

# ALL INDIA LAW ENTRANCE TEST

## AILET MOCK-152 [NPLC/2025/26]

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 Minutes)**

**Maximum Marks: 150**

1. Detach and keep the carbon-copy OMR response sheet that comes with the question booklet; this is your only answer sheet.
2. If you spot any defect in your question booklet, immediately ask the invigilator for a replacement set along with a fresh OMR sheet—do not reuse the previous OMR.
3. Only one blank OMR sheet will be provided under any circumstance, so treat it carefully and avoid damage.
4. Answer every question; no queries or clarifications about the question paper will be entertained during the exam.
5. Electronic gadgets (phones, smartwatches, etc.) are strictly forbidden inside the examination hall.
6. Any attempt at using unfair means will lead to cancellation of your exam.
7. Impersonation is a serious offense: it results in disqualification and possible legal action.
8. The exam comprises 150 multiple-choice questions for a total of 150 marks; note that 0.25 marks are deducted for each incorrect answer or if more than one option is shaded.
9. Use only a black or blue ballpoint pen to fill in your roll number and other identification details on the OMR sheet.
10. Shade the chosen answer circle completely (with black/blue pen), selecting exactly one option per question—partial or multiple shading invalidates the response.
11. Since responses on the OMR cannot be erased or changed, be sure before you mark any circle.
12. Retain your admit card, duly signed by the invigilator; you will need to present it when required (e.g., at admission).
13. Handle the OMR sheet gently—do not fold it. Ensure both invigilator and you sign in the designated spaces. Also, write the question booklet number and the OMR sheet number as instructed, sign the attendance sheet, and after the exam, return the original OMR page to the invigilator. Only fill in information in the allotted fields—avoid any stray markings.

### CONTENT OF QUESTION PAPER

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## SECTION-A: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Passage:- 1** How our social world shapes our brains is the most important discovery in the science of human development. This is best illustrated by two classic bodies of research. The first was a series of experiments conducted in newborn animals, usually mice, in which one eye was sewn shut, depriving the brain of visual stimuli from the external world from that one eye during a critical period of brain development. When the eyelid was later reopened, nerve recordings in response to visual stimuli showed that far fewer neurons activated in the deprived eye, while parts of the brain's visual cortex representing the open eye grew substantially. These experiments vividly demonstrated that visual experience relies not just on the anatomy of the eye (which was normal in both eyes) but stimulation of the brain circuits responsible for interpreting visual stimuli. Without these stimuli, the neural pathways, while physically intact, were functionally dead. This is the essence of what neuroscientists refer to as the plasticity of the brain; quite simply, the brain's structure and functions are shaped by experience.

But does this phenomenon extend to humans and, in particular, to adults whose brains were, for so long, considered to be static or, worse, to be condemned to suffer an inexorable decline with age? The iconic London taxi-driver study was conducted in the early 2000s, at which time the drivers were required to memorise the city's intricate network of 25,000+ streets and use this mental map to navigate their passengers on unpredictably different journeys several times a day. Using brain imaging, scientists showed that this intensive spatial memory work led to local enlargement of the posterior hippocampus of the brain, with changes strongly correlating to time spent navigating without external aids; in comparison, drivers who followed the same driving route repeatedly, such as bus drivers, showed no changes. This study not only demonstrated that repeated activation of specific regions of the brain by challenging cognitive tasks led to structural changes in the brain in humans, but that adult brains also showed neural plasticity. Of course, this also explains why speech therapy can help a person regain speech after a stroke even in late life.

Thus, science shows unequivocally that experience is essential for the brain to evolve its capabilities in diverse respects, from sensory perception and motor coordination to remembering things and making complex decisions. It also showed that failure to use these capabilities regularly can lead to the shutting down of entire brain regions. So, what's my point? That we should pause and ponder on how the takeover of our lives by digital applications, which have totally disrupted the way our brains interact with the environment, might shape our brains and, ultimately, our capabilities.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/remember-way-restaurant-transformative-technology-dumb-species-10209165/>]

**Q1.** Which option best captures the passage's central claim and its concluding implication?

- A. The brain's structure and functions are shaped by experience throughout life; underuse can cause functional loss; therefore, we should critically reflect on how pervasive digital applications may be reshaping our cognitive capacities.
- B. Plasticity is well-established only in newborn animals; adult human brains are mostly fixed, so concerns about digital applications' cognitive effects are overstated.
- C. Plasticity is a phenomenon restricted to vision; domains like memory, decision-making, and speech therapy outcomes fall outside its scope.
- D. Digital technologies are inherently harmful and should be abandoned to preserve the brain's anatomy.

**Q2.** In the context of the passage, which pair best matches a **close synonym** and a **most appropriate antonym** for "plasticity"?

- A. Synonym: elasticity; Antonym: neurogenesis.
- B. Synonym: flexibility limited to childhood; Antonym: maturation.
- C. Synonym: malleability/adaptiveness of neural circuits; Antonym: rigidity/fixity of structure and function.
- D. Synonym: transparency; Antonym: opacity.

**Q3.** What is the most reasonable implication of the statement that "failure to use these capabilities regularly can lead to the shutting down of entire brain regions"?

- A. Those regions literally die irreversibly and can never recover at any age, regardless of therapy.
- B. Digital applications will inevitably cause permanent brain damage in all users.
- C. Any short-term reduction in practice immediately erases previously acquired skills.
- D. Sustained underuse may produce functional atrophy despite intact anatomy, supporting a "use-it-or-lose-it" principle.

**Q4.** In "Of course, **this** also explains why speech therapy can help a person regain speech after a stroke even in late life," what does the pronoun "**this**" most directly refer to?

- A. The bus drivers' repetitive, unchanging routes.
- B. Demonstrated **adult neural plasticity**—i.e., structural change from repeated activation by challenging tasks.
- C. The doctrine that brains necessarily decline with age.
- D. The large number of London streets that drivers memorised.

**Q5.** Which scenario most closely mirrors **both** (i) the deprivation effect in the animal studies and (ii) the experience-driven enlargement seen in the taxi drivers?

- A. A student abandons mental arithmetic because of calculators and later shows declining calculation fluency, whereas a peer trains intensively on abacus methods and exhibits measurable parietal strengthening proportional to hours practiced.
- B. A person reads more novels but paradoxically becomes worse at vocabulary, while a non-reader somehow improves vocabulary without study.
- C. A runner rests for two days and suddenly runs faster than a peer who trains consistently.
- D. A chef who avoids using knives starts cooking safer meals than one who practices knife skills daily.

**Q6.** Which option best represents the author's stance in the final paragraph regarding digital applications?

- A. An alarmist demand to abandon digital tools to protect the brain.
- B. An uncritical celebration of digital technologies as inevitable progress.
- C. A strictly neutral summary lacking any evaluative suggestion.
- D. A cautionary, reflective prompt to consider how pervasive apps might reshape cognition via plasticity and to exercise mindful agency.

**Q7.** Which statement accurately reflects the study's reported findings?

- A. Enlargement was observed in the **posterior hippocampus**, correlating with time spent navigating without aids; routine-route drivers (e.g., bus drivers) showed no such changes.
- B. The **anterior** hippocampus shrank, and bus drivers exhibited the largest growth.
- C. Changes were unrelated to navigation time; all driver groups showed equal alterations.
- D. The study found new neurons growing in the spinal cord, unrelated to navigation.

**Passage:- 2** The Supreme Court of India's proceedings on free-roaming dogs represent an earnest, even if inadequate, attempt to reconcile competing claims of compassion and safety. On August 11, 2025, the Court had directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to round up strays and confine them in shelters. Eleven days later, it changed course, permitting release after vaccination and deworming, and that aggressive or rabid animals be retained. India bears one of the world's heaviest burdens of rabies and anthropological accounts are clear that this threat shapes daily life, limiting children's movements and forcing families into repeated medical expenses. Rabies also disproportionately kills those least able to navigate the health system. While the Animal Birth Control Rules were updated in 2023, experience shows that without 70% sterilisation coverage, they are ineffectual. The August 11 order was significant because it acknowledged that the present framework, however well intentioned, is inadequate for India's dense settlements. Objections that shelters will be overcrowded and disease-ridden and that permanent impoundment will precipitate an ecological imbalance confront the same issues that undermine the Rules. Properly resourced and regulated shelters can be managed with veterinary standards, space norms and transparent oversight. India already maintains similar institutions for cattle on a large scale. But if canine facilities are in squalor — which may have motivated the Court to change course — it will be due to the same administrative neglect and policy fragmentation between States that have kept sterilisation coverage from crossing 70% in any major city, and which have been keeping alive fears of other species migrating into the ecological niches dogs once occupied.

Street dogs are woven into India's urban fabric, even offering companionship to the homeless. Such perspectives deserve a place in cultural discourse but cannot override the human right to access public spaces without fear of injury. Compassion is not annulled if dogs are removed from public roads; they must still be compassionately rehomed, sheltered and, when incurably aggressive or ill, euthanised humanely. A modern statute must replace the outdated Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. It should classify dogs as adoptable, shelter-bound or unfit and mandate municipal shelters with minimum standards. Crucially, governments should count stray dogs across States and determine the true cost of maintaining shelters rather than chronically underestimating it. This system should also have the support of the national veterinary cadre, better waste management and penalties for abandoning pets. Without these measures, urban India will keep trading visible menace for invisible neglect.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/practising-compassion-on-the-stray-dogs-issue-court-order/article69971796.ece>]

**Q8.** Which option best captures the passage's central claim and policy direction?

- A. Urban compassion requires prioritising animal rights over human safety, with unconditional release of strays because shelters inevitably fail in India's conditions.
- B. The present Animal Birth Control framework is sufficient; the only problem is public sentiment, so courts should avoid intervening and let municipalities continue as before.
- C. The Court's oscillation spotlights a larger need for a modern statute and system—classifying dogs, building regulated shelters, counting strays, costing upkeep, and aligning compassion with the human right to safe public space—or else India will merely swap street danger for institutional neglect.

D. Ecological balance makes shelters unworkable; therefore, wide-scale permanent impoundment must be legally prohibited and strays left to self-regulate.

**Q9.** In the sentence “Compassion is not **annulled** if dogs are removed from public roads...”, which pair gives the **closest synonym** and a **most appropriate antonym** in context?

- A. Synonym: nullified/invalidated; Antonym: affirmed/upheld.      B. Synonym: softened; Antonym: hardened.  
C. Synonym: celebrated; Antonym: mourned.      D. Synonym: delayed; Antonym: expedited.

**Q10.** Which statement accurately reflects details from the passage?

- A. On August 22, 2025, the Court mandated permanent impoundment without exceptions and forbade any release.  
B. The August 11, 2025 order directed confinement in shelters, and eleven days later the Court allowed release after vaccination and deworming, keeping aggressive or rabid dogs back.  
C. India bears a relatively low burden of rabies and most families rarely incur medical costs due to it.  
D. The Animal Birth Control Rules were updated in 2024 and have achieved sterilisation coverage above 70% in major cities.

**Q11.** In “But if canine facilities are in **squalor** — **which** may have motivated the Court to change course — it will be due to the same administrative neglect...”, the pronoun “**which**” most directly refers to:

- A. Policy fragmentation alone.      B. Administrative neglect alone.  
C. The squalid condition of canine facilities (the “squalor”).      D. Cattle shelters run on a large scale.

**Q12.** Which city-policy scenario most closely mirrors the author’s proposed approach to free-roaming dogs?

- A. A city criminalises feeding strays and funds only sporadic ad-hoc rescues, without standardised facilities or costing.  
B. A municipality relies entirely on NGOs, with no legal classifications, no audits, and no penalties for abandonment.  
C. A court orders mass release after minimal vaccination, while sterilisation targets remain unmeasured and unfunded.  
D. A statute replaces an outdated law; dogs are classified as adoptable/shelter-bound/unfit; minimum-standard municipal shelters are mandated and costed; a national veterinary cadre, better waste management, and penalties for abandonment support the system.

**Q13.** Which option best captures the author’s stance toward the Court’s actions and the way forward?

- A. Cultural affection for street dogs is sentimental and should be excluded from policy discourse.  
B. The Court’s reversal proves strays are harmless; therefore, status quo ABC implementation is adequate.  
C. The Court’s efforts are earnest yet inadequate; human safety in public spaces must be secured **and** compassion institutionalised via a modern statute, regulated shelters, and systemic supports.  
D. Large-scale euthanasia is the only pragmatic solution for dense settlements.

**Q14.** What does the line “Without these measures, urban India will keep **trading visible menace for invisible neglect**” most reasonably imply?

- A. Moving dogs off streets into under-resourced, opaque institutions reduces public fear while perpetuating hidden cruelty, disease, and cost—i.e., danger is displaced, not solved.  
B. Removing dogs from streets automatically eliminates rabies transmission and household medical burdens.  
C. “Invisible neglect” shows shelters are unnecessary; communities should simply coexist with strays.  
D. The phrase relates solely to other species filling ecological niches, not to shelter conditions.

**Passage:- 3** “They planted themselves on the landing stage and upon being approached by the police explained they hoped to be able to work their way home on a boat to India from Liverpool,” wrote GW Coster, a clerk at the West Derby Union, in a letter to the local Board of Guardians. Since the men, all from Punjab, were destitute, the Board of Guardians was obliged under local law to care for them until they found employment or secured funds to sustain themselves. Another option for the board was to sponsor their repatriation to India.

While providing food and accommodation, the board reached out to the High Commissioner for India for guidance. Since the men were eager to return home, the High Commissioner recommended their repatriation and agreed to share the cost of the voyage with the Guardians. However, this incident raised alarm among officials managing Indian affairs in London. “The High Commissioner desires to bring this case to notice as he is anxious not to be faced with a succession of cases of the kind, and that everything possible may, therefore, be done to prevent their recurrence,” wrote the Assistant Secretary to the High Commissioner in a letter to the Government of India’s Foreign and Political Department.

Years earlier, colonial authorities in India had warned subjects against migrating to countries like Cuba in search of manual labour, but such advice was often ignored. From the 1880s, the British government frequently received repatriation requests from Indians stranded in Cuba, as well as claims from Indian families for the assets of relatives who had died on the island. Cuba also drew the Empire’s attention due to complaints from the United States and Canada that Indian subjects were using it as a transit point to enter those countries illegally. In addition, reports from the 1910s suggested Cuba was becoming a hub for Indian revolutionaries. Informal Indian migration to Cuba can be traced to the late 19th century. Inspired by the

relative success of the Indian indenture system in the West Indies, Spanish plantation owners in Cuba petitioned colonial authorities to allow former indentured labourers from places like Trinidad and Jamaica to move to the island. With pressure building in Cuba to abolish slavery, Indian labour was seen as a viable alternative. In 1881, a proposal to bring Indian workers from the Caribbean was submitted to the colonial authorities in London. But the government of India's Home Department strongly opposed the idea.

[<https://scroll.in/magazine/1085005/why-indians-were-discouraged-from-migrating-to-cuba-in-the-early-20th-century>]

**Q15.** Which option best captures the passage's overarching claim and historical through-line?

- A. Humanitarian policy in Britain unambiguously favoured permanent settlement of destitute Indians in Liverpool to strengthen imperial labour markets.
- B. Cuba's labour needs were consistently prioritised by London, culminating in the unrestricted movement of Indian workers from the Caribbean to Cuban plantations.
- C. A Liverpool episode of stranded Punjabis exposes wider imperial anxieties about creating a precedent for repatriation, set against a longer history of Indian migration to Cuba, illicit transit to North America, revolutionary suspicion, and, ultimately, official resistance to recruiting Indian labour for Cuban estates.
- D. Colonial India enthusiastically promoted free movement to Cuba and only later reversed course due to pressure from Spanish plantation owners.

**Q16.** In the line "Since the men, all from Punjab, were **destitute**...", which pair gives the **closest synonym** and a **most appropriate antonym** in context?

- A. Synonym: impoverished/penniless; Antonym: solvent/self-sufficient.
- B. Synonym: itinerant/nomadic; Antonym: sedentary/settled.
- C. Synonym: disloyal/treacherous; Antonym: faithful/loyal.
- D. Synonym: transient/temporary; Antonym: permanent/enduring.

**Q17.** Which statement accurately reflects what the authorities did and advised?

- A. The Board refused to contact the High Commissioner and decided to deport the men without consultation or cost-sharing.
- B. The Board provided food and accommodation and sought guidance; the High Commissioner, noting the men wished to return, recommended repatriation and agreed to share the voyage cost.
- C. The High Commissioner insisted the men remain in Britain and that the Guardians fund permanent housing.
- D. The Board's only legal option was to sponsor repatriation; local care was unlawful without a court order.

**Q18.** In the sentence quoting the Assistant Secretary—"...not to be faced with a succession of cases of the kind, and that everything possible may...be done to prevent **their recurrence**"—what does "**their recurrence**" refer to?

- A. Police approaches to people on landing stages in general.
- B. Further letters being written by clerks to local Boards of Guardians.
- C. Repeat occurrences of similar cases of destitute Indian subjects seeking assistance/repatriation.
- D. Ongoing complaints from the United States and Canada about illegal transit via Cuba.

**Q19.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the institutional dynamic described regarding Cuban plantation labour and the official response?

- A. A city faces teacher shortages; parents request hiring volunteers; the education ministry immediately authorises unlimited foreign volunteers without scrutiny.
- B. A shipping firm seeks cheaper crews; a port authority proposes military conscription; the defence ministry agrees and drafts civilians.
- C. A tourist island wants more guides; a private consortium petitions the foreign office to relocate seasonal workers; the home ministry mandates permanent migration pathways.
- D. Plantation owners, citing abolition-era pressure, petition imperial authorities to import experienced workers from neighbouring colonies; however, the origin country's central department strongly opposes exposing its subjects to this recruitment.

**Q20.** Which option best reflects the author's stance and narrative method?

- A. An advocacy tract urging immediate mass migration of Indian workers to Cuba to stabilise sugar output.
- B. A polemical denunciation of British welfare obligations in Liverpool as a misuse of public funds.
- C. A historically grounded, document-driven account that juxtaposes a Liverpool welfare case with broader imperial concerns—repatriation burdens, illegal transit, revolutionary activity—and ends by noting formal opposition to Cuban recruitment.
- D. A celebratory story of successful Indian settlement in Britain and Cuba without administrative friction.

**Q21.** What is the most reasonable inference from the Assistant Secretary’s remark that everything possible should be done to prevent a “succession of cases” and “**their recurrence**”?

- A. Officials feared that approving cost-shared repatriation would set an administrative precedent prompting more stranded Indians to seek similar relief, expanding fiscal/coordination burdens.
- B. Officials intended to criminalise destitution among migrants and bar all future assistance requests.
- C. Officials saw the case as purely local and irrelevant to wider imperial policy.
- D. Officials believed Liverpool police had mishandled the approach and wanted disciplinary action.

**Passage:-** 4 Malaysia has one of the greatest levels of biodiversity of any country on Earth – and it’s among just 17 to be listed as a megadiverse country. More than 50% of its land surface area is forested, and around 14% of the country is protected as a national park or nature reserve.

All of which makes Malaysia a spectacular destination for wildlife watching. Around 750 species of bird have been recorded, including no fewer than 10 species of hornbill – among these the iconic rhinoceros hornbill – along with brightly coloured trogons and pittas, white-bellied sea eagles and the great slaty woodpecker, one of the largest woodpecker species in the world.

Malaysia’s lush tropical rainforests are home to orangutans, gibbons, proboscis monkeys, tapirs and Borneo pygmy elephants – along with more than 300 other species of mammal and a staggering number of amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. They’re also the last refuge of the majestic but critically endangered Malayan tiger, which appears on Malaysia’s coat of arms.

Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, just half an hour outside Sandakan, is the world’s largest orangutan sanctuary, caring for injured orangutans and pairing orphaned young with older individuals. This is a wonderful place to see these highly intelligent, beautiful, but now critically endangered primates in a semi-wild environment, before they are reintroduced into their natural environment.

However, nothing matches seeing these and other species in the wild, and signing up for a wildlife tour is really the way to go here. Join a trekking tour in the incredible Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary for one of the best chances of seeing orangutans in the wild. The enormous rainforests of Royal Belum state park are the best place in Malaysia to see hornbills – although not far behind is the manmade lake of Tasik Kenyir. Head to Fraser’s Hill or the Cameron Highlands to see mountain peacock-pheasant.

If you’re up for a spot of hiking, the scope for jungle-trekking in Malaysia’s spectacularly wild and unspoilt national parks is simply off the charts. Take Taman Negara national park, for example – a vast, sprawling area of rainforest, forming Malaysia’s largest national park. The lush rainforest of Taman Negara is positively ancient – it’s estimated to be at least 130 million years old – and in terms of hiking, the park offers everything from breathtaking canopy walkways to a four-day trek across the spine of Mount Tahan, the highest mountain in Peninsular Malaysia. Join a full day’s guided walk or, for a more immersive experience, take a guided two-day hike on the Keniam Trail, which includes an overnight stay in a cave.

[<https://www.theguardian.com/discover-the-magic-of-malaysia/2025/may/16/malaysia-outdoor-adventures-jungle-treks-orangutans>]

**Q22.** Which option best captures the passage’s overarching message and organising logic?

- A. Malaysia’s wildlife is best appreciated in zoos and rehabilitation centres, which the author argues are superior to field experiences for ethical reasons.
- B. Because Malaysia’s biodiversity is overrated and fragmented, the author recommends skipping the country for birding and choosing strictly marine destinations instead.
- C. Malaysia’s status as a megadiverse, heavily forested nation underpins an exceptional range of bird and mammal encounters, with the author outlining marquee sites and urging responsibly guided, in-the-wild experiences that surpass sanctuaries in immediacy.
- D. Malaysia’s protected-area system has eliminated the need for guided tourism, and independent travel guarantees better sightings than structured tours.

**Q23.** In the line “They’re also the last **refuge** of the majestic but critically endangered Malayan tiger...”, which pair gives the **closest synonym** and a **most appropriate antonym** in context?

- A. Synonym: vantage; Antonym: overlook
- B. Synonym: corridor; Antonym: bottleneck.
- C. Synonym: frontier; Antonym: hinterland.
- D. Synonym: sanctuary/safe haven; Antonym: exposure/peril.

**Q24.** Which statement accurately reflects the passage’s stated facts?

- A. Sepilok is a small private rescue, not the world’s largest orangutan sanctuary, and it releases animals only after mountain training in Cameron Highlands.
- B. Roughly 750 bird species are recorded in Malaysia, including ~10 hornbill species; Royal Belum is the country’s top site for hornbills, with Tasik Kenyir close behind.
- C. Taman Negara’s rainforest dates to about 13 million years, and Mount Tahan is Borneo’s highest peak.
- D. Less than 25% of Malaysia remains forested, though 40% is protected as parks and reserves.

**Q25.** In “However, nothing matches seeing **these** and other species in the wild...”, to what does “**these**” most directly refer?

- A. Orangutans discussed in the preceding sentences about Sepilok.
- B. Hornbills mentioned in the birding paragraph.
- C. Borneo pygmy elephants and tapirs listed among mammals.
- D. The great slaty woodpecker, singled out as a large woodpecker.

**Q26.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the author’s reasoning that sanctuaries can be excellent, yet field sightings with guided tours are unmatched?

- A. A marine lab’s aquarium tanks provide better coral observations than any reef dive, so the writer advises skipping ocean dives entirely.
- B. A botanical garden is adequate for studying rainforest ecology, and therefore jungle treks are unnecessary for serious naturalists.
- C. A raptor rehabilitation centre offers close views and education, but guided ridge-top watches during migration deliver the most authentic, varied encounters, so the author recommends both with emphasis on the latter.
- D. Zoos guarantee all target species and thus surpass the unpredictability of wild habitats, which the author considers inefficient.

**Q27.** Which option best captures the author’s stance and method?

- A. Enthusiastic yet grounded natural-history guidance that weaves macro-context (megadiversity, forest cover, protected areas) with site-specific advice (Kinabatangan, Royal Belum, Taman Negara), privileging ethical, guided wild encounters over captive settings.
- B. A conservation polemic arguing tourism should be banned in Taman Negara to protect ancient forests from hikers.
- C. A logistics manual focused on transport schedules between Sandakan and Fraser’s Hill, with little ecological context.
- D. A sceptical travelogue claiming hornbill sightings are unlikely anywhere except zoos.

**Q28.** What is the most reasonable inference from the line that Taman Negara’s rainforest is “at least 130 million years old” and offers everything from canopy walkways to a four-day Mount Tahan trek?

- A. The park’s trail network is designed to tier experiences—letting casual visitors sample canopy ecology while enabling committed trekkers to pursue deeper, more strenuous immersion consistent with a landscape of exceptional antiquity.
- B. Because the forest is so ancient, wildlife is scarce and viewing is poor, hence the author discourages any guided treks in Taman Negara.
- C. The figure implies Malaysia created the rainforest through replanting programmes 130 million years ago, demonstrating unparalleled park engineering.
- D. The canopy walkways exist mainly to avoid hornbill disturbance; Mount Tahan treks are prohibited to protect the Malayan tiger.

**Passage:-** 5 For months, international rights groups, aid organisations and doctors who served in Gaza have warned that the enclave was on the brink of famine. Heartbreaking stories and images of starvation poured out as Gaza’s civil defence groups repeatedly told the world that children were dying every day due to malnutrition. But Israel, waging a genocidal war in Gaza for the past 22 months, dismissed these reports as lies, while its western allies did little beyond expressing token concerns. Last week, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN-backed body, confirmed that an entirely “man-made famine” is unfolding in Gaza’s largest city and its surrounding areas, the first officially declared famine in West Asia. At least one in five households faces extreme food shortages, while a third or more of all children are acutely malnourished. The IPC also stated that at least two in every 10,000 people die daily from starvation or the deadly combination of malnutrition and diseases. Yet, if anyone expected such a devastating report by a reputed organisation to have had an impact on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s war-thirsty regime, they were mistaken.

Israel has long imposed restrictions on goods entering Gaza, that has been under Israel’s blockade since 2007; it tightened those restrictions after Hamas’s October 7, 2023 attack. But in March 2025, after Mr. Netanyahu broke a ceasefire, Israel imposed a total three-month blockade on all goods entering Gaza. When it began allowing a limited amount of food, a new U.S. and Israel-backed organisation, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) replaced the previous UN-led food distribution system. The blockade, along with Israel’s direct control of food distribution, plunged hundreds of thousands into acute hunger. When desperate, hungry Palestinians rushed to the limited food centres run by the GHF, they were shot down by Israeli troops and GHF volunteers in the name of crowd control. The UN estimates that more than 1,300 Palestinians have been killed at food centres since May. Despite mounting international outrage and allegations of war crimes, and Hamas’s acceptance of the latest ceasefire proposal put forward by Qatar and Egypt, Israel has intensified attacks on Gaza city in preparation for a new offensive. What is unfolding now in Gaza goes far beyond Israel’s stated aims of defeating Hamas and releasing hostages. The growing body of evidence points to an intent to destroy Palestinian life and society in Gaza itself. The most brutal of crimes are being committed against 2.3 million people — in full view of the world. The world cannot allow Israel to continue devastating Gaza any further.

**Q29.** Which option best captures the passage's central claim and concluding injunction?

- A. Multiple strands of evidence (IPC metrics, blockade policy, control of aid, killings at food centres) show a **man-made famine** and a campaign that now targets Palestinian life and society itself; hence, the world must not permit Israel to devastate Gaza further.
- B. The situation in Gaza is tragic but primarily due to logistical failures by international organisations, so political responsibility cannot be identified at this stage.
- C. The principal issue is the inefficiency of the GHF; replacing it with the UN would immediately resolve the crisis even if Israel's military actions continue unabated.
- D. The passage warns of a looming famine but concedes there is no proof that current policies have worsened hunger relative to pre-war conditions.

**Q30.** In "western allies did little beyond expressing **token** concerns," which pair offers the **closest synonym** and the **most appropriate antonym** in context?

- A. Synonym: ceremonial/formalistic; Antonym: diplomatic/neutral.
- B. Synonym: perfunctory/nominal; Antonym: substantive/meaningful.
- C. Synonym: abundant/plentiful; Antonym: scarce/minimal.
- D. Synonym: empathetic/compassionate; Antonym: indifferent/apathetic.

**Q31.** Which statement **accurately** reflects details stated in the passage?

- A. The IPC refused to declare a famine and said reports were exaggerated propaganda.
- B. Fewer than 200 Palestinians have died at food centres since May, according to the UN.
- C. After a March 2025 ceasefire breach, Israel imposed a **three-month total blockade**, later allowing limited food while the **GHF replaced** the UN-led distribution system.
- D. Gaza has been under an Israeli blockade only since 2014, and the UN continued to run food distribution throughout 2025.

**Q32.** In "**When it began allowing a limited amount of food**, a new U.S. and Israel-backed organisation, the GHF, replaced the previous UN-led food distribution system," what does "**it**" most directly refer to?

- A. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)      B. The United Nations      C. Hamas      D. Israel

**Q33.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the **logic** of the passage's narrative linking policy choices to humanitarian outcomes?

- A. A government dismisses disease warnings, **blocks supplies, replaces neutral health agencies with a loyalist body**, then blames chaos when people are **killed at distribution points**; despite international outrage and a mediation-backed truce offer, it **intensifies** operations.
- B. A city faces a storm; it decentralises relief to neighbourhoods and deaths fall; foreign critics still accuse officials of neglect despite improved outcomes.
- C. A hospital overloads; volunteers manage queues safely and fatalities drop; authorities expand the programme in coordination with the UN.
- D. A region lifts import restrictions entirely; queues shrink; an independent audit praises the government's humanitarian record.

**Q34.** Which option best captures the **author's stance** and **method**?

- A. A neutral situation report that avoids attributing intentions or making prescriptive appeals.
- B. A strongly condemnatory editorial voice that frames the crisis as a **man-made famine**, attributes responsibility to Israeli policy decisions (blockade, control of aid, lethal crowd control), adduces **IPC data**, and ends with a **normative call** for the world to act.
- C. A defence of Israeli crowd-control methods as necessary to prevent stampedes, with guarded optimism about the GHF's role.
- D. A purely humanitarian logistics brief focusing on warehouse placement and convoy routing without political assessment.

**Q35.** What is the **most reasonable implication** of the IPC metrics: "at least **one in five households** faces extreme food shortages," "a **third or more** children are acutely malnourished," and "**two in every 10,000** die daily from starvation or from malnutrition plus disease"?

- A. The crisis has **crossed into famine-level catastrophe**, with mortality and malnutrition indicating systemic deprivation rather than isolated distribution glitches.
- B. Mortality is episodic and localised around a single warehouse and thus cannot reflect broader patterns of deprivation.

- C. The figures are compatible with normal seasonal variation in food access in West Asia and do not signify a humanitarian emergency.
- D. The metrics imply improvements over previous months because they exclude deaths from bombing or displacement.

**Passage:-** 6 Could blowing a conch shell help treat sleep apnoea? As a doctor working in sleep medicine, this unexpected news story certainly grabbed my attention. My first reaction was scepticism – sleep specialists don't typically prescribe natural objects found on beaches as medical therapy. But perhaps I was too hasty to dismiss the idea. For those unfamiliar with them, a conch shell is the spiral home of a large sea snail that, when hollowed out, can be blown like a trumpet. This practice isn't new – cultures worldwide have used conch shells for thousands of years in rituals, ceremonies and communication. What's novel is the suggestion that it might help with a serious medical condition affecting millions.

We all know someone who snores, but not all snoring is harmless. If your partner notices you sometimes stop breathing during the night, that's cause for concern. You may have obstructive sleep apnoea, a condition where throat muscles relax excessively during sleep, causing the airway to narrow or close completely. These breathing interruptions – called apnoeas – can happen dozens or even hundreds of times per night.

The consequences extend far beyond disturbing your partner's sleep. Each pause in breathing jolts your brain out of deeper sleep stages, leaving you exhausted the next day. This isn't merely inconvenient – drowsy drivers cause thousands of accidents annually. The repeated drops in oxygen also strain your heart, increasing risks of high blood pressure and heart disease if left untreated.

Standard treatments focus on keeping airways open during sleep. The gold standard is Cpap (continuous positive airway pressure), where a mask delivers steady airflow that acts like an internal splint. We also use oral devices that gently shift the jaw forward, surgical removal of enlarged tonsils or adenoids, and even newer techniques involving tiny electrical impulses to stimulate airway muscles.

Lifestyle changes matter, too. Weight loss reduces fatty tissue around the neck that can compress airways, while cutting alcohol and stopping smoking helps maintain firmer airway muscles – both substances make throat tissues floppier and worsen symptoms.

So where does the conch shell fit? When you blow through any narrow opening, you're essentially training your upper airway muscles to stay open and firm. This concept, called airway muscle training, has legitimate scientific backing. Studies show that exercises targeting the tongue, soft palate and facial muscles can improve mild to moderate sleep apnoea symptoms. [<https://scroll.in/article/1085789/conch-shell-exercises-could-one-day-help-treat-sleep-apnoea>]

**Q36.** Which option best captures the passage's central claim and approach?

- A. A clinician's initial scepticism gives way to a cautious, evidence-aware openness: blowing a conch may plausibly aid **airway muscle training** as an adjunct for (mild–moderate) sleep apnoea, though standard therapies remain primary.
- B. Natural remedies like conch shells should replace CPAP entirely because they are culturally rooted and therefore safer and more effective.
- C. Because snoring is common and rarely dangerous, conch-blowing is proposed mainly to enhance sleep quality for bed partners rather than to treat apnoea.
- D. The article rejects all non-device or non-surgical measures and concludes lifestyle changes are ineffective for apnoea management.

**Q37.** In "What's **novel** is the suggestion that it might help with a serious medical condition...", which pair gives the **closest synonym** and a **most appropriate antonym** in this context?

- A. Synonym: ornate; Antonym: plain.
- B. Synonym: new/original; Antonym: familiar/established.
- C. Synonym: speculative; Antonym: factual.
- D. Synonym: symbolic; Antonym: literal.

**Q38.** Which statement **accurately** reflects the passage's account of standard care?

- A. CPAP stands for "continuous partial airway pressure," and because it is uncomfortable, it has been abandoned in favour of nerve-stimulating implants for most patients.
- B. Standard care is mainly tonsil surgery; oral devices and CPAP are considered outdated and rarely used.
- C. Standard treatments aim to keep airways open: **CPAP** delivers steady airflow like an internal splint; clinicians may use **oral devices** advancing the jaw, **tonsil/adenoid surgery**, and newer **electrical stimulation** of airway muscles.
- D. Since lifestyle changes are sufficient for severe cases, device-based or surgical treatments are rarely indicated.

**Q39.** In "What's novel is the suggestion that **it** might help with a serious medical condition...", what does the pronoun "**it**" most directly refer to?

- A. The medical condition of sleep apnoea itself
- B. Cultures worldwide that have used conch shells
- C. The general concept of airway muscle training
- D. The conch shell as blown like a trumpet

**Q40.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the author's reasoning about conch-blowing and airway muscle training?

- A. Practicing controlled breathing through a small-aperture respiratory trainer strengthens upper-airway musculature,

thereby improving symptoms in mild–moderate obstructive sleep apnoea—while remaining an **adjunct** to primary therapies.

B. Using noise-masking headphones at night cures apnoea by preventing arousals, so no airway-targeted therapy is necessary.

C. Drinking herbal tea before bed eliminates oxygen desaturations by relaxing throat tissues, showing that softer muscles prevent airway collapse.

D. Avoiding all exercise reduces nighttime airflow demands and thus treats apnoea without any devices or training.

**Q41.** Which option best states the author’s stance and method?

A. Full endorsement of conch-blowing as a replacement for CPAP, relying on tradition over clinical evidence.

B. Cautious, clinician’s perspective: start from scepticism but acknowledge **scientific backing** for targeted exercises; conch-blowing could fit within **airway muscle training** for selected patients—**not** as a wholesale substitute for standard care.

C. Dismissal of all lifestyle and exercise interventions as pseudoscience.

D. A purely cultural history of conch shells with no medical claims or implications.

**Q42.** What is the **best** inference from “When you blow through any narrow opening, you’re essentially training your upper airway muscles to stay open and firm”?

A. Conch-blowing might function as a **targeted strengthening exercise** for upper-airway muscles and could **improve**

symptoms in mild–moderate OSA as a **supportive adjunct**, though it does not negate the need for established treatments.

B. Any blowing activity is guaranteed to cure all forms of sleep apnoea, including severe cases, making CPAP unnecessary.

C. Airway collapse occurs because muscles are too firm; hence, relaxation techniques are superior to strengthening.

D. Only electrical stimulation works; mechanical or behavioural training is ineffective.

**Passage:- 7** With Parliament passing the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, the online gaming industry has been dealt a fell blow. The government’s rationale for imposing a complete ban on online money games, including both games of skill and chance, and also prohibiting advertising and promotion of such games, rests on a stated desire to address gaming addiction, mental health issues and financial losses. Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in Parliament that, according to an estimate, 45 crore people are affected by such games, facing a loss of more than Rs 20,000 crore. Concerns have also been raised over some of these platforms being used for fraud and money laundering. While there can be no disagreement on the seriousness of these problems, and on the need to tackle them, it must be asked whether a ban is the best way out.

In an interconnected world, a ban would simply drive such activity to unregulated and/or offshore markets, which may be beyond the jurisdiction of Indian authorities. This will make it harder to address some of the concerns. India’s history is replete with examples of how bans, prohibitions and price controls have almost never achieved the stated objectives. The move will also have significant economic implications. As per a report from PwC titled “From sunrise to sunshine”, the real money gaming segment brought in Rs 16,500 crore in revenue during 2023, which was expected to reach Rs 26,500 crore by 2028, accounting for a significant share of the online gaming market in India. A complete ban will affect all companies involved in this segment — several online gaming platforms are said to have already suspended their operations following this development — and this will have implications for jobs, both directly and indirectly. The move will also impact government finances. After the GST Council’s decision to impose a 28 per cent tax on online gaming, revenues from the segment rose by 412 per cent in six months, reaching Rs 6,909 crore, up from Rs 1,349 crore before that. The ban, which also underlines the capricious nature of policy, is likely to make capital, both domestic and foreign, more circumspect — as per a report from EY, total investments from both domestic and foreign sources added up to Rs 22,931 crore between 2019-20 and December 2023.

A more considered approach was called for. A Niti Aayog draft paper in 2020 had noted that stakeholders were in favour of a “light-touch regulatory framework for the fantasy sports industry”. A prudent approach would veer towards providing greater regulatory clarity, putting in place mechanisms to address the concerns of the government, ensuring adequate checks and balances in the system and establishing efficient grievance redressal mechanisms.

[[https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/us-trump-pressure-test-india-rising-power-strength-10209168/?ref=top\\_opinion](https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/us-trump-pressure-test-india-rising-power-strength-10209168/?ref=top_opinion)]

**Q43.** Which option best captures the passage’s central argument and policy recommendation?

A. A sweeping ban on online money games is a poor instrument that will likely off-shore activity, weaken oversight, hurt revenues/investment/jobs, and chill policy credibility; a clearer, light-touch regulatory framework with checks, balances and grievance redressal is preferable.

B. A total ban is the only proportionate response to addiction, mental health harms and laundering risks; hence advertising and platforms must be shut permanently.

C. Since GST collections rose 412% after the 28% rate, a ban will barely dent government finances while fully eliminating social harms.

D. States should permit chance-based games but ban skill-based games, because fraud occurs mainly in the latter.

**Q44.** Choose the pair that gives the **closest synonym** and the **most appropriate antonym** in context.

- A. Synonym: gentle/mild; Antonym: harsh/severe.
- B. Synonym: deadly/grievous; Antonym: benign/beneficial.
- C. Synonym: accidental/unplanned; Antonym: deliberate/intentional.
- D. Synonym: minor/trivial; Antonym: major/weighty.

**Q45.** Which statement accurately reflects details in the passage?

- A. PwC projected ₹26,500 crore **for 2023** and ₹16,500 crore **for 2028**, showing shrinkage.
- B. The GST Council cut the rate to 18%, after which collections fell by 412% to ₹1,349 crore.
- C. The ban covers **both** games of skill and chance; advertising/promotion is prohibited; GST receipts rose **412%** in six months to **₹6,909 crore** (from **₹1,349 crore**); EY reported **₹22,931 crore** of total investments (2019–20 to Dec 2023).
- D. Because offshore markets remain within Indian jurisdiction, enforcement will be easier under a ban.

**Q46.** In the sentence “**This** will make it harder to address some of the concerns,” what does “**This**” most directly refer to?

- A. The enactment of the 28% GST by the Council.
- B. The PwC report projecting future revenues.
- C. Parliament’s discussion about mental health and addiction.
- D. The shift of activity to **unregulated and/or offshore markets** beyond Indian jurisdiction when a ban is imposed.

**Q47.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the passage’s reasoning about why a ban is counter-productive?

- A. A state bans online betting; users migrate to offshore, unregulated sites beyond the state’s reach; scams rise, tax base erodes, jobs vanish; experts recommend licensed, well-supervised operations with clear redressal instead.
- B. A city caps food prices; shortages disappear and investment surges, proving prohibitions efficiently meet stated aims.
- C. A country nationalises a sector and instantly gains private investment while fraud collapses due to strict bans.
- D. A curfew is imposed; crime falls permanently with no displacement to neighbouring districts.

**Q48.** Which option best captures the author’s stance and method?

- A. Wholehearted endorsement of a total ban because it decisively cures addiction and laundering.
- B. A critical, evidence-driven editorial that warns bans push activity offshore and harm the economy/fiscal flows/investment sentiment, and that urges a **prudent, light-touch regulatory** pathway with clarity, checks-and-balances and grievance mechanisms.
- C. A neutral statistical abstract that avoids policy recommendations.
- D. An industry advertorial forecasting unicorn valuations.

**Q49.** In “The ban, which also underlines the **capricious** nature of policy...”, pick the closest **synonym** and a **most appropriate antonym** for “capricious” in this context.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Synonym: frugal; Antonym: lavish.                          | B. Synonym: lawful; Antonym: illegal.     |
| C. Synonym: erratic/whimsical; Antonym: consistent/steadfast. | D. Synonym: transparent; Antonym: opaque. |

**Q50.** What is the most reasonable implication of the line, “India’s history is **replete** with examples of how bans, prohibitions and price controls have almost never achieved the stated objectives”?

- A. Historical experience is irrelevant because today’s digital economy is unprecedented.
- B. A more sweeping and longer ban is likelier to succeed where past bans failed.
- C. The evidence is inconclusive; the author proposes waiting for three years before judging outcomes.
- D. Past policy failures suggest this ban will **likely miss its aims**, strengthening the case for **regulation over prohibition**.

## SECTION B: - CURRENT AFFAIRS (INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

**Q51.** The three new criminal laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)—came into effect across India on:

- A. January 1, 2024    B. April 1, 2024    C. July 1, 2024    D. November 1, 2024

**Q52.** India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 final. Who was named Player of the Series?

- A. Virat Kohli    B. Hardik Pandya    C. Rohit Sharma    D. Jasprit Bumrah

**Q53.** Which group of countries were officially admitted as full members of BRICS in 2024–2025?

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| A. Argentina, Egypt, Saudi Arabia | B. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and Indonesia |
| C. Turkey, Bangladesh, Brazil     | D. Mexico, UAE, Argentina                    |

**Q54.** In a reciprocal agreement, which two countries will host BRICS summits in 2026 and 2027 respectively?

- A. China in 2026, India in 2027                      B. South Africa in 2026, Brazil in 2027  
C. Russia in 2026, India in 2027                      D. India in 2026, China in 2027

**Q55.** The Registrar General of India (RGI) functions under which ministry?

- A. Finance              B. Home Affairs              C. Social Justice & Empowerment              D. Women & Child Development

**Q56.** Which joint military exercise is held between India and Thailand?

- A. Exercise Maitree              B. Exercise Yudh Abhyas              C. Exercise Shakti              D. Exercise Vajra Prahar

**Q57.** When is National Space Day celebrated in India, and what does it commemorate?

- A. August 15 – Launch of Gaganyaan mission              B. August 23 – Chandrayaan-3 successful soft-landing  
C. July 1 – Formation of ISRO              D. October 4 – First Indian satellite launch

**Q58.** What is the theme for India's Independence Day in 2025?

- A. Naya Bharat              B. Viksit Bharat              C. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat              D. Atmanirbhar Bharat

**Q59.** What was the theme of India's TRIPS 2025 summit at IIT Kanpur?

- A. Innovation for Digital India              B. Bridging Research, Innovation, and Policy for a Sustainable Future  
C. AI-driven Sustainable Growth              D. Green Technology & Future Urbanization

**Q60.** What major trade measure did the U.S. impose on Indian-origin goods in August 2025?

- A. Suspension of cargo flights              B. 10% surtax on all imports  
C. Ban on Indian electronics              D. 50% tariff on Indian exports

**Q61.** Which new naval vessels were commissioned by the Indian Navy on August 26, 2025?

- A. INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya              B. INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri  
C. INS Kamorta and INS Kiltan              D. INS Kolkata and INS Kochi

**Q62.** Which major cybercrime operation led to over 1,200 arrests across Africa and significant seizures?

- A. Operation Firewall              B. Cyber Safari              C. Serengeti 2.0              D. Operation Cloudburst

**Q63.** A coalition of 27 countries, including the UK and Germany, recently demanded what concerning Gaza?

- A. A ceasefire              B. Media access for international journalists  
C. Withdrawal of UN peacekeepers              D. Economic sanctions on Israel

**Q64.** What significant environmental discovery about exoplanets was highlighted in recent international research?

- A. Earth-like habitability zones              B. Steam atmospheres over exotic phases of water on sub-Neptunes  
C. Presence of methane lakes on Mars              D. Oxygen-rich atmospheres on super-Earths

**Q65.** Which of the following statements correctly reflects the constitutional and legal provisions related to the voting age in India?

- A. Article 326 provides for universal adult suffrage to citizens not less than 21 years of age.  
B. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976, reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years.  
C. The right to vote is a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution.  
D. The 61st Constitutional Amendment, 1988, reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years, and the right to vote is a statutory right amendable by ordinary law.

**Q66.** Recently, the Indian Prime Minister was conferred with Brazil's highest civilian award. Which of the following correctly identifies the award?

- A. Order of Rio Branco              B. Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross  
C. Order of the Rising Sun              D. Order of Prince Henry

**Q67.** The recently signed Geelong Treaty, a 50-year bilateral defence cooperation agreement, was concluded between which two countries under the AUKUS Pillar I framework?

- A. United States and Australia              B. Australia and Canada  
C. United Kingdom and New Zealand              D. Australia and United Kingdom

**Q68.** Recently, the United States announced its withdrawal from UNESCO. Which of the following statements is correct regarding this move?

- A. This is the first time the US has exited UNESCO.
- B. The US contributes nearly 8% of UNESCO's budget, and its exit may create geopolitical space for powers like China.
- C. The withdrawal was primarily due to budgetary concerns over the US economy.
- D. The move strengthens trust in multilateral institutions and global cooperation.

**Q69.** Recently, Ukraine became the 125th State Party to the Rome Statute. Which of the following is correct about the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

- A. It was established under the Rome Statute adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2002.
- B. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- C. India is one of the founding members of the Rome Statute.
- D. It is a UN body created under the UN Charter.

**Q70.** According to the latest Global Peace Index report, which of the following statements is correct?

- A. India is ranked 163rd, making it the least peaceful country.
- B. Iceland is ranked first, while Russia is ranked the least peaceful country at 163rd.
- C. South Asia has been ranked the most peaceful region globally.
- D. India has shown an improvement in peacefulness and is now in the top 50.

**Q71.** Recently, the United States enacted a law to establish a regulatory framework for stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency pegged to assets like the US dollar. What is the name of this Act?

- A. STABLE Act      B. CRYPTO Act      C. GENIUS Act      D. DIGITAL Act

**Q72.** Which Pacific Island nation led the initiative at the UN General Assembly that resulted in the ICJ delivering an advisory opinion on states' obligations under international law to tackle climate change?

- A. Fiji      B. Vanuatu      C. Tuvalu      D. Samoa

**Q73.** What is the name of the military operation recently launched by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) targeting Iranian nuclear infrastructure and ballistic missile capability?

- A. Operation Desert Storm      B. Operation Rising Lion      C. Operation Iron Fist      D. Operation Protective Edge

**Q74.** China recently established the International Organisation for Mediation (IOMed). What is its primary purpose?

- A. To serve as a global alternative to institutions like the ICJ and the Permanent Court of Arbitration
- B. To regulate international trade disputes under the WTO framework
- C. To mediate climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC
- D. To act as a financial oversight body for the BRICS nations

**Q75.** Who recently became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's World Cup title, defeating Koneru Humpy in the final at Batumi, Georgia?

- A. Tania Sachdev      B. Dronavalli Harika      C. Divya Deshmukh      D. Bhakti Kulkarni

**Q76.** Under which Constitutional Amendment Act was Sikkim made a full-fledged State of the Union of India?

- A. 34th Amendment Act, 1973      B. 35th Amendment Act, 1974
- C. 36th Amendment Act, 1975      D. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976

**Q77.** Which state was recently declared India's first state to achieve full functional literacy?

- A. Kerala      B. Mizoram      C. Tripura      D. Himachal Pradesh

**Q78.** Which of the following statements about the Pulitzer Prize is correct?

- A. It is awarded by Harvard University for achievements in literature and science.
- B. It was founded by Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American journalist, and first awarded in 1917.
- C. It recognizes only contributions in the field of politics and economics.
- D. It was instituted by the United Nations after World War II.

**Q79.** India was granted observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2005. In which year did it become a full member?

- A. 2015      B. 2016      C. 2017      D. 2019

**Q80.** India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of which spice?

- A. Cardamom      B. Pepper      C. Turmeric      D. Clove

### SECTION C: - LOGICAL REASONING

**Passage 1 (Questions 81-85):** Eight friends — Arjun (A), Bhavna (B), Cyrus (C), Divya (D), Eshan (E), Farah (F), Gopal (G) and Hina (H) — sit around a circular table facing the centre; positions are 1–8 clockwise for reference.

1. Arjun sits three places clockwise from Bhavna.
2. Cyrus sits exactly opposite Farah.
3. Gopal sits immediately clockwise of Divya.
4. Hina sits two places anticlockwise from Arjun.
5. Counting clockwise from Bhavna, exactly one person sits between Bhavna and Cyrus.
6. Eshan sits exactly opposite Arjun.
7. Divya sits third clockwise from Hina.
8. Neither Bhavna nor Hina sits opposite Farah.
9. Counting anticlockwise from Eshan, exactly one person sits between Eshan and Gopal.

**Q81.** Who sits two places clockwise from Hina?

- A. Arjun      B. Bhavna      C. Cyrus      D. Divya

**Q82.** When counted clockwise from Bhavna, who sits between Bhavna and Arjun?

- A. Divya alone      B. Hina alone      C. Cyrus alone      D. Both Hina and Cyrus (in that order)

**Q83.** How many persons sit between Arjun and Farah when counted clockwise from Arjun?

- A. Exactly two persons      B. Exactly three persons      C. Exactly one person      D. None, they are adjacent

**Q84.** Which pair sits directly opposite each other?

- A. Cyrus and Farah      B. Arjun and Eshan      C. Divya and Gopal      D. Both A and B

**Q85.** Which of the following gives the clockwise order starting from Bhavna?

- A. Bhavna, Hina, Cyrus, Arjun, Divya, Gopal, Farah, Eshan      B. Bhavna, Cyrus, Hina, Arjun, Gopal, Divya, Farah, Eshan  
C. Bhavna, Hina, Arjun, Cyrus, Divya, Gopal, Eshan, Farah      D. Bhavna, Eshan, Farah, Gopal, Divya, Arjun, Cyrus, Hina

**Q86. Premises:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. All <b>harriers</b> are <b>raptors</b> .         | 2. Some <b>raptors</b> are <b>migratory birds</b> . |
| 3. No <b>migratory birds</b> are <b>nocturnal</b> . | 4. All <b>owls</b> are <b>nocturnal</b> .           |

**Which conclusion follows?**

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. Some raptors are not nocturnal. | B. Some owls are migratory birds.     |
| C. All harriers are nocturnal.     | D. Some harriers are migratory birds. |

**Q87. Premises:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. All <b>fintech startups</b> are <b>venture-backed firms</b> . | 2. Some <b>venture-backed firms</b> are <b>profitable</b> . |
| 3. No <b>profitable</b> firms are <b>insolvent</b> .             | 4. Some <b>insolvent</b> firms are <b>bootstrapped</b> .    |

**Which conclusion follows?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Some fintech startups are profitable. | B. Some venture-backed firms are not insolvent. |
| C. All bootstrapped firms are insolvent. | D. No fintech startups are bootstrapped.        |

**Q88. Premises:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. No <b>ceramic vases</b> are <b>shatterproof items</b> . | 2. All <b>museum artifacts</b> are <b>insured</b> .        |
| 3. Some <b>shatterproof items</b> are <b>modern</b> .      | 4. Some <b>ceramic vases</b> are <b>museum artifacts</b> . |

**Which conclusion follows?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. Some museum artifacts are shatterproof.     | B. No museum artifacts are shatterproof. |
| C. Some museum artifacts are not shatterproof. | D. All modern items are shatterproof.    |

**Q89. Premises:**

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1. All <b>poets</b> are <b>readers</b> . | 2. Some <b>readers</b> are <b>critics</b> . | 3. No <b>critics</b> are <b>pacifists</b> . | 4. Some <b>pacifists</b> are <b>teachers</b> . |
|--|---|---|--|

**Which conclusion follows?**

- A. Some poets are critics.      B. Some teachers are critics.      C. No teachers are critics.      D. Some readers are not pacifists.

**Q90. Premises:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. All <b>cloud databases</b> are <b>scalable systems</b> .     | 2. Some <b>scalable systems</b> are <b>open-source</b> .      |
| 3. No <b>open-source</b> systems are <b>proprietary tools</b> . | 4. Some <b>cloud databases</b> are <b>proprietary tools</b> . |

**Which conclusion follows?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. Some cloud databases are not open-source.        | B. All scalable systems are cloud databases.     |
| C. Some proprietary tools are not scalable systems. | D. Some open-source systems are cloud databases. |

**Q91. Premises:**

1. All **quantum sensors** are **precision devices**.  
3. No **battery-powered** devices are **zero-emission**.

**Which conclusion follows?**

- A. Some precision devices are not zero-emission.  
C. All recyclable devices are zero-emission.

2. Some **precision devices** are **battery-powered**.  
4. All **zero-emission** devices are **recyclable**.

- B. Some quantum sensors are battery-powered.  
D. Some recyclable devices are battery-powered.

**Q92. Premises:**

1. All **paralegals** are **law graduates**.  
3. No **researchers** are **court clerks**.

**Which conclusion follows?**

- A. Some paralegals are researchers.  
C. No paralegals are court clerks.

2. Some **law graduates** are **researchers**.  
4. Some **court clerks** are **part-time workers**.

- B. Some law graduates are not court clerks.  
D. Some part-time workers are researchers.

**Q93. Premises:**

1. No **manual transmissions** are **autonomous vehicles**.  
3. All **autonomous vehicles** are **connected cars**.

**Which conclusion follows?**

- A. Some electric cars are not connected cars.  
C. Some connected cars are electric cars.

2. Some **electric cars** are **autonomous vehicles**.

- B. No electric cars are manual transmissions.  
D. All connected cars are autonomous vehicles.

**Q94. Premises:**

1. All **city planners** are **policy analysts**.  
3. No **data scientists** are **lobbyists**.

**Which conclusion follows?**

- A. Some city planners are data scientists.  
C. No policy analysts are lobbyists.

2. Some **policy analysts** are **data scientists**.  
4. Some **lobbyists** are **consultants**.

- B. Some consultants are data scientists.  
D. Some policy analysts are not lobbyists.

**Q95. Premises:**

1. All **heritage buildings** are **protected sites**.  
3. No **coastal areas** are **noise-free zones**.

**Which conclusion follows?**

- A. Some protected sites are not noise-free zones.  
C. Some bird sanctuaries are coastal areas.

2. Some **protected sites** are **coastal areas**.  
4. Some **noise-free zones** are **bird sanctuaries**.

- B. All heritage buildings are coastal areas.  
D. No bird sanctuaries are noise-free zones.

**Passage:** Over a nine-month pilot, City X's transit authority ran autonomous buses on two corridors selected for high CCTV coverage and recently widened lanes. Prior to the pilot, system-wide human-driven buses averaged 3.6 collisions per 100,000 km. During the pilot, autonomous buses recorded 2.1 collisions per 100,000 km on Corridor A and 1.8 on Corridor B, each with higher pedestrian density than the system median. Safety drivers intervened 0.9 times per 100 km, though many interventions were designated "precautionary." Insurance claim severity on the pilot routes fell by 15% relative to matched months the prior year. Enforcement of speed limits and signal timing was also updated city-wide during the pilot window. On the basis of these results, the authority announced that "autonomous buses are safer overall than human-driven buses."

**Q96.** Which of the following is required for the authority's conclusion to be warranted?

- A. No enforcement or signal-timing updates materially reduced collision risk on the two pilot corridors during the pilot.  
B. Safety-driver interventions did not themselves prevent crashes that would otherwise have been attributed to autonomy failures.  
C. Risk exposure on the pilot corridors is comparable to the pre-pilot, system-wide baseline after accounting for lane width and pedestrian density.  
D. Insurance claim severity is a reliable proxy for collision frequency across bus operations.

**Passage:** In Q1, NexKart cut median delivery times from 2.6 days to 1.1 days through new micro-hubs. At the same time, for orders over ₹7,500 it introduced mandatory signature-on-delivery with two reattempts if the customer was unavailable. Overall satisfaction (10-point scale) dropped from 8.2 to 7.4, and Net Promoter Score fell by 9 points. Contact-center logs show a 60% decline in "late delivery" complaints but a 140% rise in "missed delivery" and "inconvenient timing" complaints. Weekend deliveries rose from 18% to 41% of first attempts due to hub staffing. Return rates and damage claims did not change materially.

**Q97.** Which option best explains how faster deliveries coincided with lower satisfaction?

- A. Users value website interface quality more than speed, and NexKart's app UI did not change.  
B. The signature rule caused more failed first attempts and reattempts, making faster first-attempt delivery feel less convenient overall.  
C. Competitors launched price promotions in Q1 that reframed expectations of value.  
D. More rural customers were included in the Q1 survey sample than in prior quarters.

**Passage:** University Z admits applicants via Early Action (EA) and Regular Decision (RD). Last year, EA issued 1,200 offers with an 80% yield; RD issued 3,800 offers with a 40% yield; the target class size was ~2,400 and was met after modest summer melt. This year, the university reduced EA offers to 900 and increased RD offers to 4,200. It also created a “binding priority waitlist” (historical yield ~95%) capped at 5% of the enrolled class; these offers are issued after 1 May and count toward both admits and enrolls. The Dean claims that overall yield (enrolled ÷ total admits, including waitlist admits) will not decline relative to last year.

**Q98.** Which of the following must hold for the Dean’s claim to be correct?

- A. RD yield must rise above 40% unless the binding priority waitlist contributes at least 5% of the enrolled class.
- B. EA yield must rise above 85% this year, given the reduction in EA offers.
- C. Total admits this year must not exceed last year’s total admits by more than 5%.
- D. The target class size must increase to offset the EA cut.

**Passage:** An education ministry cites an NGO’s “Radio at Night” program to argue that inexpensive broadcast lessons “efficiently boost learning.” In a quasi-experimental rollout, participating villages improved standardized-test scores by 7% versus 2% in matched non-participants over six months. Attendance among 10–12-year-olds fell by 5% in participant villages. Pre-program data show participant villages had more radio ownership and lower teacher availability than controls. Some control villages reported tuning into the broadcasts. The test was multiple-choice with heavy recall components. The ministry concludes the program is an efficient route to better learning at scale.

**Q99.** Which finding most undermines the ministry’s conclusion?

- A. Households in participant villages also increased children’s educational TV viewing during the same period.
- B. A follow-up test three months after broadcasts ended found that the initial 7% gain had largely faded.
- C. Within participant villages, households without radios showed negligible gains and the attendance drop was concentrated among them.
- D. In a randomized trial that supplied radios to control villages and replicated the content, score differences versus pure controls were statistically insignificant.

**Passage:** Province M adopted a revenue-neutral carbon tax in January; by December reported territorial industrial emissions fell 12% year-over-year, while retail electricity prices rose 3%. Neighboring Province N’s cap-and-trade saw an 8% decline. Critics say M’s drop was mostly due to an unusually mild winter reducing heating demand, plus a large hydro plant that came online in June displacing coal. Patent filings in clean tech by firms headquartered in M rose 25% versus the prior year. The government asserts the tax—not weather or hydro—was the primary driver of emission reductions across the economy.

**Q100.** Which, if true, most supports the government’s claim?

- A. After controlling for heating-degree days, emissions in weather-insensitive sectors (e.g., cement, steel) also declined significantly in M relative to historical trends.
- B. Province N experienced a manufacturing shift into M during the year, temporarily raising M’s industrial output.
- C. The new hydro plant displaced coal generation equivalent to about 10% of M’s total emissions.
- D. Household surveys recorded increased conservation behaviors following carbon-price notices on utility bills.

**Passage:** Last year, Ridge County piloted tablet-based instruction in 30 public schools chosen for their reliable Wi-Fi and enthusiastic principals. Baseline standardized scores in these schools were 6 points below the county average. After one term, the tablet schools gained 12 percentile points, while matched control schools gained 9. During the same term, the district also introduced a new standards-aligned item bank that teachers could use for practice quizzes, though usage was optional. Teacher transfers were frozen midyear to stabilize staffing. An audit noted that tablet schools logged twice as many practice quizzes as controls. On the basis of the results, the superintendent announced that tablets, not other factors, drove the learning gains.

**Q101.** Which of the following must be true for the superintendent’s conclusion to be warranted?

- A. The new item bank’s alignment with the test was equally accessible and equally used across tablet and control schools.
- B. Freezing teacher transfers would have improved scores countywide regardless of the tablet pilot.
- C. The baseline 6-point deficit of tablet schools did not mechanically predispose them to larger short-term gains (regression to the mean).
- D. Principals’ enthusiasm did not increase classroom observation frequency during the term.

**Passage:** To ease congestion, Midtown banned curbside parking on the two blocks with the densest retail, added a bus-only lane, widened sidewalks, and installed modular planters to slow turning vehicles. Merchants predicted catastrophe, citing lost “park-once” customers. Three months later, footfall counters showed a 14% increase in unique pedestrian visits and card transaction volumes rose 9%, though average receipt size dipped slightly. Ride-hail pickup zones were marked on side streets, and the transit agency extended bus frequency into late evening. Several storefronts added outdoor seating in the recaptured curb space. Despite the harder car parking, retail activity rose.

**Q102.** Which option best explains the increase in retail activity despite reduced car parking?

- A. The average receipt size fell because customers bargained more during economic uncertainty.
- B. Faster and more frequent buses plus widened sidewalks brought more pass-by visitors, offsetting the decline in park-once traffic.
- C. Merchants launched a coordinated loyalty program unrelated to the street changes.
- D. The city removed two traffic signals several blocks away, shortening cross-town trips.

**Passage:** Cognivia, a mid-sized software firm, claims its new mentorship program reduced annual attrition. Historically, first-year attrition averaged 18% with peaks in Q3. After mentorship launched, overall attrition fell to 14% even as the broader tech market saw layoffs. Internal HR risk scores, computed before the program began, tagged 30% of new hires as “high-risk” for attrition. The company randomized mentor assignment among high-risk hires due to mentor scarcity and measured outcomes for a full year. Among high-risk hires, those assigned mentors had 9% attrition versus 20% for high-risk hires on the waitlist; low-risk hires showed no meaningful change. Cognivia concludes the program caused the attrition reduction.

**Q103.** Which of the following, if true, most strengthens Cognivia’s causal claim?

- A. Exit interviews emphasized lack of growth opportunities more often than compensation.
- B. The mentors selected had above-median performance ratings in the prior review cycle.
- C. Attrition among low-risk hires decreased slightly after a separate learning stipend was introduced.
- D. The randomization produced balanced cohorts on tenure, manager quality, and initial satisfaction across mentored and waitlisted high-risk hires.

**Passage:** A public-health NGO argues that opening more plant-forward cafeterias in towns lowers obesity. Comparing 40 towns with at least three such cafeterias to 40 matched towns with none, it finds average adult BMI is 1.1 points lower in the former. The report admits that towns with more cafeterias also have higher household incomes, denser walkable cores, and more gym memberships. It also notes that supermarket shelf space for produce is larger in those towns. When cafeterias temporarily closed during a supplier strike, there was no immediate uptick in BMI, but the strike lasted only six weeks. The NGO concludes that adding plant-forward cafeterias is an effective obesity intervention.

**Q104.** Which finding most undermines the NGO’s conclusion?

- A. In towns where cafeterias opened most recently, salad sales grew even during winter months.
- B. A two-year randomized incentive program that subsidized cafeteria meals produced no BMI change versus a control group receiving supermarket produce vouchers.
- C. When controlling for income, walkability, gym density, and produce shelf space, the cafeteria–BMI correlation becomes statistically insignificant.
- D. Residents in cafeteria towns report higher nutrition knowledge on surveys than residents in control towns.

**Passage:** The National Fellowship Board aims to enroll 1,000 scholars annually. Last year it offered 1,600 fellowships with a 62% acceptance rate; an additional 80 candidates were admitted from a small binding waitlist with a 95% acceptance rate, and the program filled exactly 1,000 seats after minor melt. This year, the Board cut initial offers to 1,400, expanded the binding waitlist cap to 15% of enrolled seats, and raised the minimum stipend by 10%. Past data show that stipend increases raise acceptance only among applicants with competing offers, concentrated in the top decile of the applicant pool. The Director asserts that overall acceptance rate (accepts ÷ total offers, including waitlist) will not decline relative to last year.

**Q105.** Which of the following must hold for the Director’s assertion to be correct?

- A. The expanded waitlist will contribute at least 10% of enrolled seats with acceptance rates near 95%.
- B. The stipend increase will raise acceptance sufficiently among top-decile candidates to offset the reduced initial offers without exceeding the 1,000-seat target.
- C. The overall number of offers (initial + waitlist) will not exceed 1,700.
- D. Acceptance among non-top-decile candidates will remain at or below last year’s level.

**Passage:** Company K piloted a three-days-a-week work-from-home (WFH) policy in Q2 for its sales and support teams across branches with above-median broadband reliability. Before the pilot, average deal-closing rate was 18% and average call length was 11 minutes system-wide. During Q2, pilot branches reported a 21% closing rate and 9-minute calls, while email response times shortened by 20%. Mid-Q2, marketing deployed a machine-learning lead-scoring model to route “hot” prospects first; simultaneously, pilot branches completed a CRM retraining module that non-pilot branches were scheduled to take in Q3. Support backlog fell 12% in pilot branches, though first-contact resolution held steady. Non-pilot branches showed a modest rise to a 19% closing rate without changes in call length. Executives concluded that the **WFH policy**, rather than contemporaneous changes, drove the revenue uplift observed in pilot branches.

**Q106.** Which of the following must be true for the executives’ conclusion to be warranted?

- A. The lead-scoring model and CRM retraining did not disproportionately boost closing rates in the pilot branches relative to non-pilot branches.
- B. The reduction in support backlog primarily reflected fewer product defects rather than staffing differences.

- C. Manager tenure has no material effect on closing rates in either pilot or non-pilot branches.
- D. Employee survey enthusiasm for WFH remained high throughout Q2.

**Passage:** After introducing a peak-hour congestion charge, City R recorded a 9% decline in inbound vehicles crossing the cordon. Yet average **car** commute times within the zone increased by six minutes. During the same quarter, two major avenues inside the zone had lane closures for utility works, and delivery firms shifted to earlier runs to avoid the charge's 8–11 a.m. window, increasing the share of trucks before 8 a.m. The transport agency also retimed signals to give buses and ambulances more priority phases. Bus speeds improved by 14%, and ridership rose. Public commentators labeled the charge a failure because “traffic got worse,” despite the measured drop in entries. City officials argued that the charge had succeeded on access and mode-shift goals.

**Q107.** Which option best explains **higher** car commute times despite **fewer** entering vehicles?

- A. Drivers became more price-sensitive and postponed non-essential trips until after 11 a.m.
- B. Lane closures and a higher share of heavy delivery vehicles reduced effective road capacity, while signal priority lengthened car waits, raising car travel time even as volumes fell.
- C. Increased bus ridership reduced foot traffic near crosswalks, allowing more frequent pedestrian priority cycles.
- D. The average car carried fewer passengers due to telework, reducing car-pool lanes' utilization.

**Passage:** Coastshire introduced a refundable ₹3 deposit on beverage containers sold within the municipality, redeemable at kiosks and shops. In the six months post-policy, beach-clean counts showed a 32% drop in litter items per 100 meters; inland parks showed a 19% drop. That winter featured two unseasonably large storms that scoured and re-profiled beaches, historically associated with short-term litter displacement. Over the same period, a tourist campaign increased visitor numbers by 11%. A nearby county without a deposit saw a 3% drop at beaches and a 2% rise in parks. Recycling center receipts in Coastshire reported a 61% increase in returned beverage containers, concentrated in deposit-eligible categories. The mayor claimed the deposit policy, not storms or tourism, drove the litter reduction.

**Q108.** Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the mayor's causal claim?

- A. Post-policy, total plastic packaging sales (including non-beverage items) fell 4% in Coastshire.
- B. The decline in litter counts in Coastshire was almost entirely in deposit-eligible beverage containers; non-eligible litter categories changed little relative to the neighboring county.
- C. Volunteer group sizes at beach cleans were larger after the deposit policy launched.
- D. The largest beach-profiling storm occurred in the neighboring county, not in Coastshire.

**Passage:** An ed-tech startup reports that students using its AI math tutor improved their term-end scores by 8 points over non-users in the same schools. Usage was optional, and 43% of students created accounts; among users, median weekly time on the platform was 72 minutes. Prior-term data show that students who later adopted the AI tutor had, on average, higher baseline math self-efficacy and more supportive home study environments. In three schools with limited device availability, teachers scheduled lab blocks in which entire classes cycled through the tutor; in those classes, the user–non-user score gap shrank to 2 points. The company concludes the tutor is the primary driver of the observed 8-point advantage. District administrators are considering a district-wide contract based on these results.

**Q109.** Which finding would most **undermine** the company's conclusion?

- A. In classes randomly assigned to **mandatory** tutor use for one term, score gains were indistinguishable from classes randomly assigned to business-as-usual practice with teacher-curated worksheets.
- B. Students who used the tutor also tended to enroll in after-school math clubs at higher rates than non-users.
- C. Homes with tablets reported greater parental oversight of homework after the tutor's introduction.
- D. In teacher-scheduled lab blocks, average weekly tutor time was only 45 minutes per student.

**Passage:** A pharmaceutical trial compared a low dose (LD), a high dose (HD), and placebo (PL) for a chronic condition. The pre-registered primary endpoint improved by a clinically meaningful margin for LD versus PL; HD did **not** outperform LD on the primary endpoint. Secondary endpoints showed similar patterns. Adverse events (AEs) were dose-related: HD had significantly more AEs than LD; LD had slightly more than PL but within acceptable ranges. Pharmacokinetic assays confirmed that LD achieved target receptor occupancy in most patients, while HD achieved near-maximal occupancy. The sponsor claims the results “support selecting the minimum effective dose for Phase 3.” Regulators noted that subgroup analyses were underpowered and exploratory.

**Q110.** Which of the following is **most strongly supported** by the passage?

- A. HD should be abandoned because it is **ineffective** compared to PL on all endpoints.
- B. The overall benefit–risk profile of LD is superior to that of HD, given comparable efficacy and higher AE rates at HD.
- C. The lack of HD superiority to LD is due to underpowered subgroup analyses.
- D. Receptor occupancy is not a valid pharmacodynamic marker for this drug class.

**Statements (Factual Matrix):** Over the winter term, the city retrofitted 80 primary schools (out of 100) with MERV-13 air filters; the remaining 20 retained standard filters. Across 12 weeks, mean absence rates fell by 18% in retrofitted schools and by 5% in non-retrofitted schools. That season's influenza burden was milder than the three-year average, and the retrofitted schools were located in districts with older buildings and historically higher baseline absenteeism.

**Proposed Conclusions:**

- I. The filter retrofit caused the majority of the observed reduction in absences.
- II. Retrofitting all public buildings would be an efficient public-health investment.

**Q111.** Which conclusion can be properly inferred?

- a) Only I follows
- b) Only II follows
- c) Both I and II follow
- d) Neither I nor II follows

**Statements (Factual Matrix):** A lender introduced a machine-learning screen that reduced the approval rate from 62% to 49%; among approved customers the 12-month default rate fell from 8% to 5%. Average loan size and net interest margin on performing loans remained constant; marketing spend was unchanged. Management concludes profitability increased because defaults among approved loans declined.

**Assumptions/Arguments Offered by Management:** The conclusion presumes that the expected profit forgone on newly rejected but would-have-repaid borrowers does not exceed savings from avoided defaults, and that rejection does not depress cross-sell revenue meaningfully.

**Q112.** Which assumption must be true for management's profitability claim to hold?

- a) The new screen does not raise per-application processing cost by more than 1%.
- b) Among the marginally rejected applicants, expected profit (interest minus expected loss and recovery costs) was non-positive.
- c) The share of approved borrowers buying ancillary products (cards, insurance) increased post-screen.
- d) Average bureau scores of approved borrowers increased by at least 30 points.

**Statements (Factual Matrix):** After raising the posted adult ticket price by 20% and discontinuing student discounts, the city museum recorded a 12% rise in annual attendance while average revenue per visitor fell by 9%. In the same year, the museum launched a mobile "household pass" with a fixed annual fee that granted unlimited entry and free late-night guided tours for pass-holders. A competing gallery closed for renovation that year.

**Paradox / Tension:** Higher posted prices normally reduce attendance and raise revenue per visitor; the opposite was observed.

**Q113.** Which option best resolves the paradox?

- a) The household pass attracted frequent repeat visitors whose many entries pulled down revenue per visit despite the higher posted price.
- b) The competing gallery's closure shifted high-spend tourists to the museum, explaining the attendance jump.
- c) Ending student discounts increased the adult share of visitors, who typically spend more per visit.
- d) The 20% ticket hike increased per-visit revenue among first-time visitors.

**Statements (Factual Matrix):** Hospitals adopting a telemedicine heart-failure program reported 15% fewer 30-day readmissions than non-adopters. Early adopters also had better nurse-to-patient ratios and dedicated cardiology units. Mid-year, a cyberattack randomly forced roughly half of adopters offline for six weeks, while the other adopters continued uninterrupted.

**Health-Department Conclusion:** Telemedicine itself reduced readmissions.

**Q114.** Which finding most strengthens the department's causal claim?

- a) During the cyberattack window, adopters forced offline saw readmissions revert toward pre-adoption levels, while unaffected adopters maintained the reduction.
- b) Non-adopters began a medication-reconciliation initiative during the same quarter.
- c) Average patient severity scores declined statewide in that quarter.
- d) Hospitals with better nurse ratios generally have lower readmissions irrespective of telemedicine.

**Statements (Factual Matrix):** A utility rolled out smart meters with time-of-use pricing; summer peak demand fell 7% versus the prior summer. That period also featured the coolest summer in a decade and a 2% GDP contraction. A neighboring utility without time-of-use pricing reported a 6.5% peak drop.

**Utility's Conclusion:** Smart meters and pricing caused the peak reduction.

**Q115.** Which, if true, most undermines the utility's conclusion?

- a) After weather-normalization and adjustment for economic activity, the utility's peak drop is statistically indistinguishable from the neighbor's.
- b) Customers with smart meters report increased conservation behaviors in surveys.

- c) Off-peak demand at the utility rose 5% compared to the prior summer.
- d) The marketing campaign for the new tariffs had unusually low click-through rates.

**(Q116-119).** Read the following principles and answer the fact-scenarios that follow:

**Principle 1:** Under the rule in *Rylands v. Fletcher*, a person who brings onto their land a dangerous substance is strictly liable if it escapes and causes harm, even if they exercised all due care. Exceptions exist where the escape is due to an **Act of God**, plaintiff's own fault, or unforeseeable acts of a third party.

**Principle 2:** Absolute liability (*MC Mehta v. Union of India*) applies when an enterprise engaged in hazardous activity causes harm. Unlike strict liability, **no exceptions** are allowed.

**Principle 3:** State-run enterprises handling hazardous substances are equally bound by **absolute liability**. Sovereign immunity is not a defence in industrial accident cases. The state can therefore not claim that these actions were in the performance of official functions to absolve itself from liability.

**Q116. Facts:** Arjun constructed a large artificial lake on his farmland for commercial fishing. During unprecedented rainfall (not seen in 200 years), the embankment collapsed and water gushed into neighbouring houses, destroying property. Residents sued Arjun for damages. Arjun argued that the rainfall was an unforeseeable natural event beyond human control.

**Question:** Is Arjun liable under strict liability?

- (A) Yes, because he stored a dangerous substance (large volume of water) and it escaped.
- (B) No, because the collapse was caused by an unprecedented natural event, an Act of God defence.
- (C) Yes, because the plaintiff's loss was foreseeable once he created the lake.
- (D) No, because natural disasters always absolve liability, irrespective of precautions.

**117. Facts:** Shakti Fertilizers stored ammonia gas in underground tanks. An earthquake measuring 6.5 caused a leak, killing 30 villagers. The company argued it was a natural disaster and that tanks were built to international safety standards.

**Question:** Is the company liable?

- (A) No, because the leak resulted from an earthquake, an Act of God.
- (B) Yes, because absolute liability admits no defence once hazardous substances escape.
- (C) No, because international safety standards were followed.
- (D) Yes, but only if negligence in storage is proven.

**Q118. Facts:** Ravi Industries ran a chlorine plant. A disgruntled ex-employee sabotaged the safety valves at night, leading to a chlorine leak. Several workers died. The company argued that sabotage by a third party breaks the chain of causation.

**Question:** Is Ravi Industries liable?

- (A) No, because sabotage by a third party breaks the chain of causation.
- (B) No, because criminal acts of others are unforeseeable.
- (C) Yes, because under absolute liability, enterprises remain liable even if harm is caused by sabotage.
- (D) Yes, but only if negligence by the company in securing the premises is proven.

**Q119. Facts:** A state-owned pesticide factory leaked toxic gas, affecting thousands. The State claimed immunity, arguing it was performing a sovereign function through its public sector undertaking.

**Question:** Is the State immune from liability?

- (A) Yes, because sovereign functions enjoy immunity in tort law.
- (B) No, but damages will be capped since it is a public enterprise.
- (C) Yes, but only if negligence by officials is disproved.
- (D) No, because sovereign immunity does not apply to hazardous industrial activities under absolute liability

**Q120. Principle:** The doctrine of Basic Structure, evolved in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)*, limits Parliament's amending power under Article 368. While Parliament may amend any constitutional provision, it cannot destroy or alter the fundamental features of the Constitution. Core features include democracy, rule of law, secularism, separation of powers, and judicial independence.

**Facts:** The 130th Constitutional Amendment conferred upon Parliament the exclusive power to appoint judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, eliminating the judiciary's consultative role. Is the amendment valid?

- (A) Yes, because Parliament can amend any provision.
- (B) No, because judicial independence is part of the Basic Structure.
- (C) Yes, because residuary powers cover judicial appointments.
- (D) No, because state ratification was required.

**Q121. Principle:** Article 19(1)(a) guarantees speech, restricted under Article 19(2) only if the restriction is reasonable and has a proximate nexus with grounds such as security, public order, or morality. Vague, speculative justifications are invalid.

**Facts:** A filmmaker released a documentary on corruption in defence procurement. The government banned it, claiming it would "erode the morale of armed forces" and potentially affect national security. Critics argued that the ban was speculative censorship of legitimate criticism. Is the ban valid?

- (A) No, because restrictions require a direct, proximate link to disorder. (B) Yes, because defence is a 19(2) ground.  
(C) Yes, because defence criticism may be censored. (D) No, because freedom of speech is absolute.

**Q122. Principle:** **Mens rea** and **actus reus** must coincide, but liability arises if mens rea develops while a continuing act is ongoing.

**Facts:** Vijay, reversing his car, accidentally rolled onto Prakash's foot. Initially unaware, he later realised it and, irritated by Prakash's shouting, refused to move for two minutes.

**Question:** Is Vijay guilty?

- (A) No, because initial act lacked mens rea.  
(B) Yes, because intent superimposed on the continuing act creates liability.  
(C) No, because Prakash did not suffer permanent injury.  
(D) Yes, but only if Vijay had intent at the start.

**Q123. Principle:** Consent obtained through **deception or false promise** is not valid in law. Consent must be free, informed, and voluntary.

**Facts:** Suresh persuaded Ananya to sexual intercourse, promising marriage. Later, evidence showed he never intended to marry her from the beginning.

**Question:** Is Suresh guilty of rape?

- (A) Yes, because consent obtained by false promise of marriage is not valid.  
(B) No, because Ananya initially consented.  
(C) Yes, but only if lack of intent to marry from the beginning is proven.  
(D) No, because false promises do not invalidate consent.

**Q124. Principle:** In India, international treaties and conventions do not automatically have the force of domestic law unless incorporated through parliamentary legislation (Article 253, *Jolly George Varghese v. Bank of Cochin*). However, in the absence of domestic legislation, courts may interpret fundamental rights in harmony with India's international obligations, provided there is no conflict with express statutory provisions.

**Facts:** The Union of India signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which recognises the right to housing as part of the right to life. However, Parliament has not enacted a specific law to give direct effect to this right. A group of slum dwellers in Delhi, evicted by the municipal corporation for encroaching on public land, approached the Supreme Court claiming that the eviction violated their "right to housing" under the ICESCR. The government argued that international treaties have no domestic force without enabling legislation. Can the slum dwellers succeed in their claim?

- (A) Yes, because international covenants automatically override domestic law once India signs them.  
(B) No, because without parliamentary legislation, treaties cannot be enforced in Indian courts.  
(C) Yes, because international obligations can guide judicial interpretation of Article 21, even without domestic legislation.  
(D) No, because the right to housing is not recognised under the Indian Constitution.

**Q125. Principle:** Under the Indian Penal Code (Sections 120A–120B), a criminal conspiracy is an agreement between two or more persons to commit an illegal act, or to commit a legal act by illegal means. The actus reus is the agreement itself; performance is not necessary. Proof may be circumstantial, but there must be a "meeting of minds." Mere knowledge or presence is insufficient—there must be intentional participation.

**Facts:** Neha, Raj, and Imran frequently discussed their frustrations with new government tax policies. During several private meetings, they toyed with the idea of "showing the government a lesson." Raj suggested setting fire to government tax offices. Imran laughed but said nothing, while Neha agreed to provide petrol. A week later, petrol bombs were discovered in Raj's garage. The police charged all three with conspiracy. Imran claimed he had never agreed, and was merely present when Raj and Neha plotted. Can Imran be convicted of conspiracy?

- (A) Yes, because mere presence during conspiratorial discussions makes him part of the plan.  
(B) No, because he never expressly agreed or contributed, and silence without participation is not conspiracy.  
(C) Yes, because laughter implies tacit agreement to the illegal plan.  
(D) No, because conspiracy requires overt acts, not just agreements.

**Q126. Principle:** Section 66C of the Information Technology Act criminalises dishonest or fraudulent use of another person's digital identity (passwords, electronic signatures, biometric identifiers). Liability requires (i) fraudulent intention, and (ii) use of someone else's credentials for personal gain or harm to another.

**Facts:** Sneha, a student, discovered her friend Pooja's online banking password while borrowing her laptop. Sneha, struggling with debt, used the password to transfer ₹50,000 from Pooja's account into her own. To conceal the act, Sneha also changed Pooja's registered mobile number with the bank so she would not receive alerts. Pooja discovered the fraud a month later and complained. Sneha claimed it was only a "temporary borrowing" and she intended to repay the money. Is Sneha criminally liable?

- (A) Yes, because fraudulent use of another's credentials constitutes identity theft, irrespective of repayment intent.
- (B) No, because she intended to return the money, so dishonest intention was absent.
- (C) Yes, but only civilly liable, since cybercrimes do not attract imprisonment.
- (D) No, because consent to use the laptop implied consent to access passwords.

**Q127. Principle:** Doctors must obtain informed consent before treatment. Consent requires disclosure of material risks, alternatives, and consequences. Even if treatment is beneficial, performing without consent (except in emergencies) is actionable. Courts emphasise patient autonomy under Article 21 (*Samira Kohli v. Dr. Prabha Manchanda*).

**Facts:** Reena, 25, visited Dr. Batra for removal of ovarian cysts. She signed consent only for cyst removal. During surgery, Dr. Batra discovered early signs of cervical cancer and performed a partial hysterectomy without informing Reena's family. Reena survived but lost her reproductive ability. She sued for negligence. Was Dr. Batra negligent?

- (A) Yes, because surgery beyond the scope of consent violates patient autonomy absent emergency.
- (B) No, because doctors may act in patient's best interests without consent.
- (C) Yes, because hysterectomy without informed consent is always unlawful, even in emergencies.
- (D) No, because general surgical consent covers all necessary interventions.

**Q128. Principle:** Articles 15(4) and 15(5) permit affirmative action for socially/economically backward classes, but reservations must comply with constitutional limits. The Supreme Court capped reservations at 50%, except in exceptional circumstances. Reservations must also be backed by empirical data of backwardness and underrepresentation.

**Facts:** The State of X enacted a law reserving 75% of seats in medical colleges for residents of the state, citing "youth migration" as justification. Petitioners challenged the law as violative of equality under Article 14. The State argued that it was necessary to prevent brain drain. Is the law valid?

- (A) Yes, because states may give preference to local candidates to prevent migration.
- (B) No, because 75% reservation exceeds the constitutional 50% cap and lacks exceptional justification.
- (C) Yes, because state autonomy in education permits wide discretion.
- (D) No, because all reservations are unconstitutional under Article 14.

**Q129. Principle:** Defamation occurs when a false statement harms reputation. However, communications made in good faith on occasions of qualified privilege (such as job references, parliamentary debates, or legal proceedings) are protected, provided they are not malicious. Truth and fair comment are additional defences.

**Facts:** During a confidential background check, Mr. Verma, an ex-employer, told a new company that his former employee, Shalini, had "a habit of mismanaging funds," although no disciplinary inquiry had ever found her guilty. She was also regarded as a formidable employee in her past employment. Shalini was denied the job and sued Verma for defamation. Verma argued that his statements were protected by qualified privilege since they were made during an employment reference. Can Verma rely on qualified privilege?

- (A) Yes, because job references are privileged communications.
- (B) No, because privilege applies only in legal proceedings.
- (C) Yes, because privilege applies even if the statement is false.
- (D) No, because qualified privilege fails if malice is proven.

**130. Principle:** A public nuisance is an unreasonable interference with public rights (e.g., health, safety, comfort of community). Unlike private nuisance, which affects individuals, public nuisance affects the public at large. Defences like "public benefit" do not apply if substantial harm is proven.

**Facts:** A cement factory in City Z ran continuously, emitting fine dust that spread across several kilometres. Residents developed respiratory illnesses, and water supplies were contaminated. The factory argued it was a major employer, providing thousands of jobs, and that public benefit outweighed inconvenience.

**Question:** Is the factory liable for public nuisance?

- (A) Yes, because community health damage constitutes substantial public nuisance.
- (B) No, because public benefit outweighs inconvenience.
- (C) No, because industries enjoy immunity for essential economic activity.
- (D) Yes, but only if negligence in pollution control is proven.

**Q131. Principle:** False imprisonment occurs when someone's liberty is unlawfully restrained, even briefly. However, detention may be justified if there is reasonable suspicion or statutory authority. Detention without such basis is actionable, regardless of intent.

**Facts:** At a luxury mall, security detained Kavita for two hours on suspicion of shoplifting after a sensor alarm beeped. She repeatedly asked to leave, but was locked in a back room until police arrived. The police found no stolen goods. Kavita sued the mall for false imprisonment. The mall argued it had the right to detain shoplifters. Was Kavita's detention lawful?

- (A) Yes, because security guards have wide powers to detain suspected shoplifters.
- (B) No, because detention without reasonable evidence amounts to false imprisonment.

- (C) Yes, because good faith belief is sufficient, even without evidence.  
(D) No, because all detentions by private parties are unlawful.

**Q132. Principle:** Criminal liability requires that the defendant's act is the operative and substantial cause of harm. A new, intervening act (*novus actus interveniens*) may break the chain of causation if unforeseeable and sufficient to cause harm independently.

**Facts:** Anil stabbed Bhaskar, causing a serious but non-fatal wound. Doctors at a local hospital negligently left a surgical instrument inside Bhaskar's abdomen. He died of septicemia. Anil argued that the negligent medical treatment, not his stabbing, caused death. Is Anil guilty of culpable homicide?

- (A) Yes, because his stabbing was the operative cause despite negligent treatment.  
(B) No, because negligent medical treatment was an intervening cause.  
(C) Yes, but only guilty of causing grievous hurt, not homicide.  
(D) No, because doctor's negligence absolves him completely.

**Q133. Principle:** The presumption of innocence is a cardinal principle under Article 21 and criminal jurisprudence. Pre-trial detention must be an exception, not the rule. Courts balance liberty with risks of absconding, tampering with evidence, and gravity of offence. Bail cannot be denied merely as punitive detention.

**Facts:** Farhan, accused of insider trading, was denied bail repeatedly for two years despite no trial commencing. The prosecution argued that financial crimes are "grave" and denying bail would deter others. Farhan's counsel argued that prolonged incarceration without trial violated his right to liberty. Should bail be granted?

- (A) Yes, because prolonged pre-trial detention violates presumption of innocence.  
(B) No, because financial crimes are grave and deterrence is necessary.  
(C) Yes, but only if he furnishes extraordinary sureties.  
(D) No, because economic offences automatically justify denial of bail.

**(Q134-136).** Six days (Mon–Sat), six food trucks—A, B, C, D, E, F—one per day. Each serves a distinct cuisine: Indian, Italian, Lebanese, Japanese, Mexican, Vegan.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A is scheduled immediately before B. | 2. C is on Wednesday and is not Italian.                                |
| 3. D is neither Monday nor Saturday.    | 4. E is on a later day than F.  |
| 5. B is either Friday or Saturday.      | 6. Japanese is two days after Indian. There is a Vegan stall on Monday. |
| 7. Mexican is on the same day as E.     | 8. Indian is on Tuesday.  |

**Q134.** Which truck serves Japanese, and on which day?

- A. A – Thursday    B. B – Friday    C. D – Tuesday    D. F – Monday

**Q135.** Which cuisine is paired with truck C, and on what day?

- A. Vegan – Monday    B. Italian – Friday    C. Indian – Tuesday    D. Lebanese – Wednesday

**Q136.** On which day does the Mexican cuisine appear?

- A. Monday    B. Tuesday    C. Friday    D. Saturday

**(Q137-139).** Eight friends — Kabir, Leela, Mohan, Nisha, Omar, Pooja, Rohan, Tara — sit around a circular table facing the centre.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Mohan sits immediately clockwise of Leela.     | 2. Nisha sits two places clockwise from Leela. |
| 3. Pooja sits immediately clockwise of Nisha.     | 4. Rohan sits immediately clockwise of Pooja.  |
| 5. Omar sits exactly opposite Mohan.              | 6. Tara sits exactly opposite Nisha.           |
| 7. Kabir sits immediately anticlockwise of Leela. |  |

**Q137.** Which pair sits directly opposite each other?

- A. Leela and Tara    B. Nisha and Kabir    C. Pooja and Rohan    D. None of the above.

**Q138.** Counting clockwise from Kabir, how many persons sit between Kabir and Pooja?

- A. 2    B. 3    C. 4    D. 5

**Q139.** Which option gives the clockwise order starting from Leela?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Leela, Mohan, Nisha, Pooja, Rohan, Omar, Tara, Kabir | B. Leela, Mohan, Pooja, Nisha, Rohan, Omar, Tara, Kabir |
| C. Leela, Kabir, Tara, Omar, Rohan, Pooja, Nisha, Mohan | D. Leela, Mohan, Nisha, Pooja, Omar, Rohan, Tara, Kabir |

**(Q140-142).** Eight friends — Anita, Bharat, Chirag, Deepa, Eklavya, Farida, Gaurav, Heena — sit in a straight line in positions 1–8 from left to right, all facing North.

1. Chirag sits immediately to the right of Gaurav.
2. Anita sits immediately to the right of Chirag.

3. **Bharat** sits immediately to the right of **Anita**.
4. **Exactly one person** sits between **Bharat** and **Farida**.
5. **Deepa** sits between **Bharat** and **Farida**.
6. **Eklavya** occupies an extreme end.
7. **Heena** sits immediately to the left of **Eklavya**.
8. **Gaurav** occupies the other extreme end.

**Q140. Who sits at the extreme right end?**

- A. Gaurav   B. Eklavya   C. Heena   D. Farida

**Q141. How many persons sit between Chirag and Heena?**

- A. 3   B. 4   C. 2   D. 5

**Q142. Which pair sits together (adjacent)?**

- A. Deepa and Heena   B. Anita and Bharat   C. Chirag and Deepa   D. Farida and Eklavya

**(Q143-145)** Six residents — **Alia (A)**, **Bharat (B)**, **Charu (C)**, **Deepak (D)**, **Esha (E)**, **Farhan (F)** — live on distinct floors of a dorm (1 = ground ... 6 = top). Each heads one **distinct campus committee**: **Logistics**, **Treasury**, **Tech**, **Wellness**, **Publicity**, **Outreach**.

1. **Charu** heads **Publicity** and lives on a **higher floor** than **Deepak**, who heads **Treasury**.
2. The **Tech** lead lives on the **3rd** floor and the **Wellness** lead lives **one floor above** Tech.
3. **Farhan** is **neither Tech nor Wellness** and lives **immediately above** the **Publicity** lead.
4. **Alia** lives on **floor 1** and heads **Logistics**.
5. **Bharat** does **not** head **Treasury** or **Wellness**.

**Q143. Which floor does Charu live on?**

- A. 4<sup>th</sup>   B. 3<sup>rd</sup>   C. 5<sup>th</sup>   D. 6<sup>th</sup>

**Q144. Who heads the Wellness committee?**

- A. Deepak   B. Esha   C. Farhan   D. Bharat

**Q145. Who lives on the 3rd floor, and what committee do they head?**

- A. Alia – Logistics   B. Deepak – Treasury   C. **Bharat – Tech**   D. Charu – Publicity

**Q146.** Ravi starts from his home, walks **3 km north**, then takes a **left turn** and walks **4 km**. He then takes another **left turn** and walks **3 km**, after which he turns right and walks **2 km**. How far is Ravi from his starting point, and in which direction with respect to the start?

- A. 2 km, East   B. 4 km, East   C. 2 km, West   D. 6 km, West

**Q147.** Meena starts facing **east**. She walks **5 km forward**, turns **right**, and walks **3 km**. She then turns **right** again and walks **7 km**, followed by another **right turn** and walks **3 km**. Finally, she turns **left** and walks **2 km**. In which direction is Meena facing now, and how far is she from the starting point?

- A. Facing West, 4 km away   B. Facing West, 5 km away   C. Facing North, 2 km away   D. Facing East, 4 km away

**Q148. Statements (Factual Matrix):** In Quarter 3, the Metro Police Department revised its incident taxonomy: “non-injury assaults” were reclassified as “public disturbances,” which no longer count toward the “serious incidents” KPI reported to the mayor’s office. Patrol staffing, patrol hours, and hotspot locations remained unchanged. After the change, the city reported a 24% decline in “serious incidents.” Officials announced that the city had “become substantially safer.” The reported decline in the KPI is treated as evidence of a real decline in violent harm, even though category definitions—and not underlying behavior—changed. The conclusion rests on the assumption that the KPI still measures the same construct of “serious harm” post-change. Which scenario is most analogous in its **logic** to the officials’ inference?

- a) A university lowers the GPA threshold for “Dean’s List,” sees a 30% rise in honorees, and concludes student ability has increased.
- b) A factory upgrades sensors that catch **more** defects, reports a higher defect rate, and concludes quality has worsened.
- c) A hospital adds a new therapy, mortality falls with no change to coding or case mix, and it concludes the therapy is effective.
- d) A retailer moves headphones from “Electronics” to “Accessories,” observes “Electronics” revenue fall, and concludes demand for electronics is down overall.

**149. Statements (Factual Matrix):** The state’s “Skills4All” job-training scheme reported that participants were 10 percentage points more likely to be employed six months after completion than non-participants in the same districts. Participation required passing a motivation interview and basic numeracy screen. During the evaluation window, two large industrial parks opened in the same districts, adding entry-level vacancies. Program leaders concluded the scheme **caused** the observed

employment gains. Leaders implicitly assume selection into training does not bias comparisons, and that concurrent labor-demand shocks did not primarily drive the outcome.

**Question:** Which finding most strongly undercuts the causal claim?

- a) In districts where intake slots were **lotteried** among eligible applicants, employment gains for lottery-winners (trained) were statistically indistinguishable from lottery-losers (untrained).
- b) Employers reported that trained candidates performed better in interviews than non-participants.
- c) The largest employment gains among participants were in the two districts with the fastest-growing industrial parks.
- d) Participants, on average, had higher baseline employment rates than non-participants before training began.

**150. Statements (Factual Matrix):** Tech firm Oriole shifted to a four-day, 32-hour workweek while keeping salaries constant. In the subsequent quarter, output per employee rose 8% year-over-year. In the same week the policy began, Oriole laid off the bottom 5% of performers and paused two low-margin product lines. Executive leadership announced, “The four-day week **increased** productivity.” Management treats the productivity gain as attributable to schedule change rather than to compositional upgrades (layoffs) or mix effects (pruning low-margin work). They also assume demand stability and no unusual seasonality.

Which assumption must be true for the attribution to the four-day week to be warranted?

- a) No exogenous demand shock (e.g., viral marketing) raised output in that quarter compared to the prior year.
- b) The workforce reduction and product pauses did not account for **most** of the 8% productivity increase relative to what would have occurred without the schedule change.
- c) Employee self-reported well-being improved significantly after the policy change.
- d) Competitors that did not change schedules saw flat productivity over the same quarter.