

**CLAT MOCK TEST – 7****ENGLISH LANGUAGE****PASSAGE 1**

Mrs. S arrives last. The Girls try not to care. Look at her quickly, flicking from her shoes to her hair, they like to see how she dresses. The library is warm. She stands by the door and removes her jumper, green. We all watch, we all want to be the only one watching. She recognizes her audience. Smiles. Their unofficial welfare officer. Involved in the intimate aspects of their lives, out of choice, not duty, it seems to me. The Girls are spread across the room. Leaning on bookcases, sitting cross-legged on the patterned carpet. Some have dared to loosen their ties, undo a top button. The Nurse is impatient. As if she has been waiting a century to speak. She stands in front of them all. Her hands move in and out of fists, heavy at her sides. Taps her foot. Mrs. S apologizes for her lateness, though it's only by a few minutes. The Nurse forces an enormous smile. Right. She claps her hands. Right, enough chitter-chatter, listen up Girls, or should I say Ladies? They do not know it is meant as a question. The Nurse presses her lips together. Hmmmmmm? Now they understand. Ladies, The Girls respond softly, reluctantly. Mrs. S moves through the room. Knots the green jumper around her shoulders. An example. Finds me at the far wall. Decides to stand as I do, tilted forward, lower back pressed against stone. She whispers something I can't catch. I should whisper too, ask her to repeat what she said. I can't. I will spend a lifetime wondering. Another smile. The Nurse goes on. Ladies, as we all know, your first social is upon us. The Girls bite the insides of their cheeks. They do not want to give away their excitement, not to her. I could learn from their determination. Mrs. S, her bare forearm, only a centimetre from mine. I'd like her to realize. She doesn't. The Nurse is not awkward. Power comes naturally to her, she seeks it out. There are, of course, a few things worth bearing in mind, the same things I've told the Ladies before you, and the Ladies before them. The Girls release their cheeks. First, the rules, no skirts above the knees. One of The Girls can't help it. She groans, other heads whip to find her. The Nurse's hand, no longer a fist, hits the skin above her heart. The Girls closest flinch. Any more outbursts like that and I shall make sure none of you go, do you hear? Mrs. S turns to me, raises her eyebrows so only I will notice. Where did she grow up? Has she broken any bones? The impulse to know all of her, the idea that I could, the accidental promise of her raised eyebrows. Shameful, how easily I am trapped.

Source: MRS. S, LA Review of Books, June 22, 2023.

Q.1) What does the word 'chitter-chatter' as used in the passage, mean?

- A) Serious conversation and discussion
- B) Gossip or idle talk
- C) Whistling or humming
- D) Quick and hurried movement

Q.2) Which of the following, used in the passage, suggests that the Nurse is authoritative and seeks power?

- A) “She stands in front of them all. Her hands move in and out of fists, heavy at her sides. Taps her foot.”
- B) “The Girls bite the insides of their cheeks. They do not want to give away their excitement, not to her.”
- C) “The Nurse forces an enormous smile. Right. She claps her hands.”
- D) “The Nurse’s hand, no longer a fist, hits the skin above her heart.”

Q.3) What according to the author is essential about the experience of being a “Lady”?

- A) Following the rules and regulations set by the Nurse.
- B) Maintaining a certain level of decorum and modesty in appearance.
- C) Demonstrating determination and resilience in the face of challenges.
- D) Building a strong bond with other Girls in the group.

Q.4) Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- A) The author is ashamed of their own vulnerability and susceptibility to Mrs. S’s influence.
- B) The author feels trapped by their own curiosity and desire to know more about Mrs. S.
- C) The author regrets their inability to engage in a meaningful conversation with Mrs. S.
- D) The author is disappointed by their own lack of self-control and inappropriate thoughts.

Q.5) “Shameful, how easily I am trapped.” Which of the following can be inferred about the author’s views on their own vulnerability?

- A) The author is proud of their ability to recognize their vulnerability.
- B) The author sees their vulnerability as a weakness to be ashamed of.
- C) The author is indifferent to their own vulnerability.
- D) The author believes that vulnerability is a natural and expected human trait.

PASSAGE 2

Here I feel welcome. A room of my own, spacious compared to where I lived, the compound cluttered with too many families and the two-room house too small for me and my kids. Here a bare expanse of walls and floor. And machines clocking my bodily functions and forcing the life spilling out back in. Not bad, all things considered. Up until recently our biggest concern had been the drought. For years running the reservoir levels decreasing throughout the country from lack of rain and encroaching desert, forcing each person to take on the burden of rationing water even here in the city. But we managed. I managed. The most important thing, I had a job and could provide for my family. I had not much else. The type of poverty one can manage. Even be proud of.

I was given to spending time with the Leather Lady every evening after work. We had long been firm friends, from the day my husband and I as newlyweds took up residence in the compound more than a decade earlier. Turning away from the compound, we would take a slow spin around the neighborhood, passing by many spots that were hot, dangerous. But we were

safe since gangsters never do their dirt at home. Then too she dressed in a way that could not escape notice and that identified her to every beholder, always some combination of brown leather—pants and a top, or jumper, a skirt, and sandals that encircled her calves and shins with straps, even an ankle-length leather dress. Topped by a leather cowboy hat with small birds perched along the brim. I was always surprised by the ease and swiftness of her movement. Life had thickened her and slowed her down, but she still maintained a plurality of youthful features. Her face entirely made up. Acrylic nails attached to her fingers like colorful beetles. In the course of our walks she might smoke a cigarette or two, and she would speak to me about her day. (Now she made whatever she could from babysitting, cooking, sewing, running errands, and other odds and ends.) She never permitted her past to come up in conversation, and she wasn't the type of older woman to know-it-all you, to advise and chastise. Rather, when you wanted her advice or her opinion, she was quick to say, "Oh, I don't know. What do you think?" The only time I ever heard her speak her mind was when the quarantine was announced. We started out on our nightly walk, masks fitted over our mouths. I asked her what I should do. She offered me a cigarette. Taking no chances, I declined. She accepted the risk. Took a few puffs. She was insistent that I remain at home during the quarantine. Once back at my house, we sat down on the stoop. The stars were out above us, light pasted to night. She was sweating, so removed her hat and used it to fan herself. For the first time I caught a glimpse of her hair, microbraids patterned into small squares, each braid drawn tightly to connect it to another.

Source: "THE LUCKY ONES", The Literary Hub, June 23, 2023.

Q.6) What does the word 'microbraids' as used in the passage, mean?

- A) Small braids made with micro-sized hair strands.
- B) Tiny braids patterned in small squares.
- C) Braids made using a microbraiding technique.
- D) Intricate braids woven tightly together.

Q.7) Which of the following can be inferred about the author's views on poverty?

- A) The author sees poverty as a source of shame and embarrassment.
- B) The author believes that poverty can be managed and even something to be proud of.
- C) The author feels frustrated and overwhelmed by the challenges of poverty.
- D) The author considers poverty to be an inevitable and unavoidable condition.

Q.8) "The only time I ever heard her speak her mind was when the quarantine was announced." This sentence implies that:

- A) The Leather Lady rarely expresses her opinions.
- B) The Leather Lady is outspoken and freely shares her thoughts.
- C) The Leather Lady is hesitant to voice her true thoughts.
- D) The Leather Lady is reserved and prefers not to speak up.

Q.9) Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- A) The Leather Lady's hair was intricately braided with small squares.
- B) The Leather Lady's hair was tightly woven in a microbraiding technique.

- C) The Leather Lady's hair was patterned with microbraids in small squares.
- D) The Leather Lady's hair was tightly connected through microbraiding.

Q.10) What according to the author is essential about the experience of being a Leather Lady?

- A) Wearing leather clothing and accessories.
- B) Having a distinctive appearance that stands out.
- C) Maintaining a youthful and vibrant personality.
- D) Embracing an unconventional and individualistic lifestyle.

PASSAGE 3

Inside the rest stop, flies blackened the cloth swathed around a plate of sliced oranges. The woman behind the counter told me they were samples. I could take as many as I wanted and didn't have to pay. I stuffed two slices into my pockets, one in my mouth, and bit down. This was my first impression of Florida: everything was sweet and free. I joined my family on a bench overlooking a prairie of saw grass that stood well above our heads. Lorraine held Snickers tight. A malnourished tabby with one chewed ear, he was the only feral cat to survive the fire that had destroyed our home and used-car dealership. We were proud of ourselves for rescuing Snickers, but he didn't seem to appreciate our efforts. He had spent the last twenty hours pawing at the car door, longing for his dumpster burned black to ashes, crying for all his dead friends. I offered him an orange slice. Dad studied the road map, looking for a place we could live. The condos in Orlando didn't appeal to him: not enough privacy. The coast was too expensive. He penciled a route toward Lake Okeechobee, the big body of water dominating the bottom of the state. An airboat bearing an American flag roared through the saw grass. It was my first time seeing one, and I felt both scared and thrilled by its military-like energy. Snickers flattened his ears. Mom fussed with the tight red bun resting atop her head like an apple waiting to be shot. "Where the hell are we?" she said, face lifted toward the sun, eyes closed.

Under the overpass, we merged onto a two-lane road pocked with puddles. On either side, short trees sprouted from black muck. Even with the T-tops on and A/C running, Lorraine and I got broiled by the sun. There wasn't much room for us in the hatch of our brandy-brown Corvette. Not the most practical vehicle for two parents and two girls, ages seven and nine, but Dad liked cars with curves. We came up behind a station wagon that looked like it was held together with mud. Milk crates filled with strawberries and string beans were lashed to the roof. From behind the busted-out windows, faces peered. "Migrant pickers," Dad said, and gassed it past them. We assumed we'd see Lake Okeechobee from the car. But after driving for two hours, we realized we somehow must've missed it. Swampland gave way to sugarcane fields. Mom got mad at us for bickering about the radio. Dad turned it off. "Peace and quiet," he said. Lorraine tossed her long brown ponytail, so silky and fine that her scrunchie slipped right out. I knew what the toss meant. She knock-knocked on the cooler. I make-believe opened a door. "Hey. It's me," she said, heavy on the mock despair. "I got somethin' I wanna tell you." She brought a spark plug to her mouth like a microphone. "I think we're alone now. There doesn't seem to be anyone a-ro-ound."

Source: FIREWORKS EVERY NIGHT, The Literary Hub Excerpts, June 26, 2023.

Q.11) Based on the passage, which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- A) Scientific Article
- B) Instructional Guide

- C) Fantasy Fiction
- D) Personal Narrative

Q.12) “Swampland gave way to sugarcane fields.” Based on this statement, which of the following is the most convincing conclusion?

- A) The family had a comprehensive understanding of Florida’s agricultural industry.
- B) The family decided to invest in sugarcane farming.
- C) The family’s route transitioned from a marshy terrain to agricultural fields.
- D) The family’s Corvette could drive through all types of terrain.

Q.13) The author in the passage felt a sense of _____ when they saw the airboat bearing an American flag roar through the saw grass?

- A) Indifference
- B) Fear and excitement
- C) Unhappiness
- D) Boredom

Q.14) All the following pairs of words are synonyms, except:

- A) Destroyed - Ruined
- B) Condos - Apartments
- C) Overpass - Underpass
- D) Thrilled - Excited

Q.15) Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence “I think we’re alone now. There doesn’t seem to be anyone a-ro-ound.” best?

- A) Lorraine is feeling isolated and scared.
- B) Lorraine is expressing a feeling of liberation and excitement at being alone.
- C) Lorraine is under the illusion that they are the only people left in the world.
- D) Lorraine is playfully engaging in a moment of solitude during their journey.

PASSAGE 4

My brother and I both became writers. I don’t know what he answers when people ask him why that is. I say it’s thanks to all the boredom our parents imparted to us. While my mother had high anxiety, my father had a subtler form of paranoia. His chemistry studies made him see the world as a petri dish of harmful substances we constantly needed to protect ourselves from. This meant leaving the house as little as possible, suffocating within four walls—or, in our case, a hundred.

I was eight at the time of the nuclear reactor meltdown in Chernobyl. Even when the emergency seemed to be over, my family continued to exist in a postapocalyptic film scenario, pretending we lived not in a relatively well-off city in the Western world, but in a sci-fi Zone X with high levels of contamination. In every respectable catastrophe story, when the world’s been infected, all that matters is preserving one’s blood ties: the family. And so for three years my father didn’t

let us eat fruits, vegetables, or eggs, or drink milk, or go out to restaurants, or buy pizza from street vendors. The only foods allowed were canned goods dated before April 26, 1986. It wasn't easy to follow this protocol, but I must confess that it made things interesting, made me feel like a heroine living in a state of quarantine invisible to the rest of the world. Staying entrenched in our secure apartment, eating tuna and beans like the pioneers, coming up with outlandish excuses to turn down a snack when studying at a classmate's, or checking the packaging dates at the supermarket as though they were secret codes meant just for us, the chosen few.

We all ended up with a pretty bad vitamin deficiency, and though my mother drugged us with Be-Total and Co-Carnetina, we were all a bit green around the gills. Still, we survived. Worst-case scenario, we risked coming down with scurvy. Thanks to our strict upbringing, neither my brother nor I ever learned to do such hazardous things as swimming, riding a bike, skating, or jumping rope (in a flash we might have drowned, cracked our skulls, broken a leg, strangled ourselves). We spent our childhood cooped up at home, bored off our asses. It was such an all-consuming activity that it soon became an existential pose. We knew how to be bored like nobody's business.

Source: LOST ON ME, Literary Hub Excerpts, June 27, 2023.

Q.16) What use was the strict upbringing to the author?

- A) It served as a training ground for the author to learn vital life skills.
- B) It provided the author with a unique childhood experience that fueled their creativity and interest in writing.
- C) It served to shield the author from the dangerous outside world.
- D) It was used as a disciplinary tool to shape the author's character.

Q.17) "We all ended up with a pretty bad vitamin deficiency." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- A) The family's diet was rich in fruits, vegetables, and proteins.
- B) The family's strict diet, comprised mostly of canned goods, lacked essential nutrients.
- C) The family frequently dined out at restaurants.
- D) The family had a balanced diet but still developed a vitamin deficiency due to a medical condition.

Q.18) "Thanks to our strict upbringing, neither my brother nor I ever learned to do such hazardous things as swimming, riding a bike, skating, or jumping rope." This sentence implies that:

- A) The author's parents emphasized the importance of outdoor activities.
- B) The author and their brother were naturally uninterested in physical activities.
- C) The author's parents' protective measures restricted them from learning common childhood skills.
- D) The author's parents believed in the value of education over physical activities.

Q.19) What does the word 'postapocalyptic' as used in the passage, mean?

- A) A period of peace and prosperity after a major catastrophe.

- B) A state of great happiness and joy following a disaster.
- C) A state of heightened security and safety following a disaster.
- D) A time or situation full of difficulty and uncertainty following a catastrophic event.

Q.20) Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- A) Science Fiction
- B) Autobiography
- C) Travelogue
- D) Academic Essay

PASSAGE 5

When I arrived there all those years ago, it was almost always hot. Even when it was not. A small gap in the cold shield created by countless AC vents sometimes let in a quick reminder of the heat. Of how hot it really was. After about eight years or so, I began to feel cold. It's the truth, Sara, I'll tell her. All those cold draughts had probably crept into my marrow over the years. That lasted a few years too, during which I wore a light leather jacket—you might remember. You were four or five then. In those early days, I had quite a lot of time on my hands. It took five minutes to reach the hospital, ten if I walked, which I often did. No one else walked, apart from the cleaning staff, Jan and the others, who lived in concrete cabins at the edge of the compound. They walked or pushed their trolleys. I looked at them and wondered if this was the colour of their skin or a consequence of having worked in these parts for years. Every time I saw any of them, I wanted to make sure they had a large wet towel around their neck. I was glad when they did. There wasn't much to do after work—you weren't born yet—so Atiya and I watched a lot of TV. A lot of good and bad TV. Chinese, Malaysian, Turkish, and Indian films with subtitles. If you think Bollywood is melodramatic, you need to watch Turkish films from the Eighties. There was nothing else to do. There were no cinemas in the area. None at all. Yes, there were a few restaurants by the canal on the other side of the town, my colleague and only friend Biju said, but they were very expensive. Actually, money wasn't the issue, they were just too far away and I was afraid of taking Atiya out for long. I'll explain later. Many years later, when I finally ate at two of them, I was glad I hadn't taken her. The canal smelled of bleach. I didn't trust it.

My friend Biju, single, with no obligations back home in Kerala, spent a lot on eating out. Almost every day after work, he went in search of a good meal and sometimes returned home having had two dinners. 'I can't go to bed with a disappointing taste in my mouth. It's against my principles,' he said. 'You should join me some day, boss ... Okay, at least come along to Gold City when I go next.' Every month, usually on the first weekend after payday, Biju would disappear. Only after we had him over for dinner a couple of times did he say he went to Dubai to eat at expensive restaurants. 'Say whatever about the city, boss, but you can eat, buy, do anything and everything you want. I had this Japanese beef curry and Japanese beer, and I just didn't want to leave, boss.'

Source: TELL HER EVERYTHING, Literary Hub Excerpts, Feb 22, 2023.

Q.21) What use was the light leather jacket to the author?"

- A) It was used as a fashion statement.
- B) It was a protective layer against the extreme cold conditions outside.
- C) It served as a coping mechanism to manage the cold draughts the author began to feel.

D) The jacket was a gift from a friend which the author wore out of obligation.

Q.22) “If Biju’s principles are right, which of the following statements is true?”

- A) Biju never had disappointing meals because they were against his principles.
- B) Biju always searched for a satisfying meal before going to bed, in accordance with his principles.
- C) Biju often went to bed hungry because he didn’t want to have a disappointing meal.
- D) Biju preferred to cook his own meals to avoid disappointment.

Q.23) “The author says, ‘The canal smelled of bleach. I didn’t trust it.’ This sentence implies that:”

- A) The author avoided the canal due to the unpleasant smell.
- B) The author was suspicious about the cleanliness or health safety of the canal area.
- C) The author disliked the restaurants near the canal due to the smell.
- D) The author had an allergy to bleach, causing him to avoid the canal.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND CA**PASSAGE 1**

Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus was convicted on Monday for violating [1]'s labour laws. "Professor Yunus and three of his Grameen Telecom colleagues were convicted under labour laws and sentenced to six months in simple imprisonment," prosecutor Khurshid Alam Khan told AFP, adding that all four were immediately granted bail pending appeals. Yunus, aged 83, is acclaimed for elevating millions from poverty through his groundbreaking microfinance bank. Yunus and three Grameen Telecom colleagues faced accusations of violating labour laws for neglecting to establish a workers' welfare fund. The labour court convicted and sentenced them to "six months' simple imprisonment," with all four immediately granted bail pending appeals. Outside the court, a small demonstration of support for Yunus took place.

Q.24) Muhammad Yunus hails from which country as indicated by (1) in the passage?

- A) America
- B) Australia
- C) India
- D) Bangladesh

Q.25) Professor Muhammad Yunus won Nobel Peace Prize in which year?

- A) 2007
- B) 2006
- C) 2013
- D) 2010

Q.26) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. Professor Yunus has innovatively combined capitalism with social responsibility through the establishment of the Grameen Bank.
- B. This microcredit institution is dedicated to providing modest amounts of working capital to empower the poor for self-employment.
- C. Originating as an action-research project in 1976, the Grameen Bank has since expanded, offering collateral-free loans to 7.5 million clients across more than 82,072 villages in Bangladesh, with an impressive 97% being women.
- D. All of these

Q.27) Who won the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901?

- A) Henry Durant
- B) Frederic Passy
- C) Both 'A' and 'B'
- D) Marie Curie

Q.28) Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize in which year?

- A) 1979
- B) 1983
- C) 1999
- D) 1901

Q.29) UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has received the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and _____.

- A) 1979
- B) 1981
- C) 1983
- D) 1985

PASSAGE 2

The Centre has constituted the Sixteenth Finance Commission. Former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr. [1] who is a Professor at Columbia University, will be the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. Ministry of Finance in a statement said that IAS officer Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary of the Commission. The Commission will make recommendations in matters including the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes and measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State. The Commission may review the present arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives, with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act and make appropriate recommendations thereon. The Finance Commission has been requested to make its report available by 31st of October, 2025 covering a period of five years commencing on the 1st of April, 2026.

Q.30) Who was the chairman of 14th Finance Commission?

- A) S Jaishankar
- B) Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Vijay L Kelkar
- D) YV Reddy

Q.31) The First Finance Commission was established in which year?

- A) 1949
- B) 1951
- C) 1953
- D) 1955

Q.32) Who will be the chairman of 16th Finance Commission as indicated by (1) in the passage?

- A) Arvind Panagariya

- B) V. K. Saraswat
- C) Ramesh Chand
- D) V. K. Paul

Q.33) Which one of the following authorities recommend the principles governing the grants-in aid of the revenues to the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India?

- A) Finance Commission
- B) Inter-State Council
- C) Union Ministry of Finance
- D) Public Accounts Committee

Q.34) Who of the following shall causes every recommendation made by the Finance Commission to be laid before each House of the Parliament?

- A) The President of India
- B) The Speaker of Lok Sabha
- C) The Prime Minister of India
- D) The Union Finance Minister

Q.35) The Finance Commission consists of a Chairman and_____.

- A) Seven other members
- B) Five other members
- C) Four other members
- D) Such other members as may be decided by the President from time-to-time

PASSAGE 3

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today, in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, inaugurated Kochi-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project among various developmental projects worth more than Rs 1,150 crore covering a wide range of sectors including technology, energy, water resources, healthcare and education. The KLI-SOFC project will lead to an increase in internet speed unlocking new possibilities & opportunities. For the first time since independence, Lakshadweep will be connected through Submarine Optic Fibre Cable. The dedicated submarine OFC will ensure a paradigm shift in communication infrastructure in the Lakshadweep islands, enabling faster and more reliable internet services, telemedicine, e-governance, educational initiatives, digital banking, digital currency usage, digital literacy etc. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister recalled the guarantee given by him in 2020 about ensuring fast internet within 1,000 days. He said, “Kochi Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection (KLI -SOFC) project has been dedicated to people today and will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep”. He added, “This will improve facilities like government services, medical treatment, education and digital banking. The potential of developing Lakshadweep as a logistics hub will get strength from this”.

Q.36) Q.1) Which is the largest island in the Lakshadweep archipelago in terms of geographical area?

- A) Kavaratti
- B) Minicoy
- C) Agatti
- D) Andrott

Q.37) Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project. Which of the following phenomenon's forms the basis for guiding light within optical Fibres?

- A) Total Internal Reflection
- B) Interference
- C) Dispersion
- D) None of these

Q.38) What is the official language of Lakshadweep?

- A) Malayalam
- B) Tamil
- C) Hindi
- D) English

Q.39) Lakshadweep is a group of how many Islands?

- A) 24
- B) 30
- C) 36
- D) 42

Q.40) How did the Lakshadweep islands originate?

- A) Volcanic origin
- B) Coral Origin
- C) Soil Deposition
- D) None of these

Q.41) The maritime boundary between the Maldives and India (Lakshadweep) runs through the?

- A) Eight Degree channel
- B) Five Degree channel
- C) Ten Degree channel
- D) Nine Degree channel

Q.42) The High Court of Kerala and Lakshadweep is situated at:

- A) Ernakulam
- B) Thrissur
- C) Kochi
- D) Kavaratti

PASSAGE 4

The panel on 'One Nation, One Election' led by former President [1] has invited suggestions from the public for making appropriate changes in the existing legal administrative framework to enable simultaneous elections in the country. In a public notice, the high-level committee said the suggestions received by January 15 would be taken up for consideration. The committee has held two meetings since it was constituted in September last year. It had also recently written to political parties seeking their views and an interaction on a "mutually agreed date" on the idea of holding simultaneous polls. It had later sent a reminder to the parties. Letters were sent to six national parties, 33 state parties and seven registered unrecognised parties. The committee has also heard the views of the Law Commission on simultaneous polls. The law panel could be called again on the issue. According to its terms of reference, the committee is meant to "examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha), state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats, keeping in view the existing framework under the Constitution of India and other statutory provisions, and for that purpose, examine and recommend specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the rules made thereunder and any other law or rules which would require amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections".

Q.43) The government has constituted a committee headed by former President _____ to explore the possibility of one nation, one election, as indicated by (1) in the passage?

- A) Ram Nath Kovind
- B) Prathibha Devisingh Patil
- C) Shankar Dayal Sharma
- D) K.R. Narayan

Q.44) What year first broke the practice of synchronized Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, following the Centre's invocation of Article 356 to dismiss the Kerala government?

- A) 1957
- B) 1959
- C) 1963
- D) 1965

Q.45) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A) The Law Commission of India is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India.

- B) The first Law Commission was established during colonial rule in India by the East India Company under the Charter Act of 1833 and was presided over by Lord Macaulay.
- C) The idea of conducting simultaneous elections was advocated in 1999 by the then Law Commission headed by BP Jeevan Reddy.
- D) All of these

Q.46) On November 7, 2022, who was appointed as the chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission?

- A) Justice Rituraj Awasthi
- B) Justice KT Sankaran
- C) Justice Anand Paliwal
- D) Justice M. Karunanithi

Q.47) Article 83(2) and _____ of the Constitution stipulates that the tenure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies respectively will last for five years unless dissolved earlier and there can be circumstances, as in Article 356, wherein assemblies can be dissolved earlier.

- A) Article 170
- B) Article 172
- C) Article 174
- D) Article 176

Q.48) The Law Commission headed by Justice B. S. Chauhan reported the simultaneous elections are not feasible within the existing framework of the Constitution. It said that the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act _____ and the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies would require appropriate amendments to conduct simultaneous polls.

- A) 1947
- B) 1949
- C) 1951
- D) 1953

Q.49) Who has declined to be a part of the eight-member committee constituted by the central government to examine “One Nation, One Election”?

- A) Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
- B) Former Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad
- C) Former Chairman 15th Finance Commission N. K. Singh
- D) Senior Advocate Harish Salve

PASSAGE 5

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Raghuram Iyer as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Friday. Iyer was selected unanimously for the post by the IOA Nomination Committee after thorough interviews and careful consideration of the shortlisted candidates.

Raghuram Iyer comes with a rich experience in the sports management field, having served as the CEO of Indian Premier League (IPL) sides Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants and Rising Pune Supergiant. Iyer has also worked with Indian Super League (ISL) club ATK Mohun Bagan in football and Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) franchise RPSG Mavericks. “We believe that Raghuram Iyer brings a unique combination of leadership, strategic vision and a deep understanding of the sports landscape. His appointment is a significant step toward the continued growth and success of Indian sports on the global stage,” IOA president PT Usha said. “I am grateful for the unwavering cooperation and wholehearted support from the esteemed members of the Executive Council in the successful appointment of the CEO for IOA. Their dedication has been instrumental in achieving this milestone, and I look forward to continued collaboration for the IOA’s success,” Usha added. [1], the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), had stressed upon the IOA’s need to appoint a CEO when he was visiting Mumbai for the IOC Session last year.

Q.50) Which of the following replaces [1] in the above passage?

- A) Thomas BACH
- B) Anita L. DEFRANTZ
- C) Denis OSWALD
- D) Robin E. MITCHELL

Q.51) Neeraj Chopra scripted history at Tokyo Olympics. 2020 (Held in 2021) as it was India’s first-ever gold medal in Track and Field events in Olympics. With the gold medal at Tokyo, Chopra also became the second individual gold medalist from India after Abhinav Bindra’s gold-medal winning performance at the _____.

- A) 2008 Beijing Games
- B) 2008 London Games
- C) 2008 Athens Games
- D) 2008 Jakarta Games

Q.52) _____ is celebrated as National Javelin Day in India.

- A) 5th August
- B) 7th August
- C) 9th August
- D) 11th August

Q.53) Which edition of Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, France in 2024?

- A) XXXI Olympiad
- B) XXXII Olympiad
- C) XXXIII Olympiad
- D) XXXIV Olympiad

Q.54) What is the official mascot for Paris Olympics?

- A) Phrygian caps
- B) Miraitowa
- C) Someti
- D) Vinicius and Tom

LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE – 1

In India, there are several types of Transfers of Immovable Property and which are covered by various statutes. Broadly speaking, there are voluntary transfers and Involuntary Transfers. Involuntary Transfers would involve transfers by operation of law, such as the sale by the order of a court, auction or forfeiture along with transfers after the death of a person through Testate Succession (in the event the deceased has left a Will) or Intestate Succession (in the event there is no will of the deceased), which are covered by the respective Succession Laws that are applicable to the deceased. Then there are voluntary Transfers. In India, the statute governing the Voluntary Transfers is called as Transfer of Property Act, 1882 ("TOPA"). The TOPA mainly recognizes five types of transfers, i.e., Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Gift and Lease and hence the person acquiring these rights becomes an Owner, Mortgagee or Lessee. However, in the state of Maharashtra, Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966 ("Code") looks at every person as a 'holder' of the land. Section 2(12) of the Code defines "to hold land" or "to be a landlord or holder of land" as a person who is lawfully in possession of land, whether such possession is actual or not. The Code envisages three kinds of holders, i.e., Private Persons, Government and persons holding land from the State. Section 20 of the Code contemplates the Government as the owner of everything including all lands, public roads, lanes and paths, bridges, ditches, bed of sea, rivers, streams, lakes, tanks etc., which are not the property of persons legally capable of holding property. Therefore, it is clear that everything apart from what is legally owned by private persons is owned by the Government. Thereafter, Section 29 of the Code provides for three classes of persons holding land from the Government, i.e., (a) Occupant Class I, (b) Occupant Class II and (c) Government Lessee. Occupant Class I means all persons who hold unalienated land in perpetuity and without any restrictions on the right to transfer. It can be safely interpreted that the rights of an Occupant Class I holder are akin to an 'Owner' of the Property. A Government Lessee has been defined in Section 2(11) read with Section 38 of the Code as a person who has been granted a lease of unalienated unoccupied land for such period, for such purpose and on such conditions as may be provided in the lease and such a person, i.e., the grantee, shall be called a Government lessee in respect of the land so granted. Such a person shall have rights akin to a Lessee under the TOPA. Occupant Class II means all persons who hold unalienated land in perpetuity but are subject to restrictions on the right to transfer. The transfer contemplated by the Code is not as absolute as a Sale as there is a restriction on transfer and it is neither a Lease as certain aspects of a lease like a Lease Rent, Tenure, etc. do not exist and hence it is clear from the aforesaid definitions that an Occupancy Class II holder has rights neither of an Owner nor of a Lessee. As such, the State Legislation has in effect created a sixth type of transfer, which is over and above the five types of transfers contemplated under TOPA. In 2012, the State Government had come out with a policy providing the manner of renewal of leases. Along with that, it also provided for the manner in which the Leasehold rights granted to a person could be converted to Occupancy Class II rights upon payment of conversion premium (thus establishing the fact that leasehold rights and Occupancy Class II rights are different). Also, in 2016, Section 29A was introduced in the Code, which provided for the conversion of the Occupancy Class II rights or Leasehold rights into Occupancy Class I rights, upon payment of conversion premium and after following due procedure provided for by the State Government.

Source: The Sixth Type Of Transfer, Mondaq, August 17th, 2018.

Q.55) Ramchandra, a resident of Maharashtra, inherited a substantial tract of agricultural land from his father, who was classified as an Occupant Class I holder under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code. Post his father's demise, Ramchandra intends to perpetuate his father's legacy

by developing a part of this land into a modern agricultural research facility and the remainder into a living museum showcasing traditional farming techniques. To realize the vision for the research facility, he plans to acquire state-of-the-art farming equipment and collaborate with foreign and domestic agricultural experts. Ramchandra hopes that the government would be interested in this project and could even potentially offer subsidies or partnerships. Moreover, he envisages that the living museum portion of the land will feature authentic farmhouses and workshops. To add to its cultural integrity, he considers transferring property rights of certain plots to artisan families known for their centuries-old craft, thinking this initiative will not only preserve but also revitalize their traditions. With his high ambitions, he consults his legal advisor to understand what type of property rights he has under the Code and TOPA, and what are the legal implications if he goes ahead with this transfer. What legal issue is most directly governing Ramchandra's ability to transfer property rights of certain plots to artisan families?

- (A) The legal issue pertains to the rights and restrictions on transfer under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, and the TOPA's applicability to Ramchandra as an Occupant Class I holder in Maharashtra.
- (B) The legal problem revolves around Ramchandra's inheritance of agricultural land and the appropriate succession law governing his father's estate.
- (C) The central legal issue relates to whether a private individual can develop land into public infrastructure and seek government partnerships or subsidies.
- (D) The legal question is regarding the classification of land under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, particularly the differentiation between Occupant Class I and Occupant Class II.

Q.56) Priya, a Government Lessee under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, holds a plot of unoccupied land on a long-term lease for agricultural purposes. She receives an offer from a corporate entity interested in setting up a solar power plant on her leased land. The corporate entity wishes to enter a sublease agreement with her for 25 years. The deal would be highly profitable for Priya, and the corporate entity has assured that the solar plant will adhere to all environmental norms and provide clean energy for the local community. Priya's lease agreement with the government does not explicitly mention anything about sub-leasing. However, she recalls a clause that mandates government approval for any "significant changes" on the land. Excited yet cautious, Priya decides to seek legal advice on the potential legality of the sublease and any conditions she might have to fulfill according to the Code and TOPA. Based on the above situation, what is the paramount legal issue regarding Priya's ability to enter a sublease agreement for her Government leased land?

- (A) The principal legal issue is identifying the nature of Priya's rights as a Government Lessee and whether the Code permits subleasing of government-leased land without explicit mention in the lease agreement.
- (B) The main legal issue surrounds the process by which Priya can gain the government's approval for significant changes on leased land, including entering a sublease with the corporate entity.
- (C) The core legal problem is the corporate entity's compliance with environmental norms and whether the establishment of a solar power plant aligns with the purpose of Priya's agricultural lease.
- (D) The legal issue at hand is the length of the sublease and whether a 25-year term would exceed any limitations imposed by Priya's original lease terms with the government.

Q.57) Ankit, a landowner, was party to a lease agreement with Harsh, who rented Ankit's commercial property in Maharashtra. Initially, the lease term was agreed upon for five years, with an option to renew for another five years. As the lease term was about to end, Harsh decided to exercise the option to renew the lease. However, just before the renewal, significant legislative changes occurred, and a new statute in Maharashtra mandated that any lease renewal for commercial properties must include terms that address specific environmental concerns. Ankit, being unaware of these changes, simply extended the original lease without incorporating the new required environmental clauses. Harsh received a notice from the local authority warning of penalties for non-compliance with the new environmental requirements embedded in the state's statute. Realizing the potential implications, both parties become anxious and are eager to find a solution that complies with the law and secures their initial intentions with the lease. What is the primary legal issue affecting the validity and compliance of Ankit and Harsh's lease renewal agreement in light of the changed legislative environment?

- (A) The primary legal issue here is whether Harsh's notice from the local authority regarding the environmental clauses retrospectively affects the validly executed lease renewal between Ankit and him.
- (B) The chief legal question is about lease agreements' enforceability in Maharashtra when they don't reflect recent legislative changes addressing environmental concerns within the stipulated time.
- (C) The dominant legal issue is determining Harsh's liability for penalties due to non-compliance with environmental legislative requirements within a leased commercial property.
- (D) The key legal problem is whether Ankit and Harsh can mutually agree to modify the renewed lease agreement to incorporate the mandatory environmental clauses required by the new statute while still keeping the lease terms intact.

Q.58) Vandana recently approached the Maharashtra State Government to convert her Occupancy Class II rights into Occupancy Class I rights, as per the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code. Her request involved a plot of land that she had acquired through a government auction under the prerequisite conditions that it wouldn't be used for industrial purposes, and the rights were not freely transferable without government consent. Vandana's intent behind the conversion was to gain the full suite of property ownership rights, enabling her to develop and possibly transfer portions of the land to set up a community-driven organic market. Knowing the government has been supportive of sustainable development initiatives, she is optimistic about approval. However, she is unsure what the procedure for such a conversion involves under the 2016 amendment to the Code and what kind of premium might be required. Also, she is concerned about whether the restriction on industrial use will carry over post-conversion. In Vandana's case, what is the fundamental legal issue pertaining to the conversion of her Occupancy Class II rights to Class I rights concerning the restrictions placed on her land use?

- (A) The fundamental legal issue is determining whether the conversion premium payment for transferring from Occupancy Class II to Class I rights will indeed enable Vandana to avoid the restriction on industrial use of the land.
- (B) The essential legal issue is identifying which procedures, as amended in the Code, Vandana must follow to convert her Occupancy Class II rights into Class I, along with understanding whether the initial usage restrictions will continue to apply after the conversion.
- (C) The key legal question is about the legality of Vandana's proposed organic market setup on the land and whether it would contravene her original conditions of non-industrial use.

(D) The central legal issue is evaluating Vandana's eligibility to apply for conversion of rights from Occupancy Class II to Class I, given that she acquired her original rights through a government auction.

Q.59) Nikhil, a real estate developer in Mumbai, acquired a property with Occupancy Class II rights under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code to construct a residential building. After obtaining government approval, he constructs the building and begins to sell apartments to various buyers under the provision that the ownership would transfer to the purchasers immediately. However, one buyer, Ravi, has a dispute with Nikhil over the property's boundaries and alleged encroachment on an adjacent parcel of land that Ravi claims to own. Ravi raises an action to quiet title, asserting that his property rights are senior to those granted to Nikhil by the government, and as such, Nikhil's transfer of rights to the apartment purchasers should be subservient to his claim. Ravi's claim rests on a document that allegedly pre-dates the government's documentation granting Occupancy Class II rights to Nikhil. In the dispute between Nikhil and Ravi concerning the property boundaries and alleged encroachment, what is the primary legal issue under consideration?

(A) The main legal issue is determining the validity and seniority of Ravi's property rights claim over that of the Occupancy Class II rights granted to Nikhil for constructing the residential building.

(B) The legal question is about whether the Occupancy Class II rights granted to Nikhil imply a waiver of any previous claims that other parties might have on the government-approved boundaries.

(C) The central legal concern is ascertaining the legal standing of apartment purchasers vis-à-vis Ravi's dispute with Nikhil concerning property boundaries and claims of ownership transfer.

(D) The key legal issue is regarding the procedure to be followed for settling disputes over property boundaries and encroachments under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code in the context of Occupancy Class II rights holders.

Q.60) Ramesh, a businessman in Pune, Maharashtra, had a thriving factory on land classified as Occupancy Class II under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code. His business had grown to the point where he needed to expand the factory, but the expansion would fall under the category of 'industrial use,' which was not permitted under the Occupancy Class II designation. Keen on pursuing the expansion, Ramesh sought legal counsel to explore the possibility of converting his Occupancy Class II rights into Occupancy Class I rights. He was aware of the 2016 amendment to the Code that permitted such a conversion upon payment of a conversion premium and following due procedure mandated by the state government. In addition to the conversion, Ramesh planned to eventually subdivide and sell off parts of the property to new investors once the expansion was completed, provided he could secure the Occupancy Class I status. What legal issue must be addressed foremost for Ramesh to proceed with his factory expansion and the subsequent subdivision and sale of the property?

(A) The fundamental legal issue involves the restrictions on 'industrial use' under Occupancy Class II and the process for conversion to Occupancy Class I to remove these restrictions and permit the property's subdivision and sale.

(B) The primary legal concern is Ramesh's ability to pay the conversion premium to convert his Occupancy Class II rights into Occupancy Class I rights, enabling the intended factory expansion.

(C) The legal question encompasses whether the land can still be classified under industrial use following the conversion, assuming that the restrictions associated with Occupancy Class II no longer apply.

(D) The key legal issue is assessing the future investors' potential interest and ability to invest in the property post-expansion and conversion of land rights from Occupancy Class II to Class I.

PASSAGE – 2

It has been common practice in India for family members to acquire properties in joint names, particularly residential properties, despite only one of the transferees making the payment towards consideration or cost for acquisition of such flat. In such cases, especially residential flats, at the time of distribution / succession of respective estates of such individuals, a question arises as to whether the ownership of such flats will devolve upon the heirs of the transferee who actually paid the consideration or cost of acquisition out of his/her own separate funds or the ownership of such flat will devolve upon the heirs of both the transferees whose names are recorded as joint purchasers in the sale deed. The Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TOPA), specifically Section 45, addresses this scenario by providing a framework for determining the quantum of interest in jointly owned immovable property when the sale deed does not specify the interest each joint owner is entitled to. Section 45 of TOPA elucidates that when immovable property is jointly transferred for consideration, and such consideration comes from a common fund, the joint owners are entitled to interests in the property identical to their interests in the common fund. Conversely, if the consideration is paid from their separate funds, their entitlement in the property is proportional to their respective contributions. In the absence of evidence regarding their interests or contributions, it is presumed that all joint owners are equally interested in the property. Judicial interpretations have further refined the application of Section 45. The High Court of Bombay, in the case of Peter Francis Conceicao and Ors. vs. Candolina Conceicao and Ors., underscored that the section's equity principle does not apply if the parties have explicitly specified their respective interests in the property. Similarly, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (Allahabad) and the High Court of Judicature at Madras have reiterated that joint owners' entitlement in the property is based on their investment, whether from a common or separate fund, further emphasizing the presumption of equal interest in the absence of evidence.

A significant aspect of Section 45 is its implication in cases where property is acquired out of the separate funds of one individual, who then becomes the absolute owner, excluding other joint owners, provided there is evidence of such sole contribution. However, admissions contrary to this by the contributing individual can create an estoppel, preventing them from arguing against their own admission regarding co-ownership, as seen in the Bombay High Court's ruling in Sunita Shankar Salvi vs. Shankar Laxman Salvi. This nuanced understanding of Section 45 of TOPA is critical in cases of joint property ownership, particularly in the context of distribution and succession. It emphasizes the importance of accurately determining and documenting the source of consideration at the time of property acquisition. Furthermore, it highlights the legal intricacies involved in resolving ownership disputes in jointly owned properties, ensuring that the principles of equity and fairness are upheld in accordance with the contributions of the involved parties. The judicial precedents serve as a guiding light, illustrating the courts' approach to such disputes and underscoring the significance of evidence in establishing the rightful share of each co-owner in the property.

Source: Section 45 Of TOPA – Making A Case For Single Ownership Of Jointly Acquired Property - Real Estate – India, Mondaq, November 9, 2022.

Q.61) Ram and Shyam, both unmarried brothers, jointly purchased a flat in Mumbai as a future investment using entirely Ram's funds. Ram, however, insisted Shyam's name be added to the deed "to keep things simple" in their family transactions. They both live in the flat, and no explicit declaration of their respective shares is made in the sale deed. After Ram's sudden demise without a will, his daughter Sunita claims the entire flat, stating her father paid for the flat in full. Shyam's nephew, Ajay, argues that since Shyam is a joint owner, he is entitled to half the flat and correspondingly, his heirs do after his passing. Analyzing the principles from the passage provided, determine Sunita's legal standing concerning the flat's ownership.

- (A) Sunita can claim the entire flat as her father paid for it in full, and there was no mention of shares in the deed.
- (B) Sunita cannot claim the entire flat, as both uncles lived there, suggesting an implied shared ownership.
- (C) Sunita only has a right to the proportional share that her late father had explicitly stated in the sale deed.
- (D) Sunita must share the flat equally with Ajay, as joint ownership in the deed implies an equal division.

Q.62) Priya and Deepak, a married couple, purchased a spacious bungalow in Delhi. The purchase was made with funds from their joint account, to which Priya contributed 70% of the savings. The deed listing them both as joint owners does not specify their respective shares. When drafting their wills, Deepak wishes to bequeath his share of the bungalow to his brother, Rakesh, but Priya objects, arguing that her larger contribution should entitle her to a proportionately larger share of ownership. In line with the passage provided, what is Deepak's share in the property, assuming both Priya and Deepak pass away intestate?

- (A) Deepak is entitled to 50% of the bungalow, as the deed does not specify their shares.
- (B) Deepak is entitled to a share proportional to his 30% contribution from the joint fund.
- (C) Deepak has no claim over the bungalow as Priya's larger contribution makes her the sole owner.
- (D) Deepak can claim only 30% in the case of succession since the couple's respective contributions were known.

Q.63) Vinod and Rajeev, cousins, together bought an ancestral property that was being sold due to indebtedness by their distant relatives. The consideration was entirely provided by Vinod, but he chose to include Rajeev's name in the title deed to honor their close relationship. The deed does not clarify their interests in the property, only listing them as joint owners. Many years later, a dispute arises during which Rajeev claims that he is entitled to half of the property. Meanwhile, Vinod claims he has anecdotal evidence and witness testimonies that support his sole payment for the property. In an ensuing legal battle, looking at the principles in the passage, what would likely be the outcome based on Section 45 of the TOPA?

- (A) Rajeev and Vinod both have an equal share in the property because their names are jointly on the title deed.
- (B) Rajeev has no share in the property as Vinod has substantial evidence to support his claim of single-handed payment.
- (C) Rajeev must prove his financial contribution to the property to claim any share against Vinod's sole contribution evidence.

(D) Rajeev is entitled to 50% of the property, as the title deed does not specify any shares, and the equity principle of Section 45 applies.

Q.64) Aarav and Arjun, business partners, jointly purchase a piece of commercial property. Both their names are listed on the deed, but they have an agreement that Aarav, who funded the entire purchase, would own 75% and Arjun 25% based on a future investment Arjun promised to make. Arjun never makes the investment and, years later, the partnership dissolves. Aarav claims he is entitled to the entire property since he made the entire purchase and Arjun did not keep his end of the agreement. However, Arjun contends that their initial agreement, though not formalized in writing, should be honored. Using the principles mentioned in the passage, how should the ownership interest in the commercial property be determined?

(A) Aarav owns 75%, and Arjun owns 25% based on their initial verbal agreement, regardless of the investment not materializing.

(B) The property should be divided equally since the deed does not specify their shares nor records the agreement.

(C) Aarav is entitled to full ownership because he funded the entire purchase, and Arjun did not fulfill the condition of his future investment.

(D) Arjun is entitled to 50% of the property since the agreement was not in writing and thus not enforceable.

Q.65) Kavita and Pooja, sisters, inherit their parental home through a will, with both having an equal share. Years later, they agree that Kavita would pay Pooja for her share, rendering Kavita the sole owner. This agreement and payment are documented privately between them without any formal change in the deed. Pooja tragically passes away shortly thereafter. Her husband, Rohan, upon discovering the agreement and payment, decides to contest the ownership, arguing that he is entitled to Pooja's share since there is no amended deed. With reference to the principles stated in the passage, what should be the legal status of the property's ownership?

(A) Kavita becomes the sole owner since she purchased Pooja's share, despite there being no formal deed amendment.

(B) Rohan inherits Pooja's share as the documented private agreement between the sisters is not legally binding without a formal deed.

(C) Kavita and Rohan each have a 50% share in the property as the payment between the sisters doesn't affect the joint ownership in absence of a new deed.

(D) Rohan has no claim over the property since the agreement between Kavita and Pooja is recognized under the law, even without formal deed registration.

PASSAGE - 3

The Supreme Court of India has issued an exhaustive judgment on the subject of matrimonial disputes and the use of DNA testing to question the paternity of children born during a valid marriage. The court upheld the principle underlying Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act, which provides that the fact that a child was born during the subsistence of a valid marriage is legally considered conclusive proof of the “legitimacy” of the child, unless proven otherwise. The court stressed that a strong presumption of legitimacy applies, and that this presumption can only be rebutted by establishing that the husband and wife did not or could not have any access to each other at any time when the child was conceived. The court clarified that the word “access” or “non-access” does not mean actual cohabitation but refers to the “existence” or “non-existence” of opportunities for sexual relationship. The court also emphasized that strong and cogent evidence is required to prove that “access” between the husband and wife was impossible “on account of serious illness or impotency or that there was no chance of sexual relationship” during the period when the child must have been begotten.

Regarding the use of DNA testing to prove adultery, the court said that such tests may be ordered only in exceptional and deserving cases where there is no other mode of proving allegations of infidelity. DNA tests should not be used as exploratory or investigatory experiments for determining paternity, the court said, and should only be directed when there is sufficient prima-facie material to dislodge the presumption under Section 112 of the Evidence Act. Furthermore, the court stressed that children have the right not to have their legitimacy questioned frivolously before a Court of Law, and that courts must be mindful of the consequences of such tests on the child, including inheritance-related disputes and social stigma. In summary, the court's judgment reaffirms the principle of the presumption of legitimacy in Indian law and establishes clear guidelines for the use of DNA testing to question the paternity of children born during a valid marriage. The court emphasized that such tests should only be ordered in exceptional cases and only after the presumption of legitimacy has been successfully rebutted.

Source: Disputed Paternity: When Can Courts Order DNA Test In Matrimonial Cases Involving Allegations Of Adultery?, Live Law.

Q.66) Surya and Meera, who were married, had a son named Aman. Surya had been working overseas for a period of 2 years, during which Aman was conceived and born. After returning to India, Surya suspects that Aman is not his biological son and files a petition seeking a DNA test to determine paternity. Meera objects, stating that the presumption of legitimacy should protect the status of their son since he was born during the marriage. Bearing in mind the principles articulated by the Supreme Court, what should the court's approach be?

- (A) The court should order a DNA test as Surya has raised a reasonable doubt about Aman's paternity, and DNA testing is a scientific method to establish the truth.
- (B) The court should uphold the presumption of legitimacy of Aman's birth within the marriage and disallow the DNA test, as Surya was not present at the time of conception.
- (C) The court can allow the DNA test if Surya provides strong and cogent evidence that he had no opportunity for a sexual relationship with Meera when Aman was conceived.
- (D) The court need not require any evidence from Surya and must directly proceed with the DNA test to clarify the doubts regarding the child's paternity.

Q.67) Kavita has been in a tumultuous marriage with Sunil, and during one such period of strife, she left the marital home to live separately for 10 months. Within this period, Kavita had a child, Jaya, and reconciled with Sunil shortly after. Years later, during divorce proceedings, Sunil challenges Jaya's paternity and demands a DNA test, citing Kavita's absence from the

marital home during the crucial period. Kavita insists that the assumption of Jaya's legitimacy remains intact, even with her temporary absence. In light of the Supreme Court's judgment, how should the court rule on the demand for a DNA test?

- (A) The court should reject the demand for a DNA test, considering the legal presumption that Jaya's birth during the marriage establishes her legitimacy.
- (B) The court should grant the DNA test to determine Jaya's paternity since Kavita's departure from the marital home raises questions about marital access.
- (C) The court should order the DNA test if Sunil demonstrates sufficient prima facie material indicating that he and Kavita had no access or opportunities for a sexual relationship during Jaya's conception.
- (D) The court can order a DNA test as part of the divorce proceedings to conclusively resolve all aspects related to the marital dispute, including paternity.

Q.68) After having two children within their marriage, Rahul and Priya are involved in a contentious divorce. Rahul suspects that Priya has been unfaithful and questions the legitimacy of their second child, Nisha, insisting that a DNA test be performed. Priya, however, points out that Rahul had signed Nisha's birth certificate and had raised her as his own for 5 years without contesting her legitimacy until now. In this scenario, following the principles laid out by the Supreme Court, what is the most appropriate judicial response?

- (A) The court should refuse Rahul's request for a DNA test, given his acknowledgment of paternity by signing the birth certificate and the time elapsed during which he accepted Nisha as his own.
- (B) The court should proceed with the DNA test since Rahul has a right to challenge the paternity of Nisha at any point during the divorce.
- (C) The court must order a DNA test because the suspicion of infidelity can alone serve as a strong circumstance to rebut the presumption of legitimacy.
- (D) The court can bypass the presumption of legitimacy considering Rahul's consistent support for a paternity test since the beginning of the divorce proceedings.

Q.69) Ravi and Geeta's marriage hits a rocky patch, and Geeta spends some time away visiting her parents, spanning several months. During this period, she has an affair and later gives birth to a child, Roshan, upon returning to Ravi. No one besides Geeta is aware of the affair. Years later, Geeta seeks to secure Roshan's inheritance rights but fears Ravi may dispute paternity if he discovers the affair. Given that Ravi has neither questioned Roshan's legitimacy nor sought a DNA test, how does the Supreme Court's judgment affect Geeta's concerns regarding the inheritance rights of her child?

- (A) Roshan's inheritance rights are secure since he was born during the marriage, and there has been no dispute of his legitimacy initiated by Ravi.
- (B) Geeta must proactively seek a DNA test to dispel any doubts about Roshan's paternity to ensure his inheritance rights remain protected.
- (C) Ravi can at any point challenge Roshan's paternity, and in anticipation of such a dispute, inheritance rights remain uncertain until clarified by a DNA test.
- (D) Should Ravi later question Roshan's legitimacy, Geeta can insist on the presumption of legitimacy, potentially preventing the need for a DNA test.

Q.70) Vishal learns about his wife Anita's extramarital relationship and suspects that their youngest daughter, Diya, might not be his biological child. During their divorce proceedings,

he seeks a DNA test to challenge Diya's legitimacy. Anita presents evidence showing that though she did have an affair, she and Vishal had reconciled shortly before Diya's conception, and thus access between them was possible during the conception period. Analyzing the principles outlined by the Supreme Court, how should the judicial system address Vishal's concern regarding the paternity of Diya?

- (A) A DNA test should be permitted as Vishal's suspicion based on the known affair provides the court with a compelling reason to reassess Diya's legitimacy.
- (B) The court should deny the DNA test since Anita has demonstrated that reconciliation and access occurred during the conceivable time frame of Diya's conception.
- (C) The court should order a DNA test given the heightened interest in determining the child's biological paternity as part of custody and support determinations in the divorce.
- (D) The court should first determine the potential impact such a test would have on Diya, considering inheritance and social consequences, before deciding to allow testing.

PASSAGE - 4

The Supreme Court has ruled that during the pendency of a partition suit, parties can seek the benefit of amended law, and the preliminary decree in a partition suit can be varied in the final decree proceedings if the law governing the parties has been amended. The bench observed that a decree by consent among only some parties cannot be maintained in a partition suit. It must record written consent and signatures of all the parties. The case concerned the partition of the ancestral and self-acquired properties of Kumar Sahoo, who passed away in 1969, among his three children, Charulata, Santilata, and Prafulla. Charulata filed a suit for partition in 1980, and the trial court passed a preliminary decree in 1986. The court held that Charulata and Santilata were entitled to a 1/6th share in the ancestral properties and a 1/3rd share in the self-acquired properties, while Prafulla was entitled to a 4/6th share in the ancestral properties and a 1/3rd share in the self-acquired properties, along with mesne profits.

During the pendency of the appeal before the High Court, Santilata and Prafulla entered into a Settlement Deed, whereby Santilata relinquished her share in favor of Prafulla. The High Court dismissed Prafulla's appeal and invalidated the Settlement Deed. Prafulla filed an appeal before the Supreme Court, arguing that the amendments to the Hindu Succession Act in 2005, which gave daughters coparcenary rights, cannot be pressed into service after so many years. The Supreme Court held that the amended law would be applicable to cases where the male coparcener dies before the amendment, and any legislative amendment or subsequent event that results in enlargement, diminution, or alteration in the share/rights of the parties can be taken into consideration while passing the final decree. The court modified the preliminary decree and redetermined the shares of the parties, holding that the daughters were entitled to a 1/3rd share in all the properties of Kumar Sahoo. The Settlement Deed was invalidated as it did not have the written consent and signature of all parties.

In conclusion, the Supreme Court has reiterated that parties can seek the benefit of amended law during the pendency of a partition suit, and a decree by consent among only some parties cannot be maintained in a partition suit. The court has also emphasized the importance of written consent and signatures of all parties in a Settlement Deed in a partition suit.

Source: Hindu Succession | If Law Gets Amended Before Passing Final Decree In Partition Suit, Parties Can Seek Its Benefit : Supreme Court, Live Law, March 31, 2023.

Q.71) Ramakant, Umesh, and Dipti are siblings who jointly own an ancestral property. Their father, who passed away in 1985, left behind the property without any will. In the year 2000, Ramakant filed a partition suit, and a preliminary decree was passed in 2001 granting each sibling an equal share. However, before the final decree could be passed, the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, came into effect, granting daughters an equal share in the ancestral property. Dipti, who was previously content with the preliminary decree, now seeks to assert her right under the amended law for an equal share. Ramakant and Umesh enter into a mutual agreement without Dipti's consent where Ramakant would relinquish his share in favor of Umesh. In the final decree proceedings, can Dipti successfully claim an equal share, and is the mutual agreement between Ramakant and Umesh valid?

- (A) Dipti cannot claim an equal share as the preliminary decree, which was based on the law at that time, is binding and cannot be altered by the final decree proceedings.
- (B) Dipti can claim an equal share under the amended law, and the mutual agreement between Ramakant and Umesh is invalid as it lacks written consent and signature from Dipti.
- (C) The mutual agreement between Ramakant and Umesh is valid, and Dipti's share remains unaffected by the amendment since she did not press for rights under the new law before the final decree.

(D) Dipti can seek a greater share than her brothers given the amended law, and the mutual agreement must be upheld since it was done in good faith between the parties.

Q.72) Shrimati Banerjee passed away in 1990, survived by her two sons and one daughter. The daughter, Sunita, initially was content with the cultural norms of waiving her share in favor of her brothers but later files a partition suit in 1996. The trial court in 1997 decreed that Sunita was not entitled to any share, consistent with the laws at the time. With the advancement of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, an appeal is pending before the High Court. Sunita's brothers execute a Settlement Deed between themselves during the pendency of the appeal, altering their shares while excluding Sunita. If Sunita seeks to get her rights recognized under the amended Hindu Succession Act, how should the court proceed, and what would be the status of the Settlement Deed?

(A) Sunita cannot exert rights under the amended Act because she did not challenge her exclusion when the trial court's decree was passed; the Settlement Deed between her brothers is valid.

(B) Sunita can exert her rights under the amended Act, but the Settlement Deed between her brothers will hold since it was initiated before the final decree.

(C) As the appeal is ongoing and the amended Act applies, Sunita can claim an equal share; the Settlement Deed is valid only with the consent and signature of all parties, including Sunita.

(D) The court should reject Sunita's claim under the amended Act as it is retrospective in nature, and therefore the Settlement Deed between her brothers will be upheld.

Q.73) Harshad, a Hindu male, died in 1980 leaving behind a self-acquired property. After his death, his wife, son, and two daughters came to an oral family arrangement wherein the son, Ajay, was to receive the entire property, and in return, he would financially support his mother and sisters. In 2010, one of the daughters, Beena, filed a suit for partition claiming her share according to the amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 2005. Ajay objects on the grounds that there was an oral family arrangement that has been acted upon for 30 years and cannot be disturbed now. How should the courts treat the oral family arrangement and Beena's claim under the 2005 amendment?

(A) The oral family arrangement is to be upheld as it has been acted upon for 30 years, making Beena's claim under the 2005 amendment irrelevant.

(B) Beena has the right to claim an equal share under the 2005 amendment, whereas the oral family arrangement could be treated as void for lack of written consent and signatures of all parties.

(C) The courts should only allow Beena's claim if she can prove that the oral family arrangement was inequitable or procured by fraud or duress.

(D) Beena has the right to seek a partition under the amended law, but the family arrangement can be recognized if it had been made in the form of a registered family settlement.

Q.74) Vinod, upon his passing in 1995, left behind his widow, Sarala, and three children, Anil, Sunita, and Gita. The daughters were married off under the assumption that they would not claim the family property, and Anil had been looking after Sarala. In 2000, a partition suit was filed by Anil to formalize the property arrangements. Before the final decree could be issued, the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 came into effect. Sunita and Gita now wish to assert their rights under the amended act to claim their share of the property. Meanwhile, Sarala and Anil execute a notarized document stating that Sarala relinquishes her rights to the property

in favor of Anil. Whose rights should be recognized and what is the status of the notarized document executed by Sarala and Anil?

- (A) Sunita and Gita can assert their rights under the amended Act, and the notarized document is of no legal standing without the written consent of all legal heirs.
- (B) Sunita and Gita's claims are time-barred as they did not contest the original suit; the notarized document is binding on Sarala and Anil, but not on the daughters.
- (C) Despite the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, the familial norms respected at the time of Vinod's death should be upheld; therefore, Anil is the sole heir.
- (D) Sunita and Gita can claim the property, but Sarala's right to relinquish her share to Anil through the notarized document should be upheld since it was done after the amendment.

Q.75) After the passing of Harishankar in 1992, a preliminary decree was passed in 1994 to partition his estate among his widow, and three sons. In a twist of events, the three sons predeceased their mother, who then entered into an agreement with her grandsons, the sons of her eldest son, relinquishing her share of the property in exchange for lifelong maintenance. The youngest daughter, who had not been a part of the initial proceedings, approaches the court invoking the amended Hindu Succession Act, 2005, claiming an equal share. With the ongoing appeal, she learns of the agreement between her mother and her nephews. Can the daughter seek an alteration in the initial decree and what effect does the agreement between the widow and her grandsons have?

- (A) The daughter has no right to seek alteration as the partition was resolved before the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005; the agreement will stand since it includes all parties to the initial decree.
- (B) The daughter can claim an equal share in accordance with the 2005 Act amendment; however, the agreement between the widow and the grandsons is unaffected and remains valid.
- (C) The daughter can invoke the amended 2005 Act for an equal share, and the agreement between the widow and the grandsons is invalid as it does not have her consent.
- (D) Given the changes in family circumstances, the original decree stands, and the daughter has no fresh claim; the agreement is only valid with the acknowledgment and consent of all surviving heirs.

PASSAGE – 5

The rights of a copyright holder encompass a set of exclusive rights that grant them control over their creative works. These rights include: Economic rights refer to the rights that provide financial benefits to the owner of a copyright. These rights are outlined in Section 14 of the principal Act, which defines the scope of copyright protection. The Right of Reproduction is one of the fundamental rights that copyright holders possess. This right grants the owner the exclusive authority to make copies of their protected work in any format or medium. In today's digital age, activities like copying songs onto portable devices or creating audiovisual recordings are considered reproductions of copyrighted content. It's important to note that obtaining permission from the copyright owner is generally required before making copies, unless it can be proven that the copying is not intended for commercial gain. This right serves as a crucial safeguard for creators, ensuring that their work is not unlawfully reproduced or exploited without their consent, while also allowing for appropriate exceptions and fair use.

In addition to the right of reproduction, content owners also possess the right to distribute their copyrighted work in the market and generate income from it. There are several methods of distributing work, such as selling it, lending it for free or for a fee, renting it out, or gifting it. The exercise of the distribution right may vary depending on the specific circumstances and context. For instance, when a book is sold, the principle of exhaustion comes into play. This means that after the initial sale, the copyright owner's right to control further distribution is exhausted, allowing the buyer to resell the book as a second-hand item. However, different rules apply when the copyright owner establishes a library and charges rental fees for reading the books. In such cases, the owner can continue to distribute the works without exhausting his rights. The law does not prohibit this practice, and the principle of exhaustion does not apply. The right to distribute enables copyright owners to commercially exploit their works while also accommodating different distribution models and circumstances.

The right to make derivative works is one of the exclusive rights granted to copyright holders. A derivative work is created when a new work is based on or derived from an existing copyrighted work. This privilege allows the copyright holder to produce adaptations, modifications, or other transformative works based on their original creation. Making a derivative work involves adding new creative elements, incorporating changes, or reimagining the original work in a different form. Translations of books, movie adaptations of novels, remixes of songs, and even a continuation of a literary work are examples of derivative works. The ability of the owner of the copyright to create derivative works is crucial because it gives them the freedom to experiment with new creative ideas, increase the audience and effect of their original work, and perhaps even open up new revenue streams. It also gives them control over the quality and integrity of any adaptations or modifications made to their work. Notably, unless the use falls under specified exceptions like fair use or other applicable legal rules, making a derivative work based on another person's copyrighted content often necessitates permission from the original copyright holder. Right to Publicly Perform refers to the authority to present, display, or showcase a copyrighted work to the public through various means, such as live performances, theatrical productions, concerts, recitals, screenings, or broadcasts. Public performance encompasses a wide range of creative works, including musical compositions, plays, dance performances, films, and more. The Right to Translate is another significant authority, permitting owners to control translations of their work into other languages. This right is vital for allowing creative works to reach broader audiences while maintaining the essence of the original. The case of *Academy of General Edu., Manipal & ANR. v. B. Malini Mallya*, where a plagiarism claim was dismissed due to lack of substantial copying, highlights the necessity for creators to protect their rights against unauthorized adaptations or translations.

Source: Rights of a Copyright Owner: Exploring Creative Control, Bytes Care Blogs, December 20, 2023.

Q.76) Girish, an upcoming Indian author, finished his debut novel and hired Jyotika Printers to publish it. Upon release, he found out that his novel was being freely distributed as an e-book on an online platform by a user named Prashant without his consent. Girish had explicitly refused digital distribution to retain more control over his work. Girish wants to take legal action against Prashant for copyright infringement. He never registered his copyright but believes his economic rights may have been violated. What could be the legal outcome of Girish's action against Prashant for distributing the e-book without consent?

- (A) Girish cannot claim copyright infringement as he did not register his copyright, which is a necessary prerequisite for any legal recourse.
- (B) Prashant may counter the claim by asserting the distribution of the e-book was for non-commercial purposes and, thus, a fair use exception.
- (C) Girish can assert copyright infringement, as registration is not a prerequisite in India and his right of reproduction and distribution has been violated.
- (D) Girish's rights are not violated if Prashant can prove that the novel was distributed after a lawful sale, thereby exhausting Girish's distribution rights.

Q.77) A well-known film production company, Raj Films, has created a movie trilogy based on a bestselling book series without acquiring the rights from Chetan, the author of the books. The films include significant segments of dialogue and plot taken directly from the books. Chetan did not initially pursue legal action as he was not aware of his full rights as the copyright holder. Upon understanding his rights, he seeks to file a suit for copyright infringement claiming his right to make derivative works has been violated. Raj Films argues that their movies are transformative works and should be considered fair use. Given these circumstances, how should Chetan proceed, and what factors will the court likely examine to determine the outcome?

- (A) Chetan has no grounds for infringement because the production company can claim the defense of creating transformative works that qualify as fair use.
- (B) The court will consider whether Raj Films' work is transformative in nature and whether it affects the market for Chetan's books, among other fair use factors.
- (C) Chetan cannot file a suit for copyright infringement as the statute of limitations for filing such claims has presumably passed since the movies are part of a trilogy.
- (D) As Chetan has discovered his rights later, he can claim infringement and the court will likely rule in his favor as the movies take substantial content from his books.

Q.78) Vimal, a composer, published a sheet of music aimed at teaching children how to play the piano. Six months after its publication, a local musician, Tejas, used the sheet music in his non-profit piano class without Vimal's permission. He claimed that since he was not charging for the class and was using the music for educational purposes, he was exempt from copyright infringement under the fair use doctrine. Vimal, who had explicitly mentioned that his sheet music should only be used with his express permission, decides to proceed legally against Tejas. What are the chances of Vimal's success in his legal action, taking into account the fair use doctrine in the context of educational use?

- (A) Vimal will likely succeed as Tejas's use does not automatically qualify as fair use just because the piano class is non-profit and educational in nature.

- (B) Tejas will likely win because the use of copyrighted work in a non-profit educational setting is always considered fair use, regardless of the composer's conditions.
- (C) Vimal's chances of success are low since he has not registered his copyright, and therefore, it is not enforceable against Tejas's educational use.
- (D) Tejas's actions fall under fair use, and Vimal's explicit permission requirement for his sheet music does not hold any legal significance in the case of educational purposes.

Q.79) An Indian literary society, engaged in promoting regional literature, translated a famous Spanish novella into Bengali without obtaining permission from the author, Pedro. Their defense is that the work has been translated to promote cultural exchange and is only distributed for free in local libraries. Pedro discovered the translation two years after it had been circulating and wants to take legal action on the grounds that his right to translate has been infringed. The literary society plans to argue that their actions qualify as fair use since the purpose was non-commercial and served public interest. In a potential legal battle, does Pedro have a strong case for copyright infringement?

- (A) Pedro cannot claim copyright infringement because the translation aims to promote cultural exchange and does not have a commercial motive.
- (B) The society has a strong fair use defense due to the non-commercial and public interest nature of the translation distributed in libraries.
- (C) Despite the non-commercial intent, Pedro has a credible case as the translation infringes upon his exclusive right to translate and distribute his work.
- (D) Pedro's case is weak since the distributed translations were free, and the copyright laws of India lean favorably towards non-commercial uses.

Q.80) Amita, an independent filmmaker, used a folk song that has been passed down for generations in her latest documentary, and credited the community as the creators. Raj, an artist, claims to hold the copyright for the tune of the same folk song, as he has modernized it and has been selling his renditions. Raj demands that Amita either pay him royalties or cease the use of the song in her documentary. Amita argues that the song is in the public domain and she is free to use it. In the impending legal dispute, does Amita have a solid legal stance based on copyright laws?

- (A) Amita's use of the folk song is not permitted because Raj holds the copyright for the modernized rendition and this extends to the original folk tune.
- (B) As the song is a traditional folk tune, Amita is justified in her use for the documentary; Raj's claim applies only to his specific modernized arrangement.
- (C) Raj has a definitive copyright over the entire folk song, and Amita's use without paying royalties constitutes an infringement.
- (D) Amita's use of the song is a direct infringement, as Raj's modernization of the folk song translates to copyright over traditional songs that have no prior established copyright.

PASSAGE – 6

The predominant objective of Designs Act is to consolidate the earlier laws which were not in compliance with the International design jurisprudence and other main objective is for the protection of novel and innovative original designs from getting copied resulting in the loss for the proprietor and also for ensuring that the creator or the originator of the design is not deprived of his rights and reward for creating it. Design is defined as “only the features of shape, configuration, pattern, ornament or composition of lines or colours applied to any article whether in two dimensional or three dimensional or in both forms, by any industrial process or means, whether manual, mechanical or chemical, separate or combined, which in the finished article appeal to and are judged solely by the eye; but does not include any mode or principle of construction or anything which is in substance a mere mechanical device” Design does not include any mode or principle of construction or anything which is in substance a mere mechanical device as they are protected by Patents depending upon its Novelty, Obviousness and Industrial applicability. Designs also does not include the Trademark as defined in Clause V of Subsection (1) under Sec 2 of the Trademarks Merchandise marks Act 1958 or Property Mark as defined in Section 479 of Indian penal Code 1860 or any artistic work as defined in Clause C of Section 2 of the Copyright Act 1957. The word article is defined under section 2(a), reads as article means “any article of manufacture and any substance artificial or partly artificial and partly natural and includes any part of in article capable of being made and sold separately”.

A design has to satisfy certain prerequisites for getting registered under the Designs Act 2000 as per Section 4 of the Designs Act 2000 the design if lacked novelty cannot be registered. At the same time as per Section 16 of the Designs Act 2000, a mere disclosure of design shall not be deemed to be the publication of Design if the purpose of the design is disclosed in good faith to a person who has breached the good faith trusted worthy on him and as per Section 21 of the Indian Designs Act, 2000 the disclosure of Designs for the purpose of exhibition cannot invalidate or prevent it from registration. The Design must be original and for the purpose of originality it is defined under Section 2(g) which states original means “originating from the author of such design and includes the cases which the old in themselves yet are new in their application”. As per the case of “Hello Mineral Water Private Limited v. ThermoKing California Pure” it was held that mere shape and form is not sufficient to prove novelty. The Court observed that Novelty also involved the presence of some new element or Innovative position of an old element if it is in combination with which is different from anything found in any prior structure. Signs, Emblem of flags of any country, size of any article if it is changed, structures in buildings, trademarks, any principle of inventions, workshop improvements of components of already existing assembly, the parts of any article which are not manufactured and sold separately cannot be registered as a design. In the Case of “Disney Enterprises Inc. v. Prime Houseware Ltd.,” Mumbai based company known as time houseware used to manufacture characters like Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse which resulted in suit being filed by Disney Enterprises for the infringement of International Registered Designs. This was the case were International Registration of Industrial Design become a matter of concern in the court of law. It was held by the Court that the plaintiff ‘s Trademark is not protected under Indian law but however the Court passed an order for delivering all the influencing material to the petitioner company and ruled that it should not be used further.

Source: Designs under Designs Act, 2000, Law Bhoomi, January 15, 2021.

Q.81) Priya Designs Pvt. Ltd., an Indian Company, has created an innovative chair design that consists of a unique geometric frame and an ergonomic configuration that offers enhanced comfort. The design incorporates a novel pattern on the seat and backrest that captivates the eye. They applied for design registration, but a competitor, Futura Furnishings, started

manufacturing similar chairs shortly after Priya Designs showcased their model at an international trade fair but before the design was formally registered. Priya Designs wants to take legal action against Futura for design infringement. The competitor claims that since the design was not registered at the time of the exhibition, it cannot be protected. What is the most likely outcome based on the Designs Act, 2000?

- (A) Priya Designs cannot successfully claim infringement because their design was not registered at the time of the exhibition, and thus, protection is not enforceable.
- (B) Futura Furnishings is liable for infringement as the exhibition of Priya Designs' chair does not constitute public disclosure under Section 21, and the design remains protectable.
- (C) As the design was showcased publicly at an international trade fair, it no longer retains novelty and cannot be protected under the Designs Act, 2000.
- (D) Since the design does not contain elements from the exclusions mentioned in the Designs Act, 2000, Priya Designs cannot claim infringement.

Q.82) Swasti Textiles has created a new fabric design that features a unique blend of traditional Indian motifs with contemporary graphical elements. They applied for design registration and were granted protection under the Designs Act, 2000. Swasti subsequently learned that a foreign company, Interglobe Textiles, was exporting fabrics with a very similar design to India. Swasti's investigations revealed that Interglobe had registered the design internationally before Swasti's local registration. Swasti seeks to sue Interglobe for design infringement in India. Can Swasti Textiles enforce its design rights against Interglobe Textiles?

- (A) Swasti can enforce its design rights as Interglobe's international registration has no bearing on Swasti's Indian registration.
- (B) Interglobe has precedence due to its earlier international registration, making Swasti's local design registration unenforceable against Interglobe.
- (C) Swasti cannot enforce its design rights because the design lacks originality as defined in Section 2(g) of the Designs Act, 2000.
- (D) Interglobe Textiles is not liable for infringement in India because it has not yet applied for the registration of their design in India.

Q.83) Rohit, a product designer, created an intricate light fixture design, which includes both functional mechanical parts and distinctive ornamental aspects. Rohit applied for copyright protection for the artistic elements but also seeks design protection under the Designs Act, 2000 for the aesthetic look of his fixture. However, the patent office rejected his design application stating that the design submission was mainly comprised of mechanical parts. Is the rejection justified under the definitions stipulated in the Designs Act, 2000?

- (A) Yes, the rejection is justified because the design primarily comprises mechanical parts, which are specifically excluded under the Designs Act, 2000.
- (B) No, the rejection is not justified as the ornamental aspects of the light fixture qualify for design protection and provide a novel visual appeal.
- (C) Yes, the rejection is justified because the features of Rohit's design do not appeal to the eye, which is a requirement for design protection.
- (D) No, the rejection is not justified because functional parts can still be protected under the Designs Act, provided they contribute to the visual appeal of the article.

Q.84) Aarav Electronics developed a new type of electric switch that uses a unique mechanism allowing smoother operation and decorated with intricate patterns. They apply for a design

registration under the Designs Act, 2000. Meanwhile, TekSwitch, a rival company, creates an identical switch but argues that it cannot be design-protected because it embodies a functional mechanism, despite the decorative patterns. In the scenario where both the mechanism and the decoration are novel, can Aarav successfully defend their design registration rights?

- (A) Aarav can defend the registration rights because the decoration provides novelty and visual appeal, which are protectable under the Designs Act, 2000.
- (B) TekSwitch is correct in that functional mechanisms cannot be protected under the Designs Act, therefore Aarav cannot defend their design registration.
- (C) Aarav cannot defend the design registration as the decoration on a functional item does not grant it protection under the said Act.
- (D) TekSwitch will succeed because the Designs Act, 2000 prioritizes protection of product functionality over aesthetic enhancements.

Q.85) Avni Artistry creates a new type of wallpaper with a three-dimensional pattern that creates an illusion of depth. They registered the design under the Designs Act, 2000. A competitor, Bharat Décor, has brought out a wallpaper using a similar three-dimensional pattern, arguing that while they have incorporated the concept of depth illusion, their specific design pattern is different and hence not a violation. Avni contends that Bharat Décor's product infringes on their registered design. Should Avni Artistry's claim of design infringement succeed based on the definitions and protections under the Designs Act, 2000?

- (A) Avni Artistry's claim is likely to succeed if their registration accurately covers the concept of a three-dimensional pattern creating a depth illusion, regardless of specific patterns.
- (B) Avni's claim of infringement is likely to fail since Bharat Décor's specific design pattern is different, which indicates that the design is not copied.
- (C) Bharat Décor is correct in their assertion that the concept of depth illusion is too broad to be protectable, and specific pattern differences preclude infringement.
- (D) Since both wallpapers incorporate three-dimensional patterns, Bharat Décor is likely to be infringing on Avni Artistry's design registration rights, irrespective of pattern differences.

CRITICAL REASONING**PASSAGE 1**

The inauguration of the new Parliament building scheduled for May 28 could have been an occasion of national unity, but, unfortunately, politics is taking centre stage. Opposition parties have announced they would boycott the event, pointing out that the President, the head of state, and not the Prime Minister, who is the head of government, should have been inaugurating the building. There is merit in the Opposition argument, though a boycott is too extreme a response. The government and the Opposition have contributed to converting this too into an episode of acrimony, which has already made meaningful functioning of Parliament very difficult. In a joint statement, the Opposition has said that “this undignified act insults the high office of the President and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution”, and has specifically mentioned that India has its first woman Adivasi President now. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has countered the charge by recalling that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had inaugurated the Parliament Annexe building on October 24, 1975, and Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation of the parliament library on August 15, 1987. The inauguration of an annexe or a library is not, however, comparable to the inauguration of the majestic edifice of representative government. Turning a milestone in the journey of the nation into a partisan event is certainly bad optics, but what is more worrisome is the substantial damage that is happening to democracy. The irony cannot be starker. Though a new, glittering physical space for deliberations is opening, interactions between the government and the Opposition are either absent or hostile. Democracy is not about buildings and statues, but about deliberations and the search for common ground. The ascent of executive power at the cost of parliamentary authority is a growing concern in many democracies, and India is, sadly, witnessing the same. The new building is a part of the reconstruction of the Central Vista, which is the seat of the Government of India. The BJP government did little to take the Opposition into confidence. Not only the President but also the leaders of the Opposition should have had active roles at the opening ceremony. Parliament is meant to hold the executive accountable to the people; it is not a venue for executive predominance. The unfortunate trend in recent years is a continuing erosion of this core function of Parliament. The inauguration of the new building could have been an opportunity for course correction.

Source: Lost opportunity: On the acrimony over the inauguration of the new Parliament building, The Hindu Editorial, May 26, 2023.

Q.86) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author’s argument that the inauguration of the new Parliament building could have been a moment for national unity but was marred by political discord?

- (a) Previous inaugurations of government buildings have always been conducted without any political disagreements or boycotts.
- (b) The Opposition’s boycott of the inauguration ceremony is based on a longstanding tradition that the President, as the head of state, inaugurates significant national projects.
- (c) The government had extended an invitation to all political parties, including those in the Opposition, to participate in the inauguration ceremony.
- (d) Similar political disputes have occurred in other democracies during the inauguration of significant national projects.

Q.87) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle that democracy is about deliberations and the search for common ground, as stated in the passage?

- (a) The government's decision to proceed with the inauguration without addressing the Opposition's concerns demonstrates a commitment to executive efficiency over parliamentary dialogue.
- (b) The inclusion of both the President and leaders of the Opposition in significant ceremonies is essential for upholding the democratic value of collective representation.
- (c) The construction of new parliamentary buildings is a priority over the resolution of political disputes for the progress of a nation.
- (d) Political disputes should be resolved behind closed doors to prevent any public perception of discord.

Q.88) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) The ascent of executive power at the cost of parliamentary authority is a phenomenon unique to the current political climate in India.
- (b) The construction of the new Parliament building, as part of the Central Vista project, has been universally accepted without any opposition.
- (c) A more inclusive approach to the inauguration ceremony could have served as an opportunity for course correction in parliamentary democracy.
- (d) The boycott by the Opposition is the sole reason for the current state of acrimony in parliamentary functioning.

Q.89) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the substantial damage happening to democracy due to the current political discord around the inauguration of the new Parliament building?

- (a) Historical instances where political unity was showcased at national events led to significant increases in public trust in the government.
- (b) Surveys indicate that the majority of the population is indifferent to who inaugurates the new Parliament building.
- (c) The new Parliament building includes technological advancements that significantly enhance the legislative process.
- (d) Opposition parties have a history of boycotting events inaugurated by members of the ruling party, which has previously led to policy stalemates.

Q.90) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's critique of the government's handling of the inauguration ceremony?

- (a) A ceremony's significance lies solely in its symbolic value rather than its practical outcomes.
- (b) The government prioritizes its agenda over fostering a collaborative and inclusive political environment.
- (c) The presence of political disagreements inherently indicates a healthy democratic process.
- (d) All national events should be led by the President to ensure non-partisanship.

Q.91) Which of the following will act as an assumption for the author's view that turning a milestone in the journey of the nation into a partisan event is bad optics and worrisome for democracy?

- (a) Public perception of unity among political leaders is crucial for maintaining confidence in democratic institutions.

- (b) Partisan events are more effective than non-partisan events in mobilizing public support for government initiatives.
- (c) The significance of a new Parliament building is primarily architectural and does not have symbolic or democratic implications.
- (d) The role of the President in inaugurating significant projects is less important than the participation of the Prime Minister.

PASSAGE 2

In December last year, while speaking at the U.S. Congress, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy compared the battle for Bakhmut to the Battle of Saratoga, in which the American revolutionaries clinched a decisive victory against the British in October 1777. "... the fight for Bakhmut will change the trajectory of our war for independence and our freedom," he said. Five months later, Bakhmut is not in Ukraine's hands. After 10 months of fighting, Russia's Ministry of Defence announced last week the city's capture in the eastern Donetsk region, its first major territorial gain since January when it took neighbouring Soledar. Ukraine claims that its troops continue to defend a small area of Bakhmut and is advancing on its flanks, but has admitted that the eastern city "is effectively in Russian hands, for now". For Vladimir Putin's Russia, which invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it was a much-needed victory after a series of setbacks late last year when Russian troops were beaten back by the Ukrainians from the Kharkiv Oblast in the northeast and Kherson city in the south. The Russians are already in control of the whole of Luhansk and getting Bakhmut would potentially allow them to target other major urban centres in Donetsk such as Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. For Ukraine, which was preparing for a major counteroffensive, the loss of Bakhmut is a setback, but not the end of the road.

Russia, whose initial thrust into Ukraine failed to meet its objectives, seems to be learning from its battlefield mistakes as its invasion has turned into a war of attrition. According to a recent report by the London-based Royal United Services Institute, Russia's battlefield tactics, coordination, supplies, electronic warfare and air defence have improved. In Bakhmut, Russia suffered huge losses but the fighting was done by Wagner, a private military corporation, which provided much of the regular Russian troops, including the 300,000 freshly mobilised soldiers, time to build fortifications along the over 1,000-km frontline and undergo training. On the other side, Ukraine was supposed to launch its counteroffensive at the beginning of Spring, and the delay points to its battlefield problems, which were partially revealed by leaked U.S. intelligence documents earlier this year. But Ukrainian troops now have some of the most advanced weapons, thanks to the West. In recent months, Ukraine has also carried out attacks inside Russia, using drones and medium-range fire or saboteurs, bringing the war home for Mr. Putin. Now, with advanced weaponry, Ukraine is betting on its counteroffensive and ability to create disruptions inside Russia. To recover from its setbacks in Soledar and Bakhmut, Ukraine will have to regain territories quickly, while Russia tries to capitalise on the momentum created by taking Bakhmut. As both sides are determined to continue the war, there is no hope for peace or talks on the horizon.

Source: After Bakhmut: On the latest phase in the Ukraine war, The Hindu Editorial, May 26, 2023.

Q.92) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's comparison of the battle for Bakhmut to the Battle of Saratoga?

- (a) The outcome of a single battle can significantly influence the course of a war.
- (b) Historical parallels provide accurate predictions for the outcomes of current conflicts.
- (c) Advanced weaponry is the most critical factor in determining the outcome of modern battles.
- (d) The involvement of private military corporations in conflicts leads to certain victory.

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

- (a) The capture of Bakhmut by Russian forces marks the end of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

- (b) Improvements in Russia's battlefield tactics, coordination, supplies, electronic warfare, and air defence have been decisive in the conflict.
- (c) Ukraine's delay in launching its counteroffensive is a result of its strategic recalibration in response to battlefield dynamics.
- (d) Attacks inside Russia by Ukraine using drones and saboteurs have had no impact on the conflict's progression.

Q.94) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument that the loss of Bakhmut is a setback for Ukraine but not the end of the road?

- (a) Ukraine has no remaining territories outside of Russian control that are of strategic military value.
- (b) The international community has decided to cease all military aid to Ukraine, significantly limiting its ability to conduct a counteroffensive.
- (c) Ukrainian forces have successfully recaptured territories adjacent to Bakhmut, indicating resilience and strategic depth in their military operations.
- (d) Russia has announced a unilateral ceasefire and is seeking negotiations for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Q.95) Which of the following will act as an assumption for the author's view that both sides being determined to continue the war indicates no hope for peace or talks on the horizon?

- (a) International mediation efforts have been consistently successful in resolving conflicts similar to the one in Ukraine.
- (b) The determination to continue fighting by both sides is rooted in their belief that military victory is the only path to securing their objectives.
- (c) A ceasefire or peace talks would necessarily imply a concession of defeat by one of the parties involved.
- (d) The conflict in Ukraine is primarily driven by external forces rather than by the countries involved.

Q.96) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage that Ukraine's adoption of advanced weaponry and its ability to create disruptions inside Russia signify a strategic shift in the conflict?

- (a) The strategic shift indicates Ukraine's reliance on technological superiority to compensate for numerical inferiority.
- (b) Ukraine's strategy is primarily defensive, aiming to prevent further territorial losses rather than regaining control.
- (c) The reliance on advanced weaponry and disruptive tactics is a temporary measure until international diplomatic resolutions are reached.
- (d) Advanced weaponry and disruptive tactics have not significantly impacted the course of the conflict, as territorial control remains the decisive factor.

Q.97) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about Russia's improvements in battlefield tactics, coordination, supplies, electronic warfare, and air defence contributing to its success in capturing Bakhmut?

- (a) Independent analyses confirm that Russia's logistical and tactical adjustments have led to reduced casualty rates and improved efficiency in offensive operations.

- (b) Witnesses report an overwhelming presence of conventional military forces in areas surrounding Bakhmut, with no significant reliance on technological advancements.
- (c) Leaked documents from a third-party intelligence agency suggest that Ukraine was planning to abandon Bakhmut long before the Russian offensive intensified.
- (d) Interviews with soldiers on the ground reveal that morale among Russian troops is low, despite the capture of Bakhmut, due to the high cost of the operation.

PASSAGE 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Australia this week coincided with a year since Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese was elected Prime Minister, and gave a fillip to growing bipartisan ties. While his visit was originally planned for a multilateral event, the meeting of the Quad, it transformed into a purely bilateral visit after the U.S. President pulled out over domestic political constraints; Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida followed suit, and a shortened Quad Summit was held in Hiroshima. As a result, Mr. Modi's Sydney sojourn was much more in the spotlight, particularly his address to the Indian community which Mr. Albanese joined in, as well as the address to business groups. In what was their sixth such meeting in the past year, the announcements from the Modi-Albanese meet included opening an Australian consulate in Bengaluru and an Indian consulate in Brisbane, an agreement on Migration and Mobility, and the finalisation of terms of reference for an India-Australia Green Hydrogen Task Force. Defence and security ties, cooperation on renewable energy, and critical minerals were also part of the substantive agenda, as was the need to sign a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement by December. On international issues, despite their differing stances on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and western sanctions, they found continuing and common cause on maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific, and dealing with an aggressive China.

However, it was the celebration as well as the concerns of the Indian-origin community that appeared to overshadow all else. While both leaders exulted in the mammoth crowd at Sydney's SuperDome, Mr. Modi said that the "real reason, the real power" behind the bilateral relations came from people of Indian-origin in Australia. On the subsequent morning, activities of other groups and conflicts also tracing back to people of Indian origin were discussed as Mr. Modi repeated his concerns over vandalism and attacks defacing community centres and temples with pro-Khalistani, anti-India and anti-Modi graffiti. These had been raised during Mr. Albanese's visit to India in March. While any attack on an Indian consulate is a valid bilateral concern, New Delhi must consider how much attention it wishes to pay to attacks by Australian citizens on Australian citizens and Australian property. While the growing incidents may be cause for worry, it is by no means clear that giving them centre-stage during such visits is conducive to strengthening the common understanding between both countries, or in the best interests of the "three D's" Mr. Modi said bind the two countries today — Democracy, Diaspora and Dosti [Friendship].

Source: Ties that bind: On India-Australia ties and the Modi visit, The Hindu Editorial, May 25, 2023.

Q.98) Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with regarding the focus on attacks on community centers and temples during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Australia?

- (a) Addressing these attacks during high-level visits is essential for protecting the rights and safety of the Indian diaspora in Australia.
- (b) The focus on such attacks might detract from the broader agenda of strengthening bilateral ties between India and Australia.
- (c) The incidents of vandalism and attacks are solely a domestic Australian issue and should not be addressed in bilateral discussions.
- (d) Highlighting these issues serves to strengthen the diaspora's confidence in their homeland's commitment to their welfare.

Q.99) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) The establishment of new consulates and agreements on Migration and Mobility significantly outweigh any concerns related to diaspora issues in bilateral relations.
- (b) Democracy, Diaspora, and Dosti (Friendship) are the only pillars that support the bilateral relationship between India and Australia.
- (c) The Modi-Albanese meeting's focus on international issues indicates a shared strategy towards handling global challenges, despite differing views on other matters.
- (d) Concerns raised by the Indian community in Australia have the potential to undermine the progress made on defence, security, and economic cooperation.

Q.100) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the significance of the Indian-origin community's role in bilateral relations between India and Australia?

- (a) The Indian-origin community in Australia has been instrumental in facilitating trade agreements between India and Australia.
- (b) A majority of the Indian-origin community in Australia expresses indifference towards bilateral relations between the two countries.
- (c) The Australian government has announced plans to significantly reduce immigration from India.
- (d) Recent surveys show a decline in the Indian-origin community's participation in cultural events in Australia.

Q.101) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage that giving center-stage to vandalism and attacks during high-level visits may not be in the best interests of strengthening bilateral ties between India and Australia?

- (a) Bilateral discussions should prioritize economic and security cooperation over diaspora issues to ensure the stability and growth of both nations.
- (b) The Indian and Australian governments should establish a joint task force specifically to address the concerns of the Indian diaspora, including vandalism and attacks.
- (c) High-level visits are an opportune time to highlight and address any form of dissent or unrest within the diaspora community to the global media.
- (d) Emphasizing diaspora concerns, including vandalism and attacks, during bilateral talks strengthens the relationship by showing a commitment to resolving mutual concerns.

Q.102) How does the author suggest the bilateral relationship between India and Australia can be further strengthened, based on the passage?

- (a) By focusing exclusively on resolving the concerns of the Indian-origin community in Australia.
- (b) Through the establishment of more consulates in both countries to facilitate easier migration and mobility.
- (c) By signing a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement by the stipulated deadline.
- (d) By prioritizing discussions on defence, security, renewable energy, and critical minerals over diaspora concerns.

Q.103) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's critique of the focus on vandalism and attacks during Modi's visit?

- (a) The Indian-origin community's concerns should not influence the agenda of high-level bilateral meetings.
- (b) Economic, defence, and security cooperation are universally acknowledged as the most critical elements of India-Australia relations.
- (c) Highlighting vandalism and attacks could potentially harm the image of the Indian-origin community in Australia.
- (d) The effective management of diaspora issues requires a balanced approach that does not overshadow other aspects of bilateral relations.

PASSAGE 4

The U.S. is close to breaching its \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, the government-imposed limit on the total funds it can borrow to pay for existing legal obligations including interest on national debt, military salaries tax refunds and Medicare and Social Security. A breach, should it happen by the June 1 deadline, risks an economic debacle that could lead to a credit rating downgrade, with the knock-on effect of soaring interest rates and tanking stock markets. This in turn would have a deleterious impact on retirement and savings accounts, the pace of business activity, and therefore on employment. With the global economy limping out of the COVID-19 recession scenario, a U.S. federal government debt default would represent a shock to the financial system and a still-fragile recovery across many economies may be compromised. Matters could worsen if the U.S. federal government goes into its 22nd shutdown and government employees are furloughed. In an attempt to coax lawmakers into cooperation and hammer out an agreement to raise or suspend the debt ceiling, the White House put out its calculations of the damage that would result: 8.3 million jobs lost, 6.1% drop in annualised growth of real GDP, and unemployment at 5%.

At the heart of this fiscal quagmire is a lack of bipartisan consensus on how to avoid repeating cycles of national economic stress stemming from the debt ceiling itself. Some analysts observe that the ceiling is a useful device for the U.S. government to tie its own hands and submit to a credible commitment to limit public spending, especially as it requires legislative consent, and with it, some congressional oversight authority. Others argue that the ceiling is an “antiquated mechanism” that places unwarranted restrictions on robust fiscal policy, including on the need to meet previously legislated fiscal obligations. Either way, the deeper reason to worry about the debt ceiling bringing the economy to the “precipice of default every few years” is that the ceiling readily serves as a political tool for the party not in control of the White House to gain leverage over the fiscal priorities of the administration and hobble its plan to deliver on campaign promises. A major debt payment is due on June 15. The government could make do with the ever-shrinking fiscal wiggle room until then. However, House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, would be wise to realise that putting partisan goals and personal popularity ahead of the greater good will not be something that the American middle class will forgive easily in the 2024 presidential election, especially if this brinkmanship ends up causing a painfully intractable economic crisis.

Source: Unnecessary brinkmanship: On the U.S.’s fiscal quagmire, The Hindu Editorial, May 25, 2023.

Q.104) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage that the debt ceiling acts as a political tool for the party not in control of the White House to gain leverage over fiscal priorities?

- (a) The debt ceiling is essential for maintaining fiscal discipline by enforcing a limit on government borrowing and spending.
- (b) Removing the debt ceiling would lead to unchecked government spending and exacerbate the national debt crisis.
- (c) The debt ceiling negotiations provide a critical opportunity for minority parties to influence policy and ensure governmental accountability.
- (d) The utilization of the debt ceiling for political leverage undermines the efficiency of government operations and fiscal responsibility.

Q.105) Based on the author’s arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) A breach of the debt ceiling would have minimal impact on the global economy, given the current strength of economic recoveries post-COVID-19.
- (b) The potential economic repercussions of breaching the debt ceiling highlight the need for immediate bipartisan cooperation to prevent a default.
- (c) The debt ceiling serves no practical purpose other than to create recurrent economic stress by bringing the economy to the brink of default.
- (d) Bipartisan consensus on raising the debt ceiling is easily achievable if both parties prioritize the nation's economic health over political gains.

Q.106) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the potential deleterious effects of a U.S. federal government debt default on the global economy?

- (a) Historical instances where minor breaches in debt ceilings did not result in significant economic downturns.
- (b) A recent survey showing that a majority of Americans are unaware of what the debt ceiling is and its implications.
- (c) Evidence from economic studies indicating that previous threats of breaching the debt ceiling have led to increased market volatility and investor uncertainty.
- (d) Reports indicating that other countries are prepared to increase their investment in U.S. securities despite the threat of a debt ceiling breach.

Q.107) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's critique of using the debt ceiling as a political tool?

- (a) The primary function of the debt ceiling is to facilitate fiscal responsibility through legislative oversight.
- (b) Economic stability should be prioritized over political gains in the management of national fiscal policies.
- (c) Political strategies that involve the debt ceiling do not significantly impact public opinion or the outcome of elections.
- (d) The debt ceiling is an outdated mechanism that no longer serves its original purpose in the modern economy.

Q.108) Which of the following will act as an assumption for the author's view that Speaker Kevin McCarthy should prioritize the greater good over partisan goals and personal popularity in debt ceiling negotiations?

- (a) The American middle class holds significant sway over the outcome of presidential elections and their views are heavily influenced by economic conditions.
- (b) Economic policies and decisions are largely immune to the influences of political leadership and partisan negotiation.
- (c) The debt ceiling issue is too complex for the general public to understand, hence political leaders should not factor public opinion into their decisions.
- (d) Political leaders who prioritize economic stability over partisan goals are likely to face significant opposition within their own party.

DATA INTERPRETATION

Greenwood City, with a population of 120,000 residents, boasts a well-structured public library system comprising 12 libraries. These libraries collectively house a remarkable collection of 600,000 volumes of books, averaging about 50,000 volumes per library. This extensive collection underlines the city's commitment to promoting literacy and providing diverse reading materials to its community. The libraries in Greenwood City are frequented often, with an impressive total of 480,000 annual visits, averaging 40,000 visits per library. This high footfall indicates the libraries' significant role in the daily lives of the city's residents. Additionally, the libraries enjoy robust community engagement, evident from the 36,000 library members they have amassed. This figure represents 30% of the city's population, highlighting the libraries' widespread appeal and accessibility. Financially, the library system operates on an annual budget of \$12 million, translating to an average of \$1 million allocated per library. A notable portion of this budget, specifically 25% or \$3 million, is dedicated to the acquisition of new books each year, ensuring that the library collection remains current and diverse.

The human resource aspect of the libraries is also commendable, with 180 full-time employees working across the system. This equates to an average staffing of 15 employees per library, ensuring efficient operation and quality service. The libraries are also active in community engagement, organizing a total of 300 programs and events annually. This breaks down to an average of 25 programs and events per library, offering educational and cultural enrichment opportunities to Greenwood City's residents. Overall, Greenwood City's public library system stands as a testament to the city's dedication to fostering a literate, informed, and culturally enriched community, backed by strong financial and human resources.

Q.109) What percentage of the total annual library budget is allocated for new book acquisitions in Greenwood City's public library system?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 30%

Q.110) What is the average number of books borrowed per library member annually in Greenwood City's public library system?

- (a) 8 books
- (b) 10 books
- (c) 13 books
- (d) 15 books

Q.111) What is the average number of visits per resident per year to the public libraries in Greenwood City?

- (a) 2 visits
- (b) 3 visits
- (c) 4 visits
- (d) 5 visits

Q.112) How many books are there per resident in Greenwood City's public library system?

- (a) 4 books
- (b) 5 books
- (c) 6 books
- (d) 7 books

Q.113) What is the average number of programs and events hosted by each library annually in Greenwood City's public library system?

- (a) 15 programs/events
- (b) 20 programs/events
- (c) 25 programs/events
- (d) 30 programs/events

Q.114) What is the ratio of full-time employees to libraries in the public library system of Greenwood City?

- (a) 10:1
- (b) 15:1
- (c) 12:1
- (d) 18:1

PASSAGE – 2

Solarville City, with a population of 200,000 residents, is a leader in renewable energy usage, with 75% of its energy sourced from renewable methods. The city's total annual energy consumption is a substantial 2,000 Gigawatt-hours (GWh), of which a significant 1,500 GWh comes from renewable sources. This commitment to green energy highlights Solarville's dedication to sustainable living and environmental stewardship. The city's renewable energy infrastructure includes 10 solar farms and 5 wind farms. These solar farms collectively contribute 900 GWh annually, while the wind farms add another 600 GWh to the city's renewable energy production. This robust setup not only meets a large portion of the city's energy needs but also positions Solarville as a model for renewable energy utilization. On an individual level, the energy consumption per resident amounts to 10 Megawatt-hours (MWh) per year. This figure reflects the city's efficiency in energy use and distribution among its population. Additionally, the city's shift to renewable sources has led to a reduction in carbon emissions by approximately 1.2 million metric tons annually, underscoring its positive environmental impact.

Financially, Solarville City allocates a substantial \$500 million annually to renewable energy projects. Of this, 40%, or \$200 million, is dedicated to solar energy projects, while 30%, amounting to \$150 million, is allocated for wind energy projects. These investments not only underscore the city's commitment to renewable energy but also its strategic approach to balancing different sources of green energy for optimal output and sustainability. Overall, Solarville City's approach to renewable energy reflects a harmonious blend of environmental responsibility, technological advancement, and sustainable urban planning, setting a commendable example in the field of renewable energy usage.

Q.115) What percentage of Solarville City's total annual energy consumption is produced by its wind farms?

- (a) 20%

- (b) 25%
- (c) 30%
- (d) 35%

Q.116) How much carbon emissions reduction is achieved per resident annually in Solarville City due to the use of renewable energy?

- (a) 4 metric tons
- (b) 5 metric tons
- (c) 6 metric tons
- (d) 7 metric tons

Q.117) What proportion of Solarville City's government renewable energy budget is allocated to solar and wind energy projects combined?

- (a) 60%
- (b) 70%
- (c) 80%
- (d) 90%

Q.118) What is the average annual energy production per solar farm in Solarville City?

- (a) 80 GWh
- (b) 90 GWh
- (c) 100 GWh
- (d) 110 GWh

Q.119) How much energy does each resident of Solarville City consume on average annually from non-renewable sources?

Options:

- (a) 2.5 MWh
- (b) 3.5 MWh
- (c) 5.0 MWh
- (d) 7.5 MWh

Q.120) How many times more is the annual budget for solar energy projects compared to the budget for wind energy projects in Solarville City?

Options:

- (a) 1.25 times more
- (b) 1.33 times more
- (c) 1.5 times more
- (d) 2 times more

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. Explanation: Option B is correct because ‘chitter-chatter’ is a term used to describe gossip or idle talk. In the passage, the Nurse uses this phrase to signify that it’s time to stop the casual conversation and pay attention. Option A is incorrect because ‘chitter-chatter’ does not refer to serious conversation and discussion. The phrase carries a connotation of informal or trivial conversation. Option C is incorrect because ‘chitter-chatter’ does not refer to whistling or humming. The phrase is specifically used in the context of conversation among the Girls. Option D is incorrect because ‘chitter-chatter’ does not imply quick and hurried movement. It refers more to the content and nature of the conversation rather than the speed or movement associated with it.
2. Explanation: Option A is correct because the description of the Nurse standing in front of the Girls with her hands moving in and out of fists, tapping her foot, suggests authority and a desire for power. These physical gestures and actions convey a sense of control and dominance. Option B is incorrect because the Girls biting the insides of their cheeks to suppress their excitement does not directly suggest the Nurse’s authoritative nature or her desire for power. It reflects the Girls’ response to the situation rather than the Nurse’s behavior. Option C is incorrect because the Nurse forcing an enormous smile and clapping her hands does not necessarily indicate her authoritative nature or power-seeking. These actions can be seen as part of her attempt to maintain control and engage the Girls. Option D is incorrect because the Nurse’s hand hitting the skin above her heart does not explicitly indicate her authoritative nature or power-seeking. This action is more related to her response to the outburst from one of the Girls.
3. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage suggests that maintaining a certain level of decorum and modesty in appearance is essential to the experience of being a “Lady.” The Nurse sets rules, such as no skirts above the knees, and emphasizes the importance of adhering to these standards. Option A is incorrect because while following the rules and regulations set by the Nurse may be expected, the passage does not explicitly state that it is essential to the experience of being a “Lady.” Option C is incorrect because while determination and resilience may be qualities valued by the Girls, the passage does not directly connect these qualities to the experience of being a “Lady.” Option D is incorrect because while building a strong bond with other Girls may be desirable, the passage does not indicate that it is essential to the experience of being a “Lady.” The focus is more on individual behavior and adherence to rules.
4. Explanation: Option B is correct because the last sentence of the passage suggests that the author feels trapped by their own curiosity and desire to know more about Mrs. S. The author acknowledges their susceptibility to Mrs. S’s unintentional gestures and expressions, indicating a sense of being captivated or trapped by their fascination with her. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not explicitly mention the author feeling ashamed of their vulnerability and susceptibility to Mrs. S’s influence. While there may be a sense of vulnerability, it is not necessarily associated with shame. Option C is incorrect because the passage does not convey a sense of regret about the author’s inability to engage in a meaningful conversation with Mrs. S. The focus is more on the author’s curiosity and desire to know more about her. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the author is disappointed by their lack of self-control or

inappropriate thoughts. The passage primarily explores the author's captivation with Mrs. S rather than negative self-judgment.

5. Explanation: Option B is correct because the phrase "Shameful, how easily I am trapped" suggests that the author views their own vulnerability as a weakness to be ashamed of. The author expresses disappointment in their own susceptibility to Mrs. S's influence, implying a negative perception of their vulnerability. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the author is proud of their ability to recognize their vulnerability. Instead, the author feels ashamed and trapped by it. Option C is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the author is indifferent to their own vulnerability. On the contrary, the author explicitly expresses shame and disappointment. Option D is incorrect because while vulnerability may be a natural and expected human trait, the passage does not directly address the author's belief about vulnerability in general. The focus is on the author's personal experience of vulnerability and their negative reaction to it.
6. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage describes the Leather Lady's hair as "microbraids patterned into small squares." This suggests that microbraids refer to tiny braids that are arranged in a specific pattern. Option A is incorrect because while microbraids are small in size, the passage does not mention anything about the size of the hair strands used. Option C is incorrect because the passage does not indicate a specific microbraiding technique. It simply describes the appearance of the braids. Option D is incorrect because while the braids may be intricate and tightly woven, the passage does not explicitly mention these characteristics in relation to microbraids. The emphasis is more on the pattern of the braids.
7. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage states, "The type of poverty one can manage. Even be proud of." This suggests that the author believes poverty can be managed and even something to take pride in. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not convey a sense of shame or embarrassment associated with poverty. Instead, it suggests that poverty can be managed and even embraced. Option C is incorrect because while the author mentions the challenges of poverty, there is no indication of feeling frustrated or overwhelmed. The focus is more on the ability to manage and be proud of one's situation. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the author considers poverty to be inevitable or unavoidable. It emphasizes the author's perspective on managing and finding pride in their poverty.
8. Explanation: Option A is correct because the sentence states that the Leather Lady rarely speaks her mind. This implies that she does not often express her opinions. Option B is incorrect because the sentence indicates the opposite. It suggests that the Leather Lady rarely speaks her mind, which means she is not outspoken and does not freely share her thoughts. Option C is incorrect because the sentence does not imply hesitation on the part of the Leather Lady. It simply states that she rarely speaks her mind, without suggesting any reluctance or reservation. Option D is incorrect because the sentence does not provide evidence that the Leather Lady is reserved or prefers not to speak up. It only indicates that she rarely expresses her opinions.
9. Explanation: Option C is correct because it accurately captures the meaning of the last sentence. The passage states, "For the first time I caught a glimpse of her hair, microbraids patterned into small squares, each braid drawn tightly to connect it to

another.” This description suggests that the Leather Lady’s hair has microbraids arranged in a pattern of small squares. Option A is incorrect because it does not include the specific details of the microbraids being patterned into small squares. Option B is incorrect because it focuses solely on the tightness of the hair without mentioning the specific pattern of small squares. Option D is incorrect because it does not mention the pattern of small squares that the microbraids form in the Leather Lady’s hair.

10. Explanation: Option D is correct because the passage describes the Leather Lady’s distinctive style of dressing, which includes various combinations of leather clothing and accessories. The author highlights her unique appearance and mentions that she never permits her past to come up in conversation. This suggests that being a Leather Lady is associated with an unconventional and individualistic lifestyle. Option A is incorrect because while wearing leather clothing and accessories is part of the Leather Lady’s style, it does not capture the essential aspect of her experience. Option B is incorrect because although the Leather Lady does have a distinctive appearance, it is not identified as the essential aspect of her experience. Option C is incorrect because while the Leather Lady maintains youthful features and an ease of movement, it is not stated to be the essential aspect of her experience. The passage does not delve into her personality in detail.
11. Explanation: Option D is correct because the passage is a first-person account of a family’s experience of moving to Florida. It includes details about their journey, feelings, and observations. This fits the definition of a personal narrative, which typically involves a narrator recounting personal experiences and emotions. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not present scientific facts or theories, it is a descriptive account of personal experiences. Option B is incorrect because the passage does not provide instructions or steps on how to do or make something. It recounts a family’s journey and experiences. Option C is incorrect because the passage does not involve fantastical elements or imaginary worlds. The events and settings in the story are based on real-world locations and experiences.
12. Explanation: Option C is correct because the phrase “Swampland gave way to sugarcane fields” suggests that the landscape around the family changed as they moved from a swampy area to a region with sugarcane fields. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not provide any evidence to suggest that the family had comprehensive knowledge about Florida’s agricultural industry. They simply observed their surroundings. Option B is incorrect because there is no information in the passage that indicates the family’s intent to get involved in sugarcane farming. Option D is incorrect because, while the family’s car was driving through different types of terrain, there’s no evidence to suggest that it could handle all kinds of terrain. The focus of the sentence is the transition in landscape, not the capabilities of the car.
13. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage explicitly states that the author felt both “scared and thrilled” when they saw the airboat. This aligns with the given description of fear and excitement. Option A is incorrect because the passage states that the author felt both scared and thrilled by the sight of the airboat. This indicates that they were not indifferent to the situation. Option C is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the author felt unhappy when they saw the airboat. The feelings described are fear and excitement, not unhappiness. Option D is incorrect because the

passage does not suggest that the author was bored. On the contrary, they were actively engaged with what was happening, experiencing both fear and excitement.

14. Explanation: Option C is correct because “overpass” and “underpass” are not synonyms. An overpass is a bridge by which a road or path passes over another, while an underpass is a road or path that passes under another. Option A is incorrect because “destroyed” and “ruined” are synonyms. Both words mean to cause severe damage or to render something useless. Option B is incorrect because “condos” and “apartments” are often used interchangeably. Both are housing units in a multi-dwelling building. Option D is incorrect because “thrilled” and “excited” are synonyms. Both words express a high degree of pleasure or satisfaction.
15. Explanation: Option D is correct because the passage describes Lorraine engaging in a playful “knock-knock” game with her sibling, and then uses a spark plug as a microphone to dramatically declare that they’re alone. The tone and context suggest a sense of playful engagement rather than fear, excitement, or delusion. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Lorraine is scared. She’s engaging in a playful and perhaps slightly mocking interaction with her sibling. Option B is incorrect because the passage does not provide evidence to suggest that Lorraine is feeling liberated or excited at the prospect of being alone. Option C is incorrect because there’s no suggestion that Lorraine genuinely believes they are the only people left in the world. Her statement seems more playful and dramatic than literal.
16. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage states that being “bored off our asses” eventually became an “all-consuming activity” that transformed into an “existential pose.” This indicates that the unique experiences of their childhood, resulting from their strict upbringing, sparked their creativity and contributed to their eventual career in writing. Option A is incorrect because the passage explicitly mentions that the author did not learn such skills as swimming, riding a bike, skating, or jumping rope due to their strict upbringing. Option C is incorrect because, while their parents’ strictness was aimed at protecting them from perceived dangers, the passage does not mention this as being of use to the author. The focus is more on how their upbringing shaped their creative pursuits. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the strict upbringing was used as a disciplinary tool. Instead, it stemmed from their parents’ paranoia and fear of potential dangers.
17. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage states that the only foods allowed were canned goods dated before April 26, 1986, which is unlikely to provide all the essential nutrients required for a healthy diet, thus leading to the vitamin deficiency. Option A is incorrect because the passage states that the family wasn’t allowed to eat fruits, vegetables, or eggs for three years due to their father’s paranoia about contamination. Hence, their diet was not rich in these nutrients. Option C is incorrect because the passage explicitly mentions that the family was not allowed to go out to restaurants, which is in direct contradiction to this statement. Option D is incorrect because there’s no mention of a medical condition leading to a vitamin deficiency in the passage. The deficiency is clearly linked to the family’s strict diet.
18. Explanation: Option C is correct because the sentence directly states that due to their strict upbringing, they never learned these common childhood skills. This implies that their parents’ protective measures restricted them from learning these skills. Option A

is incorrect because the passage states that the author and their brother were not allowed to learn physical activities such as swimming, riding a bike, skating, or jumping rope, which contradicts the idea of emphasizing the importance of outdoor activities. Option B is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the author and their brother were naturally uninterested in physical activities. It was their parents' strict upbringing that prevented them from participating in these activities. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not state that the parents prioritized education over physical activities. Instead, it indicates that their refusal to allow their children to participate in these activities was due to their paranoia about potential dangers

19. Explanation: Option D is correct because the passage states that the family continued to live as if in a “postapocalyptic film scenario” after the Chernobyl disaster. This depicts a time full of difficulty and uncertainty, aligning with the meaning of ‘postapocalyptic’. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not depict a period of peace and prosperity following the nuclear reactor meltdown. Instead, it suggests a period of intense caution and restricted lifestyle. Option B is incorrect because ‘postapocalyptic’ does not imply happiness or joy. Instead, it typically refers to the chaotic and challenging time after a catastrophic event, which is not associated with joy. Option C is incorrect because, while there was heightened security, the overall context of the word ‘postapocalyptic’ does not refer to safety but to the uncertainty and difficulty that follows a catastrophe.
20. Explanation: Option B is correct because the passage is a first-person narrative recounting personal experiences and observations of the author’s childhood. It offers insights into their upbringing, family dynamics, and the effect these had on their life. This aligns with the characteristics of an autobiographical work. Option A is incorrect because, although the passage references living like they were in a “sci-fi Zone X,” the situation is a reflection of the family’s actual living conditions rather than a fictional or futuristic setting. Option C is incorrect because a travelogue usually involves descriptions of travel experiences, different locations, and cultures. This passage does not describe any such experiences. Option D is incorrect because an academic essay would typically involve a focused discussion on a specific topic, often with formal language, structured argument, and references to scholarly works. This passage is more personal and narrative in nature.
21. Explanation: Option C is correct because the passage states “After about eight years or so, I began to feel cold...That lasted a few years too, during which I wore a light leather jacket.” This indicates that the jacket was a way for the author to manage the cold he began to feel, despite the generally hot environment. Option A is incorrect because the passage does not mention anything about the author’s sartorial preferences or the jacket being a fashion statement. Option B is incorrect because, while the author did mention feeling cold, it is not specified that the outside conditions were extremely cold. The “cold draughts” he mentioned seem to be more internal or psychological, rather than the physical weather. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not suggest the jacket was a gift or worn out of any obligation.
22. Explanation: Option B is correct because Biju said, “I can’t go to bed with a disappointing taste in my mouth. It’s against my principles,” implying that he always sought a satisfying meal before going to bed. Option A is incorrect because the passage states that Biju sometimes had two dinners, implying that he occasionally had

disappointing meals that led him to eat again. Option C is incorrect because there's no mention in the passage of Bijju going to bed hungry. On the contrary, it's indicated that he would have a second dinner if the first one was disappointing. Option D is incorrect because the passage doesn't mention Bijju cooking his meals. It mainly discusses him going out to eat, not preparing food himself.

23. Explanation: Option B is correct because the phrase "I didn't trust it" after mentioning the bleach smell suggests that the author was uncertain about the safety or cleanliness of the canal, which is likely linked to the unusual smell. Option A is incorrect because the passage doesn't specify that the author avoided the canal due to the smell. The author merely states his distrust without elaborating on avoidance behavior. Option C is incorrect because the passage does not state that the author disliked the restaurants near the canal due to the smell. The author mentions going to the restaurants and not being glad about taking Atiya there, but doesn't link this feeling directly to the smell of the canal. Option D is incorrect because the passage does not mention any allergies the author might have. The author's distrust seems to be related to the unusual smell rather than a personal allergic reaction.
24. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because Professor Muhammad Yunus, who is celebrated for pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance to support the impoverished, is from Bangladesh.
25. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because Professor Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. This recognition was for their efforts in creating economic and social development from below, through offering small loans to the impoverished without requiring collateral.
26. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because all statements accurately reflect the achievements and contributions of Professor Yunus and the Grameen Bank. Statement A accurately describes how Yunus combined capitalism with social responsibility, statement B correctly highlights the bank's role in providing working capital to the poor, and statement C accurately details the bank's expansive reach and focus on women, demonstrating the comprehensive impact of Yunus's work on society.
27. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 was jointly awarded to Henry Dunant and Frédéric Passy. Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Passy, a leading international pacifist, were recognized for their significant contributions to peace and humanitarian efforts, reflecting the Nobel Peace Prize's purpose of honoring those who have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.
28. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 in recognition of her work in overcoming poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace.
29. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for a second time in 1981, in addition to its first award in 1954.

30. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because Y.V. Reddy served as the chairman of the 14th Finance Commission, which was constituted on January 2, 2013.
31. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the First Finance Commission was established in 1951, following the enactment of The Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.
32. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as Arvind Panagariya, the former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and a Professor at Columbia University, has been appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.
33. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the Finance Commission, established by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution, is tasked with recommending the principles that govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the states out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
34. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as it is the responsibility of the President of India to ensure that every recommendation made by the Finance Commission, along with an explanatory memorandum on the action taken, is laid before each House of Parliament.
35. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the Finance Commission consists of a Chairman and four other members, as stipulated by the Constitution.
36. Explanation: Option (D) is correct because Andrott is the largest island in the Lakshadweep archipelago in terms of geographical area. It plays a significant role in the cultural and social landscape of Lakshadweep and is strategically important due to its location in the Arabian Sea.
37. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as optical fibers utilize the principle of Total Internal Reflection (TIR) to guide light through the fiber. This phenomenon allows the light to be confined within the core of the fiber by reflecting off the interface between the core and the cladding without loss of signal over long distances, which is fundamental for efficient data transmission in telecommunications.
38. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because Malayalam is the official language of Lakshadweep. The islands are home to a predominantly Malayalam-speaking population, which reflects the cultural and linguistic ties with the neighbouring state of Kerala.
39. Explanation: Option (C) is correct as Lakshadweep is composed of 36 islands. This archipelago, located in the Arabian Sea, is known for its stunning coral reefs and unique geographic formation.
40. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the Lakshadweep islands are coral islands. These islands have been formed over time by the accumulation of coral, which creates coral reefs and islands in the process known as coral reef island formation.
41. Explanation: Option (A) is correct as the maritime boundary between the Maldives and India (Lakshadweep) is delineated by the Eight Degree Channel. This channel, named

for its geographic location along the 8-degree line of latitude north of the equator, separates the islands of Minicoy (part of India's Lakshadweep archipelago) from the northernmost islands of the Maldives, serving as an important navigational route in the Indian Ocean.

42. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the High Court of Kerala and Lakshadweep is located in Kochi. This judicial institution serves both the state of Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, providing legal oversight and jurisdiction over matters within these regions.
43. Explanation: The committee to explore the feasibility of "one nation, one election" is chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
44. Explanation: The cycle of holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was first disrupted in 1959. This change occurred following the central government's decision to invoke Article 356 to dismiss the then-government of Kerala. This event marked the beginning of a pattern where legislative assemblies could be dissolved prematurely, leading to staggered elections and the end of the practice of conducting synchronized elections across the country.
45. Explanation: All provided statements are correct. The Law Commission of India, an executive body established by the Government of India, plays a pivotal role in legal reform. The first Law Commission, set up under the Charter Act of 1833 during colonial rule and presided over by Lord Macaulay, laid the foundation for legal reforms in India. The suggestion to conduct simultaneous elections was indeed put forward in 1999 by the Law Commission headed by BP Jeevan Reddy, highlighting a continued interest in electoral reforms to enhance efficiency and coherence in the democratic process.
46. Explanation: Justice Rituraj Awasthi, the former Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, was appointed as the chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission on November 7, 2022.
47. Explanation: Article 172 of the Constitution specifies the tenure of state legislative assemblies, establishing that they shall last for five years unless dissolved earlier. This provision, along with Article 83(2) for the Lok Sabha, sets the legislative framework for the duration of elected bodies, highlighting the constitutional mechanisms in place for the regular conduct of elections and the potential for earlier dissolution under certain circumstances, such as the invocation of Article 356.
48. Explanation: The Representation of the People Act 1951 is identified as requiring amendments, along with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, to enable the conduct of simultaneous elections.
49. Explanation: Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury declined to be a part of the eight-member committee constituted by the central government to examine the "One Nation, One Election" proposal.
50. Explanation: Thomas Bach is correctly replacing [1] in the passage. As the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach plays a pivotal role in overseeing the organization and coordination of the Olympic Games, including efforts to uphold the Olympic Charter and promote the Olympic Movement worldwide.

51. Explanation: Neeraj Chopra's gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Games marked a historic achievement for India, becoming the country's first-ever gold medal in Track and Field events at the Olympics. This victory also established Chopra as the second individual gold medalist from India in the Olympics, following Abhinav Bindra's gold medal in shooting at the 2008 Beijing Games, underscoring the significance of his accomplishment in the annals of Indian sports history
52. Explanation: August 7 is celebrated as National Javelin Day in India, commemorating Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal win at the Tokyo Olympics. This day has been designated to honor Chopra's remarkable achievement of winning India's first-ever gold medal in Track and Field events, with his javelin throw of 87.58m. The Athletics Federation of India's decision to celebrate this day annually highlights the impact of Chopra's victory on the sport and its inspirational value for future generations.
53. Explanation: The XXXIII Olympiad, scheduled to be held in Paris in 2024, marks the return of the Summer Olympics to the French capital.
54. Explanation: The official mascot for the Paris Olympics is based on the Phrygian cap, a distinctive symbol of liberty and freedom. This choice reflects not only a deep connection to French history and values but also the Olympic spirit of unity, peace, and respect. The Phrygian cap mascot serves as a symbolic link between the rich cultural heritage of France and the universal ideals of the Olympic Games, embodying the ethos of Paris 2024.
55. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because as per the given passage, Occupant Class I holders in Maharashtra are considered to have rights akin to an 'Owner' of the property and can hold unalienated land in perpetuity without any restrictions on the right to transfer. This makes the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 applicable to Ramchandra, allowing him to transfer property rights as an owner. Option (B) is incorrect because the succession of the father's property to Ramchandra is not under contention, as he is already an Occupant Class I holder, and the specifics of the succession laws are irrelevant to Ramchandra's ability to transfer property rights to artisan families. Option (C) is incorrect because although developing land into public infrastructure and seeking government partnerships or subsidies might be relevant to his broader ambitions, it does not directly govern his ability to transfer property rights. Option (D) is incorrect because the question is not about the classification of land per se, but about Ramchandra's specific rights as an Occupant Class I holder and his subsequent ability to make transfers under those rights.
56. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because, as a Government Lessee defined under Section 2(11) read with Section 38 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, Priya holds a lease of unalienated unoccupied land from the government. The terms of her lease and the provisions of the Code will determine her ability to sublease the land, especially in the absence of an explicit clause about sub-leasing in her lease agreement. Option (B) is incorrect because it focuses on the process of approval for significant changes, which is of secondary concern to the fundamental legality of the sublease itself under the terms of the Code. Option (C) is incorrect because, while the establishment of a solar power plant must indeed comply with environmental laws, this is not the overriding legal issue regarding Priya's rights to sublease under her lease agreement.

Option (D) is incorrect because the term of the sublease is not the foremost legal problem. The primary issue is the compatibility of subleasing with the provisions of the Code and the terms of Priya's governmental lease.

57. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the enforceability of the lease renewal is in jeopardy since the agreement fails to include the newly mandated environmental clauses stipulated by the recent statute in Maharashtra. This directly affects the compliance and the validity of the lease agreement. Option (A) is incorrect because Harsh's notice from the local authority does not retrospectively invalidate the lease agreement but serves as a warning to comply with current legislation. Option (C) is incorrect because while Harsh may face penalties, this option does not address the lease's compliance or validity, which is the central issue in this scenario. Option (D) is incorrect because modifying the agreement is a potential solution to the problem, but the primary issue at stake is the initial validity and compliance of the lease renewal given the legislative changes.
58. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because Vandana's primary concern pertains to the procedural aspects of the conversion of Occupancy Class II to Class I rights as provided by the 2016 amendment in the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, including any financial obligations like the payment of a conversion premium. Additionally, there is the issue of whether the original conditions pertaining to land use would persist after such a conversion. Option (A) is incorrect because it only addresses whether the payment of a conversion premium would remove the restriction on industrial use, which is just one part of Vandana's concern, and does not reflect the primary legal issue. Option (C) is incorrect as it misplaces the focus on the legality of the organic market instead of the conversion of property rights which is at the heart of the issue. Option (D) is incorrect because while Vandana's eligibility is relevant, it does not constitute the fundamental legal question, which is focused on the conversion processes and associated land use restrictions.
59. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the dispute between Nikhil and Ravi directly hinges on the seniority and legitimacy of Ravi's ownership claim relative to the Occupancy Class II rights that were granted to Nikhil. It is essential to determine the precedence of property rights in this situation. Option (B) is incorrect because the grant of Occupancy Class II rights to Nikhil does not inherently imply a waiver of any previous claims unless explicitly stated in the grant. Option (C) is incorrect because the legal standing of the apartment purchasers, while connected to the dispute, is not the primary legal concern which is the seniority between Ravi's and Nikhil's property rights. Option (D) is incorrect because the precise procedure for settling disputes is secondary to the determination of the rightful ownership claim between Nikhil and Ravi.
60. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the core legal issue Ramesh faces pertains to overcoming restrictions associated with Occupancy Class II, which limit the use of the land for industrial purposes. The conversion to Occupancy Class I would potentially remove such restrictions and open up the possibility for his intended factory expansion, subdivision, and sale. It is paramount for Ramesh to understand and execute the correct process as per the 2016 amendment to the Code. Option (B) is incorrect because although the ability to pay the conversion premium is a practical consideration for Ramesh, it is not the primary legal issue—it is more financial in nature and does not

address the legal procedure or the permission needed for industrial use and subdivision. Option (C) is incorrect because it assumes that the land would automatically be reclassified for industrial use following the conversion, which oversimplifies the scenario; the issue is whether the conversion process itself allows for the change in land use. Option (D) is incorrect because potential investor interest is a commercial consideration, not a legal issue; it does not address the legality of the conversion or the sale of the subdivided property.

61. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because, according to Section 45 of the TOPA and judicial interpretations, since the consideration for the flat came solely from Ram's funds, and there is no evidence suggesting an agreement to the contrary, the presumption is that Ram was the sole contributor. Thus, Ram was the absolute owner of the flat, and so his heirs, which include Sunita, would be entitled to the flat, despite the joint names on the deed. Option (B) is incorrect because mere cohabitation in the shared flat does not imply an equal share in its ownership or obfuscate the actual source of funds used to purchase the property. Option (C) is incorrect because the sale deed did not specify any particular shares, and in the absence of such declaration, the court can look at the source of funds to determine ownership. The implication from the provided passage is that when documentation or evidence points to a single contributor, that individual (and their heirs) can claim full ownership. Option (D) is incorrect because joint ownership on the deed does not automatically result in an equal share when the consideration came from a separate fund of one individual, according to Section 45 of the TOPA, unless there is explicit indication otherwise or evidence of joint contribution. In this case, there is no such evidence, and Sunita's claim is substantiated by the fact that her father provided all the consideration for the flat.
62. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because according to Section 45 of the TOPA, when the consideration for jointly owned property comes from a common fund, the owners are entitled to shares proportional to their contributions. Since Deepak contributed 30% of the funds from the joint account used to purchase the property, he is entitled to a 30% share in the bungalow. Option (A) is incorrect because, while joint ownership without specified shares typically results in equal interests, Section 45 of the TOPA clarifies that the entitlement is proportional to the contributions from the common fund when evidenced. Option (C) is incorrect because the proportional contribution from the common fund creates entitlement, and Deepak's contribution does not negate his ownership rights. Option (D) incorrectly implies that Deepak can only claim his share in the succession scenario; however, his 30% interest stands irrespective of whether there is a testamentary disposition or succession due to his contribution to the joint fund, as explained under Section 45 of the TOPA.
63. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because Section 45 of the TOPA indicates that when immovable property is jointly purchased and one of the joint owners solely pays for it out of his separate funds, they are entitled to claim full ownership if they can provide evidence of such contribution. Vinod's anecdotal evidence and witness testimonies supporting his sole payment would likely tilt the decision in his favor, establishing him as the absolute owner. Option (A) is incorrect because the mere appearance of both names on the deed does not automatically lead to an equal share, especially when it is demonstrated that the consideration came from one party's separate funds. Option (C) is incorrect because the burden of proof lies with Rajeev to contest Vinod's evidence of sole payment. Without such proof, Rajeev's claim to any share is unsubstantiated.

Option (D) is incorrect because the equity principle of Section 45 only applies in the absence of evidence regarding the interest or contributions of the joint owners. In this case, Vinod presents evidence that overrides this principle.

64. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because, as per Section 45 of the TOPA and the provided passage, Aarav, who contributed the entire payment from his separate funds, is entitled to claim full ownership of the property when he provides evidence of such sole contribution. The unfulfilled promise of future investment by Arjun does not entitle him to a share in the property when he has not made any financial contribution to the purchase. Option (A) is incorrect because the verbal agreement cannot override the documented evidence of Aarav's full contribution unless it is enforceably translated into a financial contribution or is formalized in a legally binding manner. Option (B) is incorrect because the deed fails to articulate their shares and does not take precedence over proven sole contribution by one party. Plus, there is an existing agreement between the parties, which impacts the determination of ownership interests. Option (D) is incorrect as the agreement not being in writing does not automatically grant Arjun a 50% share, especially when there's substantial evidence of Aarav's sole contribution.
65. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the private agreement between Kavita and Pooja and the subsequent payment for Pooja's share amounts to transferring the interest in the property to Kavita. According to the principles outlined in the passage, the documented evidence of payment takes precedence and establishes Kavita as the sole owner, even if the deed has not been amended formally. The passage clarifies that private documentation and evidence can determine ownership rights. Option (B) is incorrect because private agreements and documents, even if not formalized by a deed amendment, can have binding effects on the parties involved if they are sufficiently evidenced and there's no contest by the parties at the time of the agreement. Option (C) is incorrect as it fails to account for the clear, documented private transaction between the sisters, which alters the share and ownership status from what was initially determined in the inherited will. Option (D) is incorrect because, while the agreement is recognized under the law, the lack of a formal deed does not make Rohan's claim wholly non-existent; it just undermines it significantly if Kavita can provide evidence of her sister's agreement and receipt of payment.
66. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because according to the Supreme Court's guidelines, the presumption of legitimacy under Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act can be rebutted only by establishing non-access between the husband and wife when the child was conceived. If Surya can provide strong and cogent evidence of the impossibility that he had access to Meera during the entire conception period due to his overseas work, only then the court can consider directing a DNA test. Option (A) is incorrect because the mere presence of doubt or suspicion does not suffice to override the presumption of legitimacy; concrete evidence is required to establish the impossibility of access. Option (B) is incorrect as the absence of Surya during the time of conception does not automatically provide grounds for a DNA test. The court must consider the possibility of access before Aman's conception or whether alternatives like artificial insemination were agreed upon, which could preserve the presumption of legitimacy. Option (D) is incorrect because the court requires prima facie material to dislodge the presumption under Section 112 and cannot simply proceed with a DNA test without first establishing sufficient cause.

67. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because the Supreme Court's judgment indicates that DNA tests may be ordered in exceptional cases where there is sufficient prima facie material that demonstrates there was no access or opportunities for a sexual relationship between the husband and wife during the child's conception. If Sunil can produce strong evidence indicating that access was impossible during the crucial period when Jaya was conceived, then the DNA test can be ordered. Option (A) is incorrect because despite the presumption of legitimacy, the peculiar facts of Kavita's absence provide a legitimate ground for questioning the presumption and opening the door to a DNA test if sufficient prima facie material is presented. Option (B) is incorrect because the departure itself does not automatically warrant a DNA test without further substantive evidence. Option (D) is incorrect because DNA tests are not standard procedure in divorce proceedings and should only be ordered in exceptional cases as per Supreme Court guidelines and not simply to resolve marital disputes.
68. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the Supreme Court stipulates that children have the right not to have their legitimacy questioned frivolously and a strong presumption of legitimacy applies, which can only be rebutted by establishing non-access. Rahul's actions, such as signing the birth certificate and raising Nisha as his own for several years, reinforce the presumption of her legitimacy. There's no mention of Rahul presenting strong and cogent evidence to dislodge this presumption. Option (B) is incorrect as the right to challenge paternity does not extend indefinitely and is subject to the legal framework which requires strong evidence to rebut the presumption of legitimacy. Option (C) is incorrect because the suspicion of infidelity alone, without concrete evidence of non-access, does not meet the threshold for a DNA test as set by the Supreme Court. Option (D) is incorrect as consistent support for a paternity test does not substantiate a claim or invalidate the right of the child to legitimacy; consistent support is not equivalent to providing strong and cogent evidence of non-access as required by the law.
69. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because according to the Supreme Court's judgment, there is a strong presumption of legitimacy of a child born during the subsistence of a valid marriage, unless there is a challenge backed by strong and cogent evidence of non-access. Since Ravi has not disputed Roshan's legitimacy and the presumption remains in place, Roshan's inheritance rights are secure under the law. Option (B) is incorrect because there is no requirement to proactively seek a DNA test in this situation, and doing so might unnecessarily infringe upon Roshan's rights not to have his legitimacy questioned without substantial cause. Option (C) is incorrect as the uncertainty of a future challenge does not affect current inheritance rights, especially in the absence of any expressed doubts by Ravi. Option (D) is incorrect because while Geeta can rely on the presumption of legitimacy, the option implies an imminent and inevitable dispute, which does not currently exist and therefore doesn't necessitate the prevention of a DNA test.
70. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the Supreme Court emphasizes that there must be strong and cogent evidence to establish that access between the husband and wife was impossible during the period of conception. Since Anita has shown that access existed as the couple had reconciled before Diya's conception, there is no sufficient ground to dislodge the presumption of legitimacy, and therefore, the DNA test should be denied. Option (A) is incorrect as the mere existence of an affair does not

automatically provide grounds for a DNA test without concrete evidence of non-access during the period of conception. Option (C) is incorrect because the divorce proceedings and the need to determine custody and support do not justify a DNA test in the absence of evidence proving non-access. Option (D) is incorrect because while the potential impact on the child is an important consideration, it is not the primary factor dictating the decision regarding DNA testing; the presence or absence of sufficient prima facie material, as stipulated by the Supreme Court, is the determining factor.

71. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because, according to the Supreme Court, parties can seek the benefit of the amended law at any time during the pendency of the partition suit. Since the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 provides daughters an equal share in ancestral property, Dipti can seek an alteration of shares in the final decree proceedings despite the earlier preliminary decree. Moreover, the mutual agreement between Ramakant and Umesh is invalid if it does not have the written consent and signature of all the parties involved, in this case, Dipti. Option (A) is incorrect because the preliminary decree can be altered in light of the amended law. Option (C) is incorrect because separate agreements between some of the parties in a partition suit cannot be recognized unless all parties give written consent and sign the agreement, as per Supreme Court guidelines. Option (D) is incorrect because Dipti is entitled to an equal share with her brothers under the amended law; she does not automatically get a greater share, and the mutual agreement between the brothers is not valid if Dipti has not consented and signed it.
72. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because, in accordance with the Supreme Court's judgment, Sunita, whose appeal is pending before the High Court, can take advantage of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, which grants daughters equal coparcenary rights in ancestral property, thereby making her eligible for an equal share. Furthermore, the Settlement Deed executed between her brothers during the pendency of the appeal is invalid without her written consent and signature, and such a deed cannot alter her right to claim her share under the amended Act. Option (A) is incorrect as the amendment of the law applies to cases where the partition suit is still pending and can enable Sunita to claim her rights. Option (B) is incorrect as the final decree has not been passed yet, and the Settlement Deed requires Sunita's consent to be valid. Option (D) is incorrect because the Supreme Court has stipulated that the amended law applies to ongoing cases where the final decree has not been passed, and the Settlement Deed between the brothers cannot be upheld without Sunita's consent.
73. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 allows daughters to claim an equal share in a property even when an oral family arrangement has been in place. In this context, the Supreme Court has ruled that parties can seek the benefit of amended law during the pendency of a partition suit or appeal. Since Ajay would likely have no written consent and signature from all parties, it wouldn't be treated as validly altering the legal shares, especially considering an oral arrangement's susceptibility to challenges based on the concerns of validity and evidence. Option (A) is incorrect because under the Supreme Court's judgment, the oral arrangement cannot deny the statutory rights provided by the amendment. Option (C) is incorrect because the existence of the oral family arrangement doesn't negate Beena's statutory rights under the amendment, regardless of allegations of inequity, fraud, or duress. Option (D) is incorrect as even a registered family settlement would need to be

revisited in light of the amended law giving Beena equal rights unless she voluntarily and expressly relinquished her rights after the amendment came into force.

74. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because Sunita and Gita are entitled to assert their rights under the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, which gives daughters equal share rights in the property. The notarized document executed by Sarala and Anil, if not having the written consent of all legal heirs, including Sunita and Gita, would not be legally valid and cannot deprive them of their rights under the amended Act. Option (B) is incorrect as their claims are not time-barred since the amendments to the law apply to pending partition suits. Option (C) is incorrect because statutory law supersedes familial norms, and Sunita and Gita have rights under the amended Act. Option (D) is incorrect because regardless of when Sarala decided to relinquish her share, the document's validity is questionable without the daughters' written consent given the principles laid down by the Supreme Court.
75. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because, based on the principles from the Supreme Court, the daughter can seek the benefit of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, during the pendency of the partition suit to claim her share. The agreement between the widow and her grandsons would be invalid for altering the partition shares without the daughter's written consent despite being subsequent to the preliminary decree. Option (A) is incorrect as the amendment allows for alteration of the preliminary decree in accordance with the new law. Option (B) is incorrect because although the daughter can claim an equal share under the amended Act, the agreement's validity still requires the written consent of all affected parties, which includes the daughter. Option (D) is incorrect because it does not consider the right provided to the daughter by the 2005 Act amendment and misconstrues the validity of the agreement, which requires the daughter's consent post-amendment.
76. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because in India, copyright is automatically granted upon creation of a work. There is no requirement for registration, and the economic rights of a copyright holder, including reproduction and distribution rights, are provided as per Section 14 of the principal Act. Prashant's act of distributing the novel as an e-book without Girish's consent is a violation of these rights. Option (A) is incorrect because copyright protection arises automatically upon creation and does not necessitate registration for a right-holder to initiate infringement proceedings. Option (B) is incorrect as the fair use doctrine typically applies to purposes such as criticism, review, research, etc., and not unilateral and unauthorized distribution. Moreover, fair use requires a case-by-case analysis, and commercial gain is only one of many factors considered. Option (D) is incorrect because the exhaustion principle does not apply to unauthorized digital distribution; it applies generally to physical objects that are resold, and the e-book distribution was never authorized in the first place.
77. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because, in assessing a fair use claim, the court will analyze several factors, including the purpose and character of the use, the nature of the copyrighted work, the amount and substantiality of the portion used, and the effect of the use on the potential market. Since the dialogue and plot have been taken directly, and considering that a film based directly on the books competes with potential official adaptations, Chetan has a strong case. Option (A) is incorrect because asserting a work as transformative is a part of a fair use defense, but it does not automatically guarantee its acceptance without proper analysis. Option (C) is incorrect because the statute of

limitations is a defense but is not automatically presumed to have passed; it must be established. Moreover, it might not apply if Chetan was not aware of the infringement. Option (D) is incorrect because while Chetan can indeed file an infringement claim, the fact that he became aware of his rights later does not necessarily ensure a ruling in his favor without considering fair use defense and other legal factors.

78. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the fair use doctrine requires a case-by-case analysis, where factors such as the purpose and character of the use, the nature of the copyrighted work, and the effect of its use on the potential market are examined. Vimal's stipulation on the sheet music was clear, and permission was required for its use, which can substantiate a claim of infringement despite the educational context. Option (B) is incorrect because fair use is not absolute in educational contexts and must still be determined on a case-by-case basis considering copyright owner rights. Option (C) is incorrect because copyright protection in India does not require registration, and the rights are automatic upon creation, making them enforceable. Option (D) is incorrect because while educational purposes are a factor in fair use considerations, they do not automatically override a copyright holder's exclusive rights, especially if permission is explicitly required by the copyright owner.
79. Explanation: Option (C) is correct because copyright law grants the author the exclusive right to translate the work, and distributing translations requires the author's consent. The non-commercial nature of the society's work does not absolve them from infringement, as fair use does not provide carte blanche, especially for exclusive rights such as translation. Option (A) is incorrect because the motive of promoting cultural exchange does not negate Pedro's right to control the use of his work. Option (B) is incorrect because while fair use takes into account the nature of use, it should not infringe upon the express rights of the author, like the right to translate. Option (D) is incorrect because, despite Indian copyright laws providing for certain uses under fair dealing (not the same as fair use), it does not automatically exempt all non-commercial uses, and the exclusive rights of the copyright owner must be considered.
80. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because traditional folk songs that have been passed down through generations are typically considered public domain, meaning they are not protected by copyright law unless there is an original element that has been added that qualifies for such protection. Raj's modernization would grant him copyright over his specific rendition but not the folk song itself. Amita's crediting of the community and use for a documentary implies she is using the traditional tune, not Raj's modernized version. Option (A) is incorrect because Raj's copyright does not extend to the original traditional version of the song but only to his unique rendition. Option (C) is incorrect because Raj's claim to the copyright is limited to his own arrangement and does not prevent the use of the public domain work. Option (D) is incorrect because modernization of a public domain work does not equal copyright over the original; it only applies to the new, copyrighted elements added by Raj.
81. Explanation: Option (B) is correct because, under Section 21 of the Designs Act, 2000, disclosure of designs for the purpose of exhibition does not invalidate the design or prevent it from registration, hence Priya Design's claim on the basis of their pending registration should still be valid. Futura Furnishings' argument that the design was not registered and is thus not protectable is not in accordance with this provision. Option (A) is incorrect because the law explicitly states that exhibition does not constitute

public disclosure. Option (C) is incorrect as, again, the act of exhibition does not strip the design of its novelty. Option (D) is incorrect because whether the design contains elements from the exclusions or not is irrelevant to the issue of infringement; the pertinent point is the exhibition rule under Section 21, which safeguards Priya Designs' rights.

82. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because Swasti successfully registered their design in India, which gives them the right to enforcement within the Indian jurisdiction irrespective of Interglobe's international registration. The Laws of India protects the rights of local registrations. Option (B) is incorrect because the international registration does not trump Swasti's Indian registered rights as long as Interglobe has not registered their design in India. Option (C) is incorrect because originality of the design, as per the case information, is not questioned here, and the enforcement of rights is dependent on the registration status in the Indian jurisdiction. Option (D) is incorrect because Interglobe's liability for infringement in India may still arise if Swasti has a valid Indian registration. The lack of Interglobe's Indian registration does not itself negate infringement if the design in question is registered by another party in India.
83. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the Designs Act, 2000, does not protect "any mode or principle of construction or anything which is in substance a mere mechanical device." If the design mainly pertains to functional mechanical parts, it can be excluded from protection under the Design Act. Option (B) is incorrect because while the ornamental aspects may qualify for protection, if the overall design mainly comprises mechanical components, it may be grounds for rejection. Option (C) is incorrect because the rejection is based on the mechanical nature of the design, not a lack of visual appeal. Option (D) is incorrect because although functional parts can contribute to visual appeal, they are not protectable if they are primarily mechanical devices under the Designs Act. The focus of design registration is on ornamental, non-functional aspects.
84. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because under the Designs Act, 2000, the aesthetic aspect of a design (e.g., intricate patterns) applied to a functional article (e.g., electric switch) is protectable if it appeals to and is judged solely by the eye. Despite the design having a functional mechanism, the visual appeal provided by the decoration can be the basis for design protection. Option (B) is incorrect because even though functional mechanisms themselves are not protected by the Designs Act, the combination of a novel mechanism and novel decoration is not automatically excluded from protection if the latter is judged solely by the eye. Option (C) is incorrect because the decorative aspects of the switch are eligible for design protection, so Aarav can defend their registration if the decoration is original and visually appealing. Option (D) is incorrect because the Designs Act does not prioritize function over aesthetics; rather, it excludes "any mode or principle of construction or anything which is in substance a mere mechanical device" but allows for the protection of ornamental design applied to functional articles.
85. Explanation: Option (A) is correct because the essence of design protection is the visual appeal, which in this case, is the illusion of depth created by the three-dimensional pattern. If Avni Artistry's design registration encompasses this concept and Bharat Décor's wallpaper gives the same visual impression to a buyer, despite different specific patterns, it may amount to infringement. Option (B) is incorrect because the specific

pattern differences do not eliminate the possibility of infringement if the overall visual appeal and concept are the same as those protected by the registration. Option (C) is incorrect because if Avni Artistry has secured registration for the three-dimensional pattern concept, then it is protectable; the specific pattern differences alone do not necessarily mean there is no infringement. Option (D) is incorrect because the test for infringement here is whether the design when applied to the article, appeals to and is judged solely by the eye, and similar 3D effects could potentially be infringing; pattern differences must be considered in the context of the overall visual appeal.

86. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage implies that the lack of unity and the ensuing political discord stem from the Opposition's decision to boycott the event due to their disagreement over who should inaugurate the building. If the government had indeed invited all parties, including the Opposition, it suggests an attempt at inclusivity and undermines the claim that the event was marred solely by political discord on the part of the government. Options (a) and (d) are incorrect because they do not directly address the specifics of the current situation or the reasoning behind the Opposition's boycott. Option (b) is incorrect because, although it provides a rationale for the Opposition's actions, it does not weaken the author's argument that the event could have symbolized national unity but was spoiled by political disagreements; instead, it reinforces the premise of discord.
87. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage emphasizes the importance of deliberations and finding common ground in a democracy. Including both the President and leaders of the Opposition in significant ceremonies symbolizes a commitment to these democratic principles by acknowledging the roles of different branches of government and opposition in a unified manner. Option (a) is incorrect because it reflects a preference for executive action over dialogue, which contradicts the passage's emphasis on deliberation. Option (c) is incorrect because prioritizing construction over resolving disputes does not align with the principle of democracy being about discussions and mutual agreement. Option (d) is incorrect because it suggests avoiding public transparency, which can undermine the democratic value of accountability and open dialogue.
88. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the author suggests that involving both the President and Opposition leaders actively in the inauguration could have symbolized a move towards greater inclusivity and dialogue, addressing the broader concerns of parliamentary democracy. This aligns with the passage's critique of the current state of affairs and its suggestion for improvement. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage mentions that the ascent of executive power at the expense of parliamentary authority is a concern in many democracies, not just India. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage clearly indicates there has been significant opposition to the project, including from the Opposition parties. Option (d) is incorrect because, although the boycott is presented as a significant issue, the passage suggests that both the government and the Opposition have contributed to the acrimonious state, implying that the problem is more complex than a single action by one party.
89. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it directly supports the author's argument that political unity at significant national events can enhance democracy by increasing public trust in the government. If historical instances show a positive correlation

between political unity and public trust, it strengthens the claim that the discord around the inauguration is damaging democracy. Option (b) is incorrect because public indifference does not directly affect the argument about damage to democracy. Option (c) is incorrect as technological enhancements, while beneficial, do not address the issue of political discord damaging democracy. Option (d) is incorrect because, although it provides context for opposition behavior, it does not strengthen the specific argument about the current situation's impact on democracy.

90. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the author's critique implicitly suggests that the government's approach to the inauguration—particularly its decision-making process regarding who should inaugurate the building—reflects a prioritization of its own agenda or perspective over creating an atmosphere of collaboration and inclusivity. This assumption underlies the criticism that the government did little to involve the Opposition or address their concerns, suggesting a missed opportunity for unity and dialogue. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not claim the ceremony's significance is solely symbolic; it emphasizes the missed opportunity for unity. Option (c) is incorrect as the author criticizes the nature of the disagreements and their impact on democracy, rather than endorsing all political disagreements as healthy. Option (d) is incorrect because the author does not argue that all national events must be led by the President but criticizes the specific decision-making for this event, implying a broader concern for inclusivity and respect for different roles within the government.
91. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author's view that making a national milestone a partisan event is bad optics and worrisome for democracy implicitly assumes that public perception of unity is essential for sustaining faith in democratic processes. If the public sees their leaders united, especially during significant national events, it reinforces the legitimacy and functionality of democratic institutions. Option (b) is incorrect because it contradicts the author's stance, suggesting instead that partisan events could undermine public trust in democracy. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage argues that the event had significant symbolic and democratic implications, which is contrary to this option. Option (d) is incorrect because the author criticizes the choice of the Prime Minister over the President for the inauguration, suggesting the importance of the President's role in such events for ensuring non-partisanship and upholding the spirit of democracy, not diminishing it.
92. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author's comparison of Bakhmut to the Battle of Saratoga, a decisive victory that changed the trajectory of the American Revolutionary War, implies that significant battles can have a profound impact on the course of a conflict. This assumption underlies the statement that the fight for Bakhmut could change the war's trajectory, suggesting that single battles can be pivotal. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that historical parallels guarantee similar outcomes; instead, it uses history to illustrate the potential significance of a battle. Option (c) is incorrect because, while the passage mentions Ukraine receiving advanced weapons, it does not imply this is the sole determinant of battle outcomes. Option (d) is incorrect because, although Wagner's involvement in Bakhmut is noted, the passage does not suggest that such involvement guarantees victory; rather, it highlights the complexity of the conflict.
93. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the author mentions that Ukraine was supposed to launch its counteroffensive at the beginning of Spring, and the delay hints

at battlefield problems, implying that Ukraine is recalibrating its strategy in response to the dynamics of the conflict. This necessity arises from the passage's discussion on Ukraine's preparations and indicates a thoughtful adjustment to ongoing conditions. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Bakhmut's capture ends the conflict; instead, it implies that the conflict continues with both sides prepared to fight. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the passage mentions improvements in Russian military capabilities, it does not claim these have been decisive for the overall conflict. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage actually suggests that Ukraine's attacks inside Russia represent a strategic effort to create disruptions, indirectly implying an impact on the conflict's progression.

94. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the author argues that despite the loss of Bakhmut, Ukraine is not at the end of its capacity to fight back, partially due to the advanced weaponry provided by the West. If the international community were to cease all military aid to Ukraine, this would significantly undermine Ukraine's ability to continue its military efforts and plan a counteroffensive, thereby weakening the author's argument that Ukraine still has viable paths forward. Option (a) is incorrect because the presence or absence of other strategic territories does not directly address the resilience or future capabilities of Ukraine as implied by the author. Option (c) is incorrect because it actually strengthens the author's argument by showing Ukraine's ability to counteract and recover, demonstrating that the loss of Bakhmut does not signify the end of their efforts. Option (d) is incorrect as it introduces a scenario that would change the context of the conflict entirely, moving away from military action to diplomacy, which is not directly relevant to the argument about the impact of the loss of Bakhmut on the conflict's future.
95. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the author's view that the determination of both sides to continue the war precludes the possibility of peace talks or a resolution implies that both Russia and Ukraine see continued military engagement as the only viable means to achieve their objectives. This assumption underpins the belief that neither side is currently willing to consider negotiations or peace talks, as they prioritize military victory. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the effectiveness of international mediation, nor does it base the lack of hope for peace on the past success or failure of such efforts. Option (c) is incorrect because it suggests an outcome (concession of defeat) that is not mentioned or implied as a reason for the continuation of the war in the passage. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage focuses on the actions and decisions of Russia and Ukraine rather than attributing the conflict's persistence to external forces.
96. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage describes Ukraine's acquisition of advanced weapons and its use of drones and saboteurs to attack inside Russia, suggesting a strategic shift to leverage technological advancements and asymmetric tactics. This aligns with the principle that Ukraine is using these capabilities to offset potential disadvantages in troop numbers or positions, indicating a reliance on technological superiority for strategic advantage. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage implies that Ukraine's strategy, particularly its planned counteroffensive and disruptive attacks inside Russia, is offensive in nature, aiming at regaining territories and impacting the conflict beyond merely defensive actions. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Ukraine's military strategies are temporary measures pending diplomatic solutions; rather, it portrays these strategies as significant

shifts in its approach to the conflict. Option (d) is incorrect because, contrary to this option, the passage implies that Ukraine's adoption of advanced weaponry and disruptive tactics inside Russia represents a meaningful shift in strategy that could impact the conflict's trajectory, not that they are ineffectual.

97. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it provides external validation of Russia's claimed improvements in battlefield tactics, coordination, supplies, electronic warfare, and air defence, directly supporting the author's argument that these factors contributed to Russia's success in capturing Bakhmut. By linking logistical and tactical adjustments to tangible outcomes like reduced casualty rates and improved efficiency, this option reinforces the notion that Russia's battlefield strategy and execution have evolved positively. Option (b) is incorrect because it suggests success is due solely to the quantity of conventional forces, not the qualitative improvements in tactics and coordination described in the passage. Option (c) is incorrect because Ukraine's intentions regarding Bakhmut do not directly validate the effectiveness of Russia's military improvements. Option (d) is incorrect because troop morale does not directly strengthen the argument about the effectiveness of Russia's tactical and logistical improvements; if anything, it suggests potential issues not addressed by such improvements.
98. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage suggests concern over giving central attention to the vandalism and attacks during high-level visits, implying that it may not be conducive to strengthening the common understanding between India and Australia. This implies that the author believes focusing on such attacks might overshadow other important aspects of the bilateral relationship. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the passage acknowledges the validity of addressing attacks on Indian consulates, it questions the appropriateness of focusing on these issues during the visit. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does acknowledge the relevance of these issues to bilateral discussions, especially considering their impact on the Indian-origin community. Option (d) is incorrect because, although the passage mentions the attacks, it does not specifically argue that highlighting these issues during the visit strengthens the diaspora's confidence in India's commitment to their welfare.
99. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage discusses the Modi-Albanese meeting addressing international issues, including a free and open Indo-Pacific and dealing with an aggressive China, suggesting that these discussions indicate a continuing and common cause on certain global challenges. This implies that, despite differing stances on other matters like Russia's invasion of Ukraine and western sanctions, there's a shared strategy towards handling some global challenges. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not argue that the establishment of consulates and agreements necessarily outweigh diaspora concerns, but rather presents these as part of the substantive agenda. Option (b) is incorrect because, although the passage mentions Democracy, Diaspora, and Dosti as important, it does not claim these are the only pillars of the bilateral relationship. Option (d) is incorrect because, while the passage discusses concerns related to the Indian diaspora, it does not state that these concerns have the potential to undermine progress in other areas of cooperation; instead, it questions the appropriateness of giving these concerns center-stage.

100. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it directly supports the author's argument that the "real power" behind the bilateral relations comes from people of Indian-origin in Australia, as mentioned by Prime Minister Modi. If the Indian-origin community has played a key role in facilitating trade agreements, it underscores their significant impact on strengthening bilateral ties, aligning perfectly with the author's viewpoint on their importance. Option (b) is incorrect because indifference from the community would weaken rather than strengthen the argument about their significance. Option (c) is incorrect as reducing immigration does not directly strengthen the argument about the existing community's role in bilateral relations. Option (d) is incorrect because a decline in participation in cultural events would suggest a weakening of the community's engagement and visibility, contrary to the passage's emphasis on their pivotal role.
101. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it aligns with the passage's suggestion that focusing too much on diaspora concerns, such as vandalism and attacks, might not serve the broader agenda of strengthening bilateral relations. Prioritizing economic and security cooperation over these issues could be seen as a more effective way to ensure the stability and growth of both nations, thus adhering to the principle that not all concerns need to be at the forefront of discussions during high-level visits. Option (b) is incorrect because, while it proposes a focused approach to addressing diaspora concerns, it does not directly relate to the principle regarding the prioritization of discussion topics during high-level visits. Option (c) is incorrect as it contradicts the passage's suggestion by advocating for the high visibility of diaspora issues during such visits. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage questions the efficacy of giving center-stage to diaspora concerns in strengthening bilateral ties, suggesting that it may not always be conducive to the overall relationship, contrary to what this option implies.
102. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage highlights the substantive agenda of Modi and Albanese's meeting, which included defence and security ties, cooperation on renewable energy, and critical minerals, alongside the need to sign a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement by December. This suggests that focusing on these areas, rather than giving undue attention to diaspora concerns, could further strengthen the bilateral relationship. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage questions the appropriateness of focusing exclusively on diaspora concerns during such visits. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the establishment of consulates is mentioned, the passage does not imply that this is the primary means to strengthen the relationship. Option (c) is incorrect because, although signing the agreement is important, the passage suggests a broader approach to strengthening ties, including but not limited to the economic agreement.
103. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the author's critique implies that while diaspora issues, such as vandalism and attacks, are important, giving them undue prominence during high-level visits may not be conducive to the overall objective of strengthening bilateral ties. This suggests the assumption that a balanced approach, which addresses diaspora issues without letting them dominate the agenda, is necessary for the effective management of bilateral relations. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that diaspora concerns should be entirely excluded from the agenda; rather, it questions the proportion of focus they receive. Option (b) is incorrect because, although economic, defence, and security cooperation are highlighted as important, the passage does not claim these are the most critical elements to the exclusion of all else. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the

impact of highlighting vandalism and attacks on the community's image, focusing instead on the implications for bilateral relations.

104. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because it aligns with the passage's critique that the debt ceiling readily serves as a political tool, suggesting that its use for gaining leverage over fiscal priorities can undermine the efficiency of government operations and fiscal responsibility. This implies that the strategic use of the debt ceiling by the opposition can lead to inefficiencies rather than fostering genuine fiscal discipline. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the passage acknowledges that some view the debt ceiling as a means to limit public spending, it specifically critiques its use as a political leverage tool. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not argue that removing the debt ceiling is the solution; rather, it critiques its political manipulation. Option (c) is incorrect because, although it recognizes the debt ceiling as a means for minority party influence, it does not address the critique of using the ceiling as leverage, which the passage implies is problematic.
105. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the author outlines the severe consequences of breaching the debt ceiling, such as a credit rating downgrade, soaring interest rates, and a negative impact on employment and retirement accounts, which underscores the urgency for bipartisan cooperation to prevent these outcomes. This is directly supported by the passage's emphasis on the need for lawmakers to work together to avoid an economic debacle. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that a debt ceiling breach could severely impact the global economy. Option (c) is incorrect because, while the passage critiques the debt ceiling's role in economic stress, it acknowledges differing views on its purpose, including as a fiscal discipline mechanism. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage suggests that the lack of bipartisan consensus, driven by political leverage, is a significant barrier to resolving the issue, not that such consensus is easily achievable.
106. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because it directly supports the author's argument about the severe consequences of breaching the debt ceiling by providing empirical evidence of past incidents where even the threat of breaching the ceiling led to negative market outcomes. This reinforces the claim that an actual breach could have catastrophic effects on the global economy by demonstrating the tangible impact of past threats on economic stability. Option (a) is incorrect because it contradicts the author's argument by suggesting that breaches do not necessarily lead to economic downturns. Option (b) is incorrect because public awareness of the debt ceiling does not directly impact its economic implications. Option (d) is incorrect because increased foreign investment in U.S. securities in the face of a debt ceiling breach might suggest confidence in the U.S. economy, which would weaken rather than strengthen the argument about deleterious effects.
107. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the author's critique of the political use of the debt ceiling implies that the manipulation for political leverage, particularly in the context of fiscal policy, comes at the cost of economic stability. This suggests an assumption that economic stability, rather than political maneuvering, should be the priority in managing fiscal policies. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the debt ceiling does involve legislative oversight, the critique focuses on its misuse for political advantage rather than its intended function. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not directly address the impact of political strategies on public opinion or election

outcomes. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage critiques the political use of the debt ceiling rather than outright declaring it outdated; it discusses the implications of its use rather than its relevance or utility in the modern economy.

108. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author suggests that McCarthy's prioritization of the greater good over partisan goals and personal popularity is crucial, especially considering the potential economic crisis that could impact the American middle class. This implies an assumption that the American middle class's views on economic conditions could significantly influence their voting behavior in the presidential election, thereby affecting the political future of those in leadership positions. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage explicitly deals with the impact of political leadership and negotiation on economic policies. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage implies the importance of public opinion, especially as it relates to the economic well-being of the American middle class, rather than suggesting it should be ignored. Option (d) is incorrect because, although it may be true, it does not directly act as an assumption for the author's view on prioritizing the greater good; it's more about the potential consequences of such prioritization.

109. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question requires calculating the percentage of the annual library budget allocated for new book acquisitions in Greenwood City. The dataset provides two key figures: the total annual library budget, which is \$12 million, and the budget for new books, which is \$3 million. The percentage can be found by dividing the budget for new books by the total library budget and then multiplying by 100 to convert it to a percentage.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual library budget: \$12 million.

Budget for new books: \$3 million.

Calculating the percentage for new book acquisitions: $(\$3 \text{ million} \div \$12 \text{ million}) \times 100 = 25\%$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (a) 25%.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 20%: This also underestimates the percentage. It would be accurate if the budget for new books was \$2.4 million.

Option (c) 15%: This underestimates the percentage. It would be correct if the budget for new books was \$1.8 million, not \$3 million.

Option (d) 30%: This overestimates the percentage. It would imply that the budget for new books is \$3.6 million, which is higher than the actual \$3 million.

110. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question asks for the average number of books borrowed per library member each year in Greenwood City. To calculate this, we need two key pieces of information: the total number of annual library visits and the total number of library members. The

dataset provides these figures as 480,000 annual visits and 36,000 library members. Assuming that each visit equates to one book borrowed, we can find the average by dividing the total number of visits by the total number of members.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual library visits: 480,000 visits.

Total number of library members: 36,000 members.

Calculating the average number of books borrowed per member: $480,000 \text{ visits} \div 36,000 \text{ members} = 13.33 \text{ books per member}$.

Since we cannot have a fraction of a book in this context, we round down to the nearest whole number, which is 13 books per member.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (c) 13 books.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 8 books: This significantly underestimates the number. It would be correct if the total annual visits were around 288,000 instead of 480,000.

Option (b) 10 books: This also underestimates the number. It would be accurate for a total of approximately 360,000 annual visits.

Option (d) 15 books: This overestimates the number. It would be correct if the total annual visits were about 540,000, which is higher than the actual 480,000 visits.

111. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question seeks to determine the average number of library visits per resident per year in Greenwood City. To calculate this, we need to know the total annual library visits and the total population of Greenwood City. The dataset provides these figures as 480,000 annual library visits and a total population of 120,000 residents. The average is found by dividing the total number of visits by the total population.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual library visits: 480,000 visits.

Total population of Greenwood City: 120,000 residents.

Calculating the average number of visits per resident: $480,000 \text{ visits} \div 120,000 \text{ residents} = 4 \text{ visits per resident}$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (c) 4 visits.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 2 visits: This underestimates the average. It would be correct if the total annual visits were 240,000 instead of 480,000.

Option (b) 3 visits: This also underestimates the average. It would be accurate for a total of approximately 360,000 annual visits.

Option (d) 5 visits: This overestimates the average. It would imply a total of 600,000 annual visits, which is higher than the actual 480,000 visits.

112. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question asks for the number of books available per resident in Greenwood City's public library system. The necessary data for this calculation includes the total number

of books in all libraries and the total population of Greenwood City. The dataset provides these figures as 600,000 books and a population of 120,000 residents. The average number of books per resident can be determined by dividing the total number of books by the total population.

Answer Step by Step:

Total number of books in all libraries: 600,000 books.

Total population of Greenwood City: 120,000 residents.

Calculating the number of books per resident: $600,000 \text{ books} \div 120,000 \text{ residents} = 5$ books per resident.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (b) 5 books.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 4 books: This underestimates the average. It would be correct if the total number of books were 480,000 instead of 600,000.

Option (c) 6 books: This overestimates the average. It would be accurate for a total of approximately 720,000 books.

Option (d) 7 books: This significantly overestimates the average. It would imply a total of 840,000 books, which is higher than the actual 600,000 books.

113. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question seeks to determine the average number of programs and events hosted annually by each library in Greenwood City. The necessary data includes the total number of programs and events across all libraries and the total number of libraries. The dataset provides these figures as 300 total programs and events, and 12 libraries. The average number of programs and events per library is calculated by dividing the total number of programs and events by the total number of libraries.

Answer Step by Step:

Total number of programs and events: 300.

Total number of libraries: 12.

Calculating the average number of programs and events per library: $300 \text{ programs/events} \div 12 \text{ libraries} = 25 \text{ programs/events per library}$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (c) 25 programs/events.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 15 programs/events: This underestimates the average. It would be correct if the total number of programs and events were around 180 instead of 300.

Option (b) 20 programs/events: This also underestimates the average. It would be accurate for a total of approximately 240 programs and events.

Option (d) 30 programs/events: This overestimates the average. It would imply a total of 360 programs and events, which is higher than the actual 300.

114. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question requires determining the ratio of full-time employees to libraries in Greenwood City's public library system. The necessary data includes the total number of full-time employees and the total number of libraries. According to the dataset, there are 180 full-time employees and 12 libraries. The ratio is calculated by dividing the number of employees by the number of libraries.

Answer Step by Step:

Total number of full-time employees: 180.

Total number of libraries: 12.

Calculating the ratio of employees to libraries: $180 \text{ employees} \div 12 \text{ libraries} = 15 \text{ employees per library}$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (b) 15:1.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 10:1: This underestimates the ratio. It would be correct if there were only 120 full-time employees (10 employees per library).

Option (c) 12:1: This also underestimates the ratio. It would be accurate for a total of approximately 144 full-time employees (12 employees per library).

Option (d) 18:1: This overestimates the ratio. It would imply a total of 216 full-time employees (18 employees per library), which is higher than the actual 180 employees.

115. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question asks for the percentage of Solarville City's total annual energy consumption that is produced by its wind farms. To find this, we need to know the total energy consumption of the city and the annual energy production from the wind farms. According to the dataset, the city's total energy consumption is 2,000 Gigawatt-hours (GWh) annually, and the wind farms produce 600 GWh annually. The percentage can be calculated by dividing the wind energy production by the total energy consumption and then multiplying by 100.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual energy consumption of Solarville City: 2,000 GWh.

Annual energy production from wind farms: 600 GWh.

Calculating the percentage of energy produced by wind farms: $(600 \text{ GWh} \div 2,000 \text{ GWh}) \times 100 = 30\%$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (c) 30%.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 20%: This underestimates the contribution of wind farms. It would be correct if wind farms produced only 400 GWh annually, instead of 600 GWh.

Option (b) 25%: This also underestimates the contribution. It would be accurate for a production of 500 GWh by wind farms.

Option (d) 35%: This overestimates the contribution of wind farms. It would imply an annual production of 700 GWh from wind farms, which is higher than the actual 600 GWh.

116. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question seeks to determine the amount of carbon emissions reduction achieved per resident each year in Solarville City, attributable to the use of renewable energy. The necessary data includes the total annual reduction in carbon emissions due to renewable energy and the total population of the city. According to the dataset, the city reduces carbon emissions by 1.2 million metric tons annually and has a population of 200,000 residents. The average reduction per resident can be calculated by dividing the total emissions reduction by the total population.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual reduction in carbon emissions: 1.2 million metric tons.

Total population of Solarville City: 200,000 residents.

Calculating the carbon emissions reduction per resident: $1.2 \text{ million metric tons} \div 200,000 \text{ residents} = 6 \text{ metric tons per resident}$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (c) 6 metric tons.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 4 metric tons: This significantly underestimates the reduction per resident. It would be correct if the total emissions reduction were 800,000 metric tons, not 1.2 million.

Option (b) 5 metric tons: This also underestimates the reduction. It would be accurate for a total emissions reduction of 1 million metric tons.

Option (d) 7 metric tons: This overestimates the reduction per resident. It would imply a total emissions reduction of 1.4 million metric tons, which is higher than the actual 1.2 million.

117. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question asks for the combined proportion of Solarville City's government renewable energy budget allocated to both solar and wind energy projects. The dataset provides the total annual budget for renewable energy projects, which is \$500 million, and the proportions of this budget allocated to solar and wind projects: 40% for solar and 30% for wind. The combined proportion is calculated by adding these two percentages.

Answer Step by Step:

Total government budget for renewable energy projects: \$500 million.

Proportion of budget allocated to solar energy projects: 40%.

Proportion of budget allocated to wind energy projects: 30%.

Calculating the combined proportion for solar and wind projects: $40\% + 30\% = 70\%$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (b) 70%.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 60%: This underestimates the combined allocation. It would be correct if the total allocation for solar and wind was 20% and 40%, respectively, instead of 40% and 30%.

Option (c) 80%: This overestimates the combined allocation. It would imply that the allocations for solar and wind projects are higher than the actual figures.

Option (d) 90%: This significantly overestimates the combined allocation. It would suggest an even higher budget allocation for these two sectors, which is not supported by the data.

118. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question requires calculating the average annual energy production per solar farm in Solarville City. The necessary data includes the total annual solar energy production and the number of solar farms. According to the dataset, the total solar energy production is 900 GWh annually, and there are 10 solar farms. The average production per farm is found by dividing the total solar energy production by the number of solar farms.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual solar energy production: 900 GWh.

Number of solar farms: 10.

Calculating the average annual energy production per solar farm: $900 \text{ GWh} \div 10 = 90 \text{ GWh per farm}$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (b) 90 GWh.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 80 GWh: This underestimates the average production per farm. It would be correct if the total production were 800 GWh, not 900 GWh.

Option (c) 100 GWh: This overestimates the average production. It would be accurate for a total production of 1,000 GWh.

Option (d) 110 GWh: This significantly overestimates the average production per farm. It suggests a total production of 1,100 GWh, which is higher than the actual 900 GWh.

119. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question seeks to determine the average annual energy consumption from non-renewable sources per resident in Solarville City. The necessary data includes the total energy consumption of the city, the percentage of energy from renewable sources, and the total population. According to the dataset, the city's total annual energy consumption is 2,000 GWh, 75% of which is from renewable sources, and the population is 200,000 residents. The average consumption from non-renewable sources per resident can be calculated by first determining the total non-renewable energy consumption and then dividing it by the total population.

Answer Step by Step:

Total annual energy consumption: 2,000 GWh.

Percentage from non-renewable sources: $100\% - 75\% = 25\%$.

Total non-renewable energy consumption: $25\% \text{ of } 2,000 \text{ GWh} = 500 \text{ GWh}$.

Total population: 200,000 residents.

Converting GWh to MWh: $500 \text{ GWh} = 500,000 \text{ MWh}$.

Calculating the average consumption from non-renewable sources per resident: $500,000 \text{ MWh} \div 200,000 \text{ residents} = 2.5 \text{ MWh per resident}$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (a) 2.5 MWh.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 3.5 MWh: This overestimates the average consumption. It would be correct if the total non-renewable energy consumption were higher.

Option (c) 5.0 MWh: This significantly overestimates the average consumption. It would imply a much higher proportion of energy coming from non-renewable sources.

Option (d) 7.5 MWh: This greatly overestimates the average consumption per resident. It would be correct if almost all of the city's energy came from non-renewable sources, which contradicts the dataset.

120. Explanation:

Analysis of the Question:

This question asks to compare the annual budget allocated for solar energy projects with that for wind energy projects in Solarville City. The dataset provides the annual budget for renewable energy projects (\$500 million), the proportion allocated to solar energy projects (40%), and the proportion allocated to wind energy projects (30%). We need to calculate the actual budgets for both solar and wind projects and then determine how many times the solar budget is larger than the wind budget.

Answer Step by Step:

Total government budget for renewable energy projects: \$500 million.

Budget for solar energy projects: 40% of \$500 million = \$200 million.

Budget for wind energy projects: 30% of \$500 million = \$150 million.

Comparing the solar and wind budgets: $\$200 \text{ million} \div \$150 \text{ million} = 1.33$.

Correct Option:

The correct answer is (b) 1.33 times more.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) 1.25 times more: This underestimates the ratio. It would be correct if the solar budget were only \$187.5 million (25% more than \$150 million).

Option (c) 1.5 times more: This overestimates the ratio. It would be accurate if the solar budget were \$225 million (50% more than \$150 million).

Option (d) 2 times more: This greatly overestimates the ratio. It would imply a solar budget of \$300 million, which is twice the wind budget, not supported by the provided data.