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VMTC-2526

 Duration: 120 Minutes
 8th June 2024

Maximum Marks: 120

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. **No clarification on the Question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.**
2. There are 120 multiple choice objective type questions. Answer **ALL** the questions.
3. Each question carries **ONE** mark. **Total marks are 120.**
4. There will be **negative marking. 0.25 marks** will be deducted for every wrong answer.
5. Candidates have to indicate the most appropriate answer by darkening one of the four responses provided, with **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** in the **OMR** Answer Sheet.

Example : For the question, "Where is the Taj Mahal located ?" the correct answer is (b).

(a) Kolkata (b) Agra (c) Bhopal (d) Delhi

Right Method

Wrong Methods


6. Answering the question by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered wrong answer.
7. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong answer.
8. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and, in the spaces, provide for.
9. After the examination is over, the candidate can carry the test booklet along with candidate's copy of the OMR, after handing over the original OMR to the invigilator.
10. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.
11. Impersonation is an offence and the candidate, apart from disqualification, may have to face criminal prosecution.
12. **Electronic gadgets like mobile phones, pagers or calculators etc. are strictly not permitted inside the Test Centre/Hall.**
13. The candidates shall not leave the hall before the end of the test.

Section	Subject	Q. No.	Total Questions
Section A:	English Language	Q.1 to 24	24
Section B:	Current Affairs with GK	Q.25 to 52	28
Section C:	Legal Reasoning	Q.53 to 84	32
Section D:	Logical Reasoning	Q.85 to 108	24
Section E:	Quantitative Techniques	Q.109 to 120	12

Section A – English**PASSAGE-I**

If I am out of my mind, it's all right with me, thought Moses Herzog.

Some people thought he was cracked and for a time he himself had doubted that he was all there. But now, though he still behaved oddly, he felt confident, cheerful, clairvoyant, and strong. He had fallen under a spell and was writing letters to everyone under the sun. He was so stirred by these letters that from the end of June he moved from place to place with a valise full of papers. He had carried this valise from New York to Martha's Vineyard, but returned from the Vineyard immediately; two days later he flew to Chicago, and from Chicago he went to a village in western Massachusetts. Hidden in the country, he wrote endlessly, fanatically, to the newspapers, to people in public life, to friends and relatives and at last to the dead, his own obscure dead, and finally the famous dead.

It was the peak of summer in the Berkshires. Herzog was alone in the big old house. Normally particular about food, he now ate Silvercup bread from the paper package, beans from the can, and American cheese. Now and then he picked raspberries in the overgrown garden, lifting up the thorny canes with absent-minded caution. As for sleep, he slept on a mattress without sheets – it was his abandoned marriage bed – or in the hammock, covered by his coat. Tall bearded grass and locust and maple seedlings surrounded him in the yard. When he opened his eyes in the night, the stars were near like spiritual bodies. Fires, of course; gases – minerals, heat, atoms, but eloquent at five in the morning to a man lying in a hammock, wrapped in his overcoat.

When some new thought gripped his heart he went to the kitchen, his headquarters, to write it down. The white paint was scaling from the brick walls and Herzog sometimes wiped mouse droppings from the table with his sleeve, calmly wondering why field mice should have such a passion for wax and paraffin. They made holes in paraffin-sealed preserves; they gnawed birthday candles down to the wicks. A rat chewed into a package of bread, leaving the shape of its body in the layers of slices. Herzog ate the other half of the loaf spread with jam. He could share with rats too.

All the while, one corner of his mind remained open to the external world. He heard the crows in the morning. Their harsh call was delicious. He heard the thrushes at dusk. At night there was a barn owl. When he walked in the garden, excited by a mental letter, he saw roses winding about the rain spout; or mulberries – birds gorging in the mulberry tree. The days were hot, the evenings flushed and dusty. He looked keenly at everything but he felt half blind.

His friend, his former friend, Valentine, and his wife, his ex-wife Madeleine, had spread the rumor that his sanity had collapsed. Was it true? He was taking a turn around the empty house and saw the shadow of his face in a gray, webby window. He looked weirdly tranquil. A radiant line went from mid-forehead over his straight nose and full, silent lips.

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1976/bellow/prose/>

1. What can be inferred about Moses Herzog's mental state based on the passage?

- (a) He is experiencing a period of stability and confidence.
- (b) He is struggling with doubts about his sanity and emotional well-being.
- (c) He is indifferent to his surroundings and disconnected from reality.
- (d) He is experiencing a heightened sense of clarity and purpose.

2. Which of the following characteristics best describes Moses Herzog based on the passage?

- (a) Confident and stable
- (b) Eccentric and erratic
- (c) Introverted and reserved
- (d) Indifferent and disconnected

3. "He was so stirred by these letters that from the end of June he moved from place to place with a valise full of papers." What is the primary reason that Moses Herzog moves from place to place with a valise full of papers, according to the passage?

- (a) To escape from reality and avoid facing his problems.
- (b) To find inspiration and creativity in his writing.
- (c) To reconnect with friends and family after a period of isolation.
- (d) To prove to others that he is mentally stable and emotionally well.

4. What does the word "clairvoyant" mean in the context of the passage?

- (a) Confident and optimistic.
- (b) Having a heightened sense of energy.
- (c) Having a heightened sense of perception or intuition.
- (d) A carefree attitude.

5. What is the central theme or main focus of the passage?
- The exploration of mental illness and its impact on personal relationships.
 - The journey of self-discovery and acceptance amidst internal turmoil.
 - The pursuit of creative inspiration and the struggles of a writer.
 - The depiction of rural life and the beauty of natural surroundings.
6. Which of the following sentences express a phrasal / idiomatic use of language except?
- He had fallen under a spell and was writing letters to everyone under the sun.
 - Now and then he picked raspberries in the overgrown garden, lifting up the thorny canes with absent-minded caution.
 - When some new thought gripped his heart he went to the kitchen, his headquarters, to write it down.
 - They made holes in paraffin-sealed preserves; they gnawed birthday candles down to the wicks.

PASSAGE-II

Escaping competition will give you a monopoly, but even a monopoly is only a great business if it can endure in the future. Compare the value of the New York Times Company with Twitter. Each employs a few thousand people, and each gives millions of people a way to get news. But when Twitter went public in 2013, it was valued at \$24 billion more than 12 times the Times' market capitalization—even though the Times earned \$133 million in 2012 while Twitter lost money. What explains the huge premium for Twitter? The answer is cash flow. This sounds bizarre at first, since the Times was profitable while Twitter wasn't. But a great business is defined by its ability to generate cash flows in the future. Investors expect Twitter will be able to capture monopoly profits over the next decade, while newspapers' monopoly days are over. Simply stated, the value of a business today is the sum of all the money it will make in the future. (To properly value a business, you also have to discount the future cash flows to their present worth, since a given amount of money today is worth more than the same amount in the future.) Comparing discounted cash flows shows the difference between low-growth businesses and high-growth start-ups at its starkest. Most of the value of low-growth businesses is in the near term. An Old Economy business (like a newspaper) might hold its value if it can maintain its current cash flows for five or six years. However, any firm with close substitutes will see its profits compete away. Night Clubs or restaurants are extreme examples: successful ones might collect healthy amounts today, but their cash flows will probably dwindle over the next few years when customers move on to newer and trendier alternatives. Technology companies follow the opposite trajectory. They often lose money for the first few years: it takes time to build valuable things, and that means delayed revenue. Most of a tech company's value will come at least 10 to 15 years in the future.

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the book titled "Zero to One" authored by 'Peter Thiel']

7. Why was twitter valued more than Times even when it was in losses and Times made huge profits?
- Because Times is expected to close down soon.
 - Because of the revolution Twitter has created in the market.
 - Because everybody uses Twitter and nobody reads papers.
 - Because of Twitter's ability to generate cash flow in the future.
8. "Escaping competition will give you a monopoly, but even a monopoly is only a great business if it can endure in the future." Which of implied by the following is the author trying to say?
- Monopolies are bad for business.
 - Monopolies are only good when they survive in the future.
 - Monopolies create a bad market by escaping the competition.
 - All of the above.
9. How are tech companies different from the old economic model?
- Tech companies make their product value for some year while they suffer losses, only to earn delayed revenue.
 - Tech companies can earn good if they can maintain their cash flow for some years.
 - The CEOs of Tech companies should not take much money as cash salaries.
 - None of the above.
10. Which of the following is the antonym of the word 'bizarre'?
- Strong
 - Extravagant
 - Ordinary
 - Parsimonious

11. Which of the following is true as per the passage?

I. Twitter will be able to capture monopoly profits over the next decade.

II. Technology companies rarely lose money for the first few years.

III. Comparing discounted cash flows shows the difference between low-growth businesses and high-growth start-ups at its starkest.

(a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Only I and III (d) Only II and III

12. Which of the following cannot be a style used by the author in the passage?

(a) Illustrative (b) Abstract (c) Analytical (d) None of the above

PASSAGE-III

When it comes to lack of access to surgical care, India is not an anomaly but the archetype for low-and middle-income countries. Over the last seven decades, India's focus on surgical care has been limited, with little attention in the most recent National Health Policy.

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS) deems this to be much less than the actual need. In 2015, LCoGS researchers found that New Zealand, which has universal health coverage, had 5,000 surgeries per 1,00,000 people. With a population of about 1.4 billion, the rate of surgeries in India is somewhere between 166 and 3,646 surgeries per 1,00,000, depending on the setting, population, and other factors.

Right to access surgery Millions of children and adults around India, regardless of the severity of their condition, injury, need or affordability, are forced to treat the basic right of surgery as a luxury. In fact, five billion people around the world are deprived of the fundamental right to access surgery when required. More than 90% of rural Indians are estimated to not have access to surgery when required. India's limited data on LCoGS indicators reveals several reasons for this.

The capacity to perform enough surgeries is also undermined by disparities based on where one lives, how much one is able to pay, etc. The met need for major surgeries is less than 7% in rural India.

Organisations such as the Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) and Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS), which serve tribal populations in difficult-to-reach areas. Individual surgeons working on technological innovations and groups such as the Global Surgery India Hub, which strengthen research networks, have also contributed to improving surgical care. However, systemic gaps persist, and they must be eliminated if India is to improve its performance on the LCoGS indicators.

India's Health Management Information System classifies surgeries which do not require general or spinal anaesthesia as 'minor' surgeries. In 2019-2020, the system, which covers most publicly owned health facilities in the country, recorded more than 14 million minor surgeries, which accounted for about a quarter of all surgeries.

The quality of surgical care determines whether someone will have a safe outcome. This depends on the training of the surgeons, the availability of necessary equipment, and the presence of appropriate perioperative care, among other factors. The mortality rate is a sensitive indicator of safety - but data on perioperative mortality is heterogeneous and missing in several instances. Due to the absence of universal healthcare coverage and limited surgical-care capability among public health facilities that provide free or subsidised care, the financial impact on people forced to seek care in private hospitals can be devastating. More than 60% of surgery patients in rural India face catastrophic expenses.

Together, these indicators build a picture of surgeries as a part of healthcare at the population level and on the ground. For example, for a 'minor surgery' that had in my childhood, I had to travel only a few minutes to reach the hospital. Both the surgeon (my mother) and the anaesthetist (my father) were readily available and had the skills and resources for the surgery. I had close follow-up for about a month after without any fatal or non-fatal adverse outcomes. I could also easily afford the surgery. These circumstances are highly exceptional.

13. What are the primary issues faced by the people in India as mentioned in the passage?

(a) India has little resources to help rural and tribal area with surgical care

(b) India is not focusing on the surgical care for the rural and tribal population of the country

(c) India has refused to seek help from LCoGS for the betterment of surgical care in the country

(d) Indian doctors are not capable enough to take care of the surgical care in the difficult to reach areas

14. What is the tone of the concluding line of the passage?

(a) Cheerful

(b) Assertive

(c) Gloomy

(d) Nostalgic

15. What is the significance of the ground reality of surgical care access in India, as mentioned in the passage?
- (a) There is disparity in the surgical access on the basis of the location and class of people.
 (b) The treatment is not reaching to the promised difficult to reach areas in the country.
 (c) The quality of the surgical care is not according to the training of the surgeons.
 (d) There are no classification of surgeries on the basis of the requirements of the patients.
16. How is the Indian government trying to serve timely treatment to the rural and tribal people?
- (a) By providing the hospitals in the nearest areas to the villages and tribes.
 (b) By providing better conveyance services to the nearby cities for regular check-ups.
 (c) By strengthening the research networks and accessibility of surgical care in the difficult to reach areas.
 (d) By availing the basic treatment equipment to the rural areas to operate well.
17. What does the author mean by stating that the rural India is facing catastrophic expenses?
- (a) The author is highlighting the public healthcare sector to be much more expensive than the capacity of the rural India.
 (b) The author is undermining the private healthcare systems for their expensive surgical care fares.
 (c) The author is criticizing the absence of the universal healthcare coverage for limiting the capabilities of public healthcare.
 (d) None of the above.
18. What is the antonym of “heterogeneous” as implied in the passage?
- (a) Homogeneous (b) Fixed (c) Varying (d) Related

PASSAGE-IV

At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Winston Churchill wears a civilian double-breasted wool coat, Franklin D Roosevelt, a civilian suit under a cape with tresses and a fur collar, and Stalin, a double-breasted Soviet uniform whose design mirrors both earlier Tsarist and 20th-century European uniforms. A Persian carpet from western Iran forms a connection between them all. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia In the 20th century, military uniform design and cut followed those of the country’s allies and ambitions. We can see this in the military uniforms used across Eurasia during the Cold War, with a ‘communist’ style in countries allied with the Soviet Union or China, versus the ‘capitalist’ NATO styles used by the West’s allies.

Throughout the world, rulers have tried to control people by regulating their clothing.

It is notable that textile metaphors gained currency to represent both the reign of the Cold War, with its ‘Iron Curtain’, and the period’s historic end in 1989, with the ‘Velvet Revolution’ in Czechoslovakia. The expressions play on both the softness of fabric (velvet) and its capacity to cover and conceal (curtain). In popular culture, it was *denim* and *blue jeans* that caught the imagination of young people in the East, as symbols of youth and of political and moral freedom. The name ‘denim’ comes from the French city of Nîmes in Occitanie, a major producer of blue dye from woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) and synonymous with workers’ blue cotton cloth. The word ‘jeans’ connects to the French name of *Gênes* and the Italian city of Genova, from where such coarse fabrics were exported.

Throughout history, and throughout the world, rulers have tried to control people by regulating their clothing. Regulations can be prescriptive or proscriptive, and carry gendered and social meanings and ramifications. Dress codes – from the military to school uniforms – indicate political and social alignment, to visually express unity, loyalty and adherence. Meanwhile, bans, prohibitions or censure of the dress practices of certain individuals or groups aim to exclude. When the Chinese emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, the founder of the Ming dynasty, took the throne in 1368, he banned the former regime’s style of clothing, branding it ‘barbaric’, and ordered a return to the clothing style of the Han dynasty.

Clothing regulations can be social or legal, and across Eurasia many have attempted to regulate how people dress to enforce an ideal, or to protect national production from foreign imports. Sumptuary laws (from Latin *sumptus*, meaning ‘expense’) could regulate both manufacturing and trade, as well as national moral economies that would influence consumption patterns and values. They represented social, gendered and racial hierarchies, and expressed them visually. Many regulated the use of jewellery and the practices surrounding feasts or funerals. The main objective was always directed at dress practices, with greater significance given to fabrics, fibres, weave and decoration than to cuts and tailoring. In Lima, Peru – in Spanish colonial America – sumptuary laws stipulated that women of African or mixed African and European descent were prohibited from wearing woollen cloth, silks or lace – though forbidden luxury fabrics often simply reappeared as cheaper copies, and trade labels were faked.

19. According to the passage, what does the author mean by 'Velvet Revolution'?
- (a) The concept to represent the textile metaphor introduced in Czechoslovakia.
 (b) The concept of softness of the fabric accustomed to cover and conceal.
 (c) The Military uniform of a country designed to regulate the clothing.
 (d) The concept of the imagination of young people in the East.
20. What inference can be drawn by the clothing regime of the Han dynasty?
- (a) Chinese emperor Zhu Yuanzhang wanted the history of China to reflect on the clothing style of Ming dynasty.
 (b) Chinese emperor Zhu Yuanzhang banned the previous regime's style to revoke the empowerment of Han dynasty.
 (c) Chinese emperor Zhu Yuanzhang did not want to show the history of China so he banned the previous regims.
 (d) Zhu Yuanzhang was against the ideologies of Han dynasty so he changed the regime's style of clothing.
21. Why did the Spanish colonial America prohibit people from wearing woolen cloth?
- (a) To discriminate between classes.
 (b) To save the economy of those countries.
 (c) Because people of those regions could not afford such luxury fabrics.
 (d) All of the above
22. What significance did the clothing regulation have in the history of the world?
- (a) The different cultures had their own regulations for the clothing of the citizens.
 (b) The rulers have attempted to dominate people by regulating their clothing, all over the world.
 (c) The military uniform started the wave of textile regulating in all over the world.
 (d) The world was distributed into two opinion based on the regulation of the clothing.
23. Which of the following is the origin ground of the name 'jeans'?
- (a) Nimes in Occitanie (b) Czechoslovakia (c) Italian city of Genova (d) None of the above
24. According to the passage, which of the following best reflects the sumptuary law?
- (a) Regulation of the manufacturing and the national economy of the textiles that can influence consumption patterns and values.
 (b) The regulation of the manufacturing and the economies resulting in better consumption pattern and value.
 (c) The regulation of the jewelry, fabrics and other textiles which does not affect the economy of a country.
 (d) The regulation of the consumption of the fabrics, fibres and textiles in one region to earn profits in the economies.

Section B-Current Affairs with GK

PASSAGE-V

Following the initiation of a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at the contentious Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar, Abdul Samad, representing the Muslim faction, voiced his disagreement with the procedure mandated by the high court. According to him, this survey was redundant as a similar assessment had previously been conducted and its report made public. Samad objected to the new survey citing various changes and developments since the last assessment, including alterations to the monument itself. He emphasized their concerns over these modifications and activities within the complex, leading to their appeal to the high court for clear guidelines on permissible items inside. Additionally, Samad mentioned their move to the Supreme Court, challenging the high court's directive for the new survey and the deadline for submitting its report by April 1. He further elaborated that despite their special request to the high court on February 5 regarding the new survey, the court proceeded with directing a new survey on March 11. This prompted their subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court on March 16, which was admitted for hearing on April 1. Samad criticized the significance of the recent survey, questioning its necessity when the petitioner from the opposing side was absent and emphasizing the court's directive for a survey in the presence of both petitioners from both factions.

25. In which century was the Bhojshala Temple built?
- (a) 9th Century AD (b) 10th Century AD (c) 11th Century AD (d) 12th Century AD
26. According to the petition, during whose reign was the mosque in the area of the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula compound built?
- (a) Babar (b) Alauddin Khilji
 (c) Emperor Akbar (d) Sultan Muhammad Bin Tughlaq

27. What has been the arrangement for religious activities at the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula compound for the past two decades?
- (a) Hindus were only allowed to perform the puja in the compound
 (b) Hindus perform puja on Tuesdays, and Muslims perform namaaz on Fridays.
 (c) Hindus and Muslims have separate areas for religious activities.
 (d) Religious activities are not allowed at the compound.
28. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is it the Fundamental Duty of every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture?
- (a) Article 14 (b) Article 21 (c) Article 29 (d) Article 51A
29. Who is the current Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?
- (a) Shri Yadubir Singh Rawat (b) Shri S. K. Mishra (c) Shri V. V. Vasudev (d) Shri D. N. Dimri

PASSAGE-VI

In April, Indian consumers encountered a notable surge in food prices, contributing to an overall retail inflation rate that held steady at 4.83%, nearly unchanged from the preceding month's 4.85%. Specifically, food inflation escalated to its highest in four months, reaching 8.7% compared to March's 8.5%. This upward trend was particularly pronounced among rural consumers, experiencing a sharper increase of 8.75%. The disparity between urban and rural inflation persisted, with rural households witnessing a 5.43% price rise while urban inflation marginally decreased from 4.14% to 4.11%. Month-on-month, prices climbed by about 0.5%, with urban areas observing a more significant uptick in both overall prices and food items. Urban food prices saw a 1.03% increase over March, while rural areas experienced a more moderate rise of 0.59%. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) also indicated a 0.6% uptick for urban households and a 0.37% increase for rural India compared to March levels. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects retail inflation to ease to an average of 4.5% this year from the 5.4% clocked in 2023-24, with the ongoing April to June quarter expected to see an average inflation of 4.9%. Economists don't expect any pivot in the monetary policy stance till inflation subsides to the RBI's 4% target on a durable basis, as has been stressed by Governor.

30. In India, which government authority is responsible for measuring inflation?
- (a) Ministry of Finance
 (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
31. Inflation was higher than the national average in 14 of 22 major States for which the National Statistical Office (NSO) calculates inflation rates. When did the Indian government pass the order to merge NSSO with CSO to form NSO?
- (a) 23rd May 2018 (b) 23rd May 2019 (c) 23rd May 2020 (d) 23rd May 2021
32. The two primary indices used to measure inflation in India are the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI). What does the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure?
- (a) Changes in wholesale prices of goods and services for consumers
 (b) Changes in retail prices paid by consumers for goods and services
 (c) Changes in producer prices for manufactured goods
 (d) Changes in the cost of raw materials for production
33. When was the base year of the All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12?
- (a) 2015 (b) 2016 (c) 2017 (d) 2018
34. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) uses CPI data to control inflation. How many members does the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) have?
- (a) Four members (b) Five members (c) Six members (d) Seven members

PASSAGE-VII

India has put forth a comprehensive model on behalf of the G4 nations for reforming the Security Council. This proposal entails the inclusion of new permanent members, who would be democratically elected by the General Assembly. Notably, India's model also exhibits flexibility regarding the contentious issue of the veto power. Participating actively in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform (IGN), India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, underscored the significance of the UN's upcoming anniversary as a pivotal moment to make tangible progress on this longstanding matter. Ambassador Kamboj emphasized that the global landscape has transformed significantly since the establishment of the UN

in 1945, necessitating a reflection of these new realities in the composition of the Security Council's permanent membership. Aligned with these evolving dynamics, the G4 model proposed by India advocates for an expansion of the Security Council's membership beyond the current 15 members. This proposed expansion is aimed at accommodating and acknowledging the diverse geopolitical shifts and emerging global challenges that have transpired since the Council's inception.

35. Which nations are part of the G4 group?

- (a) Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan (b) India, Russia, United States, and France
 (c) Australia, Canada, South Africa, and India (d) Argentina, Italy, Mexico, and India

36. How many members does the G4 model propose increasing the Security Council's membership to?

- (a) 20-21 members (b) 25-26 members (c) 30-31 members (d) 35-36 members

37. From which regions are the proposed new permanent members of Security Council to be selected according to the G4 model?

- (a) All regions equally
 (b) Only African and Asian states
 (c) African states, Asia Pacific states, Latin American and Caribbean states, and Western European and Other states
 (d) Only Western European and Other states

38. Which countries are the permanent members of the Security Council?

- (a) United States, Russia, France, China, Japan
 (b) United States, Russia, France, China, United Kingdom
 (c) United States, Russia, Germany, China, United Kingdom
 (d) United States, Russia, France, Brazil, United States

39. What does IGN stand for in the context of the United Nations?

- (a) International Governance Network (b) Intergovernmental Negotiations
 (c) International Group of Nations (d) None of the Above

PASSAGE-VIII

During the recent tenth meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), held in [1], UNESCO added three distinguished Indian literary works to its esteemed Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register. This significant inclusion underscores the paramount importance of safeguarding and celebrating diverse narratives and artistic expressions that contribute to our collective human heritage, as highlighted by the Ministry of Culture in a statement. The Ministry emphasized that these literary masterpieces have not only stood the test of time but also transcended geographical boundaries, leaving an enduring impact on readers and artists worldwide. The nomination process, led by dedicated officials, carefully selected these texts based on their timeless and universal appeal, recognizing their ability to resonate with audiences across cultures and generations. Through this recognition, UNESCO acknowledges the invaluable contribution of Indian literature to the global cultural tapestry, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. The inclusion of these works in the Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register serves as a testament to the enduring legacy and influence of Indian literary heritage on the world stage, inspiring creativity and dialogue among diverse communities.

40. Which of the following will replace [1] in the passage?

- (a) Mongolia (b) Nepal (c) Paris (d) New-Delhi

41. Which of the following literary works has not been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register?

- (a) Ramcharitmanas (b) Sahṛdayāloka-Locana
 (c) Panchatantra (d) Ramayana

42. Who is the Current Director-General of UNESCO?

- (a) Audrey Azoulay (b) António Guterres (c) Angela Merkel (d) Emmanuel Macron

43. How often are inscriptions made on the Asia-Pacific Register of the Memory of the World documentary heritage?

- (a) Every year (b) Every 2 years (c) Every 3 years (d) Every 5 years

44. Which literary piece is associated with Acharya Anandvardhan?

- (a) 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana' (b) 'Panchatantra'
 (c) 'Ramcharitmanas' (d) Ramayana

PASSAGE-IX

Over the last 15 years, India has witnessed a noteworthy surge in its forest cover, as reported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) during the recent United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The Indian delegation, headed by Jitendra Kumar, who serves as the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary at MoEFCC, actively participated in UNFF session, held at the UN Headquarters. During this engagement, the delegation informed the UNFF about the consistent expansion in India's forest cover, attributing this progress to the country's substantial strides in forest conservation and the adoption of sustainable forest management practices, as emphasized by MoEFCC. Furthermore, the delegation spotlighted two significant initiatives: the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance and the introduction of the 'Green Credit Programme.' The former underscores India's commitment to wildlife conservation, particularly focused on protecting big cat species. The latter initiative, the 'Green Credit Programme,' serves as a strategic tool to incentivize organizations and individuals to engage in tree plantation initiatives and the restoration of degraded forest lands. These measures reflect India's proactive approach towards environmental stewardship and underscore its dedication to fostering a greener and more sustainable future.

- 45.** In terms of net gain in average annual forest area between 2010 and 2020, where does India rank globally?
 (a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth
- 46.** When was the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) established?
 (a) October 1990 (b) October 2000 (c) October 2010 (d) October 2020
- 47.** India highlighted forest conservation achievements at United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), underlining its commitment to biodiversity and wildlife through 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' at UNFF. Which state ranked First in terms of the number of elephants based on the 2017 Elephant Census?
 (a) Karnataka (b) Assam (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu
- 48.** Who is the current Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in India?
 (a) Prakash Javadekar (b) Bhupender Yadav (c) Ashwini Kumar Choubey (d) None of the Above

PASSAGE-X

India's recent achievements at the United Nations reflect its growing influence and commitment to global cooperation. Jagjit Pavadia successful re-election to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a third term exemplifies India's leadership in addressing critical issues like narcotics control on the international stage. Garnering the highest number of votes in a competitive election underscores India's credibility and support among UN member states. Moreover, India's election by acclamation to key bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) demonstrates its active engagement in promoting gender equality, child welfare, and sustainable development globally. Additionally, India's inclusion in the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Executive Board further enhances its role in advancing effective project management and international cooperation. India's Permanent Representative to the UN [1] emphasized the nation's enduring commitment to the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'—emphasizing unity and shared responsibility globally. This guiding philosophy underscores India's dedication to contributing constructively to global deliberations, fostering unity, and working collaboratively towards the betterment of all nations. India's continued participation and leadership in these UN bodies reflect its ongoing efforts to contribute positively to the global community's welfare and progress.

- 49.** Where is the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) located?
 (a) New York, USA (b) Geneva, Switzerland (c) Vienna, Austria (d) Paris, France
- 50.** When was the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) constituted by the Government of India?
 (a) 1965 (b) 1975 (c) 1985 (d) 1986
- 51.** What is the basis of the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in India?
 (a) Article 51A of the Indian Constitution
 (b) Article 47 of the Indian Constitution
 (c) Article 32 of the Indian Constitution
 (d) Article 45 of the Indian Constitution
- 52.** Which of the following will replace [1] in the passage?
 (a) Ruchira Kamboj (b) T.S. Tirumurti (c) Syed Akbaruddin (d) None of the Above

Section C-Legal Reasoning
PASSAGE-XI

The recent denial of the premature release of Devender Pal Singh Bhullar by the Delhi State Review Board for the seventh time calls for attention to the issue of convicts imprisoned for extended periods of time in prisons. In 2014 a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court commuted his death sentence to life imprisonment, reversing its two-bench judgment which had refused to commute his death sentence. The Supreme Court reversed the decision on two grounds. Firstly, it recognised the medical findings in his case, which revealed that he suffered from major mental health disorders. Secondly, it cited an unexplained delay of eight and a half years in deciding over his mercy petition. The earlier two-judge bench had stated that mere delay in evaluating mercy appeals of terror convicts could not be used as a justification for commuting their death sentence.

Section 433 of the Criminal Procedure Code allows prisoners who have served a 14-year sentence in prison to be considered for early release. The provision to release, however, is a discretionary power granted to state-appointed sentence review boards that propose prisoners for their early release. These review boards are constituted under the Prison Rules. It is, however, clarified that completion of 14 years in prison by itself would not entitle a convict to automatic release from the prison and the Sentence Review Board shall have the discretion to recommend to release a convict, at an appropriate time in all cases considering the circumstances in which the crime was committed and other relevant factors like:- a) Whether the convict has lost his potential for committing crime considering his overall conduct in Jail during the 14 year incarceration. b) The possibility of reclaiming the convict as a useful member of the society and c) Socio-Economic condition of the Convict's family.

For cases where a person has been convicted for imprisonment of life for committing offence under the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, murder for dowry, murder of a child below 14 years of age, such convict shall be entitled to be considered for premature release only after undergoing imprisonment for 20 years.

For the Supreme Court, the case of early release – even though the discretionary power of the prison – has to be exercised in an objective and transparent manner so that it does not impinge on the constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 21 as stated in Rashidul Jafar v. State of U.P. In Rashidul's case, the Supreme Court also held that the applications for premature release shall be considered expeditiously. Cases of eligible life convicts who are (i) above the age of seventy years; or (ii) suffering from terminal ailments shall be taken up on priority and would be disposed of within a period of two months.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Who Decides Which Prisoners Deserve An Early Release?" published at The Wire.

53. Vidhan was arrested for committing murder in the year 2010. He was convicted and was sentenced to life imprisonment a year after his arrest. Presently, in the year 2024, he has applied for pre-mature release as per the Prison rules. He has applied for release on ground of poor socio-economic condition of his family. Based on principles laid down in the passage, which of the following is going to be the likely decision of the Sentence review boards?

- (a) His application for pre-mature release will be accepted as he has served a 14-year sentence in prison.
- (b) His application for pre-mature release will be accepted in light of the poor socio-economic condition of his family.
- (c) His application for pre-mature release will be rejected as the mere fact that he has completed 14 years of his sentence in prison would not by itself entitle him to automatic release.
- (d) His application for pre-mature release will be rejected as he is not yet eligible for such release.

54. Vidur suffers from recurrent attacks of mental illness. Due to this, his decision making ability gets affected when he is under that attack. Recently, he had an argument with Vidyut. Vidyut runs an orphanage for children from age six to fourteen years. Due to their arguments, Vidur in a pretended episode of mental health disorder attack, decided to take revenge from Vidyut by bombing the orphanage. He decided to give effect to his plan and accordingly destroyed the orphanage. He was arrested and convicted for murdering the children in the orphanage. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2008. Recently, in 2024 he has applied for pre-mature release under the Prison Rules. He has applied in light of his deteriorating mental health. Based on principles laid down in the passage, which of the following is going to be the likely decision of the Sentence review boards?

- (a) His application for pre-mature release will be accepted as he has served a 14-year sentence in prison.
- (b) His application for pre-mature release will be accepted as due to his poor mental health condition, he has lost the potential to commit the crime.

(c) His application for pre-mature release will not be rejected if he proves any one of the required condition along with the completion of 14 years of his sentence in prison.

(d) His application for pre-mature release will be rejected as he is not yet eligible for such release.

55. Vidhi was arrested when she was just 17 years old. Her trial ran for three years and it ultimately led to her conviction in February, 1970. She was sentenced to life imprisonment under Protection of Civil Rights Act. In early February, 2024 she has applied for pre-mature release under the Prison Rules. She has applied in light of lost potential to commit crime. However, as on May, 2024 no response is shared by the sentence review board. Based on principles laid down in the passage, select the correct statement?

(i) Vidhi is eligible for premature release as she has undergone minimum 20 years of imprisonment as required.

(ii) Vidhi is eligible for premature release as she has undergone minimum 14 years of imprisonment as required.

(iii) The Sentence review board's act of keeping Vidhi's application pending is in compliance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.

(iv) In light of Vidhi's age, the Sentence review board's act of keeping Vidhi's application pending is not in compliance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.

(a) Both (ii) & (iv) (b) Both (i) & (iv) (c) Both (i) & (iii) (d) Both (ii) & (iii)

56. Vidhit, was convicted by the TADA Court. He was sentenced to death sentence in the year 2000. He filed a mercy plea before the President of India. The ground for such plea was that he is suffering from serious mental disorders. The President stayed the death sentence till the time his plea is being decided. However, due to subsequent changes in government, the plea could not be decided in time. The situation is dire as even in 2020, no response is given on his mercy plea. Accordingly, he has filed a petition before the Supreme Court for commutation of death penalty to life imprisonment. Based on the latest observations laid down by the Supreme Court in Bhullar's case, which of the following is the most likely course of action for the Supreme Court in Vidhit's case?

(a) The Supreme Court may reject Vidhit's petition as his plea is pending before the President of India.

(b) The Supreme Court may accept Vidhit's petition in light of the mental health disorders and unexplained delay in deciding his mercy plea.

(c) The Supreme Court should reject Vidhit's petition as court is not empowered to hear such matters.

(d) Cannot be adequately determined.

57. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): A convicted person, will not be released solely if he has undergone 14 years of his imprisonment.

Reason (R): Completion of 14 years in prison by itself would not entitle a convict to automatic release from the prison and the Sentence Review Board shall have the discretion to recommend to release a convict.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.

(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.

(c) A is true but R is false.

(d) A is false but R is true

PASSAGE-XII

After having raised the issue of whether the clubby and secretive collegium system actually preserves the independence of the judiciary former Supreme Court judge, Justice Markandey Katju, has now trained his guns on India's antiquated contempt of court law. He has made the valid point that judicial supremacy cannot be based on the law of kings in a democracy. Is interference or disruption of the due course of judicial proceedings or the administration of justice amounts to contempt of court? Or, does criticism of a judgment or a judge constitute sufficient ground for invocation of the dreaded law?

While it ought to be the former, in India it's often understood as the latter, as the contempt law has been employed when judges were made targets of personal attacks or to silence criticism of judgments. But scandalizing a judge or a judgment perceived to be flawed cannot be seen to be an illegitimate act that scandalizes the court or seriously undermines public confidence in the administration of justice. In the UK and US, where both civil and criminal contempt laws are in operation, substantial amendments have constrained the powers of judges who might otherwise have acted to vindicate their authority, pomp and majesty which are anathema to a democratic institution.

The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 of India has evolved over time to incorporate amendments that delineated what does not constitute contempt and framed rules to regulate contempt proceedings, yet inconsistencies remain. In 2006, an important amendment to the 1971 Act provided for truth as a valid defence in contempt

proceedings, especially because the law was considered a threat to the fundamental rights to personal liberty and freedom of expression. Not just the doctrine of truth but public interest must be the cornerstones on which the law must be based. The judiciary must ensure that they adhere enough safeguards against arbitrary exercise of the power for contempt of court as provided in this law.

Under Section 2(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, civil contempt has been defined as wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court. Under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, criminal contempt has been defined as the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court, or prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding, or interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from a news report titled “India’s antiquated law on contempt of court restricts personal liberty and must be overhauled”, published by The Times of India.

58. Justice Vidhan of the Punjab and Haryana High Court had delivered a judgment which was highly criticized in the sense that it violated the freedom to practice any religion of the citizens. Justice Vidhan said anyone criticizing the judgment will be held for contempt of court as it is creating a huge sense of doubt among the public toward the judiciary. According to the author, will such criticism amount to contempt of Court?

(a) This does not amount to contempt of court as it is not fair to term mere criticism towards a judgment perceived to be flawed as creating doubt in the minds of the public.

(b) This does not amount to contempt of court because the judgment was criticized on the grounds that the Court did not have the jurisdiction to hear the matter.

(c) This amounts to contempt of court as it has degraded the reputation of a well-known Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

(d) This amounts to contempt of court because the allegations made against the Judge are scandalous in nature.

59. Vidhi is a party in a case being heard by Justice Vidur. During the court proceedings, she said on the basis of proved evidences that Justice Vidur is a family member of the opposite party and therefore she cannot expect that justice will be done in his court as in past instances in the same case, Justice has unreasonably and in a biased manner favoured the opposite party for which he had been served censure by superior authority. Justice Vidur said that she has made scandalous statement in the court and therefore shall be held for the contempt of court. Which of the following can be considered as a correct option?

(a) Vidhi was just exercising her right to freedom of expression, therefore she should be held for contempt of court.

(b) The statement by Vidhi is accurate and is based on sufficient evidence against Vidur.

(c) Vidhi was compelled to state so as she could foresee the Judge making a biased judgment.

(d) None of the above.

60. In a proceeding for breach of contract the court had ordered Vidya to pay Rupees 60,000 as compensation to Vidyut within 10 days from the date when the order was passed and such payment has to be made by deduction of the amount from the given bank account by Vidya. Hence she is required to maintain the required sum in that account. Vidya had two lakh rupees in her bank account but had withdrawn all the money so that she does not have to pay the compensation. Do you think this amounts to contempt of court? If yes, then what type of contempt?

(a) Vidya is not liable for contempt of court as it is her money in the bank account and she has the freedom to use it in any way she wants.

(b) Vidya is liable for criminal contempt of court as she has willingly taken money out of the account so that she does not have to pay compensation.

(c) Vidya is liable for civil contempt as she has willingly disobeyed the order of the court by not maintaining the compensation amount in the bank account.

(d) Vidya is liable for both civil and criminal contempt of court.

61. Vidhi who is a news reporter stated on her news channel that Judges of the Supreme Court work at the order of the Central Government and has been taking bribe for the same. However, she did not have any evidence to support her statement. Therefore, the Supreme Court held her for the contempt of court but Vidhi said that she was just exercising her fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. Select the correct option as per the law given in the passage.

- (a) Vidhi was merely bringing important information to the general public and had no intention to disrespect the court.
- (b) Vidhi is liable for criminal contempt of court as her statement scandalizes the authority of the court and lowers its authority.
- (c) Vidhi is liable for civil contempt of court as she has disobeyed the orders of the court which restricts her from saying anything against the court of law in public.
- (d) None of the above.
- 62.** Which of the following statement is false as per the above passage?
- (a) Civil contempt of court is done when a person tries to lower the authority of the court by words either spoken or written.
- (b) Criminal contempt of court is done when a person wilfully disobeys any order, decree or judgment passed by any court of law.
- (c) Any statement made by a person that interferes with proceeding of the matter at court does not amount to contempt of court.
- (d) All of the above.
- 63.** Do Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts have unrestricted powers to decide on the matters according to their desire?
- (a) Yes, they have been given absolute powers so that they can serve justice to the public.
- (b) No, they do not have absolute powers as there are certain exceptions given under the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 to save the public from any arbitrariness.
- (c) Yes, the courts have unrestricted powers under the Indian Constitution as Judiciary is a separate organ altogether.
- (d) Both (a) and (c).

PASSAGE-XIII

The Delhi High Court has observed that an individual undergoing religious conversion for the purpose of marriage must be fully informed of the legal consequences associated with it and issued a slew of directions for such cases of conversion.

The foremost requirement revolves around ensuring informed consent and comprehensive understanding on the part of the individual undergoing conversion.

To achieve this, it becomes paramount to furnish and inform the individual with exhaustive information concerning the religious doctrines, customs, and practices associated with the chosen faith. It is essential for an individual to grasp the intricacies of this conversion process fully, and for the same, effective communication is important. Essentially, the communication process must align with the linguistic preferences and understanding of the person involved.

The individual undergoing religious conversion for the purpose of marriage must be fully informed of the legal consequences associated with such a conversion. This involves providing a comprehensive explanation of how the conversion may affect the individual's personal status, inheritance rights, maintenance, custody, divorce laws that may come into play.

Furthermore, this Court observes that the individual or the authority who is facilitating the conversion has the utmost responsibility to meticulously verify the identity of the prospective spouse. This verification process is important to ensure transparency and authenticity throughout the conversion and subsequent marriage proceedings.

Additionally, during the performance of marriage ceremonies following the conversion, the individual or the authority who is facilitating the conversion must take an affidavit from the parties detailing the past marital history of the individuals entering into the marital bond. Following affidavits must be obtained at the time of inter-faith marriage after conversion by the concerned persons/authorities, except in cases of marriages performed under Special Marriage Act, 1954, wherein it would be discretionary upon the parties: (a) Affidavit regarding the Age, marital history and marital status and evidence thereof of both the parties. (b) Affidavit that the conversion is being undergone voluntarily after understanding the implications and consequences related to marital divorce, succession, custody and religious rights, etc.

These guidelines will not be applicable to the person converting back to his/her original religion, since the convert is already well-versed with his/her original religion. The Court also observed that it should not be taken to be laying down any law or prescribing any mode of conversion or putting restrictions on conversion but the Courts has laid the guidelines which may be referred to cover the situations till the laws is silent or law

which have been enacted by the Parliament suffer from any lacunae, grey area. The Court has merely laid down its observation in the form of guidelines.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpt from an article titled “Person converting religion for marriage must be informed of legal consequences like inheritance, maintenance: Delhi HC issues directions” published at Live Law.

64. Vidhi and Vidhan have been in a relationship for the past couple of years. They are planning to marry each other. However, due to their different religious backgrounds, the family members are against their relationship. Vidhan’s family wants that Vidhi should convert to Vidhan’s religion. Vidhan communicated this request to Vidhi, who happily agreed. Vidhan tried to inform her about the entire doctrines, customs, and practices associated with his religion. However, Vidhi insisted that all this is not required. She agreed to conversion. They completed the conversion process and performed the marriage ceremony with parents’ blessings. After marriage, Vidhan’s asked his lawyer friend to assist in preparation of affidavit. However, the friend refused, saying that it is not necessary or compulsory for them. Based on the passage, which of the following statements are correct?

- (i) The lawyer is correct as the affidavit requirement as provided by the Delhi High Court is not mandatory.
 - (ii) The lawyer is incorrect as the affidavit pertaining to marital history and consent is made mandatory by the Delhi High Court in all cases of religious conversions.
 - (iii) Vidhi’s conversion is prohibited in light of the guidelines laid down by the Delhi High Court as her consent for conversion is not informed.
- (a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii) (c) Both (i) & (iii) (d) Both (ii) & (iii)

65. Assume in the previous question, an additional fact is added. After her conversion, Vidhi and Vidhan married under the Special Marriage Act. What effect would this additional fact have on the validity of the advice given by the lawyer friend?

- (a) The additional fact would have no effect on the validity of the advice given by the lawyer friend.
- (b) The additional fact would strengthen the validity of the advice given by the lawyer friend.
- (c) The additional fact would weaken the validity of the advice given by the lawyer friend.
- (d) The additional fact would weaken the validity of the advice given by the lawyer friend as the guidelines by Delhi High Court create an exception for marriage under Special Marriage Act.

66. Vidya, currently a Muslim and Vidyut, a Hindu have been in a relationship for the past couple of years. They are planning to marry each other. However, due to their different religious backgrounds, the family members are against their relationship. Vidyut’s family wants that Vidya should convert to Vidyut’s religion. Vidyut communicated this request to Vidya. Vidyut did not inform her about the entire doctrines, customs, and practices associated with his religion. She agreed to conversion. After her conversion, they performed the marriage ceremony. At the time of marriage, both the parties submitted affidavits. After marriage, Vidya has challenged her conversion claiming that it is not in compliance with the guidelines. In light of the facts mentioned, which of the following if proved true would, on its own, weaken her claim?

Note: Proceed on the assumption that the guidelines by the Delhi High Court has comprehensively become part of a law by Parliament and is enforceable throughout India.

- (a) The information about the doctrines, customs, and practices associated with religion was not exhaustive.
- (b) Their marriage ceremony was done under the Special Marriage Act.
- (c) The information about the doctrines, customs, and practices associated with religion was not in alignment with Vidya’s linguistic preferences.
- (d) Vidya was a Hindu prior to her conversion to Muslim religion.

67. With regards to the guidelines laid down by the Delhi High Court, which of the following is not correct?

- (a) The guidelines is applicable only on religious conversion done for the purpose of marriage.
- (b) In all cases of religious conversion, it is mandatory for both the parties to submit an affidavit pertaining to their age, marital history and their consent.
- (c) Individual undergoing religious conversion for the purpose of marriage must be fully informed of the legal consequences associated with such a conversion.
- (d) Individual who is facilitating the conversion has the utmost responsibility to meticulously verify the identity of the prospective spouse.

68. If, Parliament, being a competent authority, enacts a law to deal with legal process and formalities related to such religious conversion, then which of the following statement is correct?

- (i) Such a law will be invalid as the Delhi High Court has already released comprehensive guidelines to deal with such conversion.

- (ii) Such a law will be valid and will prevail over the guidelines.
 (iii) Even after the enactment of such a valid law, the guidelines will be relevant to deal with any lacunae under such law.
 (iv) Such a law will be valid provided it incorporates the guidelines laid down by the Delhi High Court.
- (a) Both (ii) & (iii) (b) Only (ii) (c) Both (i) & (iv) (d) Only (iv)

PASSAGE-XIV

In a Muslim man's plea against direction to pay interim maintenance to his divorced wife, the Supreme Court is set to consider the question whether a Muslim woman is entitled to maintain a petition under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Section 125 states that if any person having sufficient means neglects or refuses to maintain— (a) his wife which includes divorced wife who has not yet remarried, unable to maintain herself, or (b) his legitimate or illegitimate minor child, whether married or not, unable to maintain itself, or (c) his legitimate or illegitimate child (not being a married daughter) who has attained majority, where such child is, by reason of any physical or mental abnormality or injury unable to maintain itself, or (d) his father or mother, unable to maintain himself or herself, a Magistrate of the first class may, upon proof of such neglect or refusal, order such person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife or such child, father or mother, at such monthly rate as such Magistrate thinks fit.

Provided that the Magistrate may order the father of a minor female child referred to in clause (b) to make such allowance, until she attains her majority, if the Magistrate is satisfied that the husband of such minor female child, if married, is not possessed of sufficient means. Provided further that the Magistrate may, during the pendency of the proceeding regarding monthly allowance for the maintenance under this sub-section, order such person to make a monthly allowance for the interim maintenance of his wife or such child, father or mother, and the expenses of such proceeding which the Magistrate considers reasonable. Provided also that an application for the monthly allowance for the interim maintenance and expenses of proceeding under the second proviso shall, be disposed of within sixty days from the date of the service of notice of the application to such person.

If any person so ordered fails without sufficient cause to comply with the order, any such Magistrate may, for every breach of the order, may sentence such person, to imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or until payment if sooner made.

The expression "sufficient means" does not signify only visible means such as real property or definite employment. If a man is healthy and able-bodied, he must be held to possess the means such as real property or definite employment. The words 'sufficient means' should not be confined to the actual pecuniary resources but should have reference to the earning capacity.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpt from an article titled "Can Divorced Muslim Woman File For Maintenance Under Section 125 CrPC? Supreme Court To Consider" published at Live Law.

69. Vidhit is a single child. His parents worked very hard for giving him a good life. They ensured that he was given everything that he needed. Their efforts paid off when Vidhit became an IAS officer with a good salary. However, due to the nature of his job, Vidhit had to move out of his parents' home. This led to emotional trauma for the parents. In addition, the parents were struggling to maintain themselves. Accordingly, they asked Vidhit to take them with him. If that is not possible, he should at least make sure that they are well off. However, Vidhit refused to accept either of the demands. Aggrieved by such refusal, the father has filed for maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Based on the passage, decide whether father's application for maintenance will be accepted?

- (a) Yes, only if it's adequately proved that Vidhit has sufficient properties and cash reserved to maintain the parents.
 (b) No, as Vidhit does not have the sufficient means to maintain his parents.
 (c) Yes, as despite having sufficient means, Vidhit is refusing to maintain his parents.
 (d) No, as both the parents are not entitled to claim maintenance under Section 125.

70. Vidhi and Vidhan have been married for the past decade. Recently, Vidhi cheated on Vidhan and accordingly he decided to obtain divorce from her. For the time being the divorce proceedings were pending, Vidhan started living in a separate home. Since, he had a high paying job, he could look after himself. However, Vidhi was finding it difficult to maintain herself. She asked for assistance from Vidhan but he ignored these demands. Aggrieved Vidhi has filed an application for maintenance under Section 125. The Magistrate after taking into

account the facts of the case, ordered Vidhan to pay quarterly maintenance to Vidhi. Based on the principles in the passage, decide whether the Magistrate's order is in compliance with Section 125?

- (a) Yes, as Vidhan has neglected to maintain Vidhi despite having sufficient means.
- (b) No, as Section 125 does not provide for such maintenance order by the Magistrate.
- (c) Yes, as the Magistrate is authorised to make such order for maintenance as he thinks fit.
- (d) No, as it is not adequately proved that Vidhan has directly refused to maintain Vidhi.

71. Vidushi, a minor unmarried child, is suffering from serious physical disabilities. Initially her father paid all the costs for her medical treatment. However, over time this affected her father's financial position and he would have to sell one of the property from his huge collection to meet the medical expenses. Eventually, he decided to not incur any more expenses. Aggrieved, Vidushi has filed for maintenance under Section 125. The Magistrate of First class took note of all the relevant circumstances including the financial position and accordingly ordered the father to pay monthly allowance for Vidushi's maintenance. Vidushi's father obliged with the order for few months and eventually stopped making the maintenance payment. In light of such refusal and lack of sufficient reasons, the magistrate sentenced Vidushi's father for one month imprisonment. Vidushi's father requested that the term of imprisonment be reduced. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The magistrate's order for imprisonment is wrong as Vidushi's father had sufficient cause for not complying with the maintenance order.
- (b) The magistrate's order for imprisonment is correct and accordingly Vidushi's father will have to mandatorily undergo imprisonment for the entire month in all cases.
- (c) The magistrate's order for imprisonment is incorrect as Vidushi's father do not have the sufficient means to maintain her daughter.
- (d) The magistrate's order for imprisonment is correct and Vidushi's father will have to undergo such imprisonment till the time he does not make the payment.

72. Vidya and Vidhata have been married for the past decade. However, recently their marriage has broken down. Accordingly, Vidya has approached the Court under Section 125 of CrPC. The Magistrate on March 1st, 2024, has asked for proof regarding refusal by Vidhata and has posted the case for next hearing. Vidya requested the court to provide her some relief as she will need assistance till the next hearing as well. The magistrate directed that without proof of refusal, final maintenance amount cannot be ordered. However, in the meantime, the Magistrate has directed Vidhata to pay a fixed amount till the next hearing date after fulfilling the requirements. He has also directed Vidhata to pay expenses for the legal proceedings. Based on the passage, decide which of the following is correct?

- (a) The order is correct as Section 125 allows the Magistrate to direct payment of interim maintenance as well as reasonable expenses.
- (b) The order is incorrect as payment of any maintenance cannot be ordered under Section 125 until refusal or neglect is proved.
- (c) The order is partially correct as only interim maintenance can be ordered.
- (d) The order is incorrect as according to Section 125, the Magistrate has to dispose the matter finally within the same hearing.

73. Assume in the previous question, certain facts are substituted. On March 1st, 2024, the day of hearing when magistrate posted the case on next hearing and ordered Vidya to prove the refusal to maintain by Vidhata on such next hearing, the application for interim maintenance was filed and was not decided on the same date. The next date of hearing granted by the Magistrate is at the end of May, 2024. What effect would this above mentioned fact have on the validity of the proceedings with respect to interim maintenance in light of Section 125 if the order for interim maintenance is passed on the date fixed in May, 2024?

- (a) The introduction of this additional fact would not affect the validity of the proceedings.
- (b) The introduction of this additional fact would affect the validity of the proceedings.
- (c) The introduction of this additional fact would have no effect on the validity of the proceedings.
- (d) Cannot be adequately determined.

PASSAGE-XV

The Allahabad High Court has held that Azaan can be recited by a Muezzin without using any amplifying devices such as loud-speakers. The Court also held that playing Azaan through sound amplifying devices is not protected under Article 25 of the Constitution of India. Article 25 guarantees the freedom of conscience, the freedom to profess, practice, and propagate religion to all citizens. The protection is granted to an essential religious practice. Fundamental Rights are enforceable against the State. By filing an ordinary lawsuit in a court

of law, a private person or body can be held liable for violating religious rights. However, writ petition is maintainable only against the state.

"Therefore, it is held that Azaan may be an essential and integral part of Islam but use of loud speakers or other sound amplifying devices cannot be said to be an integral part of any religion, warranting protection of the fundamental right enshrined under Article 25 of the Constitution of India, which is even otherwise subject to public order, morality or health and to other provisions of part III of the Constitution of India (which includes right to life and personal liberty as protected under Article 21 of Constitution)."

The order passed by a Court states, "Therefore, until and unless there is a license/permission from the authorities concerned under the Noise Pollution Rules, under no circumstances, any sound amplifying devices can be used even for any religious activity."

The petitioners' counsel contended that the ban on Azaan through sound amplifying devices was in violation of Article 25 of the Constitution of India. It was further pleaded that in case any such congressional prayer is organized at any Mosque in violation of social distancing guidelines, the same would be illegal and stopped by the authorities.

However, in the present case, the pronouncement of Azaan is not a congressional practice, but simply an act of recitation by a single individual, calling believers to offer Namaz at their homes. Therefore, it was argued that Azaan is not in violation of the lockdown conditions. Essential practices are those that are accepted by majority of the followers as a method of achieving their spiritual upliftment and the fact that such a practice was recently introduced cannot make it any less a matter of religion. For example: Fasting during Ramdaan.

It was additionally contended that such recital with loud speakers of Azaan was contrary to Rule 5 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, which states that a loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used except after obtaining written permission from the concerned authority.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from article titled "Reciting Azaan through sound-amplifying devices not an integral part of Islam, not protected under Article 25 of Constitution: Allahabad HC", published at 'Bar and Bench'.

74. Due to the continuing Covid-19 lockdown imposed by State, wherein no gathering of people other than house members was allowed, Vidhi was prevented from doing a KanyaBhoj. KanyaBhoj is a rite of honouring nine young girls and feeding them delicacies during the Navratri festival. Vidhi, fasting during these holy days, feels that if she does not conduct KanyaBhoj by inviting girls from neighbourhood, God will not accept her prayer and devotion fully. Vidhi has decided to submit a petition to contest a violation of her constitutionally granted fundamental right under Article 25. Based on legal principles laid down in the passage, select the correct statement.

- (a) KanyaBhoj is an important religious activity, and Vidhi's plea will be granted.
- (b) Vidhi right to religion has been infringed upon, and a petition filed by her will be granted.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).
- (d) Vidhi petition will be dismissed even if it is considered an essential religious practice as Article 25 is subject to public order, morality or health.

75. Vidhaan Ji intended to host Mata ka Jagrata, which is an essential religious practice, at his home. The organisers set up unlicensed 14 loudspeakers at and around Vidhaan Ji's location, as well as blocking the road with temporary tents for setup. When his neighbours complained about the noise, Vidhaan Ji labelled his neighbours as anti-religious and threatened to sue them for violating his religious liberties. As an advocate, which of the following is the most effective counter-argument to Vidhaan's case?

- (a) Loudspeakers and roadblocks for religious festivals are not considered important religious practises.
- (b) Jagrata cannot be held without polluting the environment or causing annoyance to others.
- (c) Religious right violations cannot be brought against private individuals, such as neighbours.
- (d) All of the above.

76. In Kerala, a small group of people of the religious community known as the Christian Malit practise purifying a child's soul by tossing infants from the church's tower to fight off evil and provide good fortune to the child throughout his life. Following an incident that led in the deaths of two new-borns, the Kerala government banned the practise and declared it a criminal offence. When a few toddlers were ill due to the spread of malaria a month later, the group's people saw it as God's punishment for not following the religious ritual of cleaning the child's soul. The group leader calls for the restriction to be lifted, describing it as a necessary religious practise. Decide.

- (a) The ban must be lifted because it infringes on people's religious liberties by restricting their fundamental religious practises.

(b) Ban will remain in place because throwing a youngster from a tower does not protect him from the horrors. It's only a hypocrisy and unscientific conduct.

(c) The restriction will remain in place because Article 25 is subject to reasonable restrictions.

(d) Both (b) and (c)

77. Due to the Covid 19 epidemic which is highly transmittable and an increase in the number of Covid 19 cases, the Bombay Municipal Corporation has made it mandatory to cremate all deceased persons infected with the virus, regardless of their religious beliefs. The Pari community protests the BMC's policies, which follow the religious practices of placing the dead body on a tower of silence where it is eaten by vultures and other birds. It was held in a case to be an essential religious practice of the said community. Which of the following is the most effective legal argument against body's disposal via tower of silence?

(a) The spread of Covid 19 will be caused by the dumping of a dead body on a tower of silence.

(b) The ban will be upheld since there existed no right in respect of the said religious belief in any case.

(c) The ban will be sustained because the right to practise religion is subject to reasonable restrictions on the ground of public health.

(d) All of the above.

78. For Muslims, Ramdaan is a holy month in which they fast. Abdul, is a Muslim who works as a cab driver for Hola, a renowned private cab service provider. Hola has prohibited all of their drivers from keeping any kind of fasting for the duration of the week. This is because fasting results in inefficiency which prevents the workers from taking more rides during peak working hours. Abdul brought a writ petition against Hola for infringement of Article 25. Decide if Abdul's case will succeed.

(a) No, as Abdul cannot enforce freedom of religion against Hola.

(b) Yes, because fasting qualifies as an essential religious practice.

(c) No, as since fasting causes one to lose physical strength, which is something that cannot be tolerated in the cab driving business.

(d) Fasting is not a religious practise in any faith, hence Abdul will lose.

PASSAGE-XVI

Although the term "witness" is widely used in criminal law, it hasn't been defined properly in the statute books. However, Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.) dealt with the examination of witnesses and allowed investigating police officers to orally examine anyone "supposed to be acquainted" with the case's facts and circumstances. It also said the witness is bound to answer all questions "truly" but needn't answer questions that expose them to criminal charges, penalties, or forfeiture. Notably, Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which has replaced the CrPC, states that every state government shall prepare and notify a Witness Protection Scheme for the state to ensure the protection of witnesses. In *Swaran Singh vs. State of Punjab* (2000), the SC observed that a criminal case is built upon the edifice of evidence that is admissible in law, and for that, witnesses are of paramount importance. And yet, witnesses in India are mistreated, given no facilities, and face the danger of bodily harm, death, abduction, and threats, besides other forms of mental and physical harassment. Several witnesses also turn hostile. A hostile witness, also known as an adverse witness or an unfavorable witness, is a witness at trial whose testimony on direct examination is either openly antagonistic or appears to be contrary to the legal position of the party who called the witness. If one is unable to testify in courts due to threats or other pressures, then it is a clear violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Fourteenth Report of the Law Commission came out in 1958 and highlighted the tribulations commonly encountered by witnesses, like difficulty in accessing courts owing to expenses, travel, time, and frequent adjournments.

There are certain people who are unable to testify or give evidence to the court due to certain additional difficulties like mental disorders, physically handicapped or are unable to cope due to intelligence impairments, and are minors of age below 18 years of age. Such people are termed as vulnerable witnesses. The Supreme Court, due to lack of any substantive law, in 2017, released a set of guidelines for the protection of vulnerable witnesses in India. It provides that the court can grant protection to vulnerable witnesses if it considers it reasonable and justified. Section 13 of the guidelines states that the vulnerable witness shall be allowed a pre-trial visit of the court to get familiarized with the surroundings. Section 24 states that the court shall make sure that the witness is in a comfortable environment.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Security for 2002 Gujarat riots witnesses withdrawn: Everything you need to know about witness protection in India", published in the Indian Express, December 31, 2023.

79. During investigation of a high-profile corruption in Delhi, a key prosecution witness, Mr. Vidhan, initially provides crucial statement to the police implicating several influential figures. However, he received several warnings by the various accused threatening him of dire consequences if he testifies against them in Court. Fearful for his safety, he retracts his statements during the trial, and makes statements against the prosecution. In the light of the passage, select the most appropriate statement.

- (a) Vidhan has not turned hostile as he was coerced to retract from the statements made by him initially.
- (b) Vidhan has turned hostile as he has made statements contrary to the position of the prosecution.
- (c) Vidhan has turned hostile as he has made statements contrary to his initial statements given to the police officers.
- (d) Vidhan has not turned hostile as witnesses in India are mistreated, given no facilities, and face the danger of bodily harm, death, abduction, etc.

80. In 2024, a 16 year old person is considered to be a crucial witness for the prosecution side in a murder case in Madhya Pradesh. Due to this, she was subject to harassment and intimidation from individuals, which were connected to the accused. Fearing for her safety, Veena approaches the court to seek witness protection. In the light of the passage, decide whether the Court will grant protection to Veena and what would be the likely decision of the Court?

- (a) Yes, the Court can grant protection to Veena if justified as she is a vulnerable witness.
- (b) No, the Court will deny the request for witness protection as it might lead to perceived biasness in the trial.
- (c) Yes, the Court can grant protection to Veena as witnesses are of paramount importance.
- (d) No, the Court will deny the request for witness protection as no law exist in India which provides such protection.

81. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is provided. Suppose that the state government of Madhya Pradesh in 2024 enacted a Witness Protection Scheme for the state to ensure the protection of certain witnesses in light with the Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The witness protection scheme provides the power to the trial courts to mandatorily grant protection to said witnesses if there is an imminent danger to the life of an adult witness. The scheme would be the sole binding legal principle for the adult witness and for others the earlier principle will continue to operate. What would be the effect of additional fact on Veena's request for protection?

- (a) The additional fact would strengthen Veena's application for protection.
- (b) The additional fact would weaken Veena's application for protection.
- (c) The additional fact would strengthen Veena's application for protection as a specific law itself provides the power to Court to grant protection to such witnesses.
- (d) The additional fact would have no effect on Veena's application for protection.

82. In a high profile narcotics case in Indore, the police wanted to examine Vikas about the case as he had closely worked with the accused in their business and if suitable he can be made a prosecution witness. The accused and Vikas were former business partners specifically during the time when the offence are alleged to have been committed, but later they became rivals due to differences in business. The defense counsel argues that examining and making Vikas as a witness would be incorrect as he is bound to give incorrect statements against the accused as they are business rivals. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vikas can be examined or not by the investigating officer.

- (a) No, as being a former business partner and rival, he is bound to make statements which would lead to the implication of accused in the crime.
- (b) Yes, as being a business partner during the time when offence is alleged to be committed, he can be supposed to be acquainted with case's facts and circumstances.
- (c) No, as Vikas is an interested witness, hence his testimony cannot be considered as a conclusive proof and must be avoided.
- (d) Yes, as criminal case is built upon the edifice of evidence that is admissible in law.

83. Which of the following statements is true regarding the witness protection measures in Indian criminal law as described in the passage?

- (a) The term "witness" has been explicitly defined in the Indian Penal Code.
- (b) Section 161 CrPC allows investigating officers to orally examine anyone acquainted with the facts of a case.
- (c) The Witness Protection Scheme was implemented after the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003, was passed.
- (d) The Supreme Court of India has never shown concerns in respect of the protection of witness which plays a vital role in trial.

84. Based on the passage about witness protection in Indian criminal law, which of the following cannot be inferred?

- (a) The Supreme Court of India has recognized the importance of witness protection in cases like Swaran Singh vs. State of Punjab.
- (b) The guidelines released by the Supreme Court are aimed at protection of vulnerable witnesses such as people from mental disorders, physical disabilities etc.
- (c) The Criminal Law as stood before the 2017 guidelines, successfully addressed all issues related to witness protection in trial courts.
- (d) The Law Commission of India has highlighted the challenges faced by witnesses in its reports.

Section D-Logical Reasoning

PASSAGE-XVII

According to physiotherapists, many complications arising out of the wrong work practices are being reported by techies. This includes sitting for long hours in one place and working to meet the deadline, thereby causing stress. Physiotherapist Anjali Suresh says, "Wrong sitting posture, long working hours and sedentary lifestyle are increasing health issues among the IT employees. All these lead to irreversible damage to the spine, mainly the lower back and neck. Techies between 30 and 40 complain the most of these health issues lately. Sitting for straight 12 hours without a break has forced many techies to seek treatment." Anjali says posture correction at work and other healthy habits can help keep such lifestyle diseases at bay. "While sitting, care should be taken to maintain the spinal curves and lean against the chair back comfortably. Techies should also keep their heads in such a way that the distance between the screen and the person's eyes is maintained. The feet should rest on the floor and the knee placed at right angles. Many cases of tennis elbow, a condition caused by repeated stress on the elbow tendons, are also being reported among IT employees. The keyboard and mouse should be placed in the keyboard tray with the wrist kept in a slightly dropping or neutral position." Dr Rajathilakam N K, a pulmonologist at the district hospital, Kollam, said weight gain is yet another issue techies are reporting in the last two years. "Some have even shown symptoms of depression and stress. However, due to the use of masks, respiratory diseases have decreased," he says.

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "Techies in grip of lifestyle diseases" published at 'https://www.newindianexpress.com/']

85. Which of the following strengthens the author's argument that long working hours and sedentary lifestyle are increasing health issues among the IT employees?

- (a) Earning money is essential to survive today.
- (b) Health should not cost lower than wealth.
- (c) Eating junk food necessarily worsens the situation.
- (d) None of the above.

86. Which of the following can be inferred from the given statement "Longer sitting hours risks the spinal cord"?

- (a) People on wheelchair have spine related issues.
- (b) To prevent spinal cord related problems, one should acquire short sitting hours.
- (c) Jobs with very long working hours decrease body movement and can lead to backaches.
- (d) None of the above.

87. Which of the following assumptions must be true for the above arguments to be true?

- (a) Some IT professional faces severe backache problems.
- (b) Sitting for short hours leads to healthy lifestyle.
- (c) Lack of body movement lead to physical and mental ailments.
- (d) Sabotaging health has become common nowadays.

88. Which one of the following can be inferred from the given passage EXCEPT?

- (a) Improper sitting posture, long working hours and sedentary lifestyle can lead to irreversible damage to the spine.
- (b) Adopting of correct posture correction at work and other such healthy habits can help keep mental and physical distress at bay.
- (c) Unhealthy habit of longer sitting hours does not reflect on weighing scale.
- (d) Exercising regularly during morning and walking before sleep can be beneficial for mental health and it can reverse spinal damage.

89. A sedentary lifestyle can give rise to all of the following except-
- A damaged spinal cord condition which has no hope of reversal and thus poses a permanent threat.
 - Stressful life leading to a depressed personality.
 - Increased levels of reversible and controlled lifestyle diseases.
 - Obesity and damaged elbow tendons.
90. Which of the following causes dangerous repercussions in the life of the techies except?
- Complexities in the work practices generally followed by the techies.
 - The sitting posture followed by the techies.
 - Weight gain of the employees because of sedentary lifestyle followed.
 - The use of the masks causing respiratory diseases to skyrocket.

PASSAGE-XVIII

A materialist view of the world might strike you as characteristically modern and Western. In fact, it isn't quite so modern, as Democritus was talking about reality consisting of 'atoms and the void' 2,500 years ago. You might be itching to tell me that the idea is not originally a Western one, either. Nevertheless, let's acknowledge that, for most of history, most people have lived with an explicitly *dualist* understanding of reality: they've thought that the world consists of what we might call 'lumps of stuff' on the one hand, and minds, spirits, or souls on the other. Yet what a great number of us think these days is that consciousness is not some non-physical thing, but something physical which emerges from the processes of the brain.

All of this is, of course, hugely controversial, and the philosopher David Chalmers for instance has vigorously defended a form of what is called 'property dualism', which suggests that while physics has managed to explain all manner of natural phenomena, it will stumble and fail to find a purely physical account of consciousness. Consciousness is, for Chalmers, a unique example of what he calls a 'strongly emergent property'. In the other corner of this philosophical heavyweight contest stands Daniel Dennett. Dennett's position is that while consciousness is presently mysterious, the physical sciences will yield its secrets in good time.

All of this is very interesting, but the important point for us is that even Chalmers does not question that consciousness emerges from the physical brain (he says that it 'supervenes' upon it) but only that we can never understand how it does so. No matter; the fact that you can radically alter my consciousness by hitting me over the head or drugging me suffices to demonstrate that my mind is, somehow or other, bound up with the operation of my brain. As we shall see, we know quite a bit about what parts of the brain do what, and this knowledge is going to be very important to us in what follows.

91. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about the 'property dualism' defended by David Chalmers?
- The consciousness is not a process emerging physical brain instead is a natural phenomenon.
 - The consciousness is emerged from physical brain no matter how mysterious it is displayed by the philosophers.
 - The consciousness has no relation with the physical world and has its own world built.
 - The philosophers are trying to bend the definition of consciousness by excluding its physical significance.
92. What can be reasonably inferred about the author's view on functions of brain?
- The functions of brain do not include the consciousness as a physical process.
 - The brain functioning is a part of the physical process but not consciousness.
 - The consciousness is a part of brain functioning and is also a physical process.
 - The brain functioning differs from person to person.
93. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the points given by Chalmers regarding consciousness?
- A person with high consciousness can change a physical form of being.
 - The science has proven that even consciousness is a part of the physical sciences.
 - Although not being proven in physical sciences, consciousness emerges from the physical brain.
 - The consciousness is presently mysterious but is definitely a part of physical brain.
94. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- Consciousness is a strongly emergent property.
 - Consciousness can be disturbed by a physical force.
 - Consciousness is yet to be discovered to be proven in the physical sciences.
 - The physical science has failed in explaining the relation of consciousness with physical brain.

95. Which of the following would most accurately reflect the author's initial approach on the processing of the brain?

- (a) Different people have varying approaches towards relation of consciousness with the physical brain.
- (b) Maximum number of people still think that consciousness is not a physical process.
- (c) People have evolved in the matter of connecting the functions of brain with consciousness.
- (d) People these days connect the consciousness with the functioning of soul rather than brain.

96. With which of the following is the author most likely to disagree?

- (a) David Chalmers is of the belief that consciousness somehow emerges from the physical brain.
- (b) Daniel Dennett is optimistic about the connection between consciousness and the physical sciences.
- (c) The idea of the atoms being a unit of the material world is a decently modern one.
- (d) None of the above.

PASSAGE-XIX

The Genome India Project, a project funded and coordinated by the Department of Biotechnology, announced that it had finished sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes. This means that the complete genomes — the DNA blueprint that constitutes and maintains human bodies — from 10,000 individuals were analysed to create a 'reference' Indian human genome. India first sequenced a human genome in 2006. In a way, the latest enterprise would be akin to the creation of the first ever detailed map of India — with all political units, key geographical and topographical features — as opposed to a world map prepared elsewhere, with India just one of several countries and devoid of granular detail. Are 10,000 individuals representative of a country of over a billion? Surely not. But for now, it is the best there is and forms a vital template, the basis on which many more insights can be prised. The most immediate application is in combating disease. In 2009, geneticists in India, as part of an international collaboration, discovered that an aberration in a protein, MYBPC3 (cardiac myosin binding protein C), was correlated with a high risk of heart failure. This genetic variant was present in approximately 4% of those of Indian ancestry — a higher than expected number given that this problematic variant is rare.

India has close to 4,500 population groups and the subcontinent's history of being ordered along caste lines through endogamy implies that rare genetic variants, many harmful, that ordinarily through the course of evolution ought to have died out, persist. When the Human Genome Project published its reference 'human genome' in 2003, at a cost of nearly \$3 billion, it rang with a 'brave-new-world' promise of humanity having finally decoded the secrets of the genome, mapping every awry gene to a disease and a future of 'personalised medicine'. Much of Genome India's sales pitch reflects similar promises. However, the subsequent decades have tempered such expectations. For one, only a small fraction of disease is monogenic (determined by a single gene). Despite advances in knowledge of how rare, inherited genes caused debilitating disease, little could be done as the necessary medicines, if discovered, were usually too expensive for those in need. In other words, genome sequencing only opened up new realms of complexity. While Genome India should go beyond the 10,000 mark, it must also be truly democratic. The findings ought not be locked up in the ivory towers of academia and should involve imaginative collaborations with scientists, students, technology companies, ethicists and social scientists to push forward India's understanding of itself.

Source: Decoding the script: On the Genome India Project and its sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes, The Hindu, 2 March, 2024.

97. Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that Genome India should expand beyond the initial 10,000 genomes sequenced?

- (a) Confirmation that the genetic diversity represented by the initial 10,000 genomes includes members from every one of India's 4,500 population groups.
- (b) Evidence that increasing the number of sequenced genomes significantly enhances the accuracy of genetic research and its applications in medicine.
- (c) Reports that the initial 10,000 genomes have already provided sufficient data to solve most genetic puzzles in India.
- (d) Statistical data showing that the cost of genome sequencing has drastically increased, making further research unfeasible.

98. Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's discussion about the limitations of disease prediction and treatment despite advances in genetic research?

- (a) Personalized medicine based on genetic information will eventually become affordable and accessible to everyone in need.

- (b) The genetic basis of most diseases is too complex to be understood through the analysis of a single gene.
- (c) All genetic variants that contribute to disease have already been identified and cataloged by current genomic studies.
- (d) The discovery of genetic variants alone is sufficient to cure diseases associated with those variants.
- 99.** Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated above that findings from genome sequencing should be shared beyond the academic community?
- (a) A policy mandating that all genomic data be restricted to government research institutions for exclusive analysis.
- (b) An initiative that promotes partnerships between academic scientists and private biotech companies to develop applications from genomic data.
- (c) A decision to patent all new genetic discoveries and limit their use to those who can afford to pay royalties.
- (d) A ruling that all genetic research funded by public money must remain confidential to protect participant privacy.
- 100.** Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that the Genome India Project should involve collaborations beyond academia?
- (a) Research demonstrating that collaborative efforts between academia and industry have historically led to faster and more efficient application of scientific discoveries.
- (b) A survey showing that most academic researchers prefer to work independently rather than in collaboration with industry or technology companies.
- (c) Evidence that genome data from the Genome India Project has been used exclusively by academic institutions to publish papers without practical application.
- (d) Statistical data indicating that the costs of genome sequencing are significantly lower when conducted within academic settings only.
- 101.** Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that a comprehensive understanding of India's genetic diversity requires sequencing more than 10,000 genomes?
- (a) Confirmation that the genetic makeup of the initial 10,000 genomes represents less than half of India's 4,500 population groups.
- (b) Evidence showing that the 10,000 genomes already sequenced capture over 95% of genetic variants present in the entire Indian population.
- (c) Reports that genetic variants identified from the initial 10,000 genomes have already led to significant breakthroughs in treating monogenic diseases.
- (d) Statistical data indicating that the genetic diversity within the sequenced 10,000 genomes is equivalent to that found in other global genome projects.
- 102.** Which of the following cannot be derived from the sentence, 'The findings ought not be locked up in the ivory towers of academia and should involve imaginative collaborations with scientists, students, technology companies, ethicists and social scientists to push forward India's understanding of itself.'?
- (a) India's research on its own DNA should be all encompassing and inclusive,
- (b) The academic circles usually maintain a distance with the common man.
- (c) A multidimensional concerted efforts will hardly be sufficient for the understanding of the Indian genome.
- (d) The objectives, process and findings of the research should be transparent.

PASSAGE-XX

There was a time when I was sleeping rough when you could get sandwiches out of a bin round the back of the local supermarket. We would climb over the wall after closing time, take them out of the skip, then pass them around. There weren't a lot of places you could get food back then, but eventually the security guard came and told us we couldn't be there. I was a teenager at the time, and we explained that we weren't stealing anything, we just wanted to feed ourselves; but after that, the guards started to throw blue ink all over the sandwiches. This didn't deter us. We kept coming back, to fish around at the bottom of the bins for the ones the ink hadn't reached. So they responded by replacing the ink with bleach – opening the packs first and pouring it on, so we couldn't tell which ones had been affected. It seemed a pointless sort of cruelty to me, but that's the reality facing people experiencing homelessness on the streets.

On another occasion I was attacked while I was sleeping, in a doorway. Kicked awake. That's what would happen if you were sleeping out in the open – you would be at the mercy of people who had had too many drinks. I was 15 at the time. Sleeping on the street is terrifying. You feel vulnerable anyway, but for that to happen, and for people to be laughing – it makes it hard to maintain your sense of self. It becomes easy to believe that you are just some rubbish on the street, for people to treat however they want.

My experience was frightening, but it was far from unique. And although my homelessness ended years ago, new research released by Crisis shows these sorts of experiences remain common. Based on interviews with more than 150 people who all slept rough within the last two years, the study represents the most detailed survey of street homelessness in years. Worryingly, it shows that for people who sleep on the streets, life is only getting more dangerous, with the proportion of those surveyed who have experienced violence having risen from 48% in 2016 to 61% in 2023. The proportion of people who have had belongings stolen has risen from 54% to 75%.

Overall, nine in 10 of those surveyed reported experiencing violence or abuse – up from 79%. Half have been physically attacked – up from 35%. One in five had someone urinate on or next to them (up from 9%) and 53% have had items – including bricks and beer cans – thrown at them. In the vast majority of cases (86%), the perpetrator of these last attacks was a member of the public.

Violence, abuse and danger. Unfortunately, as the survey shows, that is the reality facing more than 3,000 people sleeping rough in England. And, most worryingly, as Crisis opens its Christmas services – providing support to more than 7,000 people facing homelessness, including almost 600 sleeping rough in London – rough sleeping numbers are likely to rise even further. Official statistics show there has already been a 14% increase in rough sleeping in England in the two years to autumn 2022 – and it is up by 74% since 2010. As rents soar and the cost of living crisis goes on, it's likely we will see that growth continue.

More people are being forced to sleep on the street, and when they do, they are facing greater risk. Yet instead of offering support, the government ramps up its rhetoric – announcing plans, set out in the criminal justice bill that would criminalise rough sleeping and push people further away from support. This is backed by the prospect of fines of up to £2,500, a month's imprisonment, or both. None of this will help. It will simply mean more fear, abuse and harassment. Because that realisation that you have nowhere to go is frightening in itself, even before you consider the risk of assault. A group of lads piling in and kicking me was actually, in some ways, not the worst thing. I understood the pain would pass, but that feeling that you can't protect yourself remains every night.

I've been thinking a lot about it, these past few weeks. I left homelessness behind years ago – I work in frontline support now, to help others end theirs – but that feeling stays with you. It's strange but I can still feel it, in the pit of my stomach. There is a level of cold that stays with you. I still feel it sometimes, in my bones, even now. It's a despairing cold, as though no matter what happens, you won't get warm again. We can't allow more people to feel the same thing in decades to come. We can't allow more people to live in fear. And with the right political commitment, we won't have to.

We can end homelessness. It will take work, and cooperation, because resources are tight. But if we work together, and if the government listens and commits resources, then we can end all forms of homelessness. It won't be a quick fix. We need more social housing, and we need a social security system that treats people with dignity.

My own route out wasn't straightforward. It took a number of years, and I needed support and access to stable housing, but my story shows it is possible. I never tell the people I work with that it's going to be easy, because it won't be. But there's a route there, and we know it works. I am proof of that. Ending homelessness altogether is the same. It won't be easy, but there's a route there, if we want to take it.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/dec/21/> -

103. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument about the criminalization of rough sleeping?

- (a) The criminalization of rough sleeping is not only unfair but also dangerous to the life of the homeless people.
- (b) The homeless people not finding places to sleep will be pushed to more fear, abuse and harassment.
- (c) The criminalization of rough sleeping is a step further to support the homeless people who can seek a proper shelter and support.
- (d) The criminalization of rough sleeping will push the chances of saving homeless people further away putting their safety at stake.

104. Based on the passage, which of the following statements accurately reflects the present mental state of the author?

- (a) The author has recovered from the mental trauma and is now completely dedicated towards fixing the social security system.
- (b) The author still feels unsafe and vulnerable resulting in not being able to work on the problem alone.

- (c) The author is confident that one day the social security system will be working on the dignity of homeless people.
- (d) The author feels empathetic about the current situation of homelessness and is working on the political and social welfare.
- 105.** Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the argument made by the author for changing the state of homelessness?
- (a) It is impossible to entirely end the homelessness from a place and it will take the whole community to change the state of homelessness.
- (b) Although an uphill task but with the support of the right political and social planning, the homelessness and rough sleeping crisis could be overcome.
- (c) The planning to end the homelessness is convincing the political and social workers to make an effective plan, then the route will be easier.
- (d) The homelessness can never be finished completely, however we can try to reduce it by helping the needy people with food and shelter.
- 106.** Which of the following, if true, would challenge the author's argument about the abuse experienced by the homeless people?
- (a) The abuses are increasing because of lack of fairness in the judicial system.
- (b) The homeless people can dangerously harm the neighboring residents in search of food or shelter.
- (c) The abuse experienced by the homeless people is the result of poor social services of the region.
- (d) The homeless people are not harming people's private property for their use.
- 107.** Which of the following pieces of evidence would most strengthen the author's argument on the experience of sleeping on the streets is terrifying?
- (a) Recent reports showing a hike in the homeless people moving to a safe shelter.
- (b) A government has announced criminal justice bill against the rough sleeping homeless people.
- (c) A recent study showing an increase in physical attacks and abuses on homeless people.
- (d) Data showcasing the increase in the percentage of people turning homeless in the US.
- 108.** Which of the following can be inferred from the data released by Crisis, provided in the passage?
- (a) The increase in the support provided by the Crisis to the homeless will reduce the number of rough sleepers and homeless.
- (b) The increase in the support provided by the Crisis to the homeless has resulted in an increase in the number of rough sleepers.
- (c) The increase in the numbers of the people sleeping rough led to the increase in the rents.
- (d) The decrease in the cost of living will decrease the number of the rough sleepers.

Section E-Quantitative Techniques

PASSAGE-XXI

Directions (109 - 112): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

There are two workers named Vidhi and Vidhan who work for a company and earn daily wages. Here are some details about their earnings from Monday to Thursday: Vidhi earns Rs. 560 on Thursday, which is 40% more than what Vidhan earns on Tuesday. On Thursday, Vidhan earns 12.5% less than Vidhi. Vidhan's earning on Monday and Wednesday is 25% more and 20% less than what Vidhi earned on Thursday, respectively. On Wednesday, Vidhi earns Rs. 152 more than Vidhan. On Monday, Vidhan earns Rs. 200 less than Vidhi. The ratio between Vidhi's earnings on Tuesday and Vidhan's earnings on Thursday is 5:7.

- 109.** What is the difference between total earning of Vidhi from Monday to Wednesday and total earnings of Vidhan from Tuesday to Thursday? (in Rs.)
- (a) 521 (b) 421 (c) 412 (d) 512
- 110.** The total earning of Vidhi and Vidhan on Thursday is what percent of the total earning of both on Monday?
- (a) 56.625% (b) 65.625% (c) 44.625% (d) 23.625%
- 111.** On which day, Vidhi earned highest amount?
- (a) Monday (b) Tuesday (c) Wednesday (d) Thursday
- 112.** If on Friday Vidhi earns 11.11% more than her earnings on Monday and total earning of Vidhi and Vidhan on Friday is 1400, then what is respective ratio between earning of Vidhan on Friday and earning of Vidhi on Friday?
- (a) 5:2 (b) 4:5 (c) 2:5 (d) 5:4

PASSAGE-XXII

Directions (113 -116): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

In a construction company, there are four workers Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, and Vidushi, who are working on the same project. The following information is regarding the time taken to complete the project. Vidhi and Vidhan alone can do the project in 20 days and 25 days respectively, while Vidyut alone can do the project in 10 days. Additionally, Vidhi and Vidhan start the work together but after 4 days both leave the project and Vidyut joins the project. After working for 2 days, Vidyut also left the project. Finally, remaining work of project completed by Vidushi in next 11 days.

113. If Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, and Vidushi work together, then in how many days will it take to finish the whole project?

- (a) 100/23 days (b) 200/24 days (c) 100/27 days (d) 200/23 days

114. Which pair has the highest efficiency among the options provided?

- (a) Vidhi and Vidhan (b) Vidhan and Vidyut (c) Vidyut and Vidhi (d) Vidushi and Vidhi

115. The efficiency of Vidhi and Vidyut together is how much percent more or less than the efficiency of Vidhan and Vidushi together?

- (a) 25% (b) 87.5% (c) 12.5% (d) 37.5%

116. If Vidushi and Vidhan work together, then how many days will it take to finish the whole project?

- (a) 20 days (b) 25 days (c) 12.5 days (d) 15 days

PASSAGE-XXIII

Directions (117 - 120): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

There are three neighbors living in a society, V1, V2, and V3. Here's some information about their monthly income, expenditure, and savings. V2's present monthly expenditure is 75% of his total present monthly income, and he saves Rs. 17500. V2's present monthly income is Rs. 4000 more than that of V1. V1 spends 20% of his previous monthly income on the interiors of his house. V1's present monthly income is more than his previous monthly income by the same amount he spent on the house interior. The ratio of V1's present monthly income to V3's present monthly income is 33:23. V3's present monthly expenditure is Rs. 35000.

117. Find the amount spent by 'V1' on interiors?

- (a) Rs.12000 (b) Rs.11000 (c) Rs. 22000 (d) Rs.18000

118. What is the approximate average of present monthly income of all three neighbors together?

- (a) Rs. 60066 (b) Rs. 60606 (c) Rs. 60666 (d) Rs. 66066

119. The present monthly saving of V2 is how much percent more or less than the present monthly saving of V3?

- (a) 59.09% (b) 61.6% (c) 55.55% (d) 66.66%

120. Find the respective ratio between present monthly income of V1 and V2 together and present monthly income of V2 and V3 together?

- (a) 23:19 (b) 19:23 (c) 29:34 (d) 34:29

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The concepts discussed in class as well as mocks, really helped with strengthening my fundamentals. I was in constant touch with my mentors, who helped me a lot with my strategy & gave mocks earnestly.

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