

MOCK AILET 10035

ANSWER & EXPLANATIONS

Section - A: English

1. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "Geologists have raised concerns about potential Chinese censorship and bias in a chatbot being developed with the backing of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)."

a) potential biases due to its Chinese backing.

The primary concern raised by geologists revolves around potential censorship and bias arising from GeoGPT's Chinese backing. This issue is critical because it could influence the integrity and objectivity of the geological information provided by the chatbot. Given the international nature of geoscientific research, any form of bias could skew results and lead to misinformation. The emphasis on Chinese involvement suggests a worry that the information might be selectively presented or altered to align with specific narratives or policies. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) the possibility of incomplete geological data.

The passage does not mention concerns about the completeness of geological data. Incomplete data would imply that the chatbot fails to provide a comprehensive overview of geological information, which is a different issue from censorship and bias. Since the focus is on transparency and potential manipulation of information, this option does not address the core issue highlighted by the geologists. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) issues related to its user interface and accessibility.

User interface and accessibility issues would pertain to how easy or difficult it is for users to interact with GeoGPT. However, the passage specifically discusses concerns related to potential censorship and bias, not technical or usability problems. Therefore, while user interface and accessibility are important aspects of any software, they are not the primary concerns in this context. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) the high cost of its implementation and use.

The passage does not discuss the financial aspects of implementing or using GeoGPT. Concerns about cost would involve discussions about funding, budget allocations, and financial sustainability, none of which are mentioned. The focus remains on the integrity and reliability of the information provided by the chatbot, making financial considerations irrelevant to the main concern. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference Line: "One of those who had tested a pre-release version of the chatbot claimed that GeoGPT had 'serious issues around a lack of transparency, state censorship, and potential copyright infringement.'"

a) lack of adequate training data.

The passage does not indicate that the issues with GeoGPT stem from a lack of training data. Adequate training data is crucial for developing an effective AI model, but the concerns raised are specifically about transparency, censorship, and copyright infringement. These issues suggest problems with the content and the ethical implications of its use rather than the quantity or quality of the data used for training. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) insufficient testing and quality assurance processes.

While testing and quality assurance are essential to developing a robust AI system, the passage does not imply that the problems with GeoGPT arose from inadequate testing. Instead, the issues mentioned relate to ethical and legal aspects, such as transparency and censorship, which would not necessarily be resolved through more rigorous testing alone. Therefore, this option does not address the root cause of the concerns. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) interference from international regulatory bodies.

There is no mention of interference from international regulatory bodies in the passage. Regulatory interference would imply external constraints or mandates impacting the development or deployment of GeoGPT, which is not discussed. The concerns are internally focused on the AI models' content and the potential biases introduced by the developers. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) underlying biases in the AI models used.

The passage highlights concerns about transparency, state censorship, and potential copyright infringement, which are indicative of underlying biases in the AI models. These biases could result from the data used, the training process, or the developers' influence. Given that these

issues were prominent in the pre-release version, it suggests that the AI models' inherent biases were a significant factor in the initial problems with GeoGPT. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.ases in the AI models, which include Alibaba's Qwen. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "Geologists have raised concerns about potential Chinese censorship and bias."

a) sceptical.

The writer presents the concerns raised by geologists and provides specific examples of potential censorship and bias. This indicates a sceptical attitude towards the claims made by the developers of GeoGPT. The scepticism is evident in the detailed discussion of the issues and the doubts about the system's transparency and objectivity. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) supportive.

A supportive attitude would involve endorsing or justifying the potential censorship and bias, which is not the case here. The writer reports the concerns critically and does not express support for the practices or the developers' claims. Instead, the focus is on highlighting the potential issues and the scepticism surrounding the project. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) indifferent.

Indifference would imply a lack of concern or interest in the potential censorship and bias. However, the writer clearly outlines the concerns and discusses them in detail, indicating a vested interest in the issue. The tone and content of the passage show that the writer is neither indifferent nor dismissive of the concerns. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) alarmed.

While the writer does express concern, the tone is more skeptical than alarmed. Being alarmed would suggest a heightened sense of urgency and distress, which is not conveyed in the passage. The writer presents the information in a measured and analytical manner, focusing on the potential implications rather than reacting with alarm. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "GeoGPT is aimed at geoscientists and researchers, particularly in the global south, to help them develop their understanding of earth sciences by drawing on swaths of data and research."

a) GeoGPT aims to aid geoscientists in the global south.

The passage explicitly states that GeoGPT is aimed at geoscientists and researchers, particularly in the global south, to help them develop their understanding of earth sciences. This goal is a key aspect of the project, highlighting its intention to support scientific development in regions that may lack resources. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The chatbot exclusively uses data from Chinese sources.

The passage does not state that GeoGPT exclusively uses data from Chinese sources. While the project is largely Chinese-funded and involves Chinese developers, it is implied that the data and research used span a broader scope. The focus is on geoscience information, which likely includes international data. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) GeoGPT is still under development and not yet publicly released.

The passage confirms that GeoGPT is still under development and has not been released to the public. This ongoing development status is crucial, as it indicates that the project is still being refined and that any current issues may still be addressed before its release. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The underlying AI for GeoGPT includes Meta's Llama and Alibaba's Qwen.

The passage mentions that GeoGPT uses both Meta's Llama and Alibaba's Qwen as part of its underlying AI. This combination of AI models is significant in understanding the technological foundation of GeoGPT and the potential sources of bias and other issues. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "Problems with GeoGPT have been largely solved, but the team will be working to improve the system even more."

a) Both statements are true and 2 is the correct explanation of 1.

While both statements are true, the resolution of the issues does not explain the initial criticism. The initial criticism was due to transparency and censorship concerns, which have been addressed but were not caused by the resolution process. The resolution is a response, not an explanation. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Both statements are true but 2 is not the correct explanation of 1.

Both statements are accurate: GeoGPT faced criticism for transparency and censorship issues, and the team is working on resolving these problems. However, the resolution process does not explain the initial criticism; it is a response to it. This distinction makes option (b) the correct answer.

c) Statement 1 is true but statement 2 is false.

Statement 2 is true according to the passage, which mentions that the problems have been largely solved, with ongoing improvements. Therefore, this option incorrectly assesses the truthfulness of statement 2. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Statement 1 is false but statement 2 is true.

Statement 1 is true as per the passage, which discusses the criticism GeoGPT faced. Thus, this option incorrectly assesses the truthfulness of statement 1. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

6. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference line: "The team uncovered 36 individuals who had been infected with malaria across 26 archaeological sites on five continents."

a) Transformative - The discovery of ancient malaria DNA is transformative because it changes our understanding of the history of this disease. By identifying malaria DNA in bones and teeth from ancient remains, researchers have pushed back the known existence of the disease by thousands of years. This discovery not only reveals the deep history of malaria but also shows the effectiveness of modern techniques in uncovering historical diseases. The finding has profound implications for our knowledge of ancient human health and disease transmission. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Trivial - Trivial means insignificant or of little importance. Given that the discovery has revealed new information about the ancient prevalence of malaria, it is far from trivial. The identification of malaria DNA in such ancient remains demonstrates the disease's long-standing impact on human populations, providing valuable insights into historical disease patterns and human genetics. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Tentative - Tentative implies that the findings are not definitive and are subject to further verification. However, the study provided conclusive evidence by using advanced genetic techniques to detect ancient malaria DNA, which strongly supports the researchers' conclusions. The robust nature of these findings suggests that they are not tentative but rather well-substantiated. Thus, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Traditional - Traditional would indicate that the findings were expected or followed established knowledge. The discovery of malaria DNA in ancient remains is novel and groundbreaking, pushing the known history of the disease much further back than previously recorded. This innovative research does not align with traditional findings but rather introduces new perspectives. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

7. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference line: "Malaria is 'invisible archaeologically'. But with new techniques for analyzing genetic samples, the researchers managed to find very small fragments of the parasitic DNA.."

a) The disease left no written records - While written records provide valuable historical context, the main challenge in detecting ancient malaria lies in its physical traces. Written records alone cannot reveal the presence of malaria in ancient remains, and the absence of such records does not directly impact the ability to detect the disease archaeologically. Therefore, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The ancient parasites could not be preserved - This option suggests that the malaria parasites themselves did not survive in a form that could be detected. However, the discovery of DNA fragments embedded in bones and teeth shows that remnants of the parasite can indeed be preserved over millennia, albeit in microscopic quantities. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The symptoms were non-existent - Malaria has distinct symptoms, but these symptoms do not leave identifiable marks on bones or teeth that could be detected archaeologically. The issue

is not the non-existence of symptoms but the lack of visible, physical evidence that these symptoms might leave behind. Thus, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The physical traces were microscopic and scarce - The main difficulty lies in the microscopic nature of malaria's physical traces. Malaria does not leave obvious signs in bones or teeth, making it "invisible archaeologically." The researchers had to use advanced genetic techniques to detect the very small fragments of parasitic DNA, highlighting the challenge of identifying such traces. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

8. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference line: "But with new techniques for analyzing genetic samples, the researchers managed to find very small fragments of the parasitic DNA.."

a) (2), (3), (4), (1) - This sequence suggests that the development of techniques came before recognizing the need to study ancient diseases. However, the logical progression starts with the recognition of the need for study, which drives the development of new techniques. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) (2), (4), (3), (1) - This sequence places sample collection before recognizing the need for study, which is not a logical sequence. The need to study ancient diseases must be recognized before samples are collected for analysis. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) (3), (2), (4), (1) - This sequence correctly outlines the logical order: first, there is a recognition of the need to study ancient diseases. This drives the development of advanced genetic analysis techniques. Following this, samples are collected from various archaeological sites, leading to the discovery of malaria DNA in ancient remains. Thus, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) (3), (4), (2), (1) - This sequence incorrectly places sample collection before the development of advanced techniques. The development of techniques is essential before sample collection can effectively target the detection of ancient malaria. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

9. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference line: "The new research pushes this date back dramatically, to 5,600 years ago in Germany—the age of the oldest skeleton in which malaria was detected."

a) The ability to travel across high altitudes in ancient times - While the ability to travel across high altitudes is significant, it is not the main focus of the passage. The unprecedented aspect is related to the detection of malaria using modern techniques, rather than the travel capabilities of ancient populations. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The trade routes connecting various regions in ancient history - Trade routes are mentioned in the passage, but their existence is not unprecedented. The focus is on the new discovery of ancient malaria DNA, which provides novel insights into the history of the disease, rather than the existence of trade routes. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The detection of ancient diseases using modern techniques - This option correctly identifies the unprecedented aspect of the discovery. The use of advanced genetic analysis to detect malaria DNA in ancient remains is a groundbreaking achievement that extends our understanding of the disease's history significantly further back in time than previously known. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) The production of copper objects in lowland India - While the production of copper objects is interesting, it is not the focus of the unprecedented discovery in the context of this passage. The main discovery pertains to the detection of malaria, not the production of copper. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference line: "The remains of the Nepali man were found near an ancient trade route crossing the Himalayas."

a) They facilitated the spread of goods and diseases - The passage highlights that trade routes not only allowed for the exchange of goods but also facilitated the spread of diseases like malaria. The movement of people along these routes led to the transmission of the disease across different regions, which is a key point in the study. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) They were established long before the discovery of malaria - The timing of the establishment of trade routes is not the main focus. The significance lies in their role in spreading malaria, rather than their historical establishment relative to the discovery of the disease. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) They were limited to lowland areas prone to malaria - The passage mentions that trade routes crossed various terrains, including high altitudes. They were not limited to lowland areas. The key point is their role in spreading malaria, not their geographic limitations. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) They were exclusively used for the exchange of metals - Trade routes were used for the exchange of various goods, not just metals. The passage indicates the spread of both goods and diseases, emphasizing the broader impact of these routes. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference line: "But with new techniques for analyzing genetic samples, the researchers managed to find very small fragments of the parasitic DNA)."

a) Their privileged access to state-of-the-art technology - While access to advanced technology was crucial, the focus is on the innovation and necessity of new techniques rather than the privilege of access. The significance lies in the methodological advancements rather than access itself. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The failure of earlier archaeological methods - Earlier methods were limited in their ability to detect microscopic traces of disease, but they were not failures. The new techniques represent an advancement rather than a correction of past failures. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The necessity of innovation in historical disease detection - This option correctly highlights the importance of developing new methods to detect diseases in ancient remains. The researchers' success underscores the critical role of innovation in expanding our understanding of historical diseases. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) The importance of textual records in verifying ancient diseases - While textual records provide context, the discovery relied on genetic analysis rather than textual verification. The innovation in detection techniques is the primary highlight, not the role of textual records. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

12. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference line: "The remains of the Nepali man were found near an ancient trade route crossing the Himalayas. The archaeological site also contains copper objects produced in the lowlands of India, where mosquitoes and malaria are common."

a) The resilience of ancient human populations to extreme environments - While the ability to live in extreme environments is notable, the significance in this context is more about disease spread. The finding does not primarily highlight resilience but rather the historical movement and infection routes. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The historical extent of human mobility and disease spread - This option correctly identifies the key significance. The discovery of malaria in the remains of a man who travelled across ancient trade routes illustrates the widespread movement of people and the diseases they carried. This finding underscores the interconnectedness of ancient populations. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) The early adaptation of humans to cold, high-altitude climates - The passage does not emphasize adaptation to climates. Instead, it focuses on the spread of malaria and the movement of people along trade routes. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The influence of trade on the development of early civilizations - While trade is mentioned, the primary focus of the passage is on the spread of malaria. The significant finding is the historical movement of the disease, rather than the broader influence of trade on civilizations. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "With the INDIA bloc making significant gains against the BJP in Uttar Pradesh in Lok Sabha polls, the by-elections in 10 assembly seats that have fallen vacant are likely to witness a keen contest."

a) Local political analysis

The passage provides a detailed account of the political dynamics in Uttar Pradesh, focusing on the INDIA bloc's gains against the BJP and the upcoming by-elections in the state. It mentions the specific parties involved, the number of seats, and the political implications of the elections. Such a detailed discussion about local political events, parties, and election strategies indicates

that the passage is most likely a part of a local political analysis, providing insights and updates on regional political developments. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) International economic report

The passage does not address any international economic issues or provide any economic analysis. It is entirely focused on the political scenario in Uttar Pradesh, mentioning specific political parties, local elections, and their implications. There are no discussions on global markets, economic policies, or international trade, making this option irrelevant. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Scientific journal

Scientific journals typically discuss research findings, experiments, and advancements in various scientific fields. This passage, however, is centered on political events and election strategies in Uttar Pradesh, with no mention of scientific studies or research. The language and focus are entirely political rather than scientific, making this option unsuitable. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Educational policy paper

Educational policy papers discuss issues related to the education sector, including policies, reforms, and educational practices. This passage does not mention any educational topics or policies. It solely discusses the political scenario and by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, making it clear that it is not related to educational policies. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

14. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "The date for the by-elections has not been announced yet by the Election Commission. However, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress have announced that they will contest together under the INDIA bloc."

a) To advocate for a new political party in Uttar Pradesh.

The passage provides information about the current political scenario, including the INDIA bloc's gains and the BJP's preparations for the by-elections. It does not advocate for the creation of a new political party. Instead, it focuses on existing parties and their strategies. The tone is informative rather than persuasive towards forming a new party. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) To inform about the political scenario and upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The passage details the political developments in Uttar Pradesh, discussing the gains of the INDIA bloc, the BJP's preparations, and the upcoming by-elections. It mentions specific parties, the number of seats affected, and the potential implications of the by-elections. The primary intent is to provide readers with an update on the political situation and the upcoming electoral contest. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) To persuade voters to support the BJP in the upcoming by-elections.

The passage provides a balanced view of the political preparations of both the INDIA bloc and the BJP. It does not show a bias towards any party or attempt to persuade readers to support the BJP. The focus is on providing information rather than persuasion, indicating that the primary purpose is not to influence voter behavior. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) To critique the performance of the INDIA bloc in recent elections.

While the passage mentions the INDIA bloc's gains, it does not critique their performance. Instead, it objectively reports on their political activities and preparations for the by-elections. There is no negative assessment or critique of the INDIA bloc's actions, which indicates that the passage's primary purpose is not to criticize them. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference Line: "The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has also begun its preparations, according to their leaders."

a) The lack of organization within the BJP.

The passage indicates that the BJP, as part of the NDA, has already begun its preparations for the by-elections. This suggests that the party is organized and proactive in its approach. The term "preparations" highlights the BJP's readiness and effort rather than a lack of organization. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The uncertainty surrounding the by-election dates.

While the passage mentions that the dates for the by-elections have not been announced, the focus on "preparations" by the BJP and the NDA indicates that they are actively getting ready for the elections despite this uncertainty. The term "preparations" underscores the efforts being made rather than the uncertainty itself. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The unimportance of the by-elections for the BJP.

The passage notes that while the numerical impact of the by-elections might be inconsequential for the BJP due to its comfortable majority, it does not suggest that the by-elections are unimportant. Instead, the BJP's active preparations indicate that they view these elections as significant for maintaining their political standing and morale. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The proactive approach of the BJP in facing the by-elections.

The mention of "preparations" highlights that the BJP is taking a proactive approach to the upcoming by-elections. The party is gearing up and making efforts to contest the elections with full strength, demonstrating their commitment and strategic planning. This proactive stance is emphasized through the mention of their preparations. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

16. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has also begun its preparations, according to their leaders."

a) "The date for the by-elections has not been announced yet by the Election Commission."

This sentence is a simple declarative statement that does not contain any participial phrases. It straightforwardly states the fact about the by-election dates without using any modifying phrases. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) "UP Assembly Special Secretary Brajbhushan Dubey told PTI that information about the vacancy on 10 seats has been sent to the Election Commission."

This sentence reports a statement made by an official and does not include any participial phrases. It contains a clause that explains the action taken, but there are no participial modifiers present. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) "The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has also begun its preparations, according to their leaders."

This sentence contains a participial phrase, "(BJP)-led," which modifies "National Democratic Alliance (NDA)." The participial phrase provides additional information about the NDA, indicating that it is led by the BJP. This is a clear example of a participial phrase used in the sentence. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) "As per the procedure, by-elections can be held on these seats within six months."

This sentence explains a procedural detail and does not include any participial phrases. It is a straightforward statement about the timeline for the by-elections, without any modifying phrases. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

17. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "While the by-election results will be numerically inconsequential for the BJP in the state assembly, where it has a comfortable majority, they will impact the morale of both sides as any further losses to the BJP will help the opposition SP and Congress to further cement their gains."

a) It will change the overall number of seats significantly.

The passage explicitly states that the numerical impact of the by-elections will be inconsequential for the BJP in the state assembly, where they already have a comfortable majority. Therefore, the impact is not expected to significantly change the overall number of seats held by the BJP. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) It will influence the morale and perception of both parties.

The passage mentions that while the by-election results will be numerically inconsequential, they will impact the morale of both sides. Any further losses for the BJP will boost the opposition SP and Congress, helping them to cement their gains. This indicates that the impact on morale and perception is a crucial factor, making it more than just a numerical issue. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) It will determine the leadership of the BJP.

There is no mention in the passage that the by-election results will determine the leadership of the BJP. The focus is on the overall morale and perception rather than leadership changes. The BJP's internal leadership dynamics are not discussed in relation to the by-elections. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) It will finalize the electoral strategy for the next general elections.

While the passage discusses preparations for the by-elections, it does not suggest that the results will finalize the electoral strategy for the next general elections. The emphasis is on the

immediate impact on morale and the current political scenario rather than long-term strategic planning for future elections. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "BJP's state media in-charge Manish Dixit told that the 'NDA will contest the assembly by-elections with full strength.'"

a) The BJP is preparing to make significant efforts to win the by-elections.

The passage details the BJP's active preparations and commitment to contesting the by-elections with full strength. Statements from BJP leaders indicate that the party is gearing up to face the elections seriously, making significant efforts to regain its hold. This proactive approach highlights their determination. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) The BJP is indifferent to the outcome of the by-elections.

The passage does not support the idea that the BJP is indifferent to the by-elections. On the contrary, it highlights the party's preparations and efforts, indicating that they are taking the elections seriously and are keen on performing well. Indifference is not suggested anywhere in the passage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The BJP is planning to boycott the by-elections.

There is no indication in the passage that the BJP is planning to boycott the by-elections. The focus is on their preparations and active participation, with leaders discussing their strategies and readiness. Boycotting is not mentioned or implied. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The BJP is confident of an easy victory in the by-elections.

While the passage mentions the BJP's preparations, it does not explicitly state that the party is confident of an easy victory. The emphasis is on their readiness and efforts, rather than on a perceived guarantee of success. The tone does not suggest overconfidence but rather a strategic approach to the elections. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "BJP's state media in-charge Manish Dixit told that the 'NDA will contest the assembly by-elections with full strength.'"

a) Highlight the BJP's confidence in winning the by-elections.

The passage mentions the BJP's preparations but does not explicitly highlight their confidence in winning. The focus is on their proactive approach and readiness rather than on their confidence. While preparation suggests seriousness, it does not necessarily equate to highlighting confidence. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Illustrate the competitive nature of the upcoming by-elections.

The detailed discussion of both the INDIA bloc's and the BJP's preparations for the by-elections illustrates the competitive nature of the contest. The passage indicates that both sides are gearing up for a keen contest, highlighting the efforts and strategies being employed. This illustrates the competitive dynamics of the upcoming elections. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Criticize the BJP's electoral strategies.

The passage does not contain any critique of the BJP's electoral strategies. It objectively reports on the preparations being made by the BJP and does not offer any negative assessments or criticisms of their approach. The tone is informative rather than critical. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Suggest that the BJP is at a disadvantage in the by-elections.

While the passage mentions that the by-elections will be a keen contest, it does not suggest that the BJP is at a disadvantage. Instead, it discusses the preparations being made by the BJP to face the elections with full strength. The emphasis is on their proactive approach rather than on any perceived disadvantage. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "While the by-election results will be numerically inconsequential for the BJP in the state assembly, where it has a comfortable majority, they will impact the morale of both sides."

a) 'inconsequential'

The word "inconsequential" means having no significant impact or importance, which aligns with the idea of being numerically insignificant. The passage mentions that the by-election results will be numerically inconsequential for the BJP, indicating that the numerical impact is

minimal. Substituting 'inconsequential' with 'numerically insignificant' maintains the same meaning. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) 'impactful'

The word "impactful" means having a strong effect or influence, which is the opposite of numerically insignificant. Replacing 'impactful' with 'numerically insignificant' would change the meaning of the sentence, making this option incorrect. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) 'significant'

The word "significant" means important or noteworthy, which is the opposite of numerically insignificant. Substituting 'significant' with 'numerically insignificant' would completely change the meaning, making this option incorrect. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) 'competitive'

The word "competitive" describes a scenario where there is competition, which does not relate to numerical significance or insignificance. Substituting 'competitive' with 'numerically insignificant' would not make sense in the context, making this option incorrect. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "While the SP and the Congress have expressed confidence that they will continue their winning streak..."

a) Maintain their series of victories.

The phrase "continue their winning streak" means to maintain an ongoing series of victories. In the context of the passage, it refers to the confidence expressed by the SP and Congress in maintaining their success in elections, suggesting that they aim to keep winning consecutively. This interpretation aligns perfectly with the phrase's meaning. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Initiate a new sequence of wins.

The phrase "continue their winning streak" does not imply starting a new sequence but rather maintaining an existing one. The passage refers to the SP and Congress maintaining their existing series of electoral successes, not beginning a new streak. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Terminate their run of losses.

The phrase "continue their winning streak" suggests ongoing success and does not relate to ending a series of losses. It implies that the parties have already been winning and aim to keep it that way, not that they are trying to stop losing. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Balance their victories and defeats.

The phrase "continue their winning streak" does not imply a balance between victories and defeats but rather an unbroken series of wins. The SP and Congress are focused on maintaining their continuous success in elections, not balancing their outcomes. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference Line: "The ruling party is under pressure to regain its hold."

a) The BJP has increased its majority in other states recently.

While an increased majority in other states might boost the BJP's overall confidence, it does not directly address the specific pressure they face in Uttar Pradesh due to the gains of the INDIA bloc. The localized pressure in Uttar Pradesh remains a concern irrespective of broader successes. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The opposition parties are facing internal conflicts.

Internal conflicts within opposition parties might weaken their collective strength, but it does not necessarily reduce the pressure on the BJP to perform well in the by-elections. The BJP would still be under pressure to maintain its hold and not lose further ground. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Voter turnout for by-elections is traditionally low.

Low voter turnout might affect the overall impact of the by-elections, but it does not eliminate the pressure on the BJP to perform well. The significance of maintaining political morale and perception among the electorate still holds, even with lower turnout. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The BJP has strong local leaders in the vacant seats.

Having strong local leaders in the vacant seats would provide the BJP with a strategic advantage, reducing the pressure to regain its hold. Strong candidates can enhance the party's chances of winning, thereby weakening the perception that the BJP is under significant pressure. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

23. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Line: "The stalled monsoon has led to an all India deficit in monsoon rainfall of 20 per cent between June 1 and June 18, heralding a sluggish start to the season responsible for 70 per cent of the country's total rainfall."

a) Analytical

The passage presents detailed data and observations about the monsoon, its stalling, and the resultant impact. This includes statistical information such as the 20% deficit in rainfall and the number of days the monsoon has been stalled. The approach of dissecting the monsoon's behavior and providing insights indicates an analytical tone, where the author is more focused on presenting facts and analysis rather than expressing an emotional viewpoint. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Pessimistic

A pessimistic tone would convey a sense of hopelessness or negativity about the situation. While the passage discusses the adverse impacts of the stalled monsoon, it does so in a factual manner without indicating despair or hopelessness. The objective presentation of data suggests that the author is not being pessimistic. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Optimistic

An optimistic tone would highlight a positive or hopeful perspective. The passage does not provide any hopeful predictions or positive spin on the situation; rather, it remains focused on presenting the current state of affairs and the challenges posed by the stalled monsoon. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Apathetic

An apathetic tone would imply indifference or a lack of concern. The passage, however, is deeply engaged with the details of the monsoon's progression and its impacts, indicating a vested interest in the topic. The detailed analysis shows concern and involvement, ruling out apathy. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

24. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Line: "Some states like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam have also witnessed flash floods and landslides due to sudden heavy rainfall events in the last few days."

a) Cause: Unusual duration of monsoon break periods, Effect: Flash floods and landslides in certain regions

The passage specifically mentions that unusual break periods in the monsoon have led to flash floods and landslides in regions like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam due to sudden heavy rainfall events. This clearly establishes a cause (unusual monsoon break periods) and effect (flash floods and landslides). Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Cause: Early onset of the monsoon in Kerala, Effect: Normal monsoon progression

The early onset of the monsoon in Kerala is mentioned, but the passage clarifies that the monsoon has been stalled, indicating abnormal rather than normal progression. This does not establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship between early onset and normal progression. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Cause: Deficit in monsoon rainfall, Effect: Consistent temperatures in southern India

The passage does not link the rainfall deficit to consistent temperatures in southern India. In fact, it mentions that southern India has had ample rainfall, suggesting variability rather than consistency. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Cause: Movement of monsoon trough, Effect: Excess rainfall in the northeastern states

The passage notes that the monsoon trough has not reached its normal position and therefore cannot be responsible for the excess rainfall in the northeastern states. It is the stalling, rather than normal movement, that is causing heavy rains. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

25. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Line: "The Bay of Bengal branch of the southwest monsoon has been stalled since May 31."

a) To indicate a temporary cessation in monsoon progress

The term "stalled" is used to describe a situation where the progress of the monsoon has temporarily stopped, as evidenced by the context of the passage discussing a halt in the monsoon's advance. This suggests that the stoppage is not permanent but a pause in movement. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) To emphasize the long-term nature of the rainfall deficit

While the stalled monsoon contributes to a rainfall deficit, the term "stalled" itself does not emphasize long-term implications. It specifically refers to a temporary halt, not a prolonged deficit. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) To convey a sense of finality regarding the monsoon

"Stalled" suggests a pause or delay, not an end. The sense of finality is not conveyed by this word, as the monsoon is expected to resume eventually. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) To suggest a minor delay in monsoon activity

The term "stalled" implies more than a minor delay; it indicates a significant pause in progress. The passage details the considerable impact of this stalling, which is more severe than a minor delay. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

26. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "This is a stalling period of 19 days as of June 19, one of the longest in recent time, according to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD)."

a) Historical data shows similar stalling periods in previous decades.

If historical data reveals that similar stalling periods have occurred frequently in the past, it would undermine the argument that the current prolonged stall is unusual. This would suggest that such stalls are part of a recurring pattern rather than an anomaly. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon frequently experiences short stalls.

The focus of the passage is on prolonged stalling. Mentioning that short stalls are frequent does not address the issue of unusual prolonged stalls and thus does not weaken the conclusion. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Recent climate models predict prolonged stalling due to climate change.

This would support rather than weaken the conclusion, as it suggests that prolonged stalling is becoming more common due to climate change, aligning with the passage's implications. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The current stall is predicted to end in the next week.

While this might offer immediate relief, it does not address the unusual nature of the prolonged stall up to the present. It does not weaken the conclusion about the current period's unusual length. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

27. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "Break periods' are a normal characteristic for the monsoon. But some of the recent breaks have been much longer than normal."

a) "The monsoon's early onset guarantees normal seasonal rainfall distribution."

The passage highlights that despite the early onset, the monsoon has stalled, leading to irregularities and deficits in rainfall. This contradicts the idea that an early onset guarantees normal distribution. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) "The monsoon's progression is highly unpredictable and varies year to year."

The author discusses the variability and unpredictability of the monsoon, including unusual break periods and their impacts, indicating agreement with this statement. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) "Northern India will consistently receive more rainfall than southern India."

The passage mentions variability in rainfall patterns across regions, with southern India receiving ample rainfall during the stall, which contradicts a consistent pattern favoring northern India. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) "Flash floods are a sign of overall monsoon strength."

Flash floods are presented as a result of sudden heavy rains during unusual breaks, not as an indicator of the overall strength of the monsoon. The passage does not support this interpretation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

28. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Line: "The stalled monsoon has led to an all India deficit in monsoon rainfall of 20 per cent between June 1 and June 18."

a) beneficial

The passage discusses the negative impacts of the stalled monsoon, including a 20% rainfall deficit and adverse weather conditions, suggesting that these breaks are not beneficial to agriculture. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) detrimental

The stalled monsoon has caused a significant rainfall deficit and affected temperatures, leading to challenges in agricultural planning and crop growth. This indicates that unusual breaks are harmful. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) irrelevant

The detailed discussion of the impacts of the monsoon stalls on rainfall distribution and temperatures indicates that these breaks are highly relevant to agricultural planning. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) secondary

The passage presents the monsoon breaks as a primary concern, not a secondary one, due to their direct impact on rainfall and agriculture. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

29. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Line: "This is a stalling period of 19 days as of June 19, one of the longest in recent time, according to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD)."

a) The author would argue for increased investment in predictive technologies.

The passage highlights the need for understanding and predicting unusual monsoon patterns, implying that better predictive technologies could help manage the impacts of such variability. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) The author would likely dismiss the need for accurate predictions.

The emphasis on the unusual nature of the current stall and its impacts suggests that accurate predictions are crucial, not dismissible. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The author would insist that predictions are already sufficiently accurate.

The passage indicates that current prediction capabilities may not be sufficient, given the unusual and prolonged nature of the monsoon stalls. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The author would emphasize the importance of traditional forecasting methods.

There is no specific mention of traditional methods in the passage, and the discussion implies a need for improved, possibly modern, predictive technologies. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

30. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference Line: "The Bay of Bengal branch of the southwest monsoon has been stalled since May 31."

a) "The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon frequently stalls for brief periods."

This sentence is in the present tense, not the past perfect tense. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) "The monsoon has consistently shown unpredictable patterns."

This sentence uses the present perfect tense ("has shown"), not the past perfect tense. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) "The weather patterns had shifted before the onset of the monsoon season."

This sentence correctly uses the past perfect tense ("had shifted") to indicate an action completed before another past action ("the onset of the monsoon season"). Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) "The rainfall deficit continues to affect agricultural activities."

This sentence is in the present tense, not the past perfect tense. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

31. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Line: "The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon has been stalled since June 10, which is a stalling period of nine days."

a) Delayed

"Delayed" suggests a postponement in progress, similar to "stalled," where the monsoon is temporarily halted. Hence, option (a) is a correct substitution.

b) Halted

"Halted" means to bring to a stop, which aligns with "stalled" in indicating that the monsoon has temporarily stopped moving. Hence, option (b) is a correct substitution.

c) Interrupted

"Interrupted" implies a break or pause in continuity, which is consistent with "stalled" in indicating a temporary cessation of activity. Hence, option (c) is a correct substitution.

d) Accelerated

"Accelerated" means to increase in speed, which is the opposite of "stalled" and indicates movement rather than a stoppage. Hence, option (d) is not a correct substitution.

32. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Line: "The monsoon trough is an elongated low pressure region that causes the rainfall during the monsoon season over the country."

a) To highlight the unusual weather patterns and their impact on various regions.

The passage details the unusual stalling of the monsoon, the resultant rainfall deficit, and the specific regional impacts, indicating that the author's aim is to highlight these unusual patterns and their consequences. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) To argue that monsoon breaks are beneficial for certain areas.

The passage does not suggest that the monsoon breaks are beneficial; rather, it focuses on the negative impacts such as rainfall deficit and adverse weather conditions. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) To suggest that the monsoon is becoming more predictable over time.

The passage discusses the unpredictable nature of the monsoon, particularly the unusual and prolonged breaks, indicating that predictability is not increasing. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) To promote the idea that southern India will always receive ample rainfall.

While the passage mentions that southern India has received ample rainfall during the stall, this is not the main focus or aim. The aim is to discuss the unusual stalling and its broader impacts. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

33. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference lines: "In an age of mob scrolling, the sheer physicality of handling foldable paper has currency... a gesture-habit that, above all, is empowering."

a) (1) and (2): This option emphasizes that the act of reading a newspaper allows one to disconnect from digital distractions, as well as being an act of empowerment and tradition. The passage supports this interpretation with phrases like "In an age of mob scrolling, the sheer physicality of handling foldable paper has currency," suggesting that reading a physical newspaper offers a break from the constant influx of digital information and provides a sense of empowerment and a connection to tradition. The reference to "a gesture-habit that, above all, is empowering" further underscores the empowering nature of this practice. Hence, options (1) and (2) are correct.

b) (1) and (4): This option juxtaposes the idea of disconnecting from digital distractions with the notion of the practice being outdated. The passage does not support the idea that reading a newspaper is outdated; instead, it celebrates the physical and ritualistic experience of handling a newspaper. The mention of "currency" in handling foldable paper implies that this practice still holds significant value in contemporary times. Therefore, options (1) and (4) are not the correct answers.

c) (2) and (3): This option suggests that reading a newspaper is both empowering and a method to stay updated. While staying updated is a part of the experience, the passage places more emphasis on the physical act itself as empowering and traditional, rather than just a means to gather information. The phrase "a gesture-habit that, above all, is empowering" highlights the ritualistic and empowering nature of reading a newspaper. Therefore, options (2) and (3) are not the correct answers.

d) (3) and (4): This option contrasts staying updated with the practice being outdated. The passage does not imply that reading a newspaper is outdated; it highlights the value of the physical experience and the tradition associated with it. By focusing on the ritualistic aspect and the empowering nature of reading a newspaper, the passage refutes the idea that it is merely an outdated practice. Therefore, options (3) and (4) are not the correct answers.

34. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "The ritual begins with the crisp rustle of the paper as it unfolds... it's technology at its most subtle."

a) The comprehensive and diverse range of news: While a newspaper does offer a variety of content, the passage emphasizes the experience of reading a physical newspaper rather than just the range of news. The reference to the "canvas of images and words" and the "ritual begins with the crisp rustle of the paper" underscores the tactile and ritualistic aspects that set the physical newspaper apart from digital formats. Therefore, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The ritualistic and tactile experience it provides: This option accurately captures the essence of what the passage emphasizes. The act of unfolding the paper, the sound it makes, and the physicality of handling the paper are highlighted as key benefits that distinguish the physical newspaper. The phrases "a gesture-habit that, above all, is empowering" and "the crisp rustle of the paper as it unfolds" reinforce this idea, making the tactile experience a unique and valued benefit. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) The quick and instant access to updates: Instant access is more characteristic of digital formats, not physical newspapers. The passage does not mention speed or immediacy as benefits of reading a physical newspaper. Instead, it focuses on the leisurely and tactile nature of the experience, highlighting how it contrasts with the fast-paced digital world. Therefore, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The environmentally friendly nature of paper: The passage does not discuss the environmental impact of newspapers. It focuses on the physical and ritualistic experience rather than any ecological considerations, making the environmental aspect irrelevant to the unique benefit highlighted. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

35. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference lines: "It's technology at its most subtle: a shared experience... a link to everyone else."

a) That enhances human interaction and shared experiences: This option accurately reflects the context in which "technology" is used in the passage. The phrase "It's technology at its most subtle: a shared experience" indicates that the physical newspaper fosters interaction and shared experiences, linking people through common topics of conversation without the need for digital means. The subtle use of the term technology emphasizes the traditional and non-digital aspects of this experience. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) That is advanced and digital: The passage uses "technology" in a non-digital sense, highlighting the subtlety and traditional aspects of the physical newspaper. It contrasts with the typical association of technology with digital advancements, suggesting a more nuanced and human-centric use of the term. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) That is obsolete and inefficient: The passage does not portray the newspaper as obsolete or inefficient. Instead, it emphasizes its enduring value and the empowering, tactile experience it offers, suggesting that it is still relevant and valuable. Therefore, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) That represents the future of communication: The passage focuses on the traditional and ritualistic aspects of reading a newspaper, suggesting it as a valuable practice in the present rather than a futuristic mode of communication. It highlights the continuity and enduring nature of this medium. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

36. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "a shared experience, dope for conversation, a link to everyone else without the bother of actually meeting everyone else... invites a leisurely exploration"

a) Both statements are true and 2 is the correct explanation of 1: While both statements are true, statement 2 does not explain statement 1. The passage suggests that the sense of connection comes from the shared experience and the common topics of conversation a newspaper provides, rather than the leisurely nature of reading. Therefore, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Both statements are true but 2 is not the correct explanation of 1: This option is accurate because both statements are supported by the passage independently. The sense of connection is fostered by the shared experience and common conversation topics, while the leisurely exploration refers to the way one engages with the content of the newspaper. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Statement 1 is true but statement 2 is false: Both statements are supported by the passage. The sense of connection is highlighted through phrases like "a shared experience," and the leisurely nature of reading is suggested by "invites a leisurely exploration." Therefore, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Statement 1 is false but statement 2 is true: The passage supports both statements. Statement 1 is true as the newspaper provides a shared experience and common topics for conversation. Statement 2 is true as it invites a leisurely exploration of the content. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

37. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference lines: "Each page turned is a journey through stories - of real people, local happenings, global events..."

a) The variety of content in a newspaper: This option correctly captures the meaning of "a journey through stories" in the passage. The phrase "Each page turned is a journey through stories - of real people, local happenings, global events..." highlights the diverse content that a newspaper offers. This variety allows readers to explore different topics and stories, making the reading experience rich and multifaceted. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) The physical act of turning pages: While the physical act is mentioned, it is not the primary focus of the phrase "a journey through stories." The passage emphasizes the content and variety of stories rather than just the act of turning pages. The journey through stories implies a deeper engagement with the content, not just the mechanics of reading. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The global reach of news: The passage mentions global events as part of the content, but "a journey through stories" encompasses more than just the global reach; it includes local happenings and other diverse content. The phrase implies a comprehensive exploration of various stories, both local and global. Therefore, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The convenience of reading: The passage does not emphasize convenience as a primary benefit. Instead, it highlights the ritualistic and tactile experience of reading a newspaper and the variety of content it offers. The focus is on the richness of the stories rather than the ease of access or convenience. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

38. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "The broadsheet layout, a canvas of images and words..."

a) The artist used a large canvas to create her masterpiece: This option refers to a literal canvas used for painting, which is not the metaphorical sense used in the passage. The passage uses "canvas" metaphorically to describe the layout of a newspaper filled with diverse elements. Therefore, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The city was a canvas of diverse cultures and traditions: This option uses "canvas" in a metaphorical sense similar to the passage, representing a mixture of diverse elements. The passage refers to the newspaper layout as "a canvas of images and words," highlighting the diverse content and how it forms a cohesive whole. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) The football field, a canvas of green, was ready for the big match: This option uses "canvas" to describe a literal field, which is not the metaphorical sense intended in the passage. The passage's use of "canvas" refers to a variety of content, not a physical space. Therefore, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The novel's plot was a canvas for the author's vivid imagination: While this option uses "canvas" metaphorically, it refers to imagination rather than a mixture of diverse elements, which does not align with the passage's use. The passage emphasizes the diversity of content in a newspaper, not the creative process of writing a novel. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

39. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "a canvas of images and words, headlines trickling into copies, invites a leisurely exploration the regular gobbler of info can't afford... the daily dose of comic strips, crosswords and the tongue-in-cheek in a curated space."

a) A quicker method to gather news updates: The passage does not emphasize speed or immediacy as a benefit of reading a physical newspaper. Instead, it highlights the ritualistic and tactile nature of the experience, suggesting that the process is more leisurely and intentional compared to the rapid consumption of digital news. Therefore, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) A curated selection of news and entertainment: This option accurately captures the essence of what the passage describes. The reference to "a canvas of images and words, headlines trickling into copies, invites a leisurely exploration the regular gobbler of info can't afford" and "the daily dose of comic strips, crosswords and the tongue-in-cheek in a curated space" underscores the curated nature of the newspaper content, offering a balanced mix of news and entertainment. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) An eco-friendly alternative to digital media: The passage does not discuss the environmental impact of newspapers. It focuses on the physical and ritualistic experience rather than any ecological considerations, making the environmental aspect irrelevant to the unique benefit highlighted. Therefore, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) A personalized reading experience: While the experience is unique, the passage emphasizes the communal and shared aspects of reading a newspaper rather than personalization. The idea of a "shared experience" and a "link to everyone else" suggests that the benefit is more about a collective engagement with curated content. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct answer.

40. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Greece has many challenges like low wages, high unemployment and a declining population... working more stands in stark contrast to most of its European neighbours."

a) Increased job satisfaction and morale: More workdays typically mean less time for personal life and rest, which can lead to decreased satisfaction and morale. Employees might feel overworked and stressed, reducing their overall happiness and productivity. The lack of time to unwind and spend with family can contribute to feelings of dissatisfaction. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) No significant change in employee well-being: With the introduction of an extra workday, it's improbable that well-being will remain unaffected. Increased work hours generally lead to higher levels of stress and fatigue, impacting mental and physical health. The assumption that more work will not affect well-being overlooks the importance of rest and personal time. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Enhanced work-life balance: More workdays typically disrupt work-life balance, making this option less plausible. Work-life balance is about having enough time for both professional and personal life, and an extra workday would reduce the time available for personal activities. This disruption can lead to higher stress levels and reduced quality of life. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Reduced job satisfaction and increased burnout: Increased workdays can lead to higher stress and fatigue, aligning with common consequences of extended work hours. Employees might experience burnout due to continuous work without sufficient rest, affecting their mental health and job performance. This option aligns with the understanding that more work without adequate rest can lead to negative outcomes. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

41. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Companies in several countries like Germany, Belgium, France, the UK, Spain and Iceland have been experimenting with different workweek models... squeezing the 40-hour week into four days... or simply getting 100% of the work done in just 80% of the time."

a) By aligning with the four-day workweek trends in Europe: Greece is moving in the opposite direction by increasing workdays, not reducing them. Other European countries are experimenting with shorter workweeks to improve productivity and work-life balance, which contrasts with Greece's approach. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) By introducing a more flexible and shorter workweek: This option contradicts the increase in workdays. Flexibility and shorter workweeks are designed to enhance employee well-being and productivity, while Greece's policy aims at increasing the number of workdays, thus reducing flexibility and potentially increasing stress. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) By increasing the work hours, contrary to the reduction trends: Correct, as Greece is adding workdays instead of reducing them. This increase in work hours stands in stark contrast to the reduction trends in other European countries, which are focusing on improving employee satisfaction and efficiency through fewer work hours. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) By adopting similar workweek reductions as seen in Germany and Belgium: This option is incorrect since Greece is not reducing work hours. Countries like Germany and Belgium are moving towards shorter workweeks to promote a better work-life balance, whereas Greece is

increasing the workweek, indicating a different approach. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

42. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "During their debt crisis, which started in 2009 and nearly got the country kicked out of the eurozone, some lenders demanded that the Greeks work more. The country accepted bailouts worth billions of euros that came with strict austerity measures."

a) A potential resurgence of economic stability through increased labour output: This is speculative and doesn't align with the historical dissatisfaction. While increased labour might aim to boost economic output, the negative impact on employee well-being and satisfaction could undermine this goal. Historical dissatisfaction with increased work demands suggests this approach may not lead to economic stability. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) A continued struggle with economic reforms and workforce dissatisfaction: Correct, as history shows the dissatisfaction with increased work demands. The new policy reflects ongoing challenges in balancing economic reforms with worker satisfaction, indicating that Greece continues to grapple with these issues. The historical context of resistance to longer workweeks supports this interpretation. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) An alignment with progressive labor practices seen in neighboring countries: The passage indicates Greece is not aligning with these trends. Other European countries are adopting more progressive labour practices, such as shorter workweeks, which contrast sharply with Greece's approach of increasing workdays. This option does not accurately reflect the situation. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) A likely shift towards more equitable labor conditions: Increasing workdays typically does not equate to more equitable conditions. Equitable labor conditions often involve considerations for work-life balance and employee well-being, which are not supported by extending the workweek. Therefore, this option does not align with the described changes. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

43. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Greece though is taking another path. And this isn't the first time the country has been confronted with a six-day workweek."

a) Greece's approach is more lenient and supportive of workers' rights: Increasing workdays is not lenient. A lenient and supportive approach would likely involve measures to reduce work hours or improve working conditions, which contrasts with the increase in workdays in Greece. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Greece aligns closely with other countries by reducing work hours: Greece is not reducing work hours. Other countries are focusing on shorter workweeks to enhance productivity and employee well-being, whereas Greece is moving towards longer workweeks, indicating a different approach. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Greece adopts a stricter approach by increasing workdays: Correct, as Greece is increasing workdays contrary to other European trends. This approach reflects a stricter stance on labor regulations, aiming to increase labor output but potentially at the cost of employee well-being. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Greece mirrors the flexible working models of its European neighbors: This option is incorrect since Greece's model is not flexible. Flexibility in labor models typically involves reduced work hours or more adaptable schedules, which is not the case with Greece's new policy of increasing workdays. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

44. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Tourism and food service industries are excluded from this new arrangement."

a) It ensures these sectors remain competitive and attractive to workers: Correct, as maintaining a five-day workweek can make these sectors more appealing. By not imposing the six-day workweek on tourism and food service industries, Greece may ensure these sectors remain attractive to employees, who might prefer more balanced work schedules. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) It highlights a disregard for sector-specific needs and conditions: Exclusion indicates consideration of specific sector needs. The decision to maintain the five-day workweek in certain sectors shows that the government recognizes the unique demands and conditions of these industries. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) It shows a uniform application of labor regulations across all sectors: The passage indicates a differentiated approach. Uniform application would mean the six-day workweek applies to all sectors, but the exclusion of tourism and food service suggests a tailored approach to different industry needs. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) It underscores the government's priority on industrial and manufacturing sectors: While true, this does not capture the significance for tourism and food service sectors specifically. The primary focus might be on increasing productivity in industrial and manufacturing sectors, but this does not explain the importance of maintaining a five-day workweek in the other sectors. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

45. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "hoping to preserve the Canadian heritage site Ontario Place were dealt a serious blow last week, when an Ontario court rejected a closely watched legal challenge to the provincial government's plans to build a mega-spa on one of the Modernist complex's artificial islands."

a) A modest recreational facility for the public.

The term 'mega-spa' implies a grand and extensive development. A 'modest recreational facility' does not align with the term 'mega,' which denotes something large and impressive. A modest facility would be small and simple, whereas a mega-spa suggests a significant, luxurious establishment. Therefore, this interpretation is incorrect. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) A small-scale project focusing on environmental preservation.

A small-scale project focused on environmental preservation does not fit the context of a 'mega-spa.' The prefix 'mega' suggests a large-scale development, which contrasts with a small-scale initiative. Additionally, the context of the passage indicates that the development is controversial due to its impact on the environment, further disproving this option. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) A traditional spa offering limited services.

A 'mega-spa' indicates something beyond the scope of a traditional spa offering limited services. The term 'mega' conveys the idea of something expansive and luxurious, with a wide range of services. The contrast between 'mega' and 'limited services' makes this interpretation inaccurate. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) A large and luxurious commercial development.

The term 'mega-spa' accurately describes a large and luxurious commercial development. The use of 'mega' implies scale and opulence, suggesting an extensive facility offering a wide array of amenities and services. This aligns with the context of the passage, which highlights the development's significant impact. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

46. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The suit had been filed in response to an attempt to scuttle a required assessment of the heritage site prior to redevelopment by the government of Ontario premier Rob Ford."

a) The government attempted to bypass a necessary evaluation of the heritage site.

This inference is correct as it aligns with the meaning of 'scuttle,' which suggests an attempt to avoid or circumvent the required assessment. The passage clearly indicates the government's effort to bypass the environmental review. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

b) The suit was a reaction to the government's effort to avoid an obligatory review.

This option correctly infers the meaning, as it mirrors the intent of the passage. The legal suit was indeed a response to the government's attempt to dodge the mandatory environmental assessment, which is highlighted in the text. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) The government proactively sought to conduct a thorough assessment of the heritage site.

This inference is incorrect because it contradicts the passage's content. The passage indicates that the government tried to avoid the assessment, not conduct it proactively. The term 'scuttle' signifies an effort to evade the assessment, not to carry it out thoroughly. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The legal challenge was a response to the government's plan to neglect a required evaluation.

This option correctly infers the passage's meaning, as the suit was indeed a reaction to the government's plan to neglect the required environmental assessment. The term 'scuttle' indicates an effort to abandon or circumvent the assessment. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

47. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Critics of the redevelopment plan say it will not only destroy the landscape architect Michael Hough's original design but also wildlife habitats and local vegetation (including chopping down more than 800 trees), all while privatising a well-loved public space."

a) To highlight the commercial value of Ontario Place.

The term 'well-loved public space' emphasizes emotional and communal value rather than commercial value. It suggests the space is cherished by the community for its accessibility and recreational use, not for its potential financial gain. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) To emphasize its significance to the local community.

The term 'well-loved public space' is used to highlight the importance of Ontario Place to the local community. It underscores the emotional attachment and the value placed on the space by residents, making it clear why the redevelopment plan is controversial. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) To suggest it is a place of historical battles.

This interpretation does not align with the context of the passage. The term 'well-loved' does not indicate historical battles but rather the current affection and significance of the space to the community. The focus is on its present-day value rather than any historical conflicts. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) To indicate it is rarely visited and underappreciated.

The term 'well-loved' suggests frequent visits and appreciation by the community, which is the opposite of being rarely visited and underappreciated. The passage aims to convey that the space is highly valued and regularly used by residents. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

48. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The court's recent decision 'sets a very terrible precedent for the future of our Ontario public institutions.'"

a) It sets a beneficial precedent ensuring strict environmental assessments for public sites.

This option is incorrect as the court's decision actually exempts the site from environmental assessments, which does not ensure strict evaluations in the future. The passage indicates the opposite impact, with less rigorous oversight. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) It establishes a concerning precedent that could lead to more public spaces being privatized without thorough review.

This option accurately analyzes the impact of the court's decision. The passage describes the decision as setting a "terrible precedent," suggesting that it could lead to the privatization of more public spaces without adequate environmental and heritage reviews. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) It has no significant impact on future decisions regarding public institutions.

This option is incorrect as the passage clearly states that the decision sets a precedent, implying it will influence future actions. The described impact is significant, as it could affect the handling of other public spaces and institutions. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) It ensures that heritage sites will receive more protection and thorough assessments in the future.

This option contradicts the passage, which indicates that the decision undermines protections for heritage sites. The new law exempts Ontario Place from environmental assessment, reducing the level of protection and oversight. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

49. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Last December, one week after the request for judicial review was filed, the province passed the Rebuilding Ontario Place Act, which nixed Ontario Place's protections as a heritage site and exempted it from environmental assessment."

a) As a balanced approach respecting both development and heritage preservation.

The passage does not suggest a balanced approach. Instead, it describes actions that disregard heritage preservation, such as bypassing environmental assessments and removing protections. The portrayal is one-sided towards development without respect for preservation. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) As a strategy primarily driven by public interest and environmental conservation.

This option is incorrect as the passage highlights the government's disregard for environmental protocols and public input. The focus is on development rather than conservation or public interest. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) As an effort disregarding legal and environmental protocols for redevelopment.

The passage portrays the government's actions as ignoring necessary legal and environmental assessments. The description of passing a law to exempt the site from these evaluations supports this interpretation, indicating a disregard for proper protocols. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) As an initiative focusing on enhancing the site's historical and cultural significance.

This option is incorrect because the passage indicates the opposite. The government's actions are depicted as undermining the site's historical and cultural significance by removing heritage protections and bypassing environmental assessments. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

50. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "the province passed the Rebuilding Ontario Place Act, which nixed Ontario Place's protections as a heritage site and exempted it from environmental assessment."

a) Seeking community feedback before the redevelopment.

This option is incorrect as the passage indicates that the government did not seek community feedback. The description of Ford collecting proposals without public input contradicts this interpretation. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Ignoring the heritage status of Ontario Place.

This option correctly identifies an example of the government's disregard for public input. The passage describes the removal of heritage protections, which indicates a neglect of the site's historical significance and public concern. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Including public opinion in the decision-making process.

This option is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that public input was not considered in the redevelopment plans. The government's actions are portrayed as unilateral without regard for public opinion. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Protecting environmental and heritage sites from redevelopment.

This option is incorrect as the passage describes the opposite action. The government removed protections from Ontario Place, facilitating redevelopment without the necessary environmental and heritage assessments. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

SECTION – B: CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

51. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer

With the completion of the first phase of the country's first exclusive trans-shipment port, the Vizhinjam Port is all set to receive its first mothership.

Vizhinjam International Seaport is India's first deepwater container transshipment port.

- It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.
- It is located around 10 nautical miles from the international shipping route connecting Europe and the Persian Gulf with East Asia, through which around 30 percent of global maritime cargo passes.
- It is developed in a landlord model with a public-private partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate, and transfer ("DBFOT") basis.
- It is being built by Adani Vizhinjam Ports Private Ltd., a subsidiary of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. (APSEZ), India's largest private-sector port operator.
- Construction of the port began in December 2015.
- It is being designed to primarily cater to the transshipment and gateway container business, with provision for a cruise terminal, liquid bulk berth, and facilities for additional terminals.
- It has a natural draft of 18-20 meters, which means that some of the largest container vessels in the world will be able to dock here.
- There would be about 30 berths, most of which would be capable of handling mother vessels.

52. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

It is over the next 5 years, not the period of 10 years. Building on the success of PM SVANidhi, the government plans to establish 100 weekly street food hubs (haats) annually over the next five years.

PM Svanidhi- Over 46.54 lakh small working capital loans have been disbursed to street vendors under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) in the three years since it was launched on June 1, 2020. The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

Beneficiaries from Meghalaya, which has its own State Street Vendors Act may, however, participate. On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer on a six monthly basis.

It is a Central Sector Scheme i.e., fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives:

- To facilitate working capital loan;
- To incentivize regular repayment; and
- To reward digital transactions
- Introduction of 3rd term loan of up to Rs. 50,000 in addition to 1st & 2nd loans of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively.
- The loans would be without collateral.

53. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer

The Simla Agreement, which was signed on July 2, 1972, by the prime ministers of India and Pakistan at the time, was commemorated recently on its 52nd anniversary. The 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, which led to Bangladesh's (formerly East Pakistan's) independence, was a direct cause of the agreement. The military intervention of India proved to be pivotal in this conflict, profoundly transforming the geopolitical terrain of South Asia.

Key Negotiators: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The agreement aimed to establish peace and normalize relations between the two countries after the intense hostilities.

54. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

Nine students who had challenged the college's new dress code, which forbade the wearing of hijabs, burqas, niqabs, or any other religious identifiers on college property, had their plea recently dismissed by the Bombay High Court.

The court determined that the students' "larger academic interest" was the reason behind the dress code decision. The Bombay High Court dismissed the students' claim that donning a hijab is a "essential religious practice," emphasizing that the dress code applied to all students equally and did not violate UGC regulations promoting equity in higher education because it applied to all students regardless of their "caste, creed, religion, or language." The court relied on and expressed "full agreement" with the 2022 judgement of the Karnataka High Court (HC) on Resham v. State of Karnataka, 2022 which had validated the state government's ban on hijabs in government colleges.

55. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

In compliance with Article 280(1) of the Constitution, the Indian government has formed the Sixteenth Finance Commission and named Dr. Arvind Panagariya, a professor at Columbia University and former vice-chairman of NITI Aayog, as its chairman.

The precise parameters of the mandate have been delineated, encompassing the allocation of tax earnings between the Union and the States, the tenets guiding grants-in-aid to the States, and actions aimed at reinforcing State finances for regional entities such as Municipalities and Panchayats.

Additionally, the Commission is responsible for examining the financing arrangements for disaster management as stipulated in the Disaster Management Act of 2005 and offering suggestions for enhancements.

It has been requested that the Commission release its report by October 31, 2025.

56. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

People's Republic of China will assume the SCO chairmanship for the next term, and Qingdao, China will be appointed the SCO's tourism and cultural capital for 2024-2025. Belarus has joined the SCO as its tenth member. To improve bilateral relations, the Indian and Belarusian ministers of external affairs met.

Astana Declaration- Twenty-five strategic agreements on energy, security, trade, finance, and information security were approved at the 24th SCO Summit in Astana. The SCO Development Strategy, which runs through 2035, was approved by the Council of Heads of State-SCO Members. It includes resolutions on counterterrorism, anti-drug policy, energy cooperation, economic development, and cooperation in protected areas and ecotourism. The SCO originated from the "Shanghai Five," formed in 1996, consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. SCO was established on 15th June 2001, in Shanghai, adding Uzbekistan as a sixth member.

57. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

Following Rajasthan, Karnataka is now the second state to pass legislation pertaining to gig workers.

The Karnataka government intends to regulate the social security and welfare of platform-based gig workers in the state by establishing a board, welfare fund, and grievance cell among the mechanisms through a draft version of the law (Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare Bill).

58. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

A massive laboratory that is always manned, the International Space Station (ISS) is 400 kilometers above Earth's surface. In addition to being a distinctive science laboratory, it houses astronauts and cosmonauts.

Its research is anticipated to result in advances in a variety of fields, such as science, technology, medicine, and our understanding of the Earth and universe.

This is a cooperative effort involving fifteen nations and five space agencies: NASA (USA), CSA (Canada Space Agency), JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), ESA (European Space Agency), and Roscosmos (Russia).

Seven international crew members live and work as they orbit the Earth roughly every 90 minutes at a speed of 7.66 km/sec. The space station completes 16 orbits around Earth in a day, seeing 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets. India is preparing to bolster its space presence; by 2035, the ISRO hopes to build the nation's first space station. Within ten years, ISRO hopes to construct a 20-ton space station to facilitate microgravity research.

59. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

India-USA exercises are Vajra Prahar & YudhAbhyas. Exercise Shakti is between India & France. Recently, the 16th edition of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT commenced at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya).

Australia- Ex AUSTRA HINDBAH

Bangladesh- Ex SAMPRITI

China- Ex HAND IN HAND

France- Ex SHAKTI

Indonesia- Ex GARUDA SHAKTI

Kazakhstan- Ex PRABAL DOSTYKK

Kyrgyzstan- Ex KHANJAR

Maldives- Ex EKUVERIN

Mongolia- Ex NOMADIC ELEPHANT

Myanmar- IMBEX

Nepal- Ex SURYA KIRAN

Oman- AL NAGAH

Russia- Ex INDRA

Seychelles- Ex LAMITIYE

Sri Lanka- Ex MITRA SHAKTI

Thailand- Ex MAITREE

UK- Ex AJEYA WARRIOR

USA- Ex YUDHABHAYAS

USA- Ex VAJRA PRAHAR

60. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

Goal-wise scores are computed for the 16 SDGs, and overall composite scores are derived for each State/UT. Goal 14 (Life Below Water) has not been included in the calculation of the Composite Score for the Index as it solely pertains to the nine coastal States.

Top Performers: Kerala and Uttarakhand emerged as the best-performing states, each scoring 79 points.

Lowest Performer: Bihar lagged behind with a score of 57 points, followed by Jharkhand at 62 points.

61. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

It alludes to the widespread practice of businesses expanding their manufacturing and supply chains outside of China by doing so. With supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions in mind, this strategy seeks to reduce the risks that come with depending too much on one nation. China has been known as the "World's Factory" for the past few decades due to its central role in global supply chains. This resulted from advantageous production factors and a robust business ecosystem. Many international businesses have adopted a "China-Plus-One" strategy as a result of a confluence of factors, including China's zero-Covid policy, supply chain disruptions, high freight rates, and longer lead times.

To diversify their supply chain dependencies, this entails looking into alternate manufacturing locations in other developing Asian nations, including Bangladesh, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, India, and Vietnam.

62. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

A regional multilateral organization is called the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Its members are found in the Bay of Bengal's littoral and surrounding regions, making up a continuous regional unity.

Five of the seven members are from South Asia.

Bangladesh

Bhutan

India

Nepal

Lanka

There are two from Southeast Asia: Thailand and Myanmar. The Bangkok Declaration gave rise to this sub-regional organization in 1997. Under the initial acronym "BIST-EC" (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation), it was formed with four Member States. Once Myanmar was included, in 1997 it was renamed "BIMST-EC." The organization was renamed the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) after Nepal and Bhutan were admitted in 2004.

63. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer

The World Day for International Justice is celebrated annually on July 17th in an effort to honor the struggle against impunity for grave crimes that have an impact on the entire world and to advance international criminal justice.

64. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to pay tribute to the bravery of Indian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country during the Kargil War (1999).

This event marks the conclusion of the Kargil War between India and Pakistan that started in May 1999. Kargil Vijay Diwas, or Kargil Victory Day, is a significant day observed annually on July 26 in India. The day commemorates India's triumph in the 1999 conflict with Pakistan and honours the bravery and sacrifices of Indian soldiers during the war. The Kargil war of 1999 was the first military confrontation in a nuclearized South Asia, and arguably the first real war between two Nuclear States.

65. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer

In the most recent Wimbledon men's single tennis final, Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated Novak Djokovic of Serbia to win his fourth Grand Slam championship.

Alcaraz, who accomplished this feat before turning 22, became the youngest player to win four Grand Slam championships. Four of the last five Grand Slams have been won by the younger generation of tennis players, led by Italians Jannik Sinner and Alcaraz, indicating a change in the power dynamics in men's tennis.

66. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

At the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, the "Moidams" of the Ahom dynasty were recently proposed for inclusion in the list of World Heritage Sites.

This session will take place in New Delhi, India, for the first time in July 2024. Currently, 1,199 properties from 168 countries are listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. The Tai Ahom Dynasty of Assam's late medieval (13th–19th century CE) mound burial customs are embodied in the Moidams.

67. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

In a significant development for Indian sports, Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, has declared that the conglomerate will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics. This announcement marks a pivotal moment in the preparation of Indian athletes for one of the world's most prestigious sporting events. Adani Group to sponsor Indian team for Paris Olympics 2024

Campaign launched with theme #DeshKaGeetAtOlympics. The Group's involvement extends to several high-profile sporting events:

- Official partner for the Tokyo Olympics Indian contingent
- Associated with Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022
- Supported the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022 contingent.

68. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

The 125th Constitutional Amendment Bill was demanded to be passed during a recent meeting between the Chief Executive Magistrates (CEMs) of 10 Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) from the northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura and the Union Home Minister. In order to address the concerns raised by the Bill, the Union government chose to establish a committee under the direction of the Minister of State for Home Affairs.

The Bill aims to grant more financial, executive and administrative powers to tribal autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

69. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

Mumbai, which rose to 136th place worldwide and 21st place in Asia in Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey, which was released on June 17, maintains its status as the most expensive city in India for foreigners. New Delhi comes in at number thirty in Asia, indicating a significant change in the cost dynamics of Indian cities. India continues to be resilient in the face of economic difficulties, providing advantages in terms of affordability for hiring talent worldwide. The survey reveals different price increases for consumer goods and housing in major Indian cities, with Delhi seeing the biggest increase. Mumbai is the most expensive city in terms of personal care and transportation, but Kolkata is the most affordable city in terms of necessities. Hong Kong continues to be the most expensive city in the world for foreigners, highlighting a variety of global cost-of-living trends.

Hong Kong tops the global list as the most expensive city for international assignees, with Southeast Asian cities dominating the upper echelons of costliness. The survey covers over 400 cities globally, showcasing diverse cost-of-living dynamics amid evolving economic landscapes.

70. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

General elections were held in India from 19 April to 1 June 2024 in seven phases, to elect all 543 members of the Lok Sabha. Votes were counted and the result was declared on 4 June to form the 18th Lok Sabha. On 7 June 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed the support of 293 MPs to Droupadi Murmu, the president of India. This marked Modi's third term as prime minister and his first time heading a coalition government, with the Telugu Desam Party of Andhra Pradesh and Janata Dal (United) of Bihar emerging as two main allies.

More than 968 million people out of a population of 1.4 billion people were eligible to vote, equivalent to 70 percent of the total population. 642 million voters participated in the election; 312 million of these were women, the highest ever participation by women voters. This was the largest-ever election, surpassing the previous election, and lasted 44 days, second only to the 1951–52 Indian general election. The legislative assembly elections in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim were held simultaneously with the general election, along with the by-elections for 25 constituencies in 12 legislative assemblies.

71. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer

The 16-year-old paraswimmer Jiya Rai from Mumbai has become the youngest and fastest person to cross the English Channel, setting a new world record. On July 28 and 29, 2024, Jiya, who has autism spectrum disorder, finished her 34-kilometer swim in 17 hours and 25 minutes from Abbot's Cliff in England to Pointe de la Courte-Dune in France. Jiya Rai also holds the record for the youngest and fastest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait, a 29-kilometer stretch from Talaimannar, Sri Lanka, to Dhanuskodi, India. She completed this feat in 13 hours and 10 minutes on March 20, 2022.

- The English Channel divides France's northern coast from England's southern coast.
- In 1958, Mihir Sen became the first Indian to swim across the English Channel.
- On September 29, 1959, Aarti Saha became the first Indian woman to cross the Channel.
- In August 17, 1987, Anita Sood swam the Channel in the fastest time ever recorded by an Indian, finishing in 8 hours and 15 minutes.
- In 1875, Englishman Captain Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the Channel.
- With 44 crossings of the Channel, Australian swimmer Chloe McCardel holds the record.

72. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

The world's first passenger train composed of carbon fiber, which makes it significantly lighter and more energy-efficient than traditional trains, was constructed in China. The world's first passenger train composed of carbon fiber, which makes it significantly lighter and more energy-efficient than traditional trains, was constructed in China. On July 17, the metro train, also called the Carbon Star Rapid Transit or Cetrovo 1.0, was unveiled in Qingdao, in the Shandong province's eastern region. Qingdao Sifang Rolling Stock Co, a subsidiary of China Railway Construction Corporation, is the developer of the product. It has finished testing in the factory and is prepared to start operations in the coastal city later this year. China Railway Construction Corporation is the world's biggest rolling stock manufacturer.

73. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

On June 18, the Thai Senate approved a marriage equality bill, which will make Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to allow same-sex unions. Proponents of the bill hailed it as a "monumental step forward for LGBTQ+ rights." The Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of passing the bill following a final reading, with 130 senators voting in favor. Only four members opposed the bill. The bill still requires endorsement from the king before marriage equality can become reality in Thailand, but this process is considered a formality. The law will then come into effect 120 days after it is published in the royal gazette. The result of the vote means that Thailand will become only the third place in Asia to allow for marriage equality after Taiwan legalized same-sex marriage in 2019 and Nepal in 2023.

74. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer

As the first pilot from India to fly into space as a tourist, Gopi Thotakura is making history by participating in Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. His choice ushers in a new era for space tourism and marks an important turning point in India's space exploration history. Gopi Thotakura, an accomplished pilot and adventurer, brings a wealth of experience to the NS-25 mission. With a background in piloting various aircraft, including bush planes, aerobatic planes, seaplanes, gliders, and hot air balloons, Thotakura has also served as an international medical jet pilot. His passion for exploration recently led him to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro, showcasing his adventurous spirit and determination.

Indian astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted to go to the U.S. to train for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). US space agency NASA will send India's Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station (ISS), a statement said on Friday.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) has entered into a Space Flight Agreement (SFA) with US-based Axiom Space for its upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) with two Indians as prime and backup mission pilots.

75. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay on April 4, 2024. This groundbreaking treatment, called 'CAR-T cell therapy', is a major breakthrough in the battle against cancer. The President underlined that one of the most amazing developments in medical science to date is CAR-T cell therapy. Although the treatment has been around for a while in developed countries, the majority of patients worldwide cannot afford it due to its high cost. But the recently approved treatment is the most reasonably priced CAR-T cell therapy available globally.

76. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

Amidst the growing buzz around Artificial Intelligence (AI), the trailer and song launch event for India's first Hindi film on this subject, "IRAH," took place in Mumbai. The movie boasts an impressive cast, including Rohit Bose Roy, Rajesh Sharma, Karishma Kotak, and Rakshith Bhandarry in prominent roles.

Produced by Big Films Media and directed by Sam Bhattacharjee, "IRAH" is set to hit theaters nationwide on April 4th, 2024, through Iamplex Digital Theatrical Distribution. The event was graced by the presence of music composer Sameer Sen.

77. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer

The provisional results declared by the Mexican election commission indicate that Claudia Sheinbaum has been elected as the nation's first female president, marking a historic moment for Mexico. As of June 2, 2024, Sheinbaum, the head of the ruling Morena party, has a commanding lead over her closest competitors in the presidential race. Sheinbaum's mentor, outgoing Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, has congratulated her on her win. In addition, over 20,000 political positions were renewed as a result of the elections, including every seat in the lower house, the senate, and local and regional offices. A historic contest for president was held, with two women emerging as the front-runners. Xochitl Galvez, the candidate of the opposition party supported by the PRI, which has ruled Mexico for 71 years, presented Sheinbaum with fierce competition. Jorge Álvarez Máynez, the third candidate, received a lower proportion of the total votes.

78. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

A floating exchange rate is determined by the private market through supply and demand. A fixed, or pegged, rate is a rate the government (central bank) sets and maintains as the official exchange rate. The reasons to peg a currency are linked to stability. A fixed exchange rate denotes a nominal exchange rate that is set firmly by the monetary authority with respect to a foreign currency or a basket of foreign currencies. By contrast, a floating exchange rate is determined in foreign exchange markets depending on demand and supply, and it generally fluctuates constantly.

Usually, fixed interest rates are pegged higher as compared to floating interest rates.

79. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer

Recently, Venezuela saw a significant environmental milestone that brought the dire reality of the climate crisis to light. The Humboldt glacier, the last remaining mass of ice in the country, was reclassified as an ice field earlier this month, making the country likely the first in modern history to have lost all of its glaciers. This incident serves as a sobering reminder that climate change is an urgent crisis that requires immediate attention rather than a theoretical threat. Five of Venezuela's six glaciers, which were once tucked away in the Andes mountains at an elevation of about 5,000 meters above sea level, vanished by 2011. The Humboldt glacier was predicted by scientists to last for ten more years, but it is melting much faster than predicted. The Humboldt's downgrade from a glacier to an ice field, now spanning less than 2 hectares, highlights the startling rate of glacial retreat.

80. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer

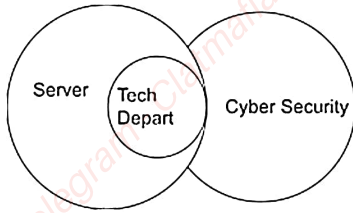
In a world where connectivity and speed are everything, the race to develop the next generation of wireless technology has advanced to a new level. With lightning-fast data transfer rates promised, a Japanese consortium has unveiled the prototype of what is billed as the first high-speed 6G gadget worldwide. This ground-breaking invention creates a world of previously unthinkable opportunities.

The purported 6G device boasts an astounding data transmission rate of 100 gigabits per second (Gbps), dwarfing the capabilities of current 5G technology by a staggering factor of 20. Utilizing the 100 gigahertz (GHz) frequency indoors and the 300 GHz band outdoors, this prototype showcases the potential for unprecedented connectivity speeds.

SECTION – C: LOGICAL REASONING

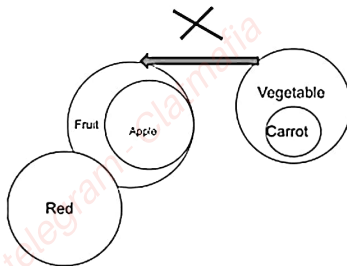
81. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Based on the diagram, Statement only II follows.



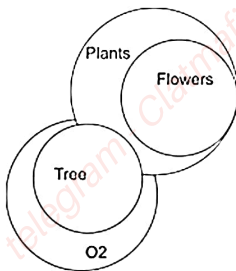
82. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Based on the given diagram only statement c follows



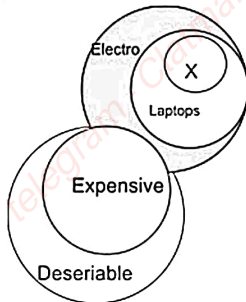
83. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Based on the below diagram statement ii and iii follows.



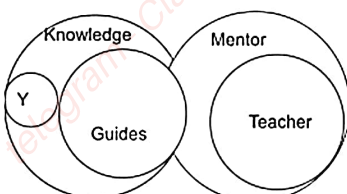
84. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Based on the diagram, only b) follows.



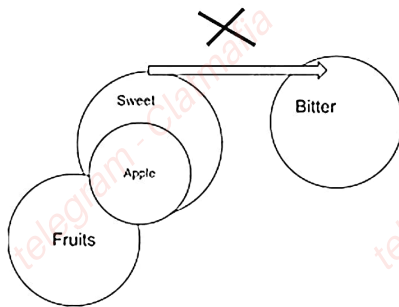
85. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Based on the below diagram, only statement ii is correct.



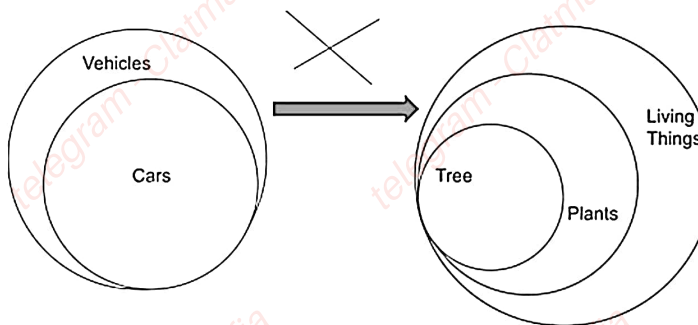
86. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Based on the below diagram only, statement iii follows because as its given no sweet thing is bitter, it logically follows that if Fruit is sweet it will never be bitter.



87. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Based on the diagram only option a follows



88. **Answer:** C

Explanation: A judge operates in a courtroom, just as a legislator operates in an assembly. The correct answer is (c) assembly.

89. **Answer:** A

Explanation: The analogy focuses on the relationship between an animal and its offspring. A cow's offspring is called a calf. Similarly, the offspring of a kangaroo is called a joey. Therefore, the correct answer is (a) Joey. The other options are incorrect as a cub is the offspring of a bear, a duckling is the offspring of a duck, and a fawn is the offspring of a deer.

90. **Answer:** C

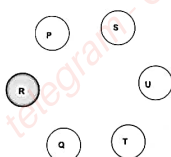
Explanation: This question is about the relationship between an animal and the sound it typically makes. A lion makes a sound known as a roar. Similarly, an owl makes a sound known as a hoot. Therefore, the correct answer is (c) Hoot. The other options are incorrect as chirp is typically associated with smaller birds, bark with dogs, and buzz with insects like bees.

91. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option a) Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science
Mathematics is followed by Physics (Constraint 2 satisfied).
Chemistry is the fourth class (Condition satisfied).
Chemistry is neither the first nor the last subject (Constraint 3 satisfied).
Biology is not immediately before or after Computer Science (Constraint 4 satisfied).

92. **Answer:** A

Explanation: From the below provided diagram you, can see only Q can sit next to T



93. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option c, satisfy all the given conditions.

No exercise may be repeated unless three other exercises are performed before the repetition.

Squats (C) and Plank (D) must not be performed on consecutive days.

Jumping Jacks (A) and Burpees (F) must not be performed on alternate days.

Push-ups (B) must always be followed by Lunges (E).

Option c, satisfy all the given conditions.

94. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Based on the given conditions option (c) satisfy all of them.

Mathematics (M) must not follow Physics (P), but Physics (P) can follow Mathematics (M).

Chemistry (C) must immediately follow Biology (B), but not vice-versa.

The first day must either be History (H) or Chemistry (C).

The last day cannot be Chemistry (C).

Option c) H, C, M, P, B, C, M P is the midpoint of the schedule (Condition satisfied).

H is the first day (Condition 3 satisfied).

The last day is M (Condition 4 satisfied).

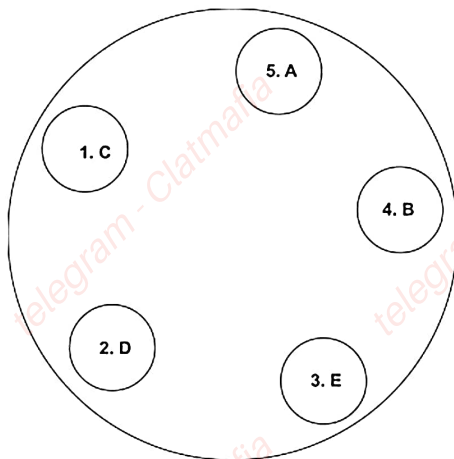
C follows B (Condition 2 satisfied).

M does not follow P (Condition 1 satisfied).

This option meets all the conditions.

95. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Only there is one possible arrangement and B will be in the 4th position because of the anti-clockwise arrangement.



96. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Only option D meets all the conditions.

97. **Answer:** B

Explanation: For "FROST" coded as "DOMPR", the pattern involves moving 'F', 'O', and 'T' two places backward, and 'R' and 'S' three places backward in the alphabet. Applying this pattern to "BLAZE":

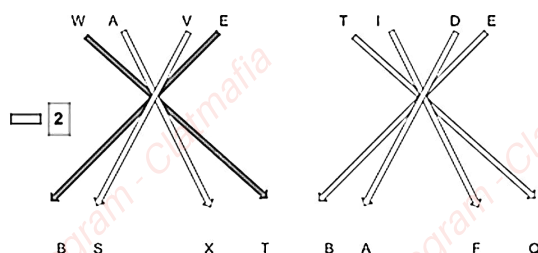
Hence, "BLAZE" is coded as "ZIYWC", which is option (b).

98. **Answer:** C

Explanation: In the given coding language, the pattern for transforming "AUTUMN" into "BTUTNM" involves altering the letters based on their position in the word: letters in odd positions are shifted one place forward in the alphabet, and letters in even positions are shifted one place backward. Applying this rule to "SPRING": Thus, "SPRING" is coded as "TOSHOF".

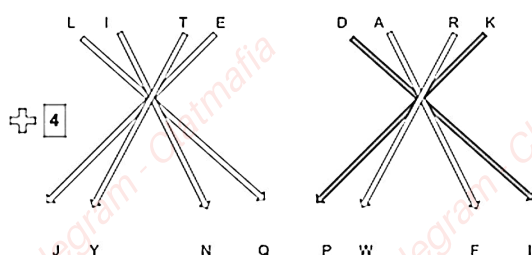
99. **Answer: B**

Explanation:



100. **Answer: C**

Explanation:



101. **Answer: C**

Explanation: C) Analysis reveals that countries prioritizing preventive healthcare and child welfare have a more stable and productive workforce.

This option directly supports the argument that addressing population aging challenges through targeted investments is beneficial for society. It suggests that countries investing in preventive healthcare and child welfare experience positive outcomes in terms of workforce stability and productivity. This aligns with the passage's claim that such investments can "maximize the number of productive members of society," thereby mitigating the challenges of an aging population.

Explanation for incorrect options:

A) Data from multiple nations shows a correlation between lower healthcare costs and substantial investments in preventive measures.

While this option supports the idea that preventive healthcare investments can be beneficial, it doesn't directly address the challenges of population aging or the overall impact on society's productivity. It focuses solely on healthcare costs, which is only one aspect of the argument presented in the passage.

B) Surveys indicate that older populations in countries with significant child welfare investments report lower life satisfaction.

This option contradicts the passage's argument. If older populations report lower life satisfaction in countries with significant child welfare investments, it would suggest that these investments are not effectively addressing the challenges of an aging population, which goes against the main point of the passage.

D) Research demonstrates that economies focusing on population growth without emphasizing sustainable development face fewer crises.

This option directly contradicts the passage's argument. The original text argues that "failing to rein in our unhealthy addiction to infinite population and economic growth can only lead to disaster." An option suggesting that focusing on population growth without sustainable development leads to fewer crises goes against the core message of the passage.

In conclusion, option C provides the strongest support for the argument presented in the passage. It demonstrates that targeted investments in preventive healthcare and child welfare can lead to a more stable and productive workforce, which is crucial for addressing the challenges of an aging population and moving towards a sustainable future.

102. **Answer: C**

Explanation: This option directly supports the reasoning in the passage, particularly the last sentence: "In fact, simply witnessing people express gratitude makes those people more

appealing to be around." It reinforces the idea that gratitude and recognition not only benefit the receiver but also positively impact how others perceive the person expressing gratitude. This explanation helps justify why recognition and thankfulness are important in building and reinforcing relationships, as stated in the passage.

Explanations for the incorrect options:

A) While this option is positive and relates to recognition, it doesn't directly address the main point of the passage about how recognition and gratitude affect relationships. The passage doesn't specifically mention trustworthiness, so this option, while potentially true, doesn't best justify the reasoning presented.

B) This option focuses solely on the workplace context and the effects of recognition from superiors. While it's a positive outcome of recognition, it doesn't address the broader concept of how gratitude affects relationships in general or how witnessing gratitude makes people more appealing, which are key points in the passage.

D) This option presents a positive aspect of recognition in personal relationships, but it doesn't directly support the main arguments in the passage. The passage emphasizes the immediate positive effects of recognition and gratitude, both for the giver and receiver, as well as for observers. This option, while not contradictory, doesn't best justify the reasoning provided.

Option C is the most relevant and supportive of the passage's main points, particularly in explaining why witnessing gratitude makes people more appealing to be around, which is a key element in building and reinforcing relationships as described in the passage.

103. **Answer: B**

Explanation: a) Incorrect: This option overstates the relationship between human activities and natural oil seeps. The passage mentions that oil seepage is often found in places where oil and gas extraction activities are located, but it doesn't suggest that human activities are the main cause of oil seeps. In fact, the passage states that up to half of the oil entering coastal environments comes from natural seeps.

b) Correct: This option accurately reflects the information provided in the passage. The text explicitly states that "studies are unable to link whether human activities have exacerbated the natural factors." This implies that, based on current evidence, natural seeps occur independently of human intervention. However, the addition of "though further research may be needed" acknowledges the possibility that future studies might reveal more about this relationship.

c) Incorrect: While this option acknowledges the geographical correlation between extraction sites and natural seeps, it goes too far by suggesting potential exacerbation by human activities. The passage clearly states that studies have been unable to link human activities to an increase in natural seepage.

d) Incorrect: This option is too strong in its assertion. The passage does not "prove" any significant impact of human activities on seepage. It merely notes a geographical correlation between extraction sites and natural seeps, without establishing any causal relationship.

The correct answer (b) most accurately represents the information provided in the passage, acknowledging both the current lack of evidence linking human activities to increased seepage and the possibility that this understanding could change with further research.

104. **Answer: A**

Explanation: a) Correct: This option logically follows from the government's announcement. The statement mentions the "removal of barriers that for the past decade hindered the development of new wind infrastructure in the country." This clearly indicates that there were previously policies or regulations in place that were not conducive to onshore wind energy development. By removing these barriers and committing to doubling onshore wind energy, the government is demonstrating a shift in policy that is now more aligned with renewable energy targets.

b) Incorrect: While this might be a possible outcome, it doesn't necessarily follow logically from the given information. The announcement indicates government support, but it doesn't provide information about increased investment or public support. These could be potential consequences, but they're not directly stated or guaranteed by the government's commitment.

c) Incorrect: The announcement actually presents multiple motivations for the policy change, including energy independence, economic benefits (saving money on bills and supporting jobs), and tackling the climate crisis. There's no indication that economic motivations are primary and environmental concerns are secondary. The statement presents these motivations as equally important.

d) Incorrect: This option is too specific and not supported by the given information. While the government states that doubling onshore wind energy would "save money on energy bills," it doesn't provide any specific figures or guarantees about the extent of these savings. A 50% reduction in energy bills is not mentioned and would be an overly specific claim not supported by the given statement.

In conclusion, option A is the most logical inference from the government's announcement. It directly addresses the change in policy implied by the removal of previous barriers to onshore wind development, showing a clear shift in the government's approach to align with new renewable energy targets.

105. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Correct option: b) Only II follows

This option is correct because the given information directly supports conclusion II. The report explicitly mentions the need for addressing skilling in the sector, easier visas for overseas workers, and speeding up foreign direct investment proposals. These points directly align with the statement that "Addressing the skill gap and facilitating smoother foreign direct investments are critical for the expansion of India's electronics manufacturing industry."

Incorrect options:

a) Only I follows

This option is incorrect because while the passage mentions the need for overhauling import tariffs and providing fiscal incentives, it doesn't necessarily imply that the current growth is "hindered" by these factors. The report suggests these changes to become a significant player in the global value chain and to grow the industry, but it doesn't explicitly state that the current growth is inadequate or hindered.

c) Both I and II follow

This option is incorrect because, as explained above, conclusion I doesn't necessarily follow from the given information, even though conclusion II does.

d) Neither I nor II follows

This option is incorrect because conclusion II does follow from the given information, as explained in the correct option.

The key to answering this question correctly is to carefully analyze what the given information explicitly states or strongly implies, versus what might be inferred but isn't necessarily true based solely on the provided information.

106. **Answer: A**

Explanation: The decision to conduct this war game exercise clearly indicates that the Ministry of the Interior perceives a significant threat level, particularly from Hezbollah in the north. The exercise's focus on a "high-intensity multi-arena war" and the simulation of various scenarios across the country demonstrate that the perceived threats are considered severe enough to warrant such extensive preparedness activities. This aligns with the stated aim of "improving preparedness and assessments for dealing with a high-intensity multi-arena war."

Explanations for the incorrect answers:

b) Political dynamics are the primary driver of the Ministry's strategic decisions.

While political considerations may play a role in governmental decision-making, the information provided does not suggest that politics is the primary driver here. The focus is clearly on national security and civilian protection, rather than political maneuvering.

c) Existing protocols are fully sufficient without practical evaluation.

This option is incorrect because the very act of conducting a war game exercise implies that existing protocols may need testing, refinement, or improvement. If the protocols were considered fully sufficient, there would be no need for such an extensive practical evaluation.

d) Single-agency responses are more effective than multi-agency coordination.

This is incorrect because the exercise explicitly involved multiple agencies (Ministry of the Interior, Israel Defence Forces, and the National Emergency Authority), indicating a belief in the importance of multi-agency coordination for effective response to potential threats.

107. **Answer: A**

Explanation: A) Correct: This option most weakens the assertion that human altruism is primarily driven by alloparental instincts. If societies with low rates of alloparental care still exhibit frequent altruistic behaviors, it suggests that altruism may not be primarily linked to

alloparental instincts. This observation would indicate that other factors might be more significant in driving human altruism.

This option presents a scenario that contradicts the expected outcome if alloparental instincts were the primary driver of human altruism. If alloparental care was the main factor behind altruism, we would expect to see less altruistic behavior in societies where non-parents rarely care for children. However, this option states that altruistic behaviors are still frequently observed in such societies. This observation suggests that altruism in humans may be driven by factors other than, or in addition to, alloparental instincts. These factors could include cultural influences, reciprocal altruism, or other evolutionary adaptations not directly related to child-rearing. By providing evidence that altruism exists independently of alloparental behavior, this option most effectively challenges the assertion that human altruism is primarily driven by alloparental instincts.

B) Incorrect: This option actually strengthens the link between altruism and alloparental instincts. If non-parents have less developed empathy-related brain regions, it would support the idea that parental instincts (including alloparental ones) are closely tied to altruistic tendencies.

C) Incorrect: While this option provides an alternative explanation for altruism in some animal species, it doesn't directly address human altruism or its relationship to alloparental instincts. It's not specific enough to significantly weaken the assertion about human behavior.

D) Incorrect: This option also strengthens rather than weakens the original assertion. By suggesting that altruistic actions are primarily influenced by innate biological factors (which could include alloparental instincts) rather than cultural or social factors, it supports the idea that alloparental instincts could be a primary driver of human altruism.

108. **Answer: A**

Explanation: a) Correct: This option directly supports the assertion by providing a contrast group. If patients listening to non-rhythmic sounds don't show improvement, while those exposed to rhythmic music do, it strengthens the argument that the rhythm (and thus brainwave entrainment) is the key factor in improving motor control and coordination. This comparison helps isolate the effect of rhythmic stimuli.

b) Incorrect: While this option suggests that rhythmic music therapy is effective, it goes beyond the scope of the original assertion by claiming it's more effective than physical therapy. The original statement only claims that rhythmic auditory cues can improve motor control, not that it's superior to other treatments. This overreach makes it less supportive of the specific claim.

c) Incorrect: This option focuses on patient satisfaction and engagement, which, while potentially valuable, doesn't directly support the assertion about improved motor control and coordination. Patient satisfaction doesn't necessarily correlate with objective improvements in motor skills, which is the focus of the original claim.

d) Incorrect: This option actually contradicts the idea that the rhythm is the key factor. If the effectiveness is consistent across various genres, it suggests that the specific rhythmic qualities might not be as important as claimed. The original assertion implies that the rhythmic aspect is crucial, so variation in effectiveness across genres would be more supportive of the claim.

Option A provides the strongest support for the assertion by demonstrating a clear contrast between rhythmic and non-rhythmic stimuli, isolating the effect of rhythm on motor skills improvement. This aligns closely with the concept of brainwave entrainment and its purported benefits for patients with movement disorders.

109. **Answer: C**

Explanation: C) Technological innovations in carbon capture have demonstrated efficiency levels that surpass natural carbon sequestration by trees in many scenarios.

This option most seriously challenges the conclusion that large-scale tree planting is the paramount strategy to mitigate climate change impacts. If technological solutions for carbon capture prove to be more efficient than trees in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, it would undermine the premise that tree planting is the best approach. This advancement would offer an alternative that could potentially be more effective, faster-acting, and less land-intensive than mass tree planting, thus challenging the analysis' conclusion.

Incorrect options:

A) Tree planting projects often depend on long-term maintenance to ensure their success.

While this is a valid concern, it doesn't fundamentally challenge the effectiveness of tree planting as a climate change mitigation strategy. It merely highlights a logistical challenge that

can be addressed through proper planning and resource allocation. This factor alone wouldn't negate the potential benefits of large-scale tree planting.

B) Certain regions with limited water supply find it difficult to sustain tree growth.

This point identifies a limitation of tree planting in specific areas but doesn't challenge its overall potential as a global strategy. There are still vast regions where tree planting is feasible, and drought-resistant species can be used in drier areas. This constraint doesn't undermine the general effectiveness of tree planting as a climate change mitigation tool.

D) The introduction of non-native tree species can sometimes lead to minor, manageable biodiversity imbalances.

While introducing non-native species can indeed cause ecological issues, this option has been modified to suggest that these imbalances are minor and manageable. As such, it doesn't present a serious challenge to the overall strategy of large-scale tree planting. Proper species selection and management can mitigate these risks.

In conclusion, option C presents the strongest challenge to the analysis' conclusion because it suggests an alternative approach that could potentially outperform tree planting in mitigating climate change, directly contradicting the idea that tree planting is the "paramount strategy."

110. **Answer:** A

Explanation: To find the pattern, let's look at the differences between consecutive terms:

Difference between 18 and 5: $18-5=13$

Difference between 40 and 18: $40-18=22$

Difference between 75 and 40: $75-40=35$

Difference between 127 and 75: $127-75=52$

The differences themselves form a series: 13, 22, 35, 52. The differences between these numbers are increasing by a sequence of 9, 13, 17, etc. Following this pattern, the next difference should be: $52+21=73$. Therefore, the next number in the series is: $127+73=200$. Hence, the correct answer is (a) 200

111. **Answer:** B

Explanation: To identify the pattern, examine the differences between consecutive terms:

Difference between 11 and 6: $11-6=5$

Difference between 26 and 11: $26-11=15$

Difference between 47 and 26: $47-26=21$

Difference between 78 and 47: $78-47=31$

The differences form the sequence: 5, 15, 21, 31.

Now, observe the differences between these numbers: 10, 6, 10.

The pattern alternates between adding 10 and adding 6. Following this pattern, the next difference should be:

Difference: $31+6=37$

Thus, the next number in the series is: $78+37=115$

112. **Answer:** D

Explanation: To find the pattern, observe the position changes for each character in the sequence:

First Letter:

B (2), F (6), J(10), N(14), R (18)

Pattern: Increase by 4

Second Letter:

J (10), L (12), N (14), P(16), R(18)

Pattern: Increase by 2

Third Letter:

C (3), F(6), I(9), L(12), O(15)

Pattern: Increase by 3

Fourth Letter:

K (11), M (13), O(15), Q(17), S(19)

Pattern: Increase by 2

Fifth Letter:

D (4), E (5), F (6), G (7), H (8)

Pattern: Increase by 1 each time

Therefore, the correct answer is (d) NPLQG.

113. **Answer:** D

Explanation: To find the pattern, observe the changes in each part of the sequence:

First Letter:

A (1), C (3), E (5), G (7), I (9)

Pattern: Increase by 2 each time

Number:

1, 2, 6, 21, 88

Pattern: Multiply the previous number by the next integer in the series ($1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $4 \times 2 = 8$, but, $8 \times 4 = 32$)

B (2), E (5), H (8), K (11), N (14)

Pattern: Increase by 3 each time

Using these patterns, the next sequence is:

First Letter: $I + 2 = K$

Next number: $8 \times 4 = 32$

Third Letter: $N + 3 = Q$

Thus, the next sequence is K32Q.

Therefore, the correct answer is (d) K32Q.

114. **Answer:** A

Explanation: P is married to T, as stated in the description. Since U is the paternal grandfather of R, his spouse would be R's paternal grandmother. The only other person who can fit this role is Q, who is described as the grandmother of S. Therefore, U must be married to Q.

115. **Answer:** A

Explanation: From the information, we know P is an engineer and U, a retired teacher. Q works as a homemaker. This leaves the professions of artist and students unaccounted for among the remaining family members, named. Since S and R are siblings and they are students, it leaves artist to only T.

116. **Answer:** D

Explanation: U is the paternal grandfather of R. Since R and S are siblings, S is also a grandchild of U. The problem does not specify S's gender, so S could be either U's grandson or granddaughter, making both (a) and (b) correct answers.

117. **Answer:** A

Explanation: It is mentioned that P is married to T and is the mother of R. U is described as the paternal grandfather of R, meaning he is the father of R's father, who is T. Q, being the grandmother of S, is married to U. Therefore, the two married couples are P and T, and U and Q.

118. **Answer:** B

Explanation: It is mentioned that P is the mother of R and married to T. S and R are identified as siblings because they are both students in the family. The other pairs listed do not fit the sibling relationship within the family.

119. **Answer:** D

Explanation: The family consists of one engineer (P), one teacher (U), one artist (T), one homemaker (Q), and two students. Since R is not assigned any profession other than being described as P's child and a sibling to S, R must be one of the two students in the family.

120. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Path Breakdown:

- East 5 km, North 7 km, East 4 km, South 9 km, East 3 km.

Final Coordinates:

- Starting point (0, 0).
- Final position (12, -2) after all movements.

Calculate Shortest Distance (Direct Line):

Use the distance formula between (0, 0) and (12, -2):

$$\text{Distance} = \sqrt{(12-0)^2 + (-2-0)^2}$$

$$\text{Distance} = \sqrt{144+4}$$

Distance = $\sqrt{148}$

Distance \approx approx. Distance \approx 12 km

121. **Answer:** D

Explanation:

Clinton	Vance	Obama	Trump	Biden
Obama	Clinton	Trump	Biden	Vance
Vance	Biden	Clinton	Obama	Trump
Trump	Obama	Biden	Vance	Clinton
Biden	Trump	Vance	Clinton	Obama

122. **Answer:** D

Explanation:

Clinton	Vance	Obama	Trump	Biden
Obama	Clinton	Trump	Biden	Vance
Vance	Biden	Clinton	Obama	Trump
Trump	Obama	Biden	Vance	Clinton
Biden	Trump	Vance	Clinton	Obama

123. **Answer:** B

Explanation:

Clinton	Vance	Obama	Trump	Biden
Obama	Clinton	Trump	Biden	Vance
Vance	Biden	Clinton	Obama	Trump
Trump	Obama	Biden	Vance	Clinton
Biden	Trump	Vance	Clinton	Obama

124. **Answer:** C

Explanation:

Clinton	Vance	Obama	Trump	Biden
Obama	Clinton	Trump	Biden	Vance
Vance	Biden	Clinton	Obama	Trump
Trump	Obama	Biden	Vance	Clinton
Biden	Trump	Vance	Clinton	Obama

125. **Answer:** D

Explanation:

Clinton	Vance	Obama	Trump	Biden
Obama	Clinton	Trump	Biden	Vance
Vance	Biden	Clinton	Obama	Trump
Trump	Obama	Biden	Vance	Clinton
Biden	Trump	Vance	Clinton	Obama

126. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Rachel is Tom's daughter, and Tom is Lisa's brother. Lisa's son is Mark, making Rachel and Mark cousins.

127. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Breaking down the relationships:

Priya's father's wife is Priya's mother.

The only brother of Priya's mother is Priya's maternal uncle.

Vikram is the son of Priya's maternal uncle.

Therefore, Vikram is Priya's cousin, as their parents are siblings.

128. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Family Connections:

A and B are married, with B being the mother of C.

C is married to D, who is explicitly mentioned as the father of their children, I and J. Therefore, C must be the mother, confirming her gender as female.

E is B's only sibling, making E C's aunt or uncle. Since B and E are siblings, C is the niece of E. Thus, C is (b) Niece to E.

129. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Here is the step-by-step breakdown of Akash's journey:

Westward Movement: Akash starts by walking 15 km to the west.

Northward Movement: He then turns north and walks 10 km.

Eastward Movement: Next, he turns east and walks 5 km.

Southward Movement: After that, he turns to his right, which from an eastward direction would make him face south. He walks 10 km south.

Final Direction Change: Finally, he turns 45 degrees to his left. If he was facing south, a 45-degree turn to the left would make him face south-east.

130. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Here's how Leela's movements break down:

Northward Movement: She starts at point A and walks 12 km north.

Eastward Movement: She turns right and walks 8 km east.

Southward Movement: She turns right again and walks 6 km south. After this movement, she is 6 km north of her original position (12 km initially north - 6 km back south).

Westward Movement: She turns right and walks 4 km west. This places her 4 km east of her starting point (8 km initially east - 4 km back west).

Final Northward Movement: She walks 2 km north, totaling her northward position to 8 km from the starting point (6 km from previous steps + 2 km now).

To calculate the shortest distance from point A to her final position:

- She is 8 km north and 4 km east of point A.
- Using the Pythagorean theorem to find the distance (hypotenuse) from point A to her final position gives us: Distance = $\sqrt{(8^2) + (4^2)} = \sqrt{64 + 16} = \sqrt{80} = 8.94$ km

131. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty Level: Medium

Option (a): This option is incorrect. Although B is responsible for the safety of the equipment, liability for negligence hinges on the foreseeability and preventability of the harm. If the internal crack was not detectable through reasonable maintenance practices, B cannot be deemed negligent for failing to detect it.

Option (b): This is the correct answer. According to Principle 1, negligence involves a failure to take reasonable care. Here, B conducted regular maintenance, which implies reasonable care was taken. The unforeseeable nature of the internal defect aligns with Principle 2, which stipulates the need for safety but acknowledges limitations in detecting hidden defects.

Option (c): This option is incorrect because it sets an impractical standard of ensuring equipment is "beyond reproach." In legal terms, the standard is reasonable care, not absolute guarantee, which recognizes that some accidents may occur despite reasonable precautions.

Option (d): This option is incorrect as the severity of the injury does not determine negligence. Negligence focuses on the breach of duty and the foreseeability of harm, not on the outcome of such breaches.

132. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Difficulty Level: Medium

Option (a): This option is incorrect because, although D misrepresented his financial status, the principle specifically requires the fraud to relate to the essence of the marriage itself, such as the identity of the parties or the nature of the ceremony.

Option (b): This option is correct in noting that financial status alone typically does not go to the essence of the marriage contract, but it lacks consideration of how fundamental the misrepresentation was to C's decision.

Option (c): This is the correct answer. Given the significant misrepresentation of both educational and financial aspects, it could be argued that these factors were crucial in C's decision to marry, thus affecting the essence of her consent.

Option (d): This option is incorrect as it dismisses the potential severity and impact of financial and educational misrepresentations on the decision to marry, which can be deemed critical by the affected party.

133. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty Level: Medium

Option (a): This option is incorrect as it overlooks the proportionality of the response. Defending oneself does not include the liberty to inflict serious injury when less harmful means could suffice.

Option (b): This is the correct answer. While E was initially justified in defending himself, the extent of the force used, especially after dodging the punch, was excessive and disproportionate to the threat posed by F.

Option (c): This option incorrectly implies that E's actions were within the bounds of private defense, which they were not due to the severity of the counterattack.

Option (d): This option is incorrect because the opportunity to retreat does not negate the right of private defense if the threat continues and is imminent.

134. **Answer: D**

Explanation: a) A spectator at a cricket match gets injured when a cricket ball hits him during the game.

Incorrect. Spectators at a sporting event like cricket implicitly consent to the common risks associated with watching the game, such as the possibility of a stray ball entering the stands.

b) A professional stuntman gets severely injured during a car stunt that he agreed to perform, knowing the risks involved.

Incorrect. A professional stuntman consents to the risks inherent in performing stunts, including potential severe injuries, as part of his professional duties.

c) A passenger in a car rally race is injured when the driver, racing under rough conditions which the passenger was aware of, crashes.

Incorrect. The passenger in a car rally has consented to the risks associated with the high-speed and potentially hazardous conditions of the rally.

d) A person walking past a fenced-off construction site gets injured by debris despite clear warning signs prohibiting entry.

Correct. This person did not consent to the risks because they were not a participant in any activity at the construction site and the warning signs indicate an effort to mitigate entry and therefore consent.

135. **Answer: A**

Explanation: a) A volunteer at a firewalking event gets burns on his feet after participating.

Correct. The volunteer knowingly and willingly participated in a risky activity (firewalking), thus consenting to the potential injuries such as burns.

b) A bystander near a construction site gets injured from falling debris despite visible warning signs.

Incorrect. The bystander, although warned by signs, did not actively consent to exposure to risk simply by being in the vicinity; passive presence does not equate to consent.

c) A person gets injured while trying an extreme sport for the first time without any prior training or warning of the risks.

Incorrect. The lack of prior warning and training implies that the person could not have truly consented to the risks involved as they were not fully aware or informed.

d) A spectator at a demolition event is injured when not following the safety guidelines provided at the event.

Incorrect. Although there were safety guidelines, simply attending as a spectator does not constitute explicit consent to injury, especially if the event's organization failed to enforce these guidelines effectively.

136. **Answer: C**

Explanation: a) Yes, because the patient consented to the surgery.

Incorrect. Consent to surgery generally covers known and disclosed risks, not unforeseen reactions such as an unknown drug allergy.

b) Yes, because medical procedures inherently carry risk.

Incorrect. The inherent risks associated with medical procedures are those known and accepted, not unexpected or unknown reactions.

c) No, because the allergic reaction was unexpected and not part of the consent.

Correct. The unexpected nature of the allergic reaction means it was not a risk the patient had agreed to take on by consenting to the surgery.

d) No, because it was a routine procedure without significant known risks.

Incorrect. Even routine procedures can carry risks, but the unexpected allergic reaction in this scenario falls outside the scope of typical or foreseeable risks and thus, consent.

137. **Answer:** A

Explanation: a) Yes, because Rahul consented to the risks involved in boxing.

Correct. Participation in a boxing match inherently includes consent to the typical physical risks, such as minor injuries.

b) No, because the injury was a result of the boxing match.

Incorrect. The fact that the injury resulted from the match does not negate the doctrine; instead, it highlights the anticipated risk Rahul accepted.

c) Yes, because it was a friendly match and not a professional fight.

Incorrect. The nature of the match (friendly vs. professional) does not alter the fact that participating in boxing involves risks that are consented to.

d) No, because Rahul did not sign any formal consent form before the match.

Incorrect. Formal written consent is not always necessary for the doctrine to apply, especially in informal or recreational activities where implied consent is recognized through participation.

138. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option (a): Incorrect. A verbal agreement on a sale of a car can be a valid contract if all the essential terms are agreed upon and the parties intend to create a legal obligation.

Option (b): Correct. Priya, being a minor, cannot enter into a binding contract for the purchase of property, making this contract voidable at her discretion.

Option (c): Incorrect. While the handshake deal is informal, it can still constitute a valid contract if the essential elements are present and agreed upon.

Option (d): Incorrect. Being unaware of a clause, especially a standard one in the industry, does not necessarily invalidate the contract unless it can be shown that there was a misrepresentation or that the clause is unconscionable.

139. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option (a): Incorrect. A contract involving illegal activities, such as selling stolen property, is void.

Option (b): Incorrect. Contracts made with persons who are not in a state to give consent, such as intoxication, are typically voidable.

Option (c): Correct. This scenario involves a clear exchange of value and mutual consent, fulfilling the basic requirements of a valid contract.

Option (d): Incorrect. A contract entered into under duress, such as the threat of harm, is not enforceable because it lacks free consent.

140. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option (a): Incorrect. As per Indian Contract Act, the contract or an agreement to do an impossible act is void.

Option (b): Incorrect. Mutual intent to enter into a contract is essential; without it, the contract is not valid.

Option (c): Correct. The nature of the item being sold (common household item) does not affect the contract's validity as long as the other elements of the contract are met.

Option (d): Incorrect. A contract to perform an impossible task is void because it cannot be legally fulfilled.

141. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option (a): Incorrect. Mutual termination of a contract is a legal and valid conclusion to an agreement, not a cause for it being voidable.

Option (b): Correct. A contract where there is misrepresentation by one party about a crucial fact can make the contract voidable at the option of the misled party.

Option (c): Incorrect. A straightforward sale of goods generally results in a valid and enforceable contract.

Option (d): Incorrect. An employment contract that meets all legal requirements and is entered into voluntarily is valid, not voidable.

142. **Answer:** A

Explanation: a) Yes, because there is an exchange of valuable services and goods.

Explanation: Best answer. Both parties are providing something of value, which meets the requirement of consideration under contract law.

b) No, because learning how to paint does not constitute valuable consideration.

Explanation: Incorrect. Learning how to paint does indeed provide valuable consideration as it involves imparting skills and knowledge.

c) Yes, because the consideration involves personal skills and artwork.

Explanation: Correct but redundant. It emphasizes the nature of consideration rather than its necessity for a valid contract.

d) No, because the artwork might not have monetary value.

Explanation: Incorrect. Consideration does not need to have a monetary value; it simply needs to be something of value to the parties involved.

143. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty Level: Medium

Option (a): This option is incorrect because even if Z's initial promise seemed casual, V's action of walking 100 kilometers based on that promise turns the scenario into a real contract by furnishing consideration in the form of an action performed.

Option (b): This is the correct answer. According to Principle 2, consideration in a contract can be past, present, or future but must be real and lawful. V's action of walking 100 kilometers constitutes real and lawful consideration, which, under Principle 1, makes the agreement valid even if it was informally started. Z is legally bound to fulfill the promise as V has fulfilled his part of the agreement by providing consideration through his effort.

Option (c): This option is incorrect because although V's action could be seen as voluntary, it was performed with the expectation of a reward as specified by Z. Thus, it is not merely a voluntary act but an act done in response to a promise, thereby satisfying the condition of consideration.

144. **Answer:** D

Explanation: a) Incorrect: While the passage does discuss how different species perceive colors differently, it doesn't explicitly state that reality itself is constructed by biology. The passage raises this as a question but doesn't present it as a conclusion.

b) Incorrect: The passage mentions the long history of association between humans and pigeons, but it doesn't discuss or imply a shared understanding of environmental stimuli. Instead, it emphasizes the differences in their perceptual worlds.

c) Incorrect: Although the passage discusses differences in sensory experiences, it doesn't definitively conclude that this leads to subjective realities. The question of whether reality is subjective or objective is presented as an ongoing philosophical debate.

d) Correct: This option accurately reflects the information provided in the last sentence of the passage. The authors propose a "pragmatic way to resolve this dilemma, based on inquiry and action." This directly aligns with the statement that the researchers are seeking to reconcile philosophical debates on reality through empirical investigation (inquiry) and practical actions. The correct answer is supported by the passage's explicit mention of a proposed resolution to the philosophical question of reality, emphasizing a practical approach based on inquiry and action. This option captures the essence of the researchers' contribution to the long-standing philosophical debate mentioned in the passage.

145. **Answer:** D

Explanation: This option is the most crucial assumption for the conclusion that rural India can achieve similar agricultural success as the Araku Valley. The passage implies that the Araku Valley's transformation was due to specific interventions that addressed its unique challenges, such as poverty and reliance on slash-and-burn farming. For the rest of rural India to achieve similar success, it must be assumed that their specific socio-economic barriers can also be addressed through carefully designed interventions tailored to each region's needs and potential.

Explanations for the incorrect options:

a) High-value agricultural products have a growing market in urban and international settings.

While this is true and mentioned in the passage, it's not an assumption but rather a fact stated in the context. The success of Araku Coffee in urban and international markets is presented as

evidence of the valley's transformation, not as an assumption necessary for replicating this success elsewhere.

b) All rural areas in India have the same climatic conditions as the Araku Valley.

This is incorrect because it's an unrealistic assumption. India has diverse climatic conditions across its regions, and not all areas would be suitable for coffee cultivation. The passage doesn't suggest that the exact same crop needs to be grown everywhere, but rather that the principle of finding suitable high-value crops for each region could be applied.

c) Every rural region in India can successfully grow coffee.

Similar to option b, this is too specific and unrealistic. The passage uses coffee as an example of a successful intervention in the Araku Valley but doesn't imply that coffee is the solution for all of rural India. The broader lesson is about finding appropriate high-value crops or products for each region, not necessarily replicating coffee cultivation everywhere.

The correct option (d) captures the essence of the passage's conclusion – that with the right policies and interventions tailored to each area's specific needs and potential, rural India could achieve similar transformations as seen in the Araku Valley.

146. **Answer: C**

Explanation: C) This is the correct answer because it directly addresses the effectiveness of similar security measures in preventing exam malpractice. If previous attempts at implementing such measures in other competitive exams have consistently shown high effectiveness, it strongly supports the claim that these measures will be effective for UPSC exams as well. This option provides evidence of real-world success in similar contexts, which is the most reliable indicator of potential future success.

Explanations for incorrect options:

A) While the involvement of leading technology firms suggests expertise, it doesn't necessarily guarantee effectiveness. The quality of the technology is important, but without evidence of its performance in real-world exam scenarios, this option doesn't provide the strongest support for the claim.

B) Although pilot testing with no incidents is promising, it's not as strong as option C. Pilot tests are limited in scope and may not fully replicate all potential real-world challenges. While this is a positive indicator, it's not as compelling as a track record of success in actual exam settings.

D) This option actually works against the claim of effectiveness. While the perception of intrusiveness might suggest that the measures are comprehensive, it doesn't provide any evidence that they will effectively prevent malpractice. In fact, privacy concerns could potentially lead to resistance or attempts to circumvent the measures, which could undermine their effectiveness.

In conclusion, option C provides the strongest support for the claim that the UPSC's advanced security measures will effectively prevent exam malpractice because it offers evidence of consistent success in similar, real-world applications.

147. **Answer: C**

Explanation: C) A significant portion of the ceremony focused solely on historical reenactments, with minimal modern or contemporary elements.

This option would most weaken the assertion that the ceremony effectively amalgamated history and contemporariness. If the ceremony heavily emphasized historical reenactments while neglecting modern elements, it would fail to achieve the balance between past and present that the original passage describes. This would contradict the claim of "amalgamating history and contemporariness in a spellbinding show."

Incorrect options:

A) The Opening Ceremony's artistic direction was heavily influenced by trends from other major international events.

Explanation: While this might suggest a lack of originality, it doesn't necessarily weaken the claim that the ceremony combined historical and contemporary elements. Influence from other events could still result in a successful blend of past and present.

B) Audience surveys indicated a preference for traditional presentations over the contemporary elements showcased.

Explanation: This option focuses on audience preference rather than the actual content of the ceremony. Even if audiences preferred traditional elements, it doesn't negate the fact that the ceremony attempted to combine historical and contemporary aspects.

D) Media reviews highlighted that similar thematic elements were used in several past Olympic ceremonies.

Explanation: While this might suggest a lack of uniqueness, it doesn't directly challenge the claim that the ceremony successfully combined historical and contemporary elements. Similar themes could still be presented in a way that effectively blends past and present.

Option C is the strongest in weakening the original assertion because it directly contradicts the idea of amalgamating history and contemporariness by suggesting an imbalance heavily favoring historical elements.

148. **Answer: B**

Explanation: This assumption is crucial to the claim that triply cookware is uniquely suited for those dedicated to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The passage states that triply cookware "claims to come with three layers that help keep the nutritional value of the food intact." For this feature to be particularly appealing to health-conscious individuals, we must assume that these consumers place significant importance on retaining nutrients during the cooking process. Without this assumption, the nutritional retention feature of triply cookware would not necessarily make it more attractive to health-conscious buyers.

Explanations for the incorrect answers:

a) Health-conscious individuals prefer cookware that does not contain chemical coatings.

While this statement is likely true and supported by the passage mentioning triply cookware as "coatings and chemicals-free," it's not the most crucial assumption. The unique selling point of triply cookware, according to the passage, is its ability to retain nutritional value, not just its lack of chemical coatings.

c) The durability of cookware is the primary concern for health-focused buyers.

This option is incorrect because the passage doesn't emphasize durability as a key feature of triply cookware or as a primary concern for health-conscious consumers. While durability might be a factor in cookware selection, it's not presented as the main selling point for health-focused individuals in this context.

d) Triply cookware's design is aesthetically superior to other cookware types.

This option is incorrect because the passage doesn't mention anything about the aesthetic qualities of triply cookware. The focus is on its functional benefits related to health and nutrition, not its appearance.

The correct assumption (b) directly connects the main claimed benefit of triply cookware (nutritional retention) with the preferences of health-conscious consumers, making it the most crucial underlying assumption for the argument presented in the passage.

149. **Answer: C**

Explanation: a) The quality of documentation produced by the scribes was remarkably high, indicating their dedication and expertise.

This option emphasizes that the scribes produced high-quality documentation, which implies a high level of dedication and expertise. While this speaks to the skill and commitment of the scribes, it does not address the historical significance of their role despite the lack of ergonomic tools. The focus here is more on the outcome (the quality of the documentation) rather than on the recognition or importance of the scribes' work in historical context. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The physical discomfort experienced by the scribes was a common condition for all professions of that era.

This option suggests that physical discomfort was a widespread condition across various professions at that time. While this context might make the scribes' discomfort seem less unique, it does not highlight the specific importance of the scribes' role. Instead, it normalizes their discomfort without addressing why their work was historically significant despite these conditions. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The importance of the records kept by the scribes was acknowledged and highly valued by the pharaoh and the priests.

This option directly supports the argument for the historical significance of the scribes by highlighting that their records were highly valued by the pharaoh and priests. This acknowledgment from the highest authorities underscores the critical role of the scribes in administration and governance, regardless of the physical discomfort they might have endured. It emphasizes that despite the lack of ergonomic tools, the scribes' work was crucial and respected, affirming their historical importance. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

d) The trade of scribing was one of the few professions that offered social mobility, irrespective of the physical toll.

This option discusses the social mobility that the profession of scribing offered. While it is an important point about the social aspect of the profession, it does not directly relate to the historical importance of the scribes' work itself despite the ergonomic challenges. The focus is more on the social benefits of the profession rather than on the recognition and significance of the documentation work carried out by the scribes. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

150. **Answer: B**

Explanation: a) Only I:

The passage clearly emphasizes that modern practices, such as hastily overpainting surfaces, threaten the historical narratives embedded in Indian street spaces. This indicates a compromise of their historical significance. However, the passage also highlights the dual role of streets in both promoting government values and serving as sites for revolutions and mobilizations, which is not captured by considering Option I alone. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Both I and II:

Option I is supported by the passage's mention of hastily overpainting surfaces threatening historical narratives, indicating a compromise of historical significance. Option II is also validated by the discussion of streets accommodating both those in power and those who contest it, illustrating their pivotal role in supporting and challenging authority. The passage mentions streets hosting government parades and being sites of revolutions and mobilizations, further supporting these conclusions. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Both III and IV:

Option III is incorrect as the passage references both violent movements (the street fights of the Revolt of 1857) and non-violent movements (the Quit India Movement's marches), demonstrating that the role of streets in India's history is not limited to non-violent movements. Option IV, while a logical recommendation, is not explicitly concluded in the passage. The passage focuses more on describing the historical roles of streets rather than advocating for government actions to preserve their integrity. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Both II and IV:

Option II is correct as discussed, with the passage illustrating the dual role of streets in supporting government values and serving as sites for contesting authority. However, Option IV, although a sensible suggestion, is not a direct conclusion drawn from the passage. The passage does not explicitly call for the government to take action to preserve the historical integrity of street spaces; it merely describes the historical roles and current threats to these spaces. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.