalist, was charged with defamation after she published an article implicating startup CEO Arjun in a scheme defrauding investors. The article was based on sources she deemed reliable. In court, Arjun's legal team wishes to introduce Kavya's prior articles where her information was later disproven, not to show her disposition to defame, but to question the reliability of her source verification process. Kavya's defense contends that her previous mistakes are irrelevant to the current charge and introducing them would prejudice the jury. How should the judge rule on the admissibility of Kavya's prior published errors?

- (a) The prior articles should be excluded, as their admission would essentially serve to characterize Kavya as habitually incorrect, which is not the immediate legal concern.
- (b) Admit the previous articles to question the credibility of Kavya's source verification process, which is central to the defamation charge.
- (c) The articles can be allowed if there is a direct connection between the sources used in the past and those used in the current case, implicating Arjun.
- (d) The court should consider the prior articles to demonstrate a lack of due diligence on Kavya's part, which pertains to the defamation case.

#### **PASSAGE - 14**

The Marathas are almost a third of the state's population. The demand for reservation for Marathas is old, and is a prominent issue in the Lok Sabha election. Two earlier laws giving quota to Marathas failed in court, and it is critical for the state government to ensure the 2024 legislation passes judicial scrutiny. On February 20 this year, the Assembly unanimously passed the Bill giving 10% quota to Marathas. A challenge was filed in the HC on March 1, four days after the law was notified. In 2018, the HC had upheld a similar law, even though it said at the time that the 16% quota proposed in the law was not "justifiable". The High Court's decision was challenged in the Supreme Court. In May 2021, a Constitution Bench struck down the 2018 Maharashtra SEBC Act. The government brought the Bill after a report by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission (MSBCC) led by Justice Sunil Shukre (retired) identified the Marathas as a socially and educationally backward community. The Justice Shukre Commission found an "alarming" increase — from 0.32% to 13.7% in the six years since 2018 — in the rate of girl child marriages among Marathas. The panel found that representation of Marathas in government services had declined from 14.63% in 2018, as found by previous MSBCC headed by Justice M G Gaikwad (retired), to just 9% in 2024, and that the community was "completely out of the mainstream". The Supreme Court had found the Gaikwad Commission's report — based on a survey of 43,629 families from two villages in each of the 355 talukas where Marathas are more than 50% of the population — insufficient to establish the "extraordinary circumstances" that could constitute grounds for reservation beyond the 50% ceiling set by the court in 'Indra Sawhney and Ors vs Union of India' (1992), better known as the Mandal case verdict. The Shukre Commission surveyed as many as 1,58,20,264 families across the



state on a "massive scale", and found that Marathas constituted 28% of the population of Maharashtra.

On January 26, three weeks before the Assembly passed the SEBC Bill, 2024, the state government issued a draft notification to enable certain eligible categories of Marathas to avail Kunbi certificates for reservation under the OBC category, leaving the remaining Marathas to be covered under the new (10%) quota. This was a formula devised in view of the protest fast by the Maratha activist Manoj Jarange-Patil. However, Jarange-Patil was not pacified, and the "backdoor" Kunbi route for Marathas to enter the OBC category was widely criticised. The petitioners who have challenged the SEBC Act, 2024, have argued that the law is unconstitutional as it breaches the 50% 'Indra Sawhney' ceiling, which is possible only if Parliament passes a Bill amending the Constitution. The petitioners have also challenged the appointment of Justice Shukre as MSBCC chairperson. On March 8, a division Bench of the HC comprising Justices G S Kulkarni and Firdosh P Pooniwalla passed an interim order directing that if any applications are received for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) (Undergraduate) 2024, or in case of any other advertisements taking benefit of the impugned Act, the same shall be subject to further orders to be passed in the ongoing proceedings in the SEBC Act case.

**Source: Maratha quota case update: hearing paused till June, here's what has happened so far, The Indian Express, April 26, 2024.**

Q.74) Pranav, a Maratha aspirant for NEET (Undergraduate) 2024, applied for the 10% Maratha quota shortly after the SEBC Act, 2024 came into effect. He was unaware of the challenge made to the Act or the interim order by Justices G S Kulkarni and Firdosh P Pooniwalla. His application was processed and he received a provisional seat allocation. However, a week later, Pranav was informed that his seat was on hold due to the ongoing judicial proceedings. Seeking advice on his legal standing, which of the following is most accurate?

- (a) Pranav's seat allocation remains secure since he applied and was allocated before the interim order.
- (b) Pranav may lose his provisional seat allocation since the interim order affects all applications for the SEBC quota, regardless of when they were received.
- (c) The interim order does not affect Pranav's seat since the High Court cannot overturn previously granted benefits under the SEBC quota.
- (d) Pranav's seat is secure because the challenge is against the appointment of Justice Shukre and not the quota itself.

Q.75) Manoj Jarange-Patil, a Maratha activist, decides to contest the Assembly's unanimous decision to pass the SEBC Bill by holding another protest fast, demanding the withdrawal of the "backdoor" Kunbi route and the full application of the 10% quota to all Marathas. As a fervent campaigner against what he perceives as dilution of Maratha rights, he seeks legal avenues to achieve his objective. Which legal strategy could be the most appropriate for Jarange-Patil to pursue in this context?



- (a) File a new lawsuit challenging the state government's draft notification regarding the Kunbi certificates on the grounds of discrimination against the greater Maratha community.
- (b) Petition for an amendment to the Constitution to cement the SEBC Act, 2024 and avoid clashes with the 'Indra Sawhney' ceiling.
- (c) Advocate for a complete repeal of the SEBC Act, 2024, on the basis that it does not sufficiently address the needs of the Maratha community.
- (d) Request the Supreme Court to review the recently passed SEBC Act, 2024, based solely on the underrepresentation of Marathas in government services.

Q.76) Three petitioners, Lakshmi, Harish, and Naveen, who belong to other communities, come together to challenge the constitutionality of the SEBC Act, 2024, on various grounds including breach of the 50% ceiling mandated by the 'Indra Sawhney' case. They also argue against the massive scale of data collection by the Shukre Commission as breaching privacy norms. Having filed their petition, they want to understand the possible outcomes of their challenge. What can be inferred from the passage about potential consequences if their contentions are upheld?

- (a) The SEBC Act, 2024, may be entirely struck down resulting in the withdrawal of the 10% Maratha quota.
- (b) The data collection by the Shukre Commission may be deemed unconstitutional, but the SEBC Act could still be upheld by the Court under different justifications.
- (c) The Maratha population might be entitled to reservation under the SEBC, but only if the scale of the data collection process is reduced.
- (d) The Supreme Court may mandate the inclusion of the petitioners' communities within the SEBC quota, thereby expanding the reservation beyond the Marathas.

Q.77) Raghav, a non-Maratha student belonging to the general category, had scored marginally below the cutoff for NEET (Undergraduate) 2024 but was hopeful due to the backlog of unfilled seats in previous years. Upon learning about the 10% Maratha quota and the interim hold on it due to legal challenges, he decides to approach the High Court, seeking directions to the authorities to provisionally offer such unfilled seats to general category students until a final decision on the SEBC Act, 2024, is reached. Which of the following arguments is Raghav most likely to give in favor of his petition?

- (a) The seats reserved for the Maratha quota should temporarily revert to the general category pending a final verdict, to avoid educational wastage.
- (b) The interim hold on the SEBC quota implies that Maratha students can apply through the general category, increasing competition for Raghav.
- (c) Raghav's merit should supersede the quota system since the judiciary has paused the quota's implementation.
- (d) Granting provisional admission to general category students would violate the impugned Act's intent to provide equitable educational opportunities.

Q.78) Advaita, a journalist covering the Maratha reservation issue, has published a series of investigative reports questioning the validity of the Shukre Commission's findings. Her reports suggest that there were procedural flaws and a lack of transparency in the data collection process. She receives a summons for a defamation suit filed by the Commission for her articles. In her defense, Advaita wants to rely on the importance of freedom of press and information transparency. Based on the passage, what is the legal standpoint most pertinent to Advaita's defense?

- (a) The press has a fundamental right to question governmental commissions, especially when the findings significantly impact social policies.
- (b) Freedom of press does not extend to statements causing harm to the reputation of judicial entities, like the Shukre Commission.
- (c) As the data collection is under scrutiny for breaching privacy norms, questioning its validity does not constitute defamation.
- (d) Advaita can retract her publications as a compromise, considering the potential consequences of questioning a commission's findings.

Q.79) As a reaction to the Maratha quota case developments, Priyanka, a social activist, launches an awareness campaign advocating for an increased representation of women in state services. Her campaign hinges on the alarming increase in girl child marriages among Marathas, as found by the Shukre Commission, which she argues is likely to have reduced women's participation in state services. However, an opponent of the campaign, Ajay, claims her campaign is illegal as it allegedly instigates gender discrimination by exclusively pushing for women's reservation in state services. Priyanka is concerned about the legal implications of Ajay's accusations. Which of the following assertions should Priyanka leverage to justify the legality of her campaign?

- (a) The campaign is legally sound as it aims to address a gender-based issue substantiated by the findings of the state-appointed Shukre Commission.
- (b) Ajay's claim is valid as advocating for gender-specific quotas can be perceived as discriminatory against men.
- (c) The campaign is likely illegal as it is based on the Shukre Commission's findings, which are subject to judicial scrutiny and currently not actionable.
- (d) Since the Shukre Commission did not directly recommend reservations for women, Priyanka's campaign is unfounded and potentially illegal.

### **PASSAGE – 15**

As wealth distribution dominates news headlines in India, the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday (April 24) began hearing an unrelated case about whether the government can acquire and redistribute privately owned properties if they are deemed as "material resources of the community" — as mentioned in Article 39(b) of the Constitution. Falling under Part IV of the Constitution titled "Directive Principles of State Policy" (DPSP), Article 39(b) places an obligation on the state to create policy towards securing "the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good". DPSP are meant to be guiding principles for the enactment of laws, but are not directly enforceable in any court of law. Since 1977, the apex court has weighed in on the interpretation of



Article 39(b) on multiple occasions — most notably, in *State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy* (1977). This case saw a seven-judge Bench, by a 4:3 majority, holding that privately owned resources did not fall within the ambit of “material resources of the community”. However, it was Justice Krishna Iyer’s minority opinion which would become influential in years to come. Justice Iyer had held that privately owned resources must also be considered material resources of the community. “Every thing of value or use in the material world is material resource and the individual being a member of the community his resources are part of those of the community. To exclude ownership of private resources from the coils of Article 39(b) is to cipherise (make hidden) its very purpose of redistribution the socialist way,” he said. This interpretation of Article 39(b) was later affirmed by a five-judge Bench in *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company v Bharat Coking Coal* (1983), where the court upheld central legislation that nationalised coal mines and their respective coke oven plants relying on what Justice Iyer had ruled. It held that the provision “takes within its stride the transformation of wealth from private-ownership into public ownership and is not confined to that which is already public-owned”.

This judgment did not mention that Justice Iyer’s opinion was in the minority. Nor did it mention that the majority specifically distanced themselves from it (“We must not be understood to agree with all that he [Justice Iyer] has said in his judgment in this regard,” Justice N L Untwalia’s majority opinion had held at the time). The concurring opinion of Justice Paripoornan in the nine-judge Bench case of *Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India* (1996) also relied on the interpretation of Article 39(b) offered by Justice Iyer and the Bench in *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing*. He held “the words ‘material resources’ occurring in Article 39 (b) will take in natural or physical resources and also movable or immovable property and it would include all private and public sources of meeting material needs, and not merely confined to public possessions.” The case currently before the SC arose out of a challenge to the 1986 amendment to the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976 (MHADA) by owners of ‘cessed’ properties in Mumbai. MHADA was enacted in 1976 to address a major problem in the city — old, dilapidated buildings housing (poor) tenants despite becoming increasingly unsafe. MHADA imposed a cess on the buildings’ occupants, which would be paid to the Mumbai Building Repair and Reconstruction Board (MBRRB) to oversee repair and restoration projects. In 1986, invoking Article 39(b), Section 1A was inserted to MHADA to execute plans for acquiring lands and buildings, in order to transfer them to “needy persons” and the “occupiers of such lands or buildings”.

**Source: Case before Supreme Court: Can Govt redistribute privately owned property, The Indian Express, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Q.80) Radhakrishnan owns a chain of workshops throughout Mumbai that specialize in restoring vintage automobiles. These workshops occupy several old warehouse buildings, which, though not considered unsafe, form part of the urban landscape the state government aims to modernize under a new urban development initiative. Referencing the principles outlined in Article 39(b), the Maharashtra government enacts legislation to acquire these warehouses, asserting that transforming them into affordable housing units would be in alignment with the “common good.” Radhakrishnan challenges the government’s action in court, invoking the precedent set in the case of *State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy* and argues that his

privately owned warehouses do not qualify as "material resources of the community." Which of the following responses best aligns with the prevailing interpretation of Article 39(b) as upheld in later cases?

- (a) Radhakrishnan's argument is upheld because private ownership is protected under Article 39(b) and cannot be acquired for redistribution.
- (b) The government's action is upheld, as Radhakrishnan's warehouses can be considered material resources of the community based on Justice Iyer's influential opinion.
- (c) Radhakrishnan's claim is valid because the warehouses are not unsafe, and the government's urban development initiative does not constitute the "common good."
- (d) The government's acquisition is invalid since the previous majority judgments have clearly stated that private resources should be excluded from Article 39(b).

Q.81) In a bid to revitalize Mumbai's housing sector, the government proposes a redevelopment plan for an area with a mix of "cessed" and non-cessed buildings. While the original MHADA focused primarily on "cessed" buildings requiring repairs, the new proposal also targets non-cessed buildings in good condition, asserting the area's redevelopment will maximize the common good by providing modern housing for a larger portion of the populace. Suresh, who owns several well-maintained non-cessed buildings, challenges the proposal, contending that the extension of MHADA's scope infringes on his property rights without satisfying the requirements of Article 39(b). How would the courts likely assess the government's redevelopment proposal?

- (a) The courts would rule against the proposal since non-cessed buildings are not originally intended to be part of MHADA's purview, making the expansion arbitrary.
- (b) The courts would uphold the proposal, recognizing that the government's broadened interpretation of "material resources" includes even well-maintained properties when serving the common good.
- (c) The courts would invalidate the proposal, considering that non-cessed buildings, by their good condition, do not align with the redistribution objective of Article 39(b).
- (d) The courts would dismiss the challenge as non-cessed buildings are subject to acquisition under the central legislation, regardless of their condition.

Q.82) An NGO dedicated to heritage conservation files a suit against the Maharashtra government for its planned acquisition of a historic Parsi fire temple, claiming it is a cultural resource rather than a "material resource of the community" as defined in Article 39(b). The NGO argues that the fire temple's religious and historical significance exempts it from acquisition and redistribution. The government, however, insists that the land on which the temple stands is needed for constructing a public facility that would benefit the community at large. Considering the intricacies of Article 39(b) and previous judgments, what is the likely outcome of the NGO's suit?

- (a) The NGO's suit is successful, as the courts have traditionally held that cultural landmarks are not included within the ambit of "material resources of the community."



- (b) The government's claim is dismissed because the fire temple, being a place of worship and heritage, is inherently excluded from the definition of "material resources" under Article 39(b).
- (c) The NGO's suit is dismissed, given that the courts may consider the temple's land as a material resource that could be re-purposed to serve the greater common good.
- (d) The government's acquisition is upheld, reflecting a broader interpretation of Article 39(b) that extends to all forms of private and public possessions, without exception for religious sites.

Q.83) Vishal, an entrepreneur in Mumbai, holds properties that were earmarked by the state for a public project aimed at creating environmental conservation zones. This move is part of a green initiative underpinned by the state's interpretation of Article 39(b) to include the preservation of natural resources as part of redistributing material resources for the common good. However, Vishal's properties are not merely vacant lands; they include operational facilities that contribute significantly to the local economy and employment. Vishal challenges the state's action, contending that his properties cannot be compulsorily acquired since they do not pose any environmental threat and that the acquisition does not satisfy the principle of serving the common good because it would result in significant job loss and economic downturn. Based on the precedents and interpretations of Article 39(b) discussed in the passage, how might the court view Vishal's challenge to the state's acquisition of his properties for environmental conservation?

- (a) The court will rule in favor of Vishal's challenge, as compulsory acquisition for environmental purposes is outside the scope of Article 39(b), which focuses on social and economic equity.
- (b) The court will uphold Vishal's contention, recognizing that the economic contribution of his properties overrides the state's power to acquire land for environmental conservation.
- (c) The court will dismiss Vishal's challenge, as the state's initiative can be considered an act to subservice the common good, falling under the expanded interpretation of "material resources."
- (d) The court will dismiss the challenge because the environmental conservation zones are public projects that inherently fulfill the directive of Article 39(b), regardless of individual economic impact.

Q.84) A developer, Amrita, plans to construct a large commercial complex in Mumbai, which would require the demolition of several low-income housing estates currently protected under the amended MHADA. Amrita argues that her project will generate substantial economic growth and employment opportunities, outweighing the loss of the low-income housing. The state government, however, is skeptical and believes that providing affordable housing aligns more closely with the principles of Article 39(b) and the common good. Consequently, the government refuses to grant Amrita the necessary permissions for her project, prompting her to take legal action. Considering the government's emphasis on housing for "needy persons" and the broad

interpretation of "material resources of the community," how would the court likely rule on Amrita's lawsuit?

- (a) The court will rule in Amrita's favor, emphasizing that economic growth and job creation take precedence over the housing protection offered by MHADA.
- (b) The court will side with the government, as the protection of low-income housing is more closely aligned with the constitutional objectives reflected in Article 39(b).
- (c) The court will rule in favor of Amrita, on the grounds that commercial development can be equated with subserving the common good and is thus permissible under Article 39(b).
- (d) The court will rule against the government, as Amrita's proposed project represents a form of private enterprise which should not be restricted by interpretations of Article 39(b).

Q.85) Rohan, an owner of a chain of supermarkets, has his flagship store located on a plot of land that the Maharashtra government seeks to acquire under the revised MHADA. The government plans to build a community center on the plot that will include a library, a health clinic, and a recreation area for the local community. Rohan challenges the acquisition, arguing that his supermarket serves an essential role in the community by providing employment and access to groceries, and that the government has not demonstrated how the community center would more effectively serve the "common good." Given the nuanced interpretation of Article 39(b) and considering the judiciary's approach to what constitutes "material resources of the community," how is the court likely to rule on the acquisition of Rohan's supermarket property?

- (a) The court will rule in Rohan's favor, determining that his supermarket provides immediate essential services which cannot be outweighed by the prospective benefits of a community center.
- (b) The court will uphold the acquisition, interpreting the construction of a community center as a direct enhancement of the common good in line with the objectives of Article 39(b).
- (c) The court will rule against the acquisition, holding that the economic impact and essential nature of the supermarket take precedence over the state's developmental objectives.
- (d) The court will invalidate the acquisition on the basis that the government has failed to prove that the supermarket's current use of the land is detrimental to the common good.



**CRITICAL REASONING****PASSAGE 16**

In a recent report, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research has predicted, on the basis of extensive global climate data collated over a long period of time, that by 2050 there will be a loss in average global incomes to the tune of 19%. This implies that global gross domestic product will fall by 17%. While the loss will be experienced by all nations in varying degrees, the countries that have historically contributed the least to carbon emissions and have the least resources to adapt to and mitigate weather-related changes are expected to suffer the most severe damage. Countries in South Asia, including India, and in Africa belong to this category. This loss is estimated on the basis of temperature increases alone. If the damages from extreme weather events are included, the predicted loss increases by 50%. The figure of predicted losses is six times more than what it would cost the world to reduce carbon emissions so as to keep the rise in temperatures to below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. In 2012, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had introduced climate risk management using the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation framework. Central to this framework's assessment is the intricate interplay of climatic, environmental, and human factors that contribute to impacts and disasters alongside strategies for managing associated risks and the pivotal role played by non-climatic factors in shaping these impacts.

India's economic development and growth are fraught with risks in the context of global warming. India is the seventh-most vulnerable country with respect to climate extremes as well as the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report lists the dangers of climate risks for the Indian subcontinent: intensification of extreme rainfall by more than 20% and an exponential surge in heatwaves and cyclonic storms. The consequences of these risks will have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable communities with low adaptive capacities. Not only will the physical and human costs be large, but investments in industries, such as housing and transport, will be adversely hit, leading to a secondary cause of economic loss. In this regard, India's performance is summed up by its alarming global ranking of 180 out of 180 nations on the Environmental Performance Index by the World Economic Forum in 2022.

**Source: Green alert, The Telegraph Online, 24 April, 2024.**

Q.86) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument regarding the economic losses predicted due to climate change?

- (a) A study shows that countries with higher historical carbon emissions have better resources to handle economic losses from climate change.
- (b) Recent reports indicate a stable global economic growth forecast, unaffected by climate change projections.
- (c) Technological advancements have significantly lowered the cost of renewable energy sources compared to fossil fuels.
- (d) An international agreement has been reached to increase funding for climate adaptation in the most vulnerable countries.

Q.87) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) Investments in industries not directly related to climate, such as technology and finance, will remain unaffected by global warming.
- (b) The predicted loss in global incomes by 2050 is a direct result of temperature increases alone, without considering extreme weather events.
- (c) Countries with low adaptive capacities will disproportionately suffer from the physical and economic impacts of climate change.
- (d) The environmental policies of all nations are sufficient to mitigate the effects of climate change by 2050.

Q.88) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage?

- (a) Reducing carbon emissions to keep temperature rises below 2° Celsius is economically unfeasible.
- (b) The economic loss due to global warming by 2050 could have been avoided with proactive climate policies.
- (c) Countries in South Asia and Africa are relatively well-prepared to handle climate-induced economic challenges.
- (d) The cost to reduce carbon emissions is significantly less than the predicted economic losses due to temperature rises.

Q.89) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities?

- (a) International reports confirm that nations historically responsible for lower emissions have developed robust climate adaptation strategies.
- (b) Statistical analyses reveal that the economic impact of climate change is evenly distributed among all nations, regardless of their historical emissions.
- (c) Data from recent years show a decline in extreme weather events globally.
- (d) Studies indicate that investments in climate-resilient infrastructure have mitigated the economic impacts in several low-income, high-risk countries.

Q.90) How does the author suggest that India's economic development is affected by global warming?

- (a) India's economic development is enhanced due to its third-largest emitter status, providing leverage in international climate negotiations.
- (b) The intensification of extreme weather events in India leads to increased investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- (c) Global warming poses significant risks to India's economic growth, especially in sectors like housing and transport.



(d) India's rank on the Environmental Performance Index reflects its successful adaptation to the challenges posed by climate change.

### **PASSAGE 17**

A landslide victory for the People's National Congress party led by the Maldives' president, Mohamed Muizzu, in the country's parliamentary election has strengthened his government's hold over the country and could deepen geopolitical fault lines in the Indian Ocean. Mr Muizzu came to power last November on the back of a campaign critical of India's influence over the archipelago, promising to expel a small contingent of Indian soldiers posted in the Maldives. He has pursued that campaign commitment, with Indian soldiers already leaving — the final batch is expected to depart by May 10. Yet, until now, the country's Parliament was controlled by the Opposition Maldivian Democratic Party, which has historically been friendly towards India. That changed on Sunday, when Mr Muizzu's PNC won a two-thirds majority, effectively eliminating the check on its policies that Parliament — known as the Majlis in the Maldives — was providing. In many ways, the result is also a strategic win for China. The PNC has long advocated for stronger ties with Beijing, and Mr Muizzu, in particular, has committed to deepening that relationship. China, which already re-negotiated one payment with the debt-ridden Maldives after Mr Muizzu came to power, will now know that it can double down on its ties with the president without worrying about a political deadlock in Malé blocking Beijing-sponsored projects.

Political security for Mr Muizzu could, however, mean greater insecurity in the Indian Ocean where India and China see each other as direct rivals. New Delhi will be watching closely to see if the Maldives gives greater access to Chinese ships, including military vessels — a move that India would see as a provocation. But in this shifting landscape, New Delhi must be careful not to reflexively see its relationship with Malé through the lens of tensions with Beijing. It must start by acknowledging that the PNC's win suggests that its anti-India campaign has continued resonance with Maldivian society. It is only by addressing that sentiment within the Maldives that India can regain the influence it appears to be losing over its neighbour. To accomplish that, Narendra Modi's government must stay engaged with the Maldives, demonstrating that its commitment to that country's people remains intact no matter who is in power in Malé. Any move that could be interpreted as India punishing the Maldives for choosing Mr Muizzu and the PNC will only hurt New Delhi. In the choppy waters of the Indian Ocean, India must sail with caution.

**Source: Sail safe, The Telegraph Online, 26 April, 2024.**

Q.91) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage?

- (a) India should disengage from the Maldives to avoid further provocations in the region.
- (b) The PNC's landslide victory indicates a strategic win for China in the Indian Ocean region.
- (c) The Maldives' new government under the PNC should continue to seek stronger ties with both India and China.

(d) India should focus solely on economic ties with the Maldives, ignoring the geopolitical implications.

Q.92) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the potential for increased geopolitical tension due to the PNC's victory?

- (a) Evidence shows that the PNC plans to maintain a balanced foreign policy, engaging equally with both India and China.
- (b) Recent data indicate that the presence of Indian soldiers in the Maldives had minimal impact on the Maldives' international relations.
- (c) Reports confirm that Chinese military vessels have already increased their presence in the Indian Ocean prior to the PNC's election victory.
- (d) Studies show that geopolitical tensions in the Indian Ocean have historically had little effect on the domestic policies of Indian Ocean countries.

Q.93) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) The departure of Indian soldiers from the Maldives is an isolated incident with no broader geopolitical implications.
- (b) The electoral success of the PNC reflects a shift in Maldivian public opinion against India's influence in the region.
- (c) India's influence in the Maldives remains unchanged despite the PNC's recent electoral victory.
- (d) The PNC's commitment to China does not affect its relationships with other regional powers.

Q.94) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's discussion of India's need to address Maldivian sentiment?

- (a) India has previously underestimated the impact of local sentiment in the Maldives on bilateral relations.
- (b) The Maldives possesses sufficient political leverage to significantly influence India's regional policies.
- (c) The Maldivian public's opinion is easily swayed by external political campaigns and influences.
- (d) Public opinion in the Maldives does not significantly impact the country's foreign policy decisions.

Q.95) How does the author suggest that India should respond to the PNC's electoral victory in the Maldives?

- (a) By increasing military presence in the Indian Ocean to counter any potential threats from Chinese movements.



- (b) By disengaging from political interactions with the Maldives to avoid further escalation of tensions.
- (c) By acknowledging the resonance of the PNC's anti-India campaign within Maldivian society and addressing this sentiment.
- (d) By focusing solely on economic engagements without addressing the underlying political sentiments.

**PASSAGE 18**

Truth is one of the principal casualties of war. The prime minister, Narendra Modi, is proving this maxim — repeatedly — in the battlefield called elections. After making the dubious claim about the Congress's alleged plan to redistribute the wealth of citizens among Muslims, Mr Modi latched on to a comment made by Sam Pitroda, the chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, to allege that India's Grand Old Party intends to impose an inheritance tax if it is returned to power. The truth of the matter is that the inheritance tax was abolished by Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress manifesto makes no mention of reviving it. Incidentally, the most recent example of a proposal approximating this controversial tax instrument had come from Arun Jaitley, the former finance minister, in 2017 when Mr Modi — the man who has now raised an accusing finger — was well entrenched in power. It appears that the prime minister intends to double down on this false, frivolous vein: he has gone on to say that Rajiv Gandhi abolished the inheritance tax to prevent Indira Gandhi's wealth from being passed on to the government.

There is, of course, a strategic motive behind the licences that the prime minister takes with the truth. He and his party intend to whip up fear and anxiety to not only demonise their opponents but also polarise the electorate. A retort from the Congress is likely to trap it in a rhetorical engagement that would deflect public attention from electoral issues of substance. Unfortunately, the Opposition, too, has been receptive to this language of fear: its refrain that Mr Modi's return to power would signal the end of democracy in India is an example. The debasement of the electoral rhetoric — people's issues should ideally dominate political debates — is not a matter of concern to the warring parties. The unfolding exchange among electoral adversaries is a classic example of the shape of political engagements in the post-truth age. The weaponisation of falsehood, malicious use of deflection to thwart reflection, wilful contamination of truth — each of these elements is in play in elections in India and around the world. Ironically, the hollowing out of democracy through misinformation is taking place during an election, supposedly a marker of the health of a democracy.

**Source: False gods, The Telegraph Online, 26 April, 2024.**

Q.96) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's description of the political strategy used by the prime minister?

- (a) The public is largely unaware of the true historical context of the inheritance tax and its implications.
- (b) The inheritance tax is universally unpopular among all demographic segments of the electorate.
- (c) The electorate is more interested in the personal wealth of politicians than in broader electoral issues.

(d) Political parties benefit by maintaining clear, factual communication strategies during elections.

Q.97) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) The use of misinformation during elections effectively diverts public attention from significant political debates.
- (b) The inheritance tax has been definitively unpopular in all previous administrations and remains so today.
- (c) Political leaders frequently engage in truthful debates during elections without resorting to misinformation.
- (d) The role of the media in elections is to consistently expose misinformation and restore truth.

Q.98) Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- (a) Political leaders should prioritize clear and factual communication over strategic misinformation to foster a healthy democracy.
- (b) Misinformation in politics is sometimes necessary to achieve electoral success.
- (c) The personal wealth of politicians is a valid point of focus during electoral campaigns.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the electorate to educate themselves about the truth of political claims independently.

Q.99) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the negative impact of misinformation on the electoral process?

- (a) Studies show that misinformation has no significant effect on voter behavior or election outcomes.
- (b) Surveys indicate that voters are increasingly relying on social media, where misinformation is rampant, to make electoral decisions.
- (c) Research finds that most voters are able to identify and disregard false information they encounter.
- (d) Evidence suggests that electoral debates focused on factual issues lead to higher voter satisfaction and engagement.

Q.100) How does the author suggest that the unfolding exchange among electoral adversaries reflects the state of political engagements in the post-truth age?

- (a) It demonstrates a higher level of engagement and awareness among voters about the issues that matter.
- (b) It is indicative of a shift towards more substantive and issue-focused political debates.



- (c) It showcases the use of strategic misinformation to deflect from substantial issues and manipulate public perception.
- (d) It highlights the effectiveness of traditional media in combating the spread of misinformation during elections.

**PASSAGE 19**

No political party has addressed what could be the biggest invisible section of the population of the country, its single women. Their number was about 75 million at the last count and, since it seems to be growing steadily by the minute, one can assume that they constitute more than 5% of the population.

But do they appear in any election banner? The very idea seems a little weird; like the phrase, 'single woman', the person signified still seems a little foreign in our context. Perhaps that is why when the prime minister recently made a speech about "infiltrators" taking away our resources, he only referred to women wearing mangalsutras, which, presumably as a major national resource, are under threat of being snatched away as well. "The mangalsutra isn't about the value of gold. It represents a person's dreams," he explained. The good news then is that the mangalsutra-less women should feel safer — they are not as snatchable; the bad news is that they are dreamless, valueless, dour creatures who remain invisible in our PM's scheme of things. They do not exist in language either. Bengali does not have one 'single' word for them, although they are variously described as unmarried, widowed, separated or divorced. Nor does Hindi. Not that they need new descriptions. Coining a new phrase for an identity does not guarantee recognition. (I feel afraid that if they are identified as a category, it may lead to more polysyllabic, challengingly compound-lettered semi-Sanskrit words, such as Bharatavandita or something, which will make them even more alien. I will neither have 'Akeli Mahila', which I just coined, because it has strong Insta vibes and cannot be wasted.) So let them be without a name. It does not matter because of what they do: everything. I will only give one example.

To me, Deepak Chatterjee, the singular, fearless private investigator created by Swapankumar, represents the height of human achievement. In one of his most remarkable feats, Chatterjee was seen carrying a revolver in one hand, an electric torch in another and starting a submarine with yet another to dive into the local waterbody in search of another great adventure. Or something very close to this. I worship the great man, but in all humility, I, a single woman, want to say that I could improve on him, packing in much more. Single-handedly, with three hands. On the way to my adventure, I would drop my daughter to school. I would have prepared her breakfast earlier. After saving the world, I would turn my submarine back and head homewards in a hurry. On the way back, I would stop at the local market and pick up vegetables. Once home, I would hurriedly park my submarine, change quickly into my everyday clothes and cook dinner. Then help with my daughter's homework. Then an anonymous note would be slipped in from below the door, inviting me to meet a most intriguing person, waiting for me at a Chinese restaurant in town. I would dash out again, revolver in one hand, electric torch in another and waving the anonymous note with yet another. At the restaurant, I would be greeted by only a pair of feet wearing Japanese grass sandals, visible from below a heavy curtain in a cabin. A wild chase would follow through the night, but I would be back home again right on time to make breakfast.

I do this every day. And I am sure the aforementioned millions do this every day. The young woman who looks after my household when I am away does this every day. My mother's attendant does this every day. The army of women who come from Canning and elsewhere every day to work in the city do this every day.

I also feel that the number of single women is grossly under-reported, since there are so many women, who are in marriages, who have to do exactly this every day.

**Source: Ladies unseen, The Telegraph Online, 26 April, 2024.**

Q.101) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that single women are an invisible section of the population in political campaigns?

- (a) Data showing an increase in the number of targeted political campaigns for other demographic groups.
- (b) Surveys revealing that single women are actively engaged in community and political activities.
- (c) Evidence that political parties have started to recognize single women in their election banners.
- (d) Reports that single women have formed a significant voting bloc in recent elections.

Q.102) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's depiction of single women's daily responsibilities?

- (a) Single women are often burdened with multitasking and managing both domestic and external challenges.
- (b) The societal value of single women is well recognized and reflected in political and social structures.
- (c) Single women have ample support and resources to manage their daily tasks efficiently.
- (d) The narrative surrounding single women in society is predominantly positive and empowering.

Q.103) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) The number of single women in the population is likely under-reported due to societal perceptions.
- (b) Single women are typically less involved in societal and political issues than other demographic groups.
- (c) Political campaigns actively seek to address the concerns and needs of single women.
- (d) The concept of single women is well defined and uniformly understood across different cultures.



Q.104) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the invisibility of single women in political recognition?

- (a) Recent polls indicate that single women are the most active voter demographic in urban areas.
- (b) New legislation has been passed specifically addressing the legal rights and protections for single women.
- (c) A major political party has recently launched a campaign that specifically targets single women with promises of improving their socioeconomic status.
- (d) Studies show that single women prefer to remain politically neutral and rarely participate in elections.

Q.105) How does the author suggest that the narrative surrounding single women impacts their societal recognition?

- (a) The narrative emphasizes their independence and contributions, leading to greater societal recognition.
- (b) The absence of a coherent narrative for single women contributes to their invisibility and lack of recognition in society.
- (c) The narrative surrounding single women is largely focused on their roles within traditional family structures.
- (d) Societal narratives are shifting to include more diverse representations of single women, thus enhancing their visibility.

### **PASSAGE 20**

Art is a profound reality check, inviting us to transcend our conditioned understandings. It offers liberation from habit, ownership, and identity, fostering reflection. However, when art is embedded within a culture that denies its own imperfections, does it still qualify as art? The art forms that occupy spaces of privilege are often shielded from critical thinking. Those who come from and cater to privileged backgrounds may work hard and overcome personal challenges, yet their inherent social networks based on race, caste, gender, and color ease their paths, particularly since their art is performed, patronized, and appreciated mainly by the social elite. Once financial thresholds are surpassed, upskilling becomes straightforward, serving only to maintain interest in their already accepted art forms.

Privileged circles often view art as a hobby rather than a serious professional endeavor. Young artists are encouraged to pursue art until it becomes a career choice; then, the realities of art's long gestation period and financial instability are highlighted. The logic presented is to have a fallback—usually an undergraduate degree in a 'safer' field, reinforcing that the arts are less valid as a profession.

Moreover, the privileged art world voraciously protects its status quo. Entry and exit are tightly controlled by gatekeepers who might use the names of those who broke through barriers as proof of inclusivity while continuing to marginalize or idolize them, preventing genuine engagement with challenging ideas.

Conversely, artists from marginalized backgrounds view art differently. Their art acts as a form of defiance, expressing lived experiences and questioning homogenous

structures. It's not protective of the community's social fissures, which discomforts the privileged. These artists are often excluded unless they conform to the 'exemplary model' of the art community.

True art confronts the fractures within its cradling community with courage. It must articulate troublesome truths about ourselves and our society. For marginalized artists, honesty in expressing reality is not a strategy but a necessity. In contrast, privileged artists often select truths that are safe, avoiding those that might threaten their social standings. Yet, art retains the power to surprise and challenge us. In the process of creating, artists and audiences can experience moments of reflexivity that are deeply unsettling. These moments can lead to shifts in perception, but too often, both creators and receivers retreat to their comfortable social confines instead of embracing this transformative potential. Art cannot be a unifier unless it bravely addresses internal community divisions. This requires a willingness to remain exposed to its reflective potential, allowing it to influence our daily lives. Only then can art fulfill its true role as a catalyst for personal and social change.

**Source: Mirror of truth, The Telegraph Online, 26 April, 2024.**

Q.106) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's discussion of how privileged artists often select safe truths?

- (a) Art that confronts challenging truths is less likely to be commercially successful in privileged circles.
- (b) Privileged artists lack the technical skills needed to engage with more challenging artistic truths.
- (c) All artists, regardless of background, have equal access to resources and audiences.
- (d) Marginalized artists inherently possess a deeper insight into societal issues than privileged artists.

Q.107) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) Art is universally accepted as a valid professional career choice.
- (b) The privileged art world actively discourages artists from exploring and presenting challenging ideas.
- (c) All forms of art equally question and address societal issues.
- (d) Financial success in the arts guarantees recognition and appreciation of all forms of artistic expression.

Q.108) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the transformative potential of art?

- (a) Studies showing that audiences frequently change their social attitudes after engaging with art that challenges societal norms.
- (b) Evidence that most art from privileged backgrounds does not resonate with general audiences, remaining confined to elite circles.



- (c) Surveys indicating that marginalized artists face greater financial and social hurdles in gaining recognition for their work.
- (d) Reports of increasing government funding for arts programs that promote traditional and non-controversial themes.

Q.109) How does the author suggest that the privileged view of art as a hobby impacts young artists' career choices?

- (a) It encourages young artists to pursue their passion in art without worrying about financial stability.
- (b) It leads to a cultural perception that art is a lesser field, pushing young artists to secure fallback options.
- (c) It fosters a highly competitive environment that primarily benefits artists from privileged backgrounds.
- (d) It promotes a diversified approach in the arts, leading to greater innovation and creativity.

Q.110) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated above that art must confront the fractures within its cradling community with courage?

- (a) A gallery exhibition featuring abstract art that subtly hints at social disparities without directly addressing them.
- (b) A street art installation that vividly portrays the struggles of marginalized communities and invites public interaction.
- (c) A state-sponsored art festival that showcases traditional art forms and avoids contemporary socio-political themes.
- (d) An art competition that rewards works for their aesthetic beauty rather than their social commentary.

**DATA INTERPRETATION****PASSAGE - 21**

India witnessed robust collections in Goods and Services Tax (GST), reflecting the economy's gradual recovery from the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The year's total GST collection amounted to a significant ₹1,478 billion, according to data released by the Ministry of Finance. These figures represent a strong fiscal performance and are indicative of the increased compliance and tightening of tax enforcement measures. The GST collections started the year with ₹112 billion in January and saw a slight decrease in February to ₹110 billion, possibly due to seasonal market adjustments post-holiday sales. However, collections picked up momentum in March, reaching ₹120 billion, as businesses finalized their accounts at the fiscal year-end, leading to higher transaction volumes and tax collections. The second quarter of 2021 showed a promising trend with April and May witnessing collections of ₹125 billion and ₹130 billion, respectively. This period typically sees robust economic activity which, in 2021, was bolstered further by sectors adapting to new market realities and expanding online operations. However, a slight dip occurred in June, with collections falling to ₹118 billion, which could be attributed to the onset of the monsoon and a temporary slowdown in certain industries. July collections slightly decreased to ₹115 billion but rebounded in August and September, reaching ₹122 billion and ₹125 billion respectively, showcasing a strong recovery trajectory as businesses ramped up for the festive season. The final quarter maintained this upward trend, with October collections at ₹128 billion, November at ₹133 billion, and December seeing the highest at ₹140 billion, driven by year-end consumer spending and businesses clearing inventories for new stock. These figures are reflective of an economy on the rebound and an efficient GST regime fostering better compliance and collection mechanisms. The government's continuous reforms and measures to simplify GST processes have evidently contributed to this fiscal achievement, enhancing transparency and ease of doing business in the country.

Q.111) What was the average monthly GST collection in India for the year 2021?

- (a) ₹118.17 billion
- (b) ₹120.17 billion
- (c) ₹123.17 billion
- (d) ₹130.17 billion

Q.112) What percentage of the total annual GST collected in 2021 was accounted for by the December collection of ₹127 billion?

- (a) 7.5%
- (b) 8.59%
- (c) 9.2%
- (d) 10%

Q.113) If the average monthly GST collection in 2021 was ₹123 billion, and the total GST collected in March was 10% higher than the average, how much GST was collected in March?



- (a) ₹130.3 billion
- (b) ₹135.3 billion
- (c) ₹140.3 billion
- (d) ₹150.3 billion

Q.114) With an increase of 27% in total GST collection from 2020 to 2021, and knowing that ₹10.2 trillion was collected in 2020, how much GST was collected in 2021?

- (a) ₹11.5 trillion
- (b) ₹12.9 trillion
- (c) ₹13.9 trillion
- (d) ₹13.2 trillion

Q.115) Given the highest monthly GST collection in 2021 was ₹1.41 trillion in March, by what percentage did this month's collection exceed the average monthly GST collection, if the total GST collection for the year was ₹12.954 trillion?

- (a) 25.66%
- (b) 30.61%
- (c) 35.34%
- (d) 40.24%

### PASSAGE - 22

West Bengal's Forest landscape continues to show encouraging signs of growth and sustainability, as recent statistics from the State Forest Department indicate a nuanced expansion in forested areas. Covering a total of 13,208 square kilometers, the forests account for 14.6% of the state's geographical expanse, showing a slight increase from last year's 13,147 square kilometers. The detailed analysis splits the forest into densely wooded areas and more open spaces. Approximately 7,780 square kilometers are covered by dense forests, which include both very dense and moderately dense woods, constituting nearly 59% of the total forested regions. The lighter, open forest areas make up the remaining 5,428 square kilometers. Such a division is essential for assessing the health and functionality of the ecosystem. Regionally, Darjeeling boasts the most significant forest coverage at 1,020 square kilometers, with Jalpaiguri and Paschim Medinipur also featuring prominently on the list. However, the Sundarbans, renowned for their unique mangrove forests, showed a slight decrease in coverage, from 2,114 to 2,089 square kilometers, posing potential concerns for biodiversity conservationists. Investments in forest conservation have surged, with the state allocating ₹280 million for mangrove restoration and ₹150 million towards new bio-reserves last year alone. Such financial commitments are crucial for supporting ongoing conservation efforts and initiating new projects to bolster the state's green infrastructure. These comprehensive figures not only reflect West Bengal's dedication to ecological preservation but also highlight the critical areas requiring attention to ensure the forests continue to thrive.

Q.116) Based on the recent data, what percentage of West Bengal's total forest area is comprised of dense forests?

Options:

- (a) 58.9%
- (b) 65.2%
- (c) 50.5%
- (d) 72.3%

Q.117) If the additional funding allocated for forest conservation in West Bengal is ₹2,500 per hectare, calculate the total additional funds allocated for the newly added 242 square kilometers of forest area.

- (a) ₹5.35 crore
- (b) ₹6.85 crore
- (c) ₹6.05 crore
- (d) ₹7.25 crore

Q.118) With the overall forest cover in West Bengal now standing at 12.4% of its total land area of 88,752 square kilometers, what is the current forest cover in square kilometers?

- (a) 11,005.6 square kilometers
- (b) 10,485.2 square kilometers
- (c) 12,285.5 square kilometers
- (d) 9,956.4 square kilometers

Q.119) Based on the information that dense forest area constitutes 18.3% of the total forest cover in West Bengal, and the total forest area is 11,005.6 square kilometers, calculate the area of dense forest in square kilometers.

- (a) 2,011 square kilometers
- (b) 1,914 square kilometers
- (c) 2,155 square kilometers
- (d) 1,675 square kilometers

Q.120) If the annual increase in open forest cover in West Bengal is 10% and the area was 1,320 square kilometers in the previous year, what is the expected area of open forest for the current year?

- (a) 1,400 square kilometers
- (b) 1,485 square kilometers
- (c) 1,320 square kilometers
- (d) 1,452 square kilometers



**ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS**

1. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage directly states that "malt this good deserves to be taken neat," which in the context of whisky, means without any additional mixers, including water. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no mention of lemon or any other citrus being added to the whisky. Option (c) is incorrect because "on the rocks" refers to adding ice, which contradicts the preference for drinking the whisky neat as expressed in the passage. Option (d) is incorrect because while Ray and Farkas are indeed sharing a moment that includes drinking, the term "neat" specifically refers to the manner in which the whisky is served, not whether it is accompanied by food.
2. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage explicitly mentions that Farkas left his car at the public road and walked the last five miles, indicating his method of arrival. Option (a) is incorrect because it is stated that Farkas did not drive up directly to Ray's doorstep, but rather left his car and walked the remaining distance. Option (b) is incorrect as Farkas mentions he would have telephoned if it were an option, implying he did not actually make a call. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that Farkas was unfamiliar with the area; in fact, his actions suggest he knew the terrain well enough to anticipate the difficulties a car might face.
3. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage primarily explores Ray's feelings of going stir crazy due to solitude, indicating the psychological impact of living remotely, as well as Farkas's visit highlighting a form of human connection in such isolation. Option (b) is incorrect because, while there is a brief mention of whisky, it does not delve into the technical aspects of its production, making it a minor detail rather than a main theme. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no discussion about automotive development, only a brief mention of Farkas's decision to walk due to the path's condition. Option (d) is incorrect because, although there is a mention of the lack of telephone as a communication option, it is not explored in depth to qualify as the main theme of the passage.
4. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the setting described in the passage is a remote farmhouse, far from neighbors and difficult to access, which aligns with the notion of isolation. Option (a) is incorrect because "cosmopolitan" implies a worldly, urban environment, which is the opposite of the rural and secluded setting depicted. Option (c) is incorrect as "bustling" suggests a busy, crowded place, whereas the passage emphasizes solitude and quiet. Option (d) is incorrect because "tropical" refers to a warm, humid climate, which does not match the description of the setting or the environmental context implied in the passage.

5. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage explicitly mentions Ray describing his experience with solitude as being less restorative than he thought, highlighting the challenging nature of being alone. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication that solitude was used as a method to enhance creativity; Ray's experience is portrayed negatively. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not describe solitude as peaceful but rather implies it has negative psychological effects on Ray. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no mention of using solitude to avoid social responsibilities; the focus is on the personal impact of isolation.
6. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the author expected literary critics to hound him due to the self-appraisal on the book jacket, indicating his anticipation of a harsh critique. Option (a) is incorrect because the author clarifies that he had nothing to do with the claim made on the book jacket, as he was living in the U.S. at the time. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage mentions a reviewer, Shulamith Gilboa, who noticed the statement, implying that the book did receive some critical attention. Option (d) is incorrect because, according to the passage, Gilboa remarked positively, considering it a rare case where the back cover accurately reflected the front, not critically.
7. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage emphasizes that the uniqueness of "Alexandrian Summer" came from its departure from typical Israeli literary themes like the kibbutz and Holocaust, focusing instead on Jews from an Arab country, which was a novel approach at the time. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the author set out with the intention to challenge norms; it was more an outcome of his writing about what he knew. Option (b) is incorrect because while the novel was later praised for its narrative techniques (as noted by Ammiel Alkalay), the passage specifically credits its thematic focus as the key to its distinction, not its style. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that the critical acclaim was solely or even primarily due to promotional strategies; rather, it was the content that resonated with readers and critics alike.
8. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage describes the Israeli melting pot as having imposed constraints on what was considered acceptable in Israeli culture, which the author ultimately broke away from by choosing to write about a different world—Alexandria. This breakaway is cited as a factor in making "Alexandrian Summer" special within Hebrew literature. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no indication that the melting pot inspired the author; rather, he felt constrained by it. Option (c) is incorrect because there is no mention or implication in the passage that the melting pot was used as a promotional tool for the author's books. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss any later works being unfavorably compared to this standard; it only talks about how the author's unique focus differed from the usual cultural expectations.



9. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage mentions that the author's uncertainty about the novel's innovation was eventually clarified through the recognition by Ammiel Alkalay, who praised the novel for presaging developments in Hebrew fiction. This external scholarly validation helped the author understand the novel's special place in literature. Option (a) is incorrect because it represents the author's own realization rather than external validation. Option (b) is incorrect because, although the back cover made a claim about innovation, the author was initially disconnected from this claim and skeptical about its reception by critics. Option (d) is incorrect because while Shulamith Gilboa's positive remark was affirming, it did not specifically resolve the author's doubts about the novel's innovative aspects as comprehensively as Alkalay's scholarly analysis did.
10. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage clearly describes Farkas lifting a glass of whisky to his nose and then guessing its age, demonstrating his expertise and familiarity with the whisky's characteristics. This indicates that he is identifying the age of the whisky, not a person or other item. Option (a) is incorrect because the conversation is about whisky, not the age of a person. Option (b) is incorrect as there is no mention of a guest or any surprise about someone's age; the context is about whisky. Option (d) is incorrect because the discussion about age specifically relates to the whisky, not the longevity of any other item that Ray might have kept.
11. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage focuses on the chaotic and emotional experiences of the narrator during a prom night, detailing interpersonal conflicts, romantic breakups, and the overall atmosphere of upheaval and transition typical of high school social events. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the setting is a prom night, the passage does not delve into the logistical aspects of organizing such an event. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no discussion or implication regarding the commercial aspects of the event. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not address technological advancements or their impact on youth culture; it concentrates on personal and emotional narratives within the event's context.
12. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage describes the narrator's reflection, "I'm just a kid," as an echo in his ear that surfaces as he contemplates the end of his relationship, suggesting a recognition of his immaturity and his lack of readiness for the adult responsibilities and realities of a mature relationship. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no indication that the narrator is using this statement as a legal defense for any actions; it is an internal reflection on his personal state. Option (c) is incorrect as the statement does not convey pride or boast about handling situations well; instead, it highlights his realization of his own youth and inexperience. Option

(d) is incorrect because there is no context in the passage to suggest that the statement is sarcastic or a critique of the prom's superficial nature.

13. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage mentions Jenny calling the narrator her "old man," and expressing thankfulness for being with someone who is "experienced," which suggests she values and appreciates the maturity he brings to their relationship. Option (a) is incorrect as there is no mention of Jenny openly criticizing the narrator; rather, she avoids acknowledging his violent act. Option (b) is incorrect because while the narrator may feel isolated after the incident with Happy, there is no direct mention of feeling betrayed by Jenny's lack of support—she simply pretends not to have seen his act. Option (d) is incorrect because the relationship appears to be ending and fraught with issues, as evidenced by Jenny's breaking up with the narrator and the overall chaotic events of the evening.
14. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage provides a detailed account of personal experiences and introspections during a prom night, indicative of a reflective narrative style that explores personal emotions and events. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication that the passage is autobiographical; it reads more like a fictional or creative recount of events. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not provide instructions or guidelines on any topic. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage lacks the factual and objective tone typical of scientific reports, focusing instead on personal and subjective experiences.
15. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the description of the narrator touching his wet fingertips to dry eyes and the context of the evening's stressful events suggest that he is experiencing emotional distress, potentially from crying, reflecting the turmoil of the evening. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no indication that the narrator's action is aimed at appreciating the decor; the focus is more on a personal sensory reaction. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the narrator suffers from a chronic visual impairment needing adjustment; it seems more situational and emotional. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not support the idea that this action is a ritualistic preparation; it appears more spontaneous and driven by immediate emotional responses.
16. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage describes a complex interaction among three characters in a symbolic and metaphorical environment, suggesting philosophical undertones and exploring themes of observation, existence, and human connection, characteristic of a philosophical allegory. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no instructional content or guidance offered in the passage. Option (b) is incorrect as the narrative does not involve suspense or fear elements typical of a psychological thriller. Option (c) is incorrect because, although the text is reflective, it does not fit the



personal and introspective nature typical of an essay but rather uses symbolic elements to convey broader existential themes.

17. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the statement explicitly describes a cessation in the regular pattern ("the even sliding of the triangle ceases") followed by the action of one character starting to walk, which suggests a pivotal change in the dynamics among the characters and potentially the narrative's direction. Option (a) is incorrect because the statement indicates a break in the synchronization, not a continuation of flow. Option (c) is incorrect because, although the actions could be metaphorical, the passage focuses more on the literal change in movement rather than abstract interpretations of life's nature. Option (d) is incorrect as the passage emphasizes the significance of this movement, implying it is crucial to the development of the story rather than being incidental.
18. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage intricately connects the setting—the beach, the sea, and the boardwalk—to the characters' actions and emotional states, suggesting that the environment profoundly affects and mirrors the characters' experiences and movements. This active role of the setting in shaping and reflecting the narrative is characteristic of contemporary literature. Option (b) is incorrect because the characters are deeply integrated with their environment, as evidenced by their positions and movements relative to the sea and the boardwalk. Option (c) is incorrect as the setting clearly plays a critical role in the narrative, influencing how the characters are perceived and interact. Option (d) is incorrect because the environment is described in dynamic terms, changing with the actions and states of the characters, not merely serving as a backdrop for dialogue.
19. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the setting—characterized by the repetitive movements of the characters along the shore, the subtle shifts in the light, and the overall tone of isolation and introspection—evokes a sense of melancholy. This mood is enhanced by the descriptions of the sea and sky merging in a shadowy light, and the solitary figures against the vast landscape. Option (a) is incorrect because "claustrophobic" suggests a cramped or confined space, which contradicts the open and expansive beach setting described. Option (b) is incorrect as "idyllic" would imply a peaceful and picturesque setting, whereas the narrative conveys a more somber and reflective atmosphere. Option (d) is incorrect because "turbulent" suggests chaos and disorder, which does not match the controlled and steady pace of the narrative and character movements despite the underlying emotional complexities.
20. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the description of the man's steps fading suggests a decrease in his presence and impact on the scene, leading to a quieter and more isolated atmosphere as he moves away. This captures

the essence of his departure as diminishing influence rather than creating disturbance. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage indicates that his influence and presence are decreasing, not increasing. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no implication that his departure is permanent; the text only notes that he moves past the area. Option (d) is incorrect because the text specifically mentions his steps fading, which indicates a reduction in noise and presence, not an increase.

21. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage focuses on the young analyst's commitment to his chosen career despite external skepticism and the threat of obsolescence due to new treatments. This theme of perseverance in the face of adversity and doubt is underscored by his brother's dismissive attitude toward psychoanalysis and the young analyst's unwavering pursuit of his interest. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss scientific discovery; instead, it critiques the perceived lack of scientific basis in psychoanalysis. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not critique psychoanalytic practices; rather, it portrays them as meaningful despite criticism. Option (d) is incorrect because, while familial pressure is mentioned, it is not the central theme of the passage; the focus is more on the young analyst's personal resolve and belief in his work's value.
22. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the statement implies that the young analyst has come to terms with the perception of his profession as akin to being in a cult, accepting this marginalization as a part of his chosen path. This acceptance shows resignation to the consequences of pursuing a career that others might view skeptically or dismissively. Option (b) is incorrect because, while it may be a possible interpretation, the sentence specifically frames his acceptance rather than preparation to defend psychoanalysis actively. Option (c) is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that the young analyst believes adopting mainstream methods is necessary or desired. Option (d) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the young analyst intends to reform psychoanalysis to meet scientific standards; rather, he accepts its current standing and continues his work regardless of external opinions.
23. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the comparison of Freudian ideas to their grandfather's pocket watch explicitly illustrates the brother's view of psychoanalysis as outdated and lacking scientific basis. This metaphor suggests that, like an old watch, Freudian psychoanalysis is seen as a relic of the past. Option (a) is incorrect because while it states the brother's profession and his tendency to express his views, it does not directly indicate his specific thoughts on the outdatedness of psychoanalysis. Option (c) is incorrect because the young analyst's determination to continue his work does not inherently suggest that his brother views the field as outdated—this determination is about the young analyst's attitude, not his brother's. Option (d) is incorrect because the potential replacement by pharmacology suggests a view on the efficacy of



psychoanalysis versus modern medicine, but it does not specifically reflect on the brother's views about the scientific basis of psychoanalysis.

24. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage describes Dr. Berman potentially being the young analyst's "psychoanalytic mother," indicating a role where she provides nurturing guidance, support, and opportunities within the institute—akin to a maternal figure in his professional development. Option (b) is incorrect as there is no indication that "psychoanalytic mother" refers to a theoretical concept within the field of psychoanalysis; it is used more literally in context to describe a personal and professional support role. Option (c) is incorrect because while Dr. Berman is a supervisor, the term "psychoanalytic mother" specifically refers to her nurturing role, not her administrative position. Option (d) is incorrect because the term is not used merely as a term of endearment but conveys a significant functional and supportive relationship in the young analyst's career development.
25. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage is structured as a narrative focusing on the experiences and reflections of a young analyst, which includes dialogues, descriptions of inner thoughts, and interactions with characters like Dr. Berman and his brother. This structure suggests a fictional narrative rather than a factual or scholarly account. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication that the story is based on the author's personal life; it reads more like a created story about a young analyst. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not follow the format of a case study, which would typically include specific client scenarios, diagnoses, and treatments in a more formal and clinical manner. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not present a structured argument or analysis typical of an academic thesis; it narrates a story with a focus on thematic development.
26. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because crude oil is primarily composed of hydrocarbons, which are molecules made up of hydrogen and carbon.
27. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because fractional distillation is the process used to separate crude oil into different components or fractions based on their boiling points.
28. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because as of 2021, the United States was the largest producer of petroleum, largely due to its significant production of shale oil.
29. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because crude oil is the term used to describe unrefined petroleum that is extracted directly from the ground.

30. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the IEA was established in 1974 in response to the 1973 oil crisis to help countries coordinate a collective response to major disruptions in oil supply.
31. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because there were 17 founding member countries of the IEA in 1974.
32. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the Padma Shri award recognizes individuals for their distinguished contribution in various fields including arts, education, industry, literature, science, sports, medicine, social service, and public affairs.
33. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the Padma Shri, along with other Padma awards, was instituted in 1954.
34. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the Padma Shri medal features a lotus flower, symbolizing purity and a spirit of national significance.
35. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the Asian Athletics Association was established in 1973 to oversee the development and promotion of athletics in Asia.
36. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the first Asian Athletics Championships organized by the Asian Athletics Association were held in Philippines in 1973.
37. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the standard length of a running track in athletics is 400 meters, which includes two straight sections and two bends.
38. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed annually on 4th April. This day is designated to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.
39. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because open-pit mining often leads to water table depletion, affecting local water supplies and ecosystems.
40. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Russia is recognized as the largest producer of diamonds by volume, surpassing other leading countries.



41. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because aluminum is primarily extracted from the mineral bauxite through a process involving refining and smelting.
42. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because land reclamation is the process of restoring land that has been disturbed by mining activities to a condition that is often better than the original state. This process includes contouring the land, replacing topsoil, and planting native vegetation.
43. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because pyrite, with its metallic luster and pale brass-yellow hue, closely resembles gold and has thus earned the nickname "fool's gold."
44. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Athens, Greece, hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, marking the revival of the ancient tradition.
45. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the five interlocking rings on the Olympic flag represent the five continents of the world united by Olympism.
46. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because Michael Phelps is the most decorated Olympic swimmer of all time with a total of 28 medals, including 23 gold medals.
47. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the United States won the most medals in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, securing a total of 113 medals.
48. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) is the organization that governs the sport of Olympic weightlifting globally.
49. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because women's weightlifting was first included as an official sport in the Olympics in the 2000 Sydney Games, marking a significant milestone in the sport's history.
50. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because this year marked the 61st National Maritime Day Celebrations.
51. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the United Nations Economic and Social Council is the parent organization of the International Maritime Organization.
52. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the International Maritime Organization was founded in 1958.

53. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Arsenio Dominguez is the current Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.
54. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the Port of Shanghai is recognized as the busiest container port in the world, handling the largest amount of cargo container tonnage.
55. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the Panama Canal is an artificial 82 km (51 mi) waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, facilitating international maritime trade.
56. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the Supreme Court held that the introduction of voting machines is a legislative power that only Parliament and state legislatures could exercise, not the ECI. This precedence suggests that Kunal can legally argue that the introduction of new electronic ballot systems should be through legislative action, rather than the ECI's administrative decision based on Article 324. Option (a) is incorrect because it misrepresents the scope of the ECI's power by failing to recognize the legislative nature of implementing a new voting system which is beyond purely administrative or discretionary decisions. Option (c) is incorrect because it dismisses the legal standing of Kunal's potential complaint, whereas precedence shows that such an introduction of technology does have legal parameters and is not merely a political maneuver. Lastly, Option (d) is incorrect as it misguides the argument towards the Conduct of Elections Rules, not directly addressing the central issue of legislative powers which was clarified by the Supreme Court's decision.
57. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage states that in 1988, the election law was amended to insert Section 61A, which allowed the ECI to specify the constituencies where voting machines could be used, suggesting that if such an amendment existed in 1982, it would have provided a proper legal framework for the ECI to implement the voting machines without central government sanction. Option (b) is incorrect because it disregards the potential legal authority provided by the hypothetical amendment like Section 61A, which specifically empowers the ECI to authorize the use of voting machines. Option (c) is incorrect because it erroneously implies that Article 324 alone would have been adequate, whereas the Supreme Court's decision clarified that specific legislative authorization is required to introduce new voting systems. Option (d) is incorrect because it overestimates the effect of the amendment, which would empower the ECI but not necessarily negate the need for a central government's sanction under all circumstances.
58. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the court held the term 'ballot' in its "strict sense" would not include voting through machines and that the ECI cannot assume its powers under Article 324 to



introduce new voting technologies without legislative authorization. This finding restricts the ECI's operational powers to specify the manner of voting and requires a legislative amendment for such changes. Option (a) is incorrect as it misstates the Supreme Court's ruling, which actually negated the ECI's interpretation of its powers under Section 59 and Rule 49. Option (c) is incorrect because it incorrectly infers that Rule 49 gives the ECI the authority to introduce any method of voting without legislative backing, contrary to the Supreme Court's decision. Lastly, Option (d) is incorrect as it inaccurately represents the Supreme Court's stance, which specifically refuted the argument that the ECI could use Article 324 to override Parliamentary acts.

59. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage states that the Supreme Court unanimously held that introducing voting machines was a legislative power that only Parliament and state legislatures could exercise, indicating that the introduction of an advanced cryptographic EVM model would require legislative amendments. Priya should advise that the deployment of the new model without legislative backing can be contested in court. Option (b) is incorrect because it inaccurately interprets the ECI's constitutional powers, ignoring the judicial precedent that places the power to introduce new voting machines in the hands of the legislature. Option (c) is incorrect as it focuses on the quality of the training provided rather than the legality of the ECI's actions; the real issue is the legislative approval of the machines, not the adequacy of voter training. Lastly, Option (d) is incorrect because the concern regarding trade secrets and proprietary technology does not align with the Supreme Court's considerations relating to the legislative approval required for the use of voting machines.
60. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the introduction of voting machines (and by extension any new technology affecting voting) is a legislative power, not an administrative one held by the ECI. This suggests that the Supreme Court would look for legislative authorization for such a significant departure from established voting administration—as would be the case with the AI-based system—rather than allow the ECI to introduce it unilaterally. Option (a) is incorrect as it misinterprets the scope of Article 324 and overlooks the need for legislative backing stated in the precedent. Option (c) is incorrect because it fails to account for the Supreme Court's ruling that limits the ECI's powers in the absence of legislative authorization, which would be relevant even with technological advances in predicting voter behavior. Lastly, Option (d) is incorrect because, as the passage indicates, the Court's approval of administrative or innovative methods is secondary to the question of legislation; any such advancements must first have legislative approval.
61. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage references Section 61A of the election law, which was inserted to allow the Election Commission of India (ECI) to specify the use of voting machines. Therefore, Rakesh could

argue that the ECI's decision to exclude certain polling stations from using EVMs must be legally justified, and an arbitrary exclusion could potentially be deemed an arbitrary action. Option (a) is incorrect because it demarcates a constitutional right that isn't directly discussed in the provided passage, and the passage does not indicate that the Supreme Court interpreted Article 326 in the context of voting machines. Option (c) is incorrect because it accredits a particular interpretation to Rule 49 that is not supported by the passage; the rule allows the ECI to direct the method of voting by ballot, but does not address uniformity between polling stations directly. Lastly, Option (d) is incorrect as it omits the fact that the law has been amended to allow for EVMs (via Section 61A), and the Supreme Court's judgement about voting by ballot had preceded this amendment, which means it is not the only established law as regards voting methodology.

62. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage states that Justice Khanna's view was "the same cannot be equated with the right to 100% counting of VVPAT slips, or a right to physical access to the VVPAT slips" implying that the Presiding Officer's denial is in alignment with legal directives. Option (b) is incorrect because, as per the passage, there's no such explicit declaration from Justice Khanna granting a right to 100% VVPAT slip counting, so the denial cannot be legally incorrect on this basis. Option (c) is incorrect because the ECI's acknowledgment of variances between EVM and VVPAT results does not mandate 100% counting of VVPAT slips; the legal authority comes from a Supreme Court directive, not from ECI's statements. Option (d) is incorrect because the legal correctness of the denial does not depend on the number of poll contenders in the constituency, but on the Supreme Court's interpretation of the voter's right as noted in the passage.
63. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that Justice Khanna directed that microcontrollers should be checked for tampering "upon the request of the second or third highest polling candidate in an Assembly constituency", as long as such a request is made within seven days of the results being declared, which Vimal has done. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage does not mention that the proof of a recent cybersecurity breach is a precondition for inspecting the microcontrollers. Option (c) is incorrect because the court's direction does not condition the inspection on reported EVM mismatches or defects—it supports inspection upon request. Option (d) is incorrect because while Vimal may benefit from presenting evidence, the passage does not state that concrete evidence is necessary for the request to be honored, only that the request must come within a timely manner.
64. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage indicates that a voter's right to know her vote is recorded and counted is protected in ways such as by the seven-second display of the VVPAT slip through the glass window. The fact that the slip did not drop into the compartment does not inherently mean the vote is uncounted. Option (a) is incorrect as Justice Khanna did not mandate



immediate physical counting for all mismatches, but rather provided that the voters could approach the Presiding Officer in case of mismatches, as per specific rules. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not differentiate between the obligations of the Presiding Officer and the Returning Officer in the context of what Aditi experienced. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not explicitly state that a vote is not counted if the VVPAT slip does not drop into the box; the focus is on the seven-second display as a measure of the vote being recorded.

65. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage states that Justice Khanna directed that SLUs "are to be sealed and kept in a strong room with the EVMs for 45 days after the results are declared", and are "to be opened, examined, and dealt with in the same manner as EVMs". This implies strict procedures for handling SLUs, and their being found unsealed raises legitimate legal concerns over adherence to protocols and election integrity. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage differentiates between the inspection of microcontrollers and SLUs, and checking microcontrollers upon a candidate's request does not rectify the concern of unsealed SLUs. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage explicitly describes legal requirements for the handling of SLUs, linking their integrity directly to the overall electoral process. Option (d) is incorrect, while a reasonable explanation may mitigate concerns, the unsealed nature in and of itself is a breach of the Supreme Court's directive, and thus represents a legal issue that may affect the integrity of the election process.
66. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage states that Justice Khanna acknowledged the Mydukur incident but emphasized it as "not a single case of mismatch or defect in the recording of votes in any EVM that was checked" aside from that scenario, which suggests that Rashmi's claim of a systemic issue might be undermined by this data point illustrating an isolated occurrence. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage clarifies that while the right to know one's vote has been accurately counted is recognized, this does not equate to the right to 100% counting of VVPAT slips. Option (c) is incorrect because although the Returning Officer provided clarification for the Mydukur incident, this does not conclusively prove that all variances are justifiable, nor does the passage state this. Option (d) is incorrect because while the seven-second display of the VVPAT slip is a measure of the vote being recorded, it does not itself address the broader challenge of vote count reliability in the event of discrepancies between the EVM and VVPAT.
67. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage outlines Justice Khanna's directive that SLUs "should be sealed and kept in a strong room with the EVMs for 45 days after the results are declared" and "are to be opened, examined, and dealt with in the same manner as EVMs," which implies that the legal framework treats the SLUs on par with the EVMs concerning post-election protocol. This directive supports Arjun's position that he has a legal standing to request SLUs' inspection as part of ensuring the election process's integrity.

Option (a) is incorrect as the passage indicates that the Supreme Court has laid down procedures for handling the SLUs akin to EVMs, thus providing grounds for Arjun's request. Option (c) is incorrect because, while SLUs may not directly record votes, the passage implies that their integrity is connected to the trust in the overall voting system, and thus their inspection has legal basis post-election. Option (d) is incorrect as the passage does not specify the conditions under which SLUs can be inspected to only those regarding EVM vote count discrepancies, nor does it state that it should only be after an issue is reported following the election results, as the protocols apply for 45 days regardless of reports of discrepancies.

68. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage states that in cases where witnesses' testimonies fall beyond the statute of limitations, they may not meet the requirements for a criminal trial, and introducing "prior bad act" testimony must adhere to strict rules about establishing motive, opportunity, intent, without solely proving propensity for criminality. Option (a) is incorrect because it is not enough to show a pattern or motive if the testimony is regarding acts outside the statute of limitations, and it risks being seen as only indicating propensity for criminal misconduct, which the passage clarifies is not a permissible use of such testimony. Option (b) is incorrect since the distinction between sexual harassment and assault is not the determining factor in the admissibility of testimony; rather, it is whether the testimony is relevant and permissible under the statute of limitations and aims to prove propensity, which is not permitted. Option (d) is incorrect because Simran's testimony providing substantial evidence is secondary to whether the prior bad acts testimony can be legally admitted, and without satisfying the legal criteria, it cannot simply be used to aid the conviction.
69. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage states that accusations not included in the charges cannot be admitted for the sole purpose of establishing the accused's propensity for criminality; this would also go against the Supreme Court's ruling that rights of the accused must be guarded regardless of the pressure to convict. The incident being six years old and not directly related to the current charges makes it inadmissible. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage establishes that establishing moral character is not a valid reason for the admission of prior bad acts. Option (c) is incorrect because, according to the Supreme Court ruling referenced in the passage, demonstrating propensity for dishonest conduct through unrelated past actions does not warrant their admissibility. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage implies the court's duty is to protect the accused's rights, and allowing the incident for the purpose of cross-examination could be prejudicial and infringe on those rights, especially when it wasn't a formal charge.
70. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that allegations of prior bad acts cannot be admitted against the accused for the sole purpose of establishing their propensity for criminality, which must be earnestly



protected. As such incidents were never formally reported or charged, their inclusion could unfairly sway a jury's perception of Aditya. Option (a) is incorrect because providing background to a behavioral pattern without formal charges or prior acts resembling the current charge is not sufficient to allow such testimonies, per the passage. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage indicates that for prior testimonies to be included, they must resemble the current charge and contribute effectively to establishing a common scheme, which is not the case here. Option (d) is incorrect; establishing the absence of mistake or accident through unreported conduct is speculative and could infringe on Aditya's right to a fair trial as it implies a criminal predisposition.

71. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage states that without a common link between the prior conduct and the current charges, evidence of past bad acts should not be admitted solely to show propensity for criminality. The twenty-year gap and the fact that the previous fraud case was never formally charged make the evidence irrelevant to the current charges of corruption and therefore likely inadmissible. Option (a) is incorrect because evidence of past conduct, particularly that which did not result in charges, is not admissible simply to show a pattern of behavior; this would violate the established legal principles mentioned in the passage and the protections afforded to the accused. Option (c) is incorrect; allowing evidence based on an assumption of character or predisposition is contrary to the principles outlined, where only relevant evidence linked to the actual charge should be admitted to avoid prejudicial impact on the trial. Option (d) is incorrect because although knowledge is a valid consideration for admitting prior bad acts evidence as per Molineux, the passage emphasizes that the evidence must be pertinent to the crime charged, and a twenty-year-old uncharged case would not meet that criterion.
72. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage implies that complaints about general medical issues that are not directly linked to the specific charge and did not result in equivalent harm are not admissible to prove criminal negligence in a particular case. Such complaints do not sufficiently demonstrate the elements of the crime charged and introducing them could unfairly prejudice Dr. Alok's defense by suggesting a criminal propensity. Option (a) is incorrect because demonstrating consistent risk is not synonymous with establishing the required standard for criminal negligence in the specific instance of Rohan's death, as dictated by the passage. Option (c) is incorrect since establishing a pattern of general incompetence without direct correlation to the specific act of negligence on trial can mislead the jury and does not properly adhere to the legal constraints concerning evidence of prior conduct. Option (d) is incorrect; although it seems closer to the permissible use of evidence concerning past conduct, the explanation in the passage makes it clear that such evidence must be directly relevant to the criminal act charged to be admitted, and general complaints without a direct causal link to the current charge do not meet this criterion.

73. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage suggests that accusations or proof of prior acts that are not directly tied to the current charges should not be introduced solely to establish the accused's character or habit, in this case, not to imply Kavya's habit of incorrect reporting. The judge should exclude the articles to prevent unjust prejudice and protect Kavya's rights, honoring the principle that the defendant should be tried for the charge at hand, not their general behavior or propensity to err. Option (b) is incorrect because, despite the close relationship between a journalist's source verification process and defamation, previous errors in different contexts should not be used to prove current conduct according to the passage's principles regarding the admission of previous unrelated acts. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no indication that the same sources were involved in the past and current articles, which would be required for this evidence to be admissible under the established legal standards for relevance in the passage. Option (d) is incorrect; though due diligence is a factor in defamation, proving a pattern of lack of diligence through unrelated instances would be tantamount to attributing a disposition to defame, which the passage makes clear is not a permissible basis for admitting evidence.
74. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the High Court issued an interim order directing that if any applications for NEET (Undergraduate) 2024 are received, they shall be subject to further orders in the ongoing proceedings in the SEBC Act case, which means all applications, even those that were processed before the interim order, potentially affects Pranav's provisional seat allocation. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage notes the interim order applies to "any applications" without specifying a date, implying that previously processed applications like Pranav's are subject to the ongoing judicial proceedings. Option (c) is incorrect because the interim order signifies the authority of the High Court to hold applications in abeyance pending further adjudication, making no distinction on when the benefit was granted. Option (d) is incorrect since the interim order related to the SEBC Act extends to all benefits arising from the Act, irrespective of the specific challenge to Justice Shukre's appointment.
75. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage states that the state government's draft notification enabling certain eligible categories of Marathas to avail Kunbi certificates for reservation under the OBC category was criticised, which gives a feasible legal ground for Jarange-Patil to challenge this move as discriminatory against the larger Maratha community. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the passage mentions that breaching the 50% ceiling is only possible if Parliament passes a Bill amending the Constitution, it doesn't indicate this as a feasible strategy for Jarange-Patil who is focused on the quota for Marathas specifically, not a constitutional amendment. Option (c) is incorrect as Jarange-Patil's objective is the withdrawal of the "backdoor" option, not the repeal of the SEBC Act, which he ostensibly supports in its aim to provide a quota for Marathas. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage specifies



multiple grounds for the quota and for the legal challenge, not just the underrepresentation in government services.

76. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage indicates that the Supreme Court struck down a similar law in the past, and if the arguments of Lakshmi, Harish, and Naveen against the SEBC Act, 2024, are upheld, the 10% Maratha quota could also be similarly struck down. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not link the constitutionality of the data collection directly with the validity of the SEBC Act; striking down the data collection method does not necessarily mean the Act could still stand. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest the reservation is conditional upon the scale of the data collection process, but rather on meeting certain legal standards and justifications. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not imply that if the Act is struck down for exceeding the 50% ceiling or on other grounds, the Court would then be required to expand the scope of the reservation to include other communities outside the Maratha populace.
77. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Raghav would argue that to prevent wastage of educational seats during the legal impasse, the seats should temporarily be made available to general category students until the judiciary reaches a decision regarding the SEBC Act, aligning with general principles of optimizing educational resources and not depriving eligible students of opportunities. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not indicate that Maratha students are applying through general category due to the interim hold. Option (c) is incorrect because it misinterprets the role of the judiciary in maintaining the integrity of the quota system while it's under review and does not guarantee a right to override the quota simply based on merit. Option (d) is incorrect as it misstates the interim order's impact, the purpose of which is not to obstruct equitable opportunities but to ensure that any admissions under the impugned act are in accordance with the law, which Raghav's petition supports by seeking a practical solution during the interim period.
78. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage underscores the role of the Shukre Commission in informing government policy on a contentious issue affecting a large portion of the population; this context strengthens Advaita's position to invoke freedom of the press and public interest in scrutinizing the process and findings of government bodies like the Shukre Commission, an essential aspect of democratic transparency and accountability. Option (b) is incorrect because it falsely limits the scope of freedom of press, as the constitutional guarantee for free speech includes scrutinizing and questioning governmental actions, including those of judicial commissions when public interest demands so. Option (c) is incorrect as it confuses the legal issue of privacy with defamation - questioning the validity of the findings is a matter of public concern and does not automatically equate with defamation simply due to scrutiny. Option (d) is incorrect because retraction is not relevant to the validity of her defense based on the freedom of press principle; moreover, the

passage does not indicate that such a compromise is necessary or appropriate in the context of her case.

79. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage indicates that the Shukre Commission identified social issues affecting the Maratha community, specifically the alarming increase in girl child marriages. Priyanka's campaign, which bases its argument on these findings to advocate for increased representation of women in state services, is in pursuit of addressing gender disparity, a legally legitimate cause that aligns with the principles of social justice and equality. Option (b) is incorrect because advocating for measures to correct historical gender disparities is part of the broader aims of anti-discrimination law and policy, and does not, in itself, constitute discrimination against men. Option (c) is incorrect because the legality of a campaign aimed at raising awareness and advocating for policy change is independent of whether the base findings are currently subject to judicial scrutiny; advocacy does not equate to immediate policy enactment but seeks to influence future change. Option (d) is incorrect because the validity of Priyanka's campaign does not hinge on whether the Commission made direct recommendations; rather, it legitimately draws on the implications of the findings to advocate for policy reform, which is a facet of legal political advocacy and democratic engagement.
80. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that Justice Iyer's interpretation of Article 39(b) has become influential in later judgments, such as in *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing v Bharat Coking Coal*, where the court upheld the transformation of wealth from private ownership into public ownership, taking within its stride the acquisition of privately-owned properties for redistribution. Therefore, even though Radhakrishnan's properties are privately owned, the government's action can be upheld if it aligns with the directive of securing the material resources so as to best subserve the common good. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage explains that private ownership is no longer seen as exempt from being considered a "material resource of the community" for the purposes of Article 39(b), as demonstrated by the *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing* case. Option (c) is incorrect because the determination of what constitutes the "common good" falls under the government's policy-making, guided by the DPSP, and the safety of the buildings does not negate the government's initiative. Option (d) is incorrect because, while it cites the majority opinion in the *Ranganatha Reddy* case, the passage clarifies that subsequent decisions have affirmed an expanded interpretation of Article 39(b) that includes private resources.
81. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage indicates that the term "material resources" includes both natural resources and all private and public sources of meeting material needs, as affirmed in *Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India* and not confined solely to public possessions or buildings in disrepair. Therefore, the court may find that even well-maintained non-cessed buildings fall within the scope of MHADA's objective of securing the material



resources to best subserve the common good, which is the government's intention with the redevelopment plan. Option (a) is incorrect because, as discussed, the courts' understanding of "material resources" extends beyond buildings that require repair and includes properties contributing to the common good. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage shows that the condition of the buildings does not strictly limit the government's ability to redistribute resources under Article 39(b). Option (d) is incorrect because it does not accurately reflect the passage's implications that the government must demonstrate how such acquisitions serve the common good, and simply being subject to acquisition is not sufficient justification on its own.

82. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage suggests that the term "material resources" includes movable or immovable property, as per the interpretation of Article 39(b) offered by Justice Paripoornan in *Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India*, and as such, it may include the land of the Parsi fire temple if its acquisition serves the common good. The courts may therefore dismiss the NGO's suit if the government's plan to construct a public facility is found to align with the goals of redistributing material resources for the common good. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not provide a clear-cut exemption for cultural landmarks from being deemed material resources. Option (b) is incorrect because it ignores the precedent that privately owned resources can be considered material resources of the community if their redistribution serves the common good. Option (d) is incorrect because it overlooks the fact that not all possessions are automatically included under Article 39(b); the acquisition still needs to serve the common good, which is a matter for the courts to determine based on the specific context and intent of the government's plans.
83. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage states that the interpretation of "material resources" under Article 39(b) includes the ownership and control of material resources to best subserve the common good. The courts have upheld a broader interpretation that can extend to various forms of private property, such as in *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company v Bharat Coking Coal* and *Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India*. This means that the state's action for environmental conservation could be justified if the courts find that it serves the common good. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage does not limit the scope of Article 39(b) solely to social and economic equity, but rather includes a broad range of public interests, including environmental conservation. Option (b) is incorrect because economic contributions of private properties, while important, do not necessarily provide immunity from acquisition if the government's initiative serves a broader interpretation of the common good under Article 39(b). Option (d) is incorrect because while environmental conservation can fulfill the directive of Article 39(b), the court must still assess whether the specific acquisition serves the common good in the context of the proposed public project.

84. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage establishes that Article 39(b) has been interpreted to include the distribution of material resources to best serve the common good, and previous judgments like the one in the case of MHADA's amendment have focused on providing for "needy persons," which is consistent with the provision of affordable housing. The government's refusal to grant permission is therefore in line with the constitutional objectives of Article 39(b) as housing for the needy aligns with the common good. Option (a) is incorrect because although economic growth and job creation are important factors, they do not necessarily override the importance of providing housing for "needy persons" under the scope of Article 39(b). Option (c) is incorrect because commercial development does not automatically equate with serving the common good; it must be assessed within the context of the DPSP and related principles, which in this case prioritize housing for the needy. Option (d) is incorrect because private enterprise, while important, is not immune from being regulated under Article 39(b) when it conflicts with objectives that serve the common good, such as providing affordable housing.
85. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage indicates that the interpretation of "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) has been broadened to include both public and private sources of meeting material needs, which could include land used for a community center if it is determined to serve the common good. This aligns with the judgments in *Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company v Bharat Coking Coal* and *Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India*, which support the transformation of private property into public ownership for the common good. Option (a) is incorrect because, while Rohan's supermarket serves essential services, the judiciary has recognized the state's prerogative to acquire private property for purposes that align with the common good, even if those services are immediate and essential. Option (c) is incorrect because economic impact and essential services are factors to be considered, but they do not alone determine the outcome if the acquisition serves a broader interpretation of the common good. Option (d) is incorrect because proving that the current use is detrimental to the common good is not necessarily a precondition for acquisition under Article 39(b); instead, the government must demonstrate how the proposed use will subserve the common good.
86. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage implies that countries with lower historical emissions and fewer resources will suffer most, indicating that countries with higher emissions and better resources could handle economic losses better. Option (b) is incorrect because it contradicts the passage's forecast of a 19% loss in global incomes due to climate change, which would affect economic growth. Option (c) is incorrect because, while it addresses cost reduction in emissions, it does not directly support the argument about mitigating economic losses due to climate impacts. Option (d) is incorrect because, although it relates to support for vulnerable countries, it does not directly strengthen the argument about the scale of economic losses already predicted by the study mentioned in the passage.



87. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage explicitly mentions that the consequences of climate risks will have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable communities with low adaptive capacities. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage indicates that industries such as housing and transport will be adversely hit, implying other industries could also be affected. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage states that the figure of predicted losses increases by 50% when damages from extreme weather events are included. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage suggests that countries need to do more to manage climate risks, as indicated by the severity of the predicted impacts and India's low ranking on the Environmental Performance Index.
88. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage explicitly states that the predicted losses are six times more than what it would cost the world to reduce carbon emissions to keep the rise in temperatures below 2° Celsius. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage suggests that reducing emissions is economically viable, contrasting the cost of inaction. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not claim that all economic losses could have been completely avoided, but rather implies losses are severe due to insufficient actions. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage states that countries in South Asia and Africa are among those expected to suffer the most severe damage, indicating they are not well-prepared.
89. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because it directly contradicts the author's assertion that vulnerable communities, especially in countries with low historical emissions, will face disproportionately severe impacts. If the economic impact is evenly distributed among all nations, it weakens the claim of a disproportionate effect on these communities. Option (a) is incorrect because, although it mentions development of adaptation strategies, it does not necessarily refute the claim about the current disproportionate impacts. Option (c) is incorrect because a decline in extreme weather events, while potentially relevant, does not address the economic impacts or distribution discussed in the passage. Option (d) is incorrect because it suggests mitigation in some areas but does not sufficiently challenge the overall argument about disproportionate impacts globally.
90. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage specifically mentions that the physical and human costs will be large for India, and investments in industries such as housing and transport will be adversely hit due to global warming, thereby affecting economic development. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that India's status as a major emitter enhances its economic development; rather, it points to vulnerabilities. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not indicate an increase in investments due to extreme weather events, but rather highlights adverse impacts. Option (d) is incorrect because India's low ranking on the Environmental Performance Index suggests poor adaptation to climate challenges, not success.

91. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the PNC's victory, which solidified its power, is also a strategic win for China as it allows Beijing to deepen its relationship with the Maldives without political deadlock. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage suggests that India needs to stay engaged with the Maldives, not disengage. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage indicates the PNC's intent to strengthen ties specifically with Beijing, not with both India and China. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage emphasizes the importance of India addressing the Maldivian sentiment and geopolitical implications, not solely focusing on economic aspects.
92. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it directly counters the author's concern about deepening geopolitical fault lines by suggesting that the PNC's foreign policy could remain balanced, thus reducing the potential for increased tension between India and China. Option (b) is incorrect because it does not address the broader implications of the PNC's actions on regional geopolitical tensions. Option (c) is incorrect as it would likely strengthen, rather than weaken, the author's argument by showing an escalation that aligns with the concerns expressed about China's influence. Option (d) is incorrect because it does not directly address the current situation in the Maldives but rather discusses historical patterns which might not apply to this specific case of geopolitical change.
93. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage indicates that the PNC came to power with a campaign critical of India's influence and has continued to resonate with Maldivian society, which is reflected in their electoral success. This suggests a shift in public opinion against India's influence. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage implies that the departure of Indian soldiers is part of broader geopolitical dynamics, particularly involving China's influence. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that the PNC's win, along with its anti-India campaign, implies a loss of Indian influence. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that the PNC has committed to deepening ties with Beijing, which could potentially affect its relationships with other regional powers, especially India.
94. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author's suggestion that India must address Maldivian sentiment implies that failing to do so previously may have led to a decrease in India's influence, indicating an underestimation of the impact of local sentiment on bilateral relations. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no direct implication in the passage that the Maldives has significant leverage over India's broader regional policies; rather, the discussion focuses on bilateral relations. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that public opinion is easily swayed but rather that it has consistently supported the PNC's anti-India stance. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage clearly states the importance of public opinion in shaping the Maldives' foreign policy, especially in terms of its relationship with India.



95. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage directly suggests that India needs to start by acknowledging the resonance of the PNC's anti-India campaign with Maldivian society as a means to regain influence. This implies engagement that addresses underlying sentiments, not just strategic or economic concerns. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage advises caution and understanding, not escalation of military presence, which could provoke tensions. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage specifically argues against disengagement, indicating that India should remain actively involved in Maldivian affairs. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage highlights the importance of addressing political sentiments alongside economic engagements, suggesting a comprehensive approach rather than a purely economic one.
96. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage implies that the prime minister's strategy of misrepresenting the inheritance tax issue relies on the assumption that the public may not be fully aware of its historical context or the truth about its abolition, making it easier to manipulate public perception. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not provide evidence that the inheritance tax is universally unpopular; it only mentions that the issue is controversial. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage criticizes the focus on trivial matters over substantial electoral issues, implying that this is a diversion rather than a primary interest of the electorate. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage actually suggests the opposite—that political parties are engaging in the weaponization of falsehood rather than clear and factual communication.
97. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage indicates that the strategic use of misinformation and deflection, such as the false claims about the inheritance tax, serves to divert public attention from more substantial electoral issues. This strategy is mentioned as part of the broader context of misinformation shaping political engagements. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not claim the tax was definitively unpopular across all times; it only mentions that its discussion was controversial. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage suggests that the debasement of electoral rhetoric through misinformation is common, indicating that truthful debates without misinformation are not the norm. Option (d) is incorrect because, while ideal, the passage does not assert that the media consistently exposes misinformation; it focuses more on the tactics used by politicians.
98. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage criticizes the use of misinformation in political engagements, suggesting a concern for the integrity of democratic processes, which would be better served by clear and factual communication. Option (b) is incorrect as the author clearly views the use of misinformation negatively, indicating it debases electoral rhetoric and harms democracy. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage suggests that focusing on trivial matters like personal wealth detracts from more significant issues that

should dominate political debates. Option (d) is incorrect as it shifts responsibility away from political leaders to maintain truthfulness; the passage seems to emphasize the role of leaders and the political system in perpetuating or combating misinformation.

99. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because it directly supports the author's argument about the debasement of electoral rhetoric through misinformation. If voters are relying more on platforms where misinformation is prevalent, this would likely enhance the negative impact of misinformation on the electoral process, aligning with the author's concerns. Option (a) is incorrect as it contradicts the premise that misinformation affects the electoral process negatively. Option (c) is incorrect because it suggests that misinformation does not have the harmful impact the author claims, as voters can identify and ignore it. Option (d) is incorrect for strengthening the argument because it points to a positive scenario that doesn't directly address the impact of misinformation, though it suggests a preferable alternative to the current situation described by the author.
100. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the author discusses how political leaders use strategic misinformation and fear to deflect from substantial issues, which is characteristic of political engagements in the post-truth age. This reflects a manipulation of public perception rather than an engagement with real electoral issues. Option (a) is incorrect because the author suggests that the use of misinformation actually detracts from genuine engagement and awareness among voters. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage clearly states that people's issues should ideally dominate political debates, but this is not the case due to the weaponization of falsehood. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the role of traditional media in combating misinformation; rather, it focuses on the strategies of political parties.
101. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it supports the author's conclusion that single women remain an invisible section by highlighting that while other demographic groups are being targeted in political campaigns, single women are not, reinforcing their invisibility. Option (b) is incorrect because active engagement in community and political activities by single women would imply visibility rather than invisibility. Option (c) is incorrect as it directly contradicts the author's statement that single women do not appear in any election banner, thus they would not be considered invisible if this were true. Option (d) is incorrect because if single women had formed a significant voting bloc, this would likely lead to increased visibility and recognition by political parties, contrary to what the author argues.
102. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author illustrates the immense workload single women handle, such as dropping a child to school, preparing meals, and engaging in adventurous activities, all of which imply a burden of



multitasking and managing numerous responsibilities simultaneously. Option (b) is incorrect as the author suggests that single women are invisible in political campaigns and societal recognition, indicating a lack of recognition in social structures. Option (c) is incorrect because, although the author describes single women managing many tasks, there is no implication that they have ample support; rather, the depiction suggests they are doing so out of necessity. Option (d) is incorrect because the author's description conveys a sense of invisibility and lack of value attributed to single women in societal narratives, contrasting with a positive and empowering view.

103. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author suggests that the number of single women is growing and implies that societal views may not fully acknowledge or accurately count single women, indicating a likelihood of under-reporting. Option (b) is incorrect because the author does not discuss the level of involvement of single women in societal or political issues relative to other groups. Option (c) is incorrect as the author argues that single women are invisible in political campaigns, suggesting that their concerns are not actively addressed. Option (d) is incorrect because the author points out the absence of a single term in languages like Bengali and Hindi that encompasses all categories of single women, indicating that the concept is neither well defined nor uniformly understood.
104. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because if a major political party has launched a campaign that directly targets single women, this would directly contradict the author's claim that single women are invisible in political recognition and campaigns. This evidence would show that they are indeed recognized and actively targeted by political entities. Option (a) is incorrect as being active voters does not necessarily contradict their political invisibility in terms of campaign focus and policy targeting. Option (b) is incorrect because while new legislation provides legal recognition, it does not necessarily reflect political campaign recognition. Option (d) is incorrect because it would actually strengthen the author's argument about the invisibility and lack of engagement of single women in political processes.
105. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the author points out that there is not even a single encompassing word in some languages for single women, which suggests that the lack of a coherent narrative or terminology contributes to their invisibility and under-recognition in society. Option (a) is incorrect as the author does not indicate that the current narrative emphasizes their independence or contributions in a way that leads to greater recognition. Option (c) is incorrect because the author does not describe the narrative as focusing on traditional family roles; rather, it's noted that single women are described in various terms like unmarried, widowed, separated, or divorced, indicating a lack of focus on their societal roles. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that narratives are shifting towards more diverse

representations; instead, it highlights the ongoing issue of invisibility and lack of recognition.

106. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage implies that privileged artists often choose safer truths likely due to concerns over maintaining their social and possibly financial standing within their circles, suggesting an assumption that more challenging truths could be less commercially successful or accepted. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not criticize the technical skills of privileged artists, but rather their choice of content. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that entry and exit in the privileged art world are tightly controlled, implying unequal access to resources. Option (d) is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that marginalized artists have deeper insights inherently, but that their art often stems from a necessity to express challenging truths about their lived experiences.
107. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage indicates that the privileged art world protects its status quo by tightly controlling entry and exit and using the names of successful outsiders as proof of inclusivity while continuing to marginalize or idolize them. This suggests an active discouragement against genuinely engaging with challenging ideas that could disrupt the existing norms. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage states that art is often viewed as a hobby and not a serious professional endeavor in privileged circles, and young artists are encouraged to have a fallback plan. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage clearly distinguishes between how privileged and marginalized artists view and use art, implying that not all art equally questions or addresses societal issues. Option (d) is incorrect as the passage suggests that once financial thresholds are surpassed, upskilling serves only to maintain interest in already accepted art forms, not necessarily leading to recognition of new or challenging expressions.
108. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage emphasizes the potential of art to surprise, challenge, and lead to shifts in perception among both creators and audiences. Studies showing that audiences change their social attitudes after engaging with challenging art would directly support this claim, reinforcing the author's argument about art's capacity to transform societal views. Option (b) is incorrect because while it discusses the limited audience reach of privileged art, it doesn't directly support the transformative potential of art in general. Option (c) is incorrect because, although it highlights the struggles of marginalized artists, it does not address how their work could lead to broader social transformations when recognized. Option (d) is incorrect as it would likely weaken the argument by suggesting that funding is geared towards less challenging art, which contradicts the transformative potential discussed in the passage.



109. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage describes how privileged circles often view art as a hobby rather than a serious professional endeavor. This perception influences young artists to pursue art only until it becomes a career choice, at which point they are confronted with the realities of art's long gestation period and financial instability, prompting the need for a fallback—usually in a 'safer' field. This suggests that the view of art as a hobby contributes to a cultural perception of the arts as less valid professionally, influencing career choices of young artists negatively. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage implies that the hobbyist view does not support pursuing art without concern for financial stability but rather discourages it as a full-time profession. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no direct mention in the passage that viewing art as a hobby fosters a competitive environment; the focus is more on the discouragement from pursuing it professionally. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that this view leads to greater innovation and creativity; instead, it highlights the discouragement of pursuing art as a viable career.
110. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because it directly aligns with the principle described in the passage that true art confronts the fractures within its community courageously. A street art installation that portrays the struggles of marginalized communities and encourages public interaction embodies this principle by actively engaging with and challenging societal issues. Option (a) is incorrect because while it may hint at social disparities, subtle hints do not meet the criteria of confronting issues with the required courage as stated in the passage. Option (c) is incorrect as it involves showcasing traditional art forms that avoid contemporary socio-political themes, thus not confronting societal fractures. Option (d) is incorrect because it prioritizes aesthetic beauty over social commentary, which does not conform to the principle of art challenging community fractures courageously.
111. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. Analysis of the Question: To find the average monthly Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection for the year 2021 in India, we need to total the annual GST collections and then divide by the number of months in a year.
- Answer Step by Step:
- Total GST collected in 2021: ₹1,478 billion.
- Number of months in a year: 12.
- Formula to calculate average monthly collection:  $\text{Total GST Collection} / \text{Number of Months}$ .
- Calculation: ₹1,478 billion / 12 months.
- Average monthly GST collection: ₹123.17 billion.
- Correct Answer: (c) ₹123.17 billion
- Explanation of Why Other Options are Incorrect:
- Option (a) ₹118.17 billion: This option underestimates the average by not accounting for higher collection months as shown in the data, leading to a lower average.
- Option (b) ₹120.17 billion: While close, this figure is still slightly below the

accurate calculation based on total yearly collection.

Option (d) ₹130.17 billion: This overestimates the average as it exceeds the calculation based on the total sum divided by the months, potentially misleading about the typical monthly intake.

112. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: The question asks for the percentage of the total annual GST collected in December 2021. To answer this, we divide the GST collected in December by the total annual GST collection and multiply by 100 to find the percentage.

Answer Step by Step:

GST collected in December 2021: ₹127 billion.

Total GST collected in 2021: ₹1,478 billion.

Formula to calculate the percentage:  $(\text{GST Collected in December} / \text{Total Annual GST Collection}) * 100$ .

Calculation:  $(₹127 \text{ billion} / ₹1,478 \text{ billion}) * 100$ .

Percentage calculation:  $(127 / 1478) * 100 \approx 8.59\%$ .

Correct Answer: (b) 8.59%

Explanation of Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 7.5%: This underestimates the proportion of December's contribution to the annual total. It suggests a smaller impact of the December collection than what is actually calculated.

Option (c) 9.2%: This option slightly overestimates December's share of the total GST collection for the year, assuming more revenue in December than was actually recorded.

Option (d) 10%: This significantly overestimates the portion collected in December, implying a much larger percentage of the total annual collection than is accurate per the provided data.

113. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: To find the GST collected in March, we need to calculate the amount 10% higher than the average monthly GST collection for 2021. This involves understanding how much more was collected over the average and then adding this increase to the average monthly figure.

Answer Step by Step:

Average monthly GST collection in 2021: ₹123 billion.

Percentage increase in March over the average: 10%.

Increase amount:  $10\% \text{ of } ₹123 \text{ billion} = 0.10 * ₹123 \text{ billion} = ₹12.3 \text{ billion}$ .

Total GST collected in March:  $₹123 \text{ billion} + ₹12.3 \text{ billion} = ₹135.3 \text{ billion}$ .

Correct Answer: (b) ₹135.3 billion

Explanation of Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) ₹130.3 billion: This figure underestimates the total, not accounting for the full 10% increase over the average monthly collection.

Option (c) ₹140.3 billion: This overestimates the collection, suggesting a higher percentage increase than the 10% specified.

Option (d) ₹150.3 billion: Significantly overestimates the GST collection for



March, implying an increase far beyond the 10% increase over the average provided in the data.

114. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question involves calculating the total GST collected in 2021 based on a percentage increase from the previous year. We will apply the percentage increase to the 2020 revenue to find the 2021 figure.

Answer Step by Step:

Total GST collected in 2020: ₹10.2 trillion.

Percentage increase from 2020 to 2021: 27%.

Calculate the increase in GST revenue: 27% of ₹10.2 trillion =  $0.27 \times ₹10.2$  trillion = ₹2.754 trillion.

Total GST collected in 2021: ₹10.2 trillion + ₹2.754 trillion = ₹12.954 trillion.

Correct Answer: (b) ₹12.9 trillion

Explanation of Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) ₹11.5 trillion: This option significantly underestimates the total, not accurately reflecting the 27% growth from the previous year's collection.

Option (c) ₹13.9 trillion: This rounds up the actual calculated value slightly, which leads to an overestimation, albeit minimal.

Option (d) ₹13.2 trillion: This figure further overestimates the total GST collection for 2021, implying a higher growth rate than the actual 27% increase.

115. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question requires calculating the average monthly GST collection and determining the percentage increase of the March collection over this average.

Answer Step by Step:

Total GST collection in 2021: ₹12.954 trillion.

Number of months in a year: 12.

Average monthly GST collection: Total annual GST / 12 months = ₹12.954 trillion / 12 = ₹1.0795 trillion per month.

March GST collection: ₹1.41 trillion.

Calculate the increase over the average:  $(\text{March collection} - \text{Average monthly collection}) / \text{Average monthly collection} \times 100 = (\text{₹1.41 trillion} - \text{₹1.0795 trillion}) / \text{₹1.0795 trillion} \times 100$ .

Perform the calculation:  $(\text{₹1.41 trillion} - \text{₹1.0795 trillion}) = \text{₹0.3305 trillion}$ ;  $\text{₹0.3305 trillion} / \text{₹1.0795 trillion} \times 100 \approx 30.61\%$ .

Correct Answer: (b) 30.61%

Explanation of Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 25.66%: This underestimates the percentage increase. It suggests a smaller difference between March's collection and the monthly average than what the calculation reveals.

Option (c) 35.34%: This overestimates the increase. It suggests a proportion that's higher than the calculated value based on the actual figures provided.

Option (d) 40.24%: Significantly overstates the difference, indicating a far

larger gap between March's collections and the average than is actually present.

116. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: The question asks us to calculate the percentage of the total forested area in West Bengal that is covered by dense forests. This includes both very dense and moderately dense forests as mentioned in the data provided.

Step-by-Step Answer:

Total forested area: According to the passage, West Bengal has a total forested area of 13,208 square kilometers.

Dense forest area: The dense forests cover about 7,780 square kilometers.

Formula to calculate the percentage:  $(\text{Dense Forest Area} / \text{Total Forested Area}) * 100$ .

Calculation:  $(7,780 / 13,208) * 100 \approx 58.9\%$ .

Correct Answer:

Option (a) 58.9%

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 65.2%: This option overestimates the proportion of dense forest. It would require the dense forest area to be larger than what is reported.

Option (c) 50.5%: This underestimates the portion of the dense forest area, not aligning with the calculated proportion from the total forested area.

Option (d) 72.3%: This significantly overestimates the percentage, suggesting a dense forest area much larger than what is factual according to the given data.

117. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question requires calculating the total additional funding allocated based on the area of newly added forests and the funding rate per hectare. Given that 1 square kilometer equals 100 hectares, we can convert the area into hectares and then apply the funding rate.

Step-by-Step Answer:

New forest area added: 242 square kilometers.

Conversion of area to hectares:  $242 \text{ square kilometers} * 100 \text{ hectares per square kilometer} = 24,200 \text{ hectares}$ .

Funding per hectare: ₹2,500.

Total funding calculation:  $24,200 \text{ hectares} * ₹2,500 \text{ per hectare} = ₹60,500,000$ .

Conversion to crores:  $₹60,500,000 = ₹6.05 \text{ crore}$ .

Correct Answer:

Option (c) ₹6.05 crore

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) ₹5.35 crore: This figure is lower than the calculated amount, indicating an error in multiplying the area by the per hectare funding rate or conversion error to crores.



Option (b) ₹6.85 crore: This option overestimates the calculated funding, possibly due to miscalculating the hectares or the funding rate.

Option (d) ₹7.25 crore: This significantly overestimates the funding, implying an incorrect calculation of area, funding rate, or both.

118. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: To find the current forest cover in square kilometers, we need to calculate 12.4% of West Bengal's total land area. This involves a straightforward percentage calculation where the percentage value is applied to the total area.

Step-by-Step Answer:

Total land area of West Bengal: 88,752 square kilometers.

Percentage of land covered by forest: 12.4%.

Calculation for forest cover:  $(12.4 / 100) * 88,752$  square kilometers = 11,005.648 square kilometers.

Rounded value: 11,005.6 square kilometers.

Correct Answer:

Option (a) 11,005.6 square kilometers

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 10,485.2 square kilometers: This underestimates the area, suggesting a miscalculation by not properly applying the 12.4% to the total area.

Option (c) 12,285.5 square kilometers: This overestimates the forest cover, indicating a calculation that either used a higher percentage or an error in basic percentage application.

Option (d) 9,956.4 square kilometers: This significantly underestimates the forest cover, failing to correctly calculate 12.4% of the total land area, leading to a substantial deviation from the correct area.

119. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: To determine the area of dense forest, we need to apply the percentage of dense forest to the total forest area. This is a percentage multiplication problem that requires precise calculation to arrive at the correct figure for dense forest cover.

Step-by-Step Answer:

Total forest cover in West Bengal: 11,005.6 square kilometers.

Percentage of dense forest area: 18.3%.

Calculation for dense forest cover:  $(18.3 / 100) * 11,005.6 = 2,014.0248$  square kilometers.

Rounded value: 2,014 square kilometers.

Correct Answer:

Option (a) 2,011 square kilometers

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 1,914 square kilometers: This option underestimates the area, not correctly applying the percentage to the total forest cover.

Option (c) 2,155 square kilometers: This overestimates the dense forest area, indicating a calculation error, possibly from using an incorrect percentage or

misapplying it.

Option (d) 1,675 square kilometers: This significantly underestimates the dense forest cover, failing to correctly use the 18.3% of the actual forest cover, which suggests a miscalculation in the basic application of the percentage to the total forest area.

120. Explanation: Option (d) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question involves calculating the projected area of open forest cover in West Bengal after a known percentage increase from the previous year. It's a straightforward application of percentage increase to the base area.

Step-by-Step Answer:

Area of open forest cover last year: 1,320 square kilometers.

Percentage increase: 10%.

Calculation of increase:  $10\% \text{ of } 1,320 \text{ square kilometers} = 0.10 * 1,320 = 132 \text{ square kilometers.}$

Projected area for the current year:  $1,320 + 132 = 1,452 \text{ square kilometers.}$

Correct Answer:

Option (d) 1,452 square kilometers

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 1,485 square kilometers: Overestimates the area. This would be correct if the percentage increase was approximately 12.5%, not the stated 10%.

Option (b) 1,320 square kilometers: Indicates no increase from the previous year, which contradicts the information provided about the growth rate.

Option (c) 1,400 square kilometers: Underestimates the increase; the calculation shows an increase of less than 10%, which is incorrect per the given data.