

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST

CLAT MOCK-145 [NPLC/2025/26]

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

Maximum Marks: 120

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 120 multiple-choice questions for a total of 120 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.

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SECTION-A: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Passage:- 1 Any competent analyst or scholar of international relations knows that prior to a summit meeting, enormous amounts of preparation are necessary. An agenda is agreed upon, and the aides to the respective leaders burn the midnight oil to reach agreements in advance and iron out key differences. Only a few odds and ends are usually left to be tackled at the meeting itself. When the event convenes, the leaders confer to establish a new relationship or bolster an existing one and then turn to various public ceremonies as well as press conferences.

The hastily convened summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his American counterpart Donald Trump raises profound questions about how much preparation for this conclave had been made in advance, especially on the American side. Before the meeting, Trump had proclaimed at least 53 times that he would end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours of assuming office. That, as is well known, failed to transpire.

It is possible to endlessly speculate why Trump chose to pursue this meeting with Putin at such short notice. Some analysts have argued that he decided to meet with Putin primarily to see if he might boost his chances of getting the much-sought-after Nobel Prize. Thus far, for all his putative negotiating skills, he has not made any real headway in tamping down any conflict of consequence, such as the brutal ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. Even pulling off a temporary ceasefire in Ukraine could have been spun into a tale of his ability to terminate a sanguinary war. His motivations for meeting Putin aside, little or nothing was accomplished in Anchorage, Alaska. All that was agreed upon was that the two sides would continue their discussions.

However, the lack of preparation on the American side and Trump's eagerness to meet Putin resulted in an outcome that granted the Russian President multiple easy PR victories. At the outset, Putin was able to step on American soil after a decade. Not only was he able to do so, but it was because of nothing short of a presidential invitation. In the process, a national leader, who has been under indictment since 2023 at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, suddenly acquired an aura of legitimacy in the global order. After all, no less than the President of the United States rolled out a red carpet to greet him on American soil. The contrast in terms of protocol with Trump's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House in February of this year could not have been more striking. At that meeting, Trump's Vice-President J D Vance had publicly berated him, no doubt at Trump's behest. Even Zelenskyy's choice of attire at the meeting had come under criticism.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/putin-trump-summit-much-ado-what-exactly-10192604/>]

Q1. What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. The rushed, under-prepared summit allowed Russia to score easy public-relations gains and conferred questionable legitimacy on Putin, while delivering little substantive progress for the United States.
- B. The United States decisively advanced a comprehensive peace plan for Ukraine and Gaza through a well-orchestrated summit culminating in enforceable agreements.
- C. Putin's visit primarily showcased bipartisan American unity and a carefully calibrated protocol that strengthened allied cohesion and strategic messaging.
- D. Trump's long-standing pledge to end the Ukraine war within twenty-four hours was fulfilled through deft shuttle diplomacy and back-channel negotiations.

Q2. In the sentence "for all his **putative** negotiating skills" (used about Trump), the word **putative** most nearly means

- A. Demonstrably proven and widely acknowledged
- B. Reluctant or half-hearted
- C. Supposed or commonly claimed without conclusive proof
- D. Aggressively confrontational

Q3. Which of the following is the most reasonable inference from the author's discussion of preparation, protocol, and outcomes?

- A. Substantive diplomatic breakthroughs can be reliably achieved when leaders minimize staff involvement and meet with maximal spontaneity.
- B. International law obligations automatically negate any reputational benefit a leader gains from high-visibility visits or invitations.
- C. Press conferences and ceremonies are largely irrelevant to global perceptions and seldom affect the legitimacy of visiting leaders.
- D. Symbolic optics—such as a presidential invitation and the spectacle of stepping onto U.S. soil—can confer perceived legitimacy and PR advantages even when substantive outcomes are meagre.

Q4. In "J D Vance had publicly **berated** him," the best ANTONYM for **berated** is:

- A. Castigated
- B. Praised
- C. Censured
- D. Admonished

Q5. Which scenario most closely parallels the author's reasoning about how a hastily arranged high-profile meeting can hand an opponent easy PR gains without substantial concessions?

- A. A company's CEO abruptly invites a controversial rival to headquarters without due diligence; the rival posts widely shared photos implying endorsement, while no cross-licensing or settlement is agreed.
- B. A government delays an invitation until after months of working-level drafts, producing a detailed joint communiqué that locks in verifiable steps on trade and security.

- C. A university announces a lecture series a year in advance, negotiates speaker conditions, and releases a robust summary of agreed academic collaborations.
- D. A sports league's commissioner meets a star athlete after a season of negotiations and unveils a signed, enforceable code of conduct with sanctions.

Q6. Which option best captures the author's stance toward Trump's decision to meet Putin and the overall outcome?

- A. Neutral reportage emphasizing both sides' perspectives without evaluative commentary.
- B. Laudatory approval of Trump's bold diplomatic instinct and willingness to disrupt bureaucratic routines.
- C. Skeptical and critical of the lack of preparation and of the legitimacy/PR benefits extended to Putin in exchange for little tangible progress.
- D. Primarily legalistic, focusing narrowly on ICC statutes and avoiding judgments about optics or statecraft.

Passage:- 2 My mother could change the color of her skin. From what I'm told, it was a gift she inherited from her mother, who inherited it from her mother before her, passed down from blood to blood along with diseases, artistic hysteria, and a predilection for loving the wrong men. My great-grandmother was an Aniyunwiya witch and used to change color before sneaking into settlements to gather supplies and conduct trade.

I was told that she could assume the form of the most respectable white governess and handle herself in a way that made others believe the color change was more than just skin-deep with mannerisms, words, posture, and a general air of entitlement that lodged deep within her bones and held them hostage like a duplicitous marionette. That all changed the day she met my great-grandfather outside the general store in Osceola County. It's named for the slaughtered chief whose pronunciation its white residents butchered long after his death. My great-grandfather was tall, brawny, with large shoulders like coconuts and thick, long legs roped in muscle. He wore only a pair of filthy trousers and sat in the dirt next to a pile of horse manure, bound to a horse cart by a slipknot looped around his bruised neck and shackles around his wrists. As he waited for his master to return, he met eyes with the woman he would eventually marry in a fire ceremony beneath the North Star. My great-grandmother had been the color of fresh milk, but quickly blushed into her natural rust-colored state when she saw his copper-colored eyes. He watched this transformation, all while holding her gaze, and when she stood before him with soft red skin and sharp cheekbones, he just smiled up at her and said, "Well, would you look at that."

My mother also told me the tale of when my grandmother, who had long suspected my grandfather of indiscretions, turned into a deep crimson red the night an unknown light-skinned woman showed up on their front lawn. The woman held a bottle of cheap whiskey in her hand and shouted at the Florida midnight air, demanding that my grandmother release my grandfather. She said that they were in love, and nothing would come between them—not even my grandmother's twenty children. My grandmother emerged from the front door, the screen door swinging shut behind her on its rusted hinges. She walked down the broken porch steps, gripping a shotgun in her weathered hands, as red as new blood. A single shot rang out into the sky, cutting the silence into roaring shards, and then she pointed the gun at the woman on the grass.

"If you ever come back to my house or see my husband again, I'll kill you," she said. The woman stared at my grandmother for some long moments, then dropped her half-full bottle of whiskey on the starved grass and walked away, disappearing into the night.

[<https://lithub.com/notes-on-her-color/>]

Q7. What is the main idea that best captures the passage's thematic arc and narrative focus?

- A. A multigenerational family history in which women inherit the ability to change skin color and deploy it as a survival skill—"passing," infiltration, and performance—to navigate racialized power, with intimate vignettes (courtship, jealousy, threatened violence) revealing how this gift both protects and burdens them.
- B. A straightforward chronicle of witchcraft that treats color-changing as a neutral folk curiosity unconnected to race, gender, or social hierarchy, mostly celebrating spectacle rather than consequence.
- C. A political pamphlet advocating statutory recognition of shapeshifting rights in settler jurisdictions, illustrated by an exhaustive list of legal violations by county authorities.
- D. A romantic idyll centered solely on star-crossed lovers whose union transcends all social constraints without cost, conflict, or commentary on history.

Q8. In "a duplicitous marionette", the best antonym of *duplicitous* is:

- A. Deceitful
- B. Guileless
- C. Crafty
- D. Two-faced

Q9. What does the sentence "It's named for the slaughtered chief whose pronunciation its white residents butchered long after his death" most strongly imply?

- A. The county's residents carefully preserve the chief's name and honor his legacy.
- B. The county name has remained phonologically faithful to the chief's language due to attentive stewardship.
- C. The line is a neutral historical aside with no evaluative stance on the residents' behavior.
- D. The naming enacts a layered disrespect—erasure through mispronunciation that persists even after the chief's killing—signaling ongoing colonial contempt.

Q10. Which revision BEST improves the clarity and parallel structure of the sentence in Line 8 without altering its meaning?

- A. "He wore only filthy trousers and sat by manure in the dirt, bound by a slipknot and having shackles on his wrists to a horse cart."
- B. "He wore only a pair of filthy trousers and, bound to a horse cart by a slipknot around his bruised neck and by shackles around his wrists, sat in the dirt next to a pile of horse manure."
- C. "Bound by a slipknot and shackles, he wore only trousers and sat next to manure, which was by a horse cart in the dirt."
- D. "He sat in the dirt bound by shackles and a slipknot to a horse cart next to manure, wearing only a pair of filthy trousers."

Q11. Which scenario MOST closely parallels the passage's portrayal of the great-grandmother "assuming the form of the most respectable white governess" to access goods and safety?

- A. An indigenous merchant temporarily adopting the speech, dress, and etiquette of a dominant class to pass as a respectable insider, securing fair prices and safe passage, while privately retaining a distinct identity that reappears among kin.
- B. A researcher who publishes in a paywalled journal to increase citations, though readers can't access the work.
- C. A student who memorizes formulae for an exam without understanding concepts but still passes due to luck.
- D. A tourist who buys a local SIM card to get cheaper data while on vacation.

Q12. Which of the following happened during the confrontation at the house?

- A. The grandmother shot at the intruder and wounded her, after which the twenty children chased the woman away.
- B. The intruding woman smashed her whiskey bottle and shouted until neighbors gathered, forcing the grandmother back inside.
- C. The grandmother fired a single shot into the sky, threatened to kill the woman if she returned, and the woman then dropped the bottle and left.
- D. The grandmother refused to come outside, choosing instead to negotiate calmly through the screen door until dawn.

Passage:- 3 On August 11, 2025, the central government implored India's seafood industry, that provides livelihoods to about 28 million people, to "bravely face" the U.S.'s tariffs of 25% that kicked in on August 7, 2025 and which could be raised to 50% on August 27, 2025, contingent upon the outcome of trade negotiations. On August 13, 2025, highly placed sources in the Commerce and Finance Ministries told The Hindu that the government is exploring "tweaking" the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), that was announced in the 2025 Union Budget, with an outlay of ₹2,250 crore for the current fiscal year. The EPM, a multi-Ministry project to drive access to cheaper export credit, overcome non-trade barriers and insure payments from overseas buyers, focuses on India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). Initially meant to be driven by the Ministries of Commerce, MSME and Finance, discussions are on to include the Textiles and Fisheries Ministries. These two industries, which collectively support about 135 million Indians, form among the largest segment of MSMEs that are likely to face the most impact due to the sanctions. The U.S. typically accounts for roughly a third of India's apparel and seafood exports annually

The government's imploration to also diversify into other markets is a tacit admission that the Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations with the U.S. are deadlocked, and that the personal equations between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S President Donald Trump have not translated into a win for either side. Bilateral relations have arguably hit a level lower than during the Cold War, as the two nations were not as enmeshed as they are now, economically, culturally and militarily. Trade and service routes and supply chains take decades to build and undoing them overnight is not possible. This has been clear from the European Union's reliance on Russian oil and the global dependence on rare earth elements from China. While consultations have been ongoing between the government and MSME sector stakeholders ever since Mr. Trump announced "reciprocal tariffs" in April, there is a chorus now for drastic governmental intervention to safeguard the backbone of the economy — it contributes nearly half (45.79% in FY25) of goods exports and employs over 28 crore people. The fisheries sector has sought a 240-day moratorium on pre- and post-shipment credit repayment, while the textiles, apparel and gem and jewellery sectors want interest subvention. The government has, however, ruled out direct subsidies. But unprecedented challenges require novel responses. The government must include in its arsenal a drastic refashioning of near-term trade ties with neighbours, in particular, China, which it had ignored in the hope that the assiduous cultivation of ties with Washington would pay off.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-paradigm-shift-on-india-and-its-trade-relations/article69937141.ece>]

Q13. What is the main idea that best captures the passage's argument and recommendation?

- A. India should immediately grant large-scale direct subsidies to all export sectors to offset U.S. tariffs, while postponing reforms to credit and insurance frameworks.
- B. The U.S. tariffs will have negligible impact because supply chains can be quickly reoriented; hence no major policy rethink is necessary beyond routine consultations.
- C. With U.S. tariffs biting and talks deadlocked, India must urgently shield MSME-heavy sectors by reworking EPM design and Ministry coverage, diversifying export markets, and refashioning near-term trade ties (including with China), since deep supply chains cannot be rebuilt overnight.
- D. The Modi-Trump personal rapport will swiftly deliver a bilateral breakthrough, so short-term domestic policy changes—credit, insurance, Ministry coordination—are unnecessary.

Q14. In the sentence “the two nations were not as *enmeshed* as they are now”, *enmeshed* most nearly means?
A. Formally hostile yet diplomatically cordial B. Loosely affiliated and easily separable
C. Politically aligned but economically detached D. Deeply interlinked and difficult to separate across domains

Q15. Which statement below is explicitly supported by the passage?
A. The government has approved direct subsidies for fisheries and textiles to counter U.S. tariffs.
B. The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) was announced in the 2025 Union Budget with an outlay of ₹2,250 crore for the current fiscal year.
C. The U.S. accounts for exactly one-half of India’s apparel and seafood exports every year.
D. The Fisheries and Textiles Ministries have taken over EPM from the Commerce Ministry.

Q16. Which revision BEST improves clarity and parallel structure without changing meaning for the idea in Line 1?
Original idea (L1): the government implored the seafood industry to “bravely face” U.S. tariffs of 25% (effective Aug 7, 2025), which could rise to 50% (Aug 27, 2025) depending on talks.
A. The government implored the seafood industry to bravely face 25% U.S. tariffs from August 7, 2025, and which depending on negotiations could rise to 50% by August 27, 2025.
B. The government implored the seafood industry to “bravely face” 25% U.S. tariffs effective August 7, 2025, which could rise to 50% by August 27, 2025, contingent on negotiations.
C. The seafood industry was implored by the government to bravely face 25% tariffs that were U.S., and rising to 50% August 27 depending on outcome of talks.
D. Imploring the seafood industry, the government noted tariffs of 25% from August 7 and possibly 50% from August 27 which are contingent, with bravery being needed.

Q17. Which option BEST captures the writer’s attitude and policy direction?
A. Soberly critical of deadlocked U.S. talks and skeptical of quick fixes, the writer urges pragmatic market diversification, EPM tweaking, and a drastic refashioning of near-term ties—including with China—while rejecting blanket direct subsidies.
B. Optimistic that leader-to-leader chemistry will soon resolve the impasse, the writer counsels patience and opposes any sectoral support.
C. Neutral reportage without recommendations, avoiding any evaluation of subsidies, China, or diversification.
D. Strongly protectionist, advocating immediate export bans and capital controls until tariffs are withdrawn.

Q18. Which scenario MOST closely mirrors the passage’s “tacit admission” + diversification logic?
A. A university, after a successful collaboration, doubles down on the same foreign partner and cancels all other MoUs to reduce administrative overhead.
B. A firm refuses to acknowledge a stalled supplier contract and keeps placing large orders with the same vendor while rejecting alternative sourcing.
C. A mid-size manufacturer, realizing talks with its largest buyer have stalled and margins are at risk, quietly ramps up credit insurance, tweaks financing lines, and opens sales in several new regions—even reopening talks with a previously unwelcome distributor.
D. A retailer cuts all supplier ties overnight and designs a brand-new supply chain from scratch, assuming dependencies can be rebuilt in weeks.

Passage:- 4 Mrs. Baroda was a little provoked to learn that her husband expected his friend, Gouvernail, up to spend a week or two on the plantation. They had entertained a good deal during the winter; much of the time had also been passed in New Orleans in various forms of mild dissipation. She was looking forward to a period of unbroken rest, now, and undisturbed *tete-a-tete* with her husband, when he informed her that Gouvernail was coming up to stay a week or two. This was a man she had heard much of but never seen. He had been her husband's college friend; was now a journalist, and in no sense a society man or "a man about town," which were, perhaps, some of the reasons she had never met him. But she had unconsciously formed an image of him in her mind. She pictured him tall, slim, cynical; with eye-glasses, and his hands in his pockets; and she did not like him. Gouvernail was slim enough, but he wasn't very tall nor very cynical; neither did he wear eyeglasses nor carry his hands in his pockets. And she rather liked him when he first presented himself.

But why she liked him she could not explain satisfactorily to herself when she partly attempted to do so. She could discover in him none of those brilliant and promising traits which Gaston, her husband, had often assured her that he possessed. On the contrary, he sat rather mute and receptive before her chatty eagerness to make him feel at home and in face of Gaston's frank and wordy hospitality. His manner was as courteous toward her as the most exacting woman could require; but he made no direct appeal to her approval or even esteem.

Once settled at the plantation he seemed to like to sit upon the wide portico in the shade of one of the big Corinthian pillars, smoking his cigar lazily and listening attentively to Gaston's experience as a sugar planter. "This is what I call living," he would utter with deep satisfaction, as the air that swept across the sugar field caressed him with its warm and scented velvety touch. It pleased him also to get on familiar terms with the big dogs that came about him, rubbing themselves sociably against his legs. He did not care to fish, and displayed no eagerness to go out and kill grosbeaks when Gaston proposed doing so.

Gouvernail's personality puzzled Mrs. Baroda, but she liked him. Indeed, he was a lovable, inoffensive fellow. After a few days, when she could understand him no better than at first, she gave over being puzzled and remained piqued. In this mood she left her husband and her guest, for the most part, alone together. Then finding that Gouvernail took no manner of exception to her action, she imposed her society upon him, accompanying him in his idle strolls to the mill and walks along the batture. She persistently sought to penetrate the reserve in which he had unconsciously enveloped himself.

[<https://americanliterature.com/author/kate-chopin/short-story/a-respectable-woman>]

Q19. What best captures the main idea of the passage?

- A. A study of Mrs. Baroda's shifting perception—from initial annoyance and prejudice to puzzled fascination—as the real Gouvernail quietly subverts her imagined portrait, drawing her into attempts to “penetrate” his reserve.
- B. A critique of plantation life that focuses on labor relations, wildlife hunting, and cash-crop economics more than on personal psychology.
- C. A morality tale establishing that first impressions are always accurate when supported by reliable hearsay and social reputation.
- D. A romance centered on Gaston and Mrs. Baroda's perfect companionship, undisturbed by visitors or inner conflict.

Q20. In “she gave over being puzzled and remained **piqued**” (Line 20), **piqued** most nearly means:

- A. Deeply enlightened and satisfied by new understanding
- B. Irritated or resentfully aroused by something that still rankles
- C. Amused in a lighthearted way that dissolves tension
- D. Fearful and withdrawn due to social anxiety

Q21. Which option most reasonably infers what attracts Mrs. Baroda to Gouvernail despite his lack of “brilliant and promising traits”?

- A. His dazzling wit and aggressive charm compel her admiration in public settings.
- B. His willingness to flatter her and seek her approval makes him appealing.
- C. His quiet self-containment—courteous yet non-solicitous—defies her preconceptions and becomes intriguing, shifting her from prejudice to fascination.
- D. His passion for sport and hunting strongly aligns with her interests, creating instant rapport.

Q22. Choose the option that most clearly and smoothly revises the following, preserving the original meaning of L14–L17 and maintaining parallel structure.

Original idea: *Once settled at the plantation he seemed to like to sit upon the wide portico in the shade of one of the big Corinthian pillars, smoking his cigar lazily and listening attentively to Gaston's experience as a sugar planter. “This is what I call living,” he would utter... He did not care to fish...*

- A. Once settled at the plantation he liked to seem to sit upon the wide portico, in the shade of a big Corinthian pillar, smoking his cigar lazily and attentively listening to Gaston's experience as a sugar planter.
- B. Once settled at the plantation, he seemed he liked to sit on the wide portico in the shade of one of the big Corinthian pillars, lazily smoking a cigar and and listening attentive to Gaston's experience as a sugar planter.
- C. Once settled at the plantation he seemed to like to sit on the wide portico, in the shade of a big Corinthian pillar, smoking his cigar lazily and listened attentively to Gaston's experience as a sugar planter.
- D. Once settled at the plantation, he seemed to like sitting on the wide portico in the shade of one of the big Corinthian pillars, lazily smoking his cigar and listening attentively to Gaston recount his experience as a sugar planter.

Q23. Which scenario most closely parallels Mrs. Baroda's mental-image-versus-reality shift and ensuing curiosity?

- A. A reader, having assumed a new novelist is aloof and cynical from reviews, meets her and finds her gentle and reserved; intrigued by the mismatch, the reader seeks out more of her work and interviews to understand the person behind the prose.
- B. A traveler dislikes a city because of a rainy day, then resolves never to return.
- C. A manager withholds judgment about a candidate until a lengthy assessment confirms the résumé's claims exactly.
- D. A student praises a professor's charisma based solely on a friend's description and never attends class to verify.

Q24. The best ANTONYM of **receptive** as used in “he sat rather mute and **receptive**” is:

- A. Amenable
- B. Welcoming
- C. Open-minded
- D. Resistant

SECTION B: - CURRENT AFFAIRS (INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

Passage:- 1 U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday (April 2, 2025) unveiled a raft of punishing tariffs targeting countries around the world including some of its closest trading partners, in a move that risks sparking a ruinous trade war. Speaking in the White House Rose Garden against a backdrop of US flags, Trump slapped the most stinging tariffs on China and the European Union on what he called “Liberation Day.” The dollar fell 1% against the euro and slipped against other major currencies as Mr. Trump was speaking.

“For decades, our country has been looted, pillaged, raped and plundered by nations near and far, both friend and foe alike,” Mr. Trump said. Mr. Trump reserved some of the heaviest blows for what he called the “nations that treat us badly,” including 34% on goods from superpower rival China, 26% on India, 20% on key ally the European Union and 24% on Japan. But the 78-year-old

Republican — who held up a chart with a list of levies — said that he was “very kind” and so was only imposing half the amount that those countries taxed US exports.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/donald-trump-announce-april-2-usa-global-tariffs-trade-war-india-china-eu-liberation-day/article69407736.ece>]

Q25. What is the base tariff imposed on all countries under President Trump’s 2025 reciprocal tariff policy?

- A. A 10% tariff applicable across all imports, increased from a previous rate of 2.5%
- B. A flat 15% tax on luxury goods from G20 nations with surplus trade
- C. A 5% flat-rate tariff on imports exceeding \$50 million in value annually
- D. A retaliatory tariff equivalent to the average global tariff rate as per WTO norms

Q26. Which historical trade policy is the current US tariff regime under Trump most frequently compared to due to its protectionist intensity?

- A. The Bretton Woods Agreement
- B. The Plaza Accord
- C. The Marshall Plan tariffs
- D. The Smoot-Hawley Act of the 1930s

Q27. Despite contributing a small share to the US trade deficit, which low-income country is facing disproportionately high tariffs under the Trump policy?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Cambodia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Nepal

Q28. Which of the following best explains India’s current response to the Trump administration’s reciprocal tariff hike of 27%?

- A. India has imposed retaliatory tariffs on US agricultural imports and withdrawn from all bilateral trade talks until tariff rollback
- B. India has refrained from retaliation and is prioritizing bilateral negotiations, aiming to reduce its own high tariffs and ease trade barriers
- C. India has approached the World Trade Organization for dispute resolution and initiated economic sanctions against US-based companies
- D. India has offered preferential access to American defense companies in exchange for tariff exemptions on textiles and pharmaceuticals

Q29. Which key issue cited by the US is *not* among the main grievances against India’s trade and investment framework?

- A. Lack of a uniform and transparent government procurement policy
- B. High agricultural tariffs with an average bound rate exceeding 100%
- C. Extensive privatization of banking and insurance sectors creating a risk-heavy financial market
- D. Market access restrictions due to dominance of state-owned enterprises and restrictive FDI norms

Q30. What is one of the major strategic advantages India gains from Trump’s tariff policy when compared to its export rivals?

- A. Its low-tariff treatment relative to Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand gives India a price advantage in textiles and garments in the US market
- B. It is the only country exempt from all non-agricultural tariffs under the new tariff order
- C. It has been given unconditional access to the US digital services market, including exemptions from data localization rules
- D. The US has recognized India’s pharmaceutical exports as WTO-compliant and given blanket tariff waivers on all active ingredients

Passage:- 2 As for the summit clash, the 2024 World Chess Championship in Singapore was singular on many counts. It marked the first time two Asians vied for the title, and it featured the youngest challenger ever. The tournament was anything but straightforward for Gukesh. Ding Liren, far from being the pushover some pundits expected him to be, proved his mettle, beginning the championship with a stunning victory in the first game — a move that set the tone for a gruelling contest. Ding’s challenges were significant, both physically and mentally, yet he displayed the resilience of a true champion. His victory in game 12 stood out as a masterclass in strategy, keeping the contest alive. But in the end, Gukesh’s unyielding determination, mental resolve and ability over 14 games to seize opportunities proved decisive.

It would be simplistic to underplay the enormity of the achievement by highlighting Ding’s “blunder” with his rook. Indeed, blunders have been made by all greats, past and present, as Garry Kasparov has pointed out in appreciating Gukesh’s win, while observing that “matches take a toll”. Pendulum swings in great contests are to be expected, and this contest lived up to its billing. The magnitude of his achievement seemed to dawn on Gukesh only gradually. His initial reaction — barely able to suppress a smile after Ding’s decisive blunder in the final round — gave way to an emotional outburst, a heart-warming moment of triumph for him and a gut-wrenching one for his opponent. The fishtank (playing arena) erupted with chants of his name as Gukesh rearranged his pieces one last time before being crowned the new king of the chess world. It was a moment for the ages.

Q31. Who was the first official World Chess Champion, and in which year did the title originate?

- A. Wilhelm Steinitz (1886)
- B. Emanuel Lasker (1894)
- C. Bobby Fischer (1972)
- D. Alexander Alekhine (1927)

Q32. Which international chess body assumed the role of organizing the World Chess Championship beginning in 1948?

- A. ICC – International Chess Confederation, headquartered in Moscow
- B. FICA – Federation of International Chess Associations, based in Geneva

- C. FIDE – Fédération Internationale des Échecs, which took over after World War II
 D. WPA – World Players Association, a multi-sport federation with chess as one of its verticals

Q33. How did D. Gukesh qualify to challenge for the 2024 World Chess Championship title against reigning champion Ding Liren?
 A. By defeating Hikaru Nakamura in a FIDE-sanctioned semifinal series
 B. By winning the Candidates Tournament held in Toronto in April 2024
 C. By being the highest-rated under-21 Grandmaster as of mid-2024
 D. By winning the Chess Olympiad gold in both individual and team events earlier in the year

Q34. What record did D. Gukesh set through his victory over Ding Liren in the 2024 World Chess Championship?
 A. Youngest Grandmaster in history to participate in a World Championship final
 B. First Indian to win both Chess Olympiad gold and World Championship in the same year
 C. First ever teenager to defeat a reigning Chinese world champion
 D. Youngest undisputed World Chess Champion in history at the age of 18

Q35. Which of the following achievements does *not* apply to D. Gukesh's chess career as of the end of 2024?
 A. He earned the Grandmaster title before turning 13, becoming the second-youngest GM at the time
 B. He won gold medals at the 45th Chess Olympiad and bronze at the 2024 Asian Games
 C. He surpassed a FIDE rating of 2750, making him the youngest ever to do so
 D. He became the 17th individual to hold the undisputed World Chess Champion title in history

Passage:- 3 The Union Budget 2025-26 seeks to address specific issues plaguing the Indian economy — flagging domestic demand, sluggish private investment and tepid wage growth leading to a slowdown in meaningful GDP growth. A closer look at the priorities and allocations would reveal that the approach is cautious, without the assurance that they would indeed address the underlying problems. The government has seized upon a double-edged sword — substantial tax breaks — to boost consumption and to drive growth, leaving it with little room to expand public spending on capital expenditure, which could have been another useful lever to achieve the same end. While putting more money in the hands of the middle class seems the right thing to do in a time of unrelenting inflation, the focus continues to be on fiscal consolidation with a targeted fiscal deficit of 4.4% of GDP in FY26, coming down from 4.8% in FY25. It has sought to project augmented direct tax receipts despite providing tax rebate incentives for a large segment of the salaried direct tax-payers. The expectation is that there would be better compliance with a greater use of technology, which was useful in increasing the direct tax revenue from a budgeted estimate of ₹11,87,000 crore to ₹12,57,000 crore (revised estimates) in FY25.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/hope-in-the-time-of-desperation-on-the-union-budget-2025-26/article69169983.ece>]

Q36. In which financial year was the Economic Survey of India first presented as part of the Union Budget documentation?
 A. 1947–48 B. 1950–51 C. 1955–56 D. 1964–65

Q37. Since which year has the Economic Survey been tabled separately from the Union Budget, a day prior to the budget presentation?
 A. 1955 B. 1961 C. 1964 D. 1972

Q38. Which of the following correctly identifies the entity responsible for preparing the Economic Survey of India?
 A. Department of Revenue in consultation with the Finance Commission and NITI Aayog
 B. Reserve Bank of India in coordination with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 C. Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance under the supervision of the Chief Economic Adviser
 D. Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council in consultation with Cabinet Secretariat

Q39. In the Union Budget 2025–26, which of the following sectors was *not* explicitly identified as one of the four engines of development?
 A. Exports B. Agriculture C. Large-Scale Manufacturing D. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Q40. What overarching slogan or theme defines the Union Budget 2025–26, aiming for equitable growth across diverse sectors and regions?
 A. Viksit Bharat: Towards a \$5 Trillion Economy B. Sabka Vikas: Inclusive Development for All
 C. Bharat Nirmaan 2.0: Rebuilding with Resilience D. Shreshtha Bharat: Expanding National Competitiveness

Q41. Under the Budget's development framework, which group is *not* specifically mentioned as a targeted focus area among the proposed measures?
 A. Women (Nari), with budgetary schemes for credit access, maternal health and skilling
 B. Startups, with targeted capital gains waivers and regulatory support for innovation
 C. Youth, with education-industry linkages and entrepreneurship support
 D. Farmers (Annadata), with enhanced crop insurance and minimum support mechanisms

Passage:- 4 The decision by the international criminal court (ICC) to issue arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, and Yoav Gallant, Israel's former defence minister, for alleged war crimes committed in Gaza has huge implications for Israel and Palestine, for international justice and the rules-based global order that the UK and its allies are pledged to uphold. This unprecedented, necessary and impartial supranational attempt to prosecute democratically elected western politicians accused of grievous wrongdoing is a test the international community dare not fail.

Netanyahu's reaction to the charges was to dismiss them as "absurd" and "antisemitic" and the ICC as a biased, politicised body. "No outrageous anti-Israel decision will prevent us – and it will not prevent me – from continuing to defend our country in every way," he said. Netanyahu will have to do better than that. This case is not remotely about antisemitism. It's not about Israel's right to defend itself, which nobody disputes. It's a matter of how it goes about it. It's a question of impunity and justice. Netanyahu and Gallant should voluntarily surrender to the court and fight their case.

The two arrest warrants, plus another for the Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif, who Israel says is dead, do not come as a surprise. They were first requested by the ICC chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, in May after a long investigation with which Israel's leaders did not cooperate. Netanyahu and Gallant have had plenty of time to challenge evidence that has led to the charges of crimes against humanity, including "murder, persecution and other inhumane acts" and "the war crime of starvation". Netanyahu could have taken the initiative and accepted an independent state commission of inquiry – but he opposed the idea. That may be because any such inquiry would be bound to examine his role in the disastrous security failures preceding the 7 October 2023 atrocities.

[<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/nov/23/the-observer-view-gaza-israel-icc-arrest-warrants-justice>]

Q42. The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established by which of the following treaties and in which year was it adopted?

- A. The Geneva Protocol on Crimes Against Humanity (1999)
- B. The Statute of The Hague (2000)
- C. The Rome Statute (1998)
- D. The Covenant on Criminal Accountability (2001)

Q43. Which of the following countries have signed but not ratified the Rome Statute, and hence are not legally bound by the ICC's jurisdiction?

- A. India, North Korea, and China
- B. Turkey, Iraq, and Iran
- C. United States, Israel, and Russia
- D. Nigeria, Egypt, and Venezuela

Q44. Which of the following statements about the functioning and powers of the ICC is correct?

- A. The ICC can prosecute only member state nationals and requires explicit UN General Assembly approval before issuing arrest warrants
- B. The judges of the ICC can serve two renewable five-year terms, and warrants must be enforced by Interpol directly
- C. The ICC can initiate investigations proprio motu and has three benches — pre-trial, trial, and appellate — with judges serving non-renewable nine-year terms
- D. Non-member states cannot be prosecuted under any circumstances, even if crimes occur in member state territories

Q45. Which of the following best describes the core accusations against Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant as per the ICC's May 2024 announcement?

- A. War crimes and crimes against humanity for starvation of civilians, restricting essential supplies, and overseeing acts of violence in Gaza
- B. Financing unlawful paramilitary activities and cyber espionage against international organizations
- C. Authorizing mass evacuations in Gaza without medical aid and supporting arms transfers to Hamas
- D. Conducting drone surveillance over Palestinian territories and denying asylum to refugees during the October 2023 war

Q46. What happens when the ICC issues an arrest warrant against a head of state or senior official of a country?

- A. The United Nations peacekeeping forces automatically execute the warrant under international humanitarian law
- B. ICC member states are legally obligated to arrest and extradite the accused if they enter their territory
- C. The accused must appear before a special committee of the UN Human Rights Council within 60 days
- D. Non-member states are compelled to enforce the warrant if the International Court of Justice demands it

Q47. Which of the following best captures the diplomatic impact of the ICC warrant against Netanyahu, especially in relation to Western nations?

- A. It compels countries like France and Germany to terminate bilateral defense agreements with Israel immediately
- B. It strengthens Hamas's legitimacy in peace negotiations brokered by Qatar and the Arab League
- C. It imposes moral and reputational pressure, restricting Netanyahu's international travel and complicating diplomatic relations, without guaranteed arrest
- D. It has triggered automatic sanctions from NATO countries under the Rome Statute's Article 7 enforcement provisions

Passage:- 5 It's Nobel Prize week, and history indicates that the scientists in with the best chance of winning are men from Europe or North America. If you were born anywhere else in the world, your best chance of getting an invitation to Stockholm is to find a research job in a North American or European country and relocate. Thus concludes a Nature Feature published last week called 'How to win a Nobel prize'. The analysis also notes that prizewinning science is often performed by teams that share 'family' links with previous winners (R. S. J. Tol *Scientometrics* 129, 1329–1346; 2024).

Representatives of the organizations that select the Nobel prizewinners have told Nature that they are continuously working to better recognize diversity in science. And there has been noticeable movement. In the entirety of the twentieth century, only 11 Nobel prizes in chemistry, physics, or physiology or medicine were awarded to women. Between 2000 and 2023, 15 women received awards (not all of this year's prizes had been announced by the time Nature went to press).
[<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03267-8>]

Q48. Which institutions are responsible for awarding the Nobel Prizes in the categories of Peace, Literature, and Medicine respectively?

- A. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Norwegian Parliament, and World Health Organization
- B. The Norwegian Nobel Committee, the Swedish Academy, and the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute
- C. The United Nations Human Rights Council, Royal Academy of Letters, and the WHO Expert Council
- D. The Norwegian Academy of Letters, European Peace Commission, and the Nobel Council for Medicine

Q49. What significant contribution was made by David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper that led to their joint award of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry?

- A. Pioneering a gene-editing tool using CRISPR-Cas9 for rapid protein synthesis in bacteria
- B. Demonstrating how protein folding disorders cause degenerative brain diseases in mammals
- C. Developing AI-based protein structure prediction and designing novel proteins with real-world applications
- D. Discovering a universal protein code that determines folding patterns in synthetic enzymes

Q50. What was the core finding of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences recipients regarding the long-term impact of colonial rule on modern economic disparity?

- A. Colonization led to robust economic growth through infrastructure investment in colonies
- B. Economic disparity today stems mainly from lack of access to international capital markets
- C. The institutional legacy of colonialism – including extractive political systems – perpetuates inequality and hinders growth
- D. Foreign aid dependency has replaced colonial structures and is the leading cause of underdevelopment in former colonies

Q51. Han Kang, winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature, is best known for what literary qualities and themes?

- A. Witty satire of authoritarian regimes, drawing comparisons to Orwellian fiction
- B. Poetic and experimental prose that explores trauma, fragility, and psychological depth through historical lenses
- C. Lyrical romanticism highlighting ecological consciousness in postmodern South Korean fiction
- D. Non-fiction accounts of survivors of military oppression during the Cold War era

Q52. Which of the following best reflects the global significance of Nihon Hidankyo's work that led to its winning the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize?

- A. The organization's opposition to digital warfare through global disarmament accords
- B. Its decades-long campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons using survivor testimony and advocacy
- C. Successful lobbying for the inclusion of nuclear bans in all international arms trade agreements
- D. Organizing disarmament protests in the UN headquarters and initiating the No-Nuke Pact among ASEAN states

SECTION C: - LEGAL REASONING

Passage:- 1 To commit the tort of negligence, there are primarily 6 main essentials that are required. An act will be categorized as negligence only if, all the conditions are satisfied namely –

- 1) Duty Of Care: It is one of the essential conditions of negligence in order to make the person liable. It means that every person owes, a duty of care, to another person while performing an act. Although this duty exists in all acts, but in negligence, the duty is legal in nature and cannot be illegal or unlawful and also cannot be of moral, ethical or religious nature.
- 2) The Duty must be towards the plaintiff: A duty arises when the law recognizes a relationship between the defendant and the plaintiff and requires the defendant to act in a certain manner toward the plaintiff. It is not sufficient that the defendant owed a duty of care towards the plaintiff but it must also be established which is usually determined by the judge.
- 3) Breach of Duty to take care: It's not enough for a plaintiff to prove that the defendant owed him a duty of care but he must also establish that the defendant breached his duty to the plaintiff. A defendant breaches such a duty by failing to exercise reasonable care in fulfilling the duty. In other words, the breach of a duty of care means that the person who has an existing duty of care should act wisely and not omit or commit any act which he has to do or not do as said in the case of *Blyth v. Birmingham Waterworks Co.*, (1856). In simple terms, it means non-observance of a standard of care.
- 4) Actual cause or cause in fact: In this scenario, the plaintiff who is suing the defendant for negligence has the liability to prove is that the defendant's violation of duty was the actual cause of the damages incurred by him. This is often called the "but-for" causation which means that, but for the defendant's actions, the plaintiff would not have incurred the damages.
- 5) Proximate cause: Proximate cause means "legal cause," or the cause that the law recognizes as the primary cause of the injury. It may not be the first event that set in motion a sequence of events that led to an injury, and it may not be the very last event before the injury occurs. Instead, it is an action that produced foreseeable consequences without intervention from anyone else. A defendant in a negligence case is only responsible for those damages that the defendant could have foreseen through his actions.

6) Consequential harm to the plaintiff: Proving that the defendant failed to exercise reasonable care is not enough. It should also be proved that the failure of the defendant to exercise reasonable care resulted in damages to the plaintiff to whom the defendant owed a duty of care.

[<https://blog.ipleaders.in/negligence-in-the-law-of-torts/>]

Q53. Factual Scenario: Mr. Kapoor, a renowned mountaineer, offers a free climbing workshop to community members. Ms. Rao, a participant, is injured when Kapoor's faulty harness snaps. Kapoor insists no contractual obligation existed and denies any legal duty. Under the negligence principles, which is the correct conclusion?

- A. Kapoor owed no duty because the workshop was free and participation voluntary, absolving him of any responsibility for participant safety.
- B. Kapoor owed a moral duty but not a legal duty, as ethical obligations do not translate into legal duties unless there is a formal contract.
- C. Kapoor owed a legal duty of care to Rao because the law recognizes a relationship arising from undertaking specialized activities, regardless of payment.
- D. Kapoor owed duty only to pay participants, so Rao cannot claim negligence since she received the service without formal remuneration.

Q54. Factual Scenario: Dr. Mehta, an ophthalmologist, prescribes medication without performing a required retinal scan. Mr. Sen suffers vision deterioration. The standard professional guidelines mandate scans before prescribing. Dr. Mehta argues he followed patient's verbal assurances of no prior eye issues. What is the correct legal assessment of breach?

- A. No breach occurred because Mr. Sen verbally confirmed his history, shifting the duty of disclosure to the patient under reasonable care standards.
- B. Dr. Mehta breached his duty by failing to adhere to the professional standard requiring retinal scans before prescribing medication that could impair vision.
- C. No breach occurred as the guidelines are advisory, not legally binding, which makes deviation permissible without liability.
- D. Dr. Mehta's actions are excused since emergencies permit omission of standard procedures under medical negligence doctrine.

Q55. Factual Scenario: A delivery driver swerves to avoid debris and collides with a power pole, causing a transformer explosion that injures bystanders. The explosion occurs minutes after the collision. Victims sue the driver. Which causation principle applies to driver's liability?

- A. The driver is liable only for the immediate collision impact injuries, not for explosion injuries occurring later.
- B. The driver is liable under proximate cause for all foreseeable harm, including the transformer explosion effects on bystanders.
- C. The driver is not liable because the explosion is an entirely unforeseeable, independent event breaking the causal chain.
- D. The driver's initial collision is the actual cause ("but-for" test) of both collision and explosion harms, but liability for explosion depends on foreseeability.

Q56. Factual Scenario: Ms. Desai slips on an oil spill in a supermarket aisle left unattended by staff. She fractures her wrist and incurs medical expenses and lost wages. She sues supermarket management for negligence. What must Ms. Desai additionally prove beyond breach to succeed?

- A. That the oil spill directly caused her fracture and associated medical costs and wage losses, establishing consequential harm from the breach.
- B. That the oil spill was foreseeable by supermarket management but not that it caused her specific injuries.
- C. That she warned staff days earlier about potential spills, making supervisory negligence the core issue.
- D. That other customers have slipped previously, demonstrating a pattern of unsafe conditions without proving her own damages.

Q57. Factual Scenario: A chemist stores volatile solvents unsecured. A thief steals them and later accidentally ignites a fire in a neighboring house. Homeowner sues the chemist for damages. Which principle governs the chemist's liability?

- A. The chemist is not liable because third-party theft intervened, breaking any causal link.
- B. The chemist is liable for all damages that were a foreseeable consequence of negligent storage, including fire damage to the neighbor.
- C. The chemist is liable only for damages directly on the premises, not for offsite fire damage.
- D. The chemist's liability depends solely on statutory insurance requirements, irrespective of foreseeability or storage negligence.

Q58. Which element of negligence, as described in the passage, is defined by the requirement that "but for" the defendant's actions, the plaintiff would not have suffered harm?

- A. Duty of Care B. Breach of Duty C. Actual Cause (Cause in Fact) D. Consequential Harm

Passage 2: A contract is a legally binding agreement between two or more parties creating a promise and establishing the rights and duties of each of the parties as well their liabilities. As per the Indian Contract Act, 1872, a legally enforceable contract fulfils the following essentials under section 10[1] :

- Free consent
- Competent parties
- Lawful object
- Lawful Consideration

Features of Traditional Contracts: A contract can be simply understood as the establishment of rights and obligations through an agreement. When this agreement is recognized by law, it qualifies as a contract according to Section 2(h) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. A contract begins with a proposal or offer, as outlined in Section 2(a), which allows an individual to respond with either acceptance or rejection to the actions proposed by another party. The phrase "willingness to do or abstain" indicates consent. Once a proposal is accepted, it transforms into a promise, as defined in Section 2(b). Section 2(d) introduces consideration, a crucial element of any contract; without it, the contract is deemed incomplete. Consideration refers to the mutual exchange between parties, often described as quid pro quo, which is provided at the request of the promisor for a specific purpose. This consideration can also take the form of a promise in return for another promise, known as a reciprocal promise, as per Section 2(f) of the Indian Contract Act. Finally, if a contract cannot be enforced by law, it is classified as a void contract, highlighting the necessity of legal enforceability for a contract to be valid.

E-contracts: keeping up with the digital era Section 10A of the IT Act 2000 states: "—Where in a contract formation, the communication of proposals, the acceptance of proposals, the revocation of proposals and acceptances, as the case may be, are expressed in **electronic form or through electronic records**, such contract shall not be deemed to be unenforceable solely on the ground that such electronic form or means was used for that purpose."

Features of E-Contracts: Section 4 and Section 10A confirm the legal standing of E-Contracts, granting them official recognition. Essentially, Section 4 emphasises that information can be presented in electronic form and must be accessible for future use, regardless of whether it is written, printed, or typed. E-Contracts involve three parties: the addressee (offeree) as defined in Section 2(b), the originator (offerer), and the Internet service provider. The communication of these contracts occurs through electronic channels. Section 11 outlines attribution, stating that the originator is recognised if they send the record themselves, if someone acts on their behalf, or if an automated system does so on their behalf. Section 12 addresses the acknowledgement of receipt, which can be communicated either automatically or manually by the addressee to the originator or through actions that sufficiently demonstrate acknowledgement. If the originator has specified a particular method for acknowledgement, that method must be adhered to.

[<https://legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-21271-signed-clicked-and-coded-india-s-contract-law-in-the-digital-age.html>]

Q59. Factual Matrix: Mr. Rao, a machinery supplier, approached Ms. Singh to purchase specialised milling equipment for ₹25 lakh. During negotiations, he threatened to expose a fabricated fraud allegation against her if she did not sign immediately. Fearing reputational harm and potential legal action, Ms. Singh executed and returned the written contract that same day without seeking independent advice. One week later, she refused to honour payment, claiming duress. Which of the following statements best describes the legal validity of the contract under Section 10 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

- The contract remains valid because Ms. Singh voluntarily signed the agreement without physical force, making the consent free under Section 10.
- The contract is voidable at Ms. Singh's option due to coercion vitiating free consent, as threats to reputation qualify as undue influence under Section 10.
- The contract is void ab initio because any contract signed under threat is automatically void under Section 2(h) of the Act.
- The contract is valid since only physical force, and not threats, can vitiate free consent under the Act.

Q60. Factual Matrix: Seventeen-year-old Mr. Sharma, an engineering student, entered into an online subscription service contract for professional legal study materials worth ₹50 000 by clicking "I agree" on EduLearn Pvt. Ltd.'s e-contract form, without parental consent. The Terms and Conditions explicitly stated that contracts with persons below 18 require parental approval. EduLearn sent the materials and now demands payment, threatening to blacklist him; Mr. Sharma refuses to pay, citing his minority. Which option correctly reflects the enforceability of this contract under Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

- The contract is void ab initio because Mr. Sharma, being a minor, is not competent to contract, regardless of electronic form or acknowledgement.
- The contract is valid and enforceable because Section 10A of the IT Act recognises all e-contracts as legally binding without age restrictions.
- The contract is voidable at the option of the educational service provider because the minor benefited from the materials.
- The contract is valid but can be ratified by Mr. Sharma on attaining majority, making payment after turning 18 retroactively enforceable.

Q61. Factual Matrix: Ms. Gupta promised to pay Mr. Verma ₹5 lakh if he arranged release of trade secrets from a competitor's database. Mr. Verma accepted and delivered a confidential dossier obtained without authorisation. The competitor filed theft complaints against both parties, but neither disputes that ₹5 lakh was tendered upon delivery. The court must now decide whether the contract's consideration is enforceable. Which statement correctly describes the status of the contract and its consideration under Section 23 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

- The consideration is lawful because both parties freely consented to the terms, making the contract enforceable.
- The consideration qualifies as reciprocal promise under Section 2(f) and is therefore valid despite the nature of the act.

- C. The contract is void since the consideration involves an illegal object—unauthorised disclosure of trade secrets—which vitiates the agreement.
- D. The contract remains valid under Section 10A of the IT Act, as it only prohibits unenforceability on account of electronic form.

Q62. Factual Matrix: An advertising agency, CreativeWorks, agreed to pay Mr. Roy ₹2 lakh if he vandalised a rival's billboard on a specified date. The agreement was documented in a signed letter exchanged by registered post. Mr. Roy carried out the vandalism using graffiti paint and provided photographic evidence to CreativeWorks, which then refused payment on the grounds that the act was illegal and beyond the contract's intended scope. Mr. Roy has now sued for payment. Which of the following best describes the enforceability of this agreement under Section 23 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

- A. The contract is valid because the parties mutually agreed upon the object, making it enforceable.
- B. The contract is voidable at the election of CreativeWorks because the act was not inherently criminal.
- C. The contract is enforceable under the IT Act since it does not address the nature of the agreed act.
- D. The contract is void because the object—vandalism of property—was illegal and immoral, rendering the agreement unenforceable.

Q63. Factual Matrix: TechSupply Inc. (originator) sent an electronic purchase order to E-Widgets Pvt. Ltd. (addressee) via secured email, instructing "Please confirm receipt via the automated portal within 48 hours." E-Widgets's automated order management system immediately sent a "Received" notification through that portal; no manual email acknowledgement followed. Three days later, TechSupply claimed there was no valid contract due to lack of manual confirmation. Under Sections 4, 10A, 11 and 12 of the IT Act, 2000, which statement accurately reflects the formation of the e-contract?

- A. The automated "Received" notification sent by the system suffices for acknowledgement of receipt, fulfilling statutory requirements and forming a valid contract.
- B. The contract is invalid because the addressee failed to send a manual email confirmation as originally required by TechSupply.
- C. The contract is void ab initio since automated acknowledgements are never acceptable under the IT Act.
- D. The contract remains unenforceable because Section 10A only validates contracts in electronic form, not the manner of acknowledgement.

Q64. According to Section 2(f) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, which description best defines a "reciprocal promise"?

- A. A promise by one party to perform an act in exchange for an act already performed by the other party, creating a unilateral obligation.
- B. Mutual promises made by each party to another, where each promise is the consideration for the other, forming the basis of the contract.
- C. A promise to acknowledge receipt of an electronic record in return for access to an internet service provider's systems.
- D. A single promise that is contingent upon the occurrence of an unforeseen event, making the contract voidable.

Passage:- 3 The doctrine of damages constitutes a pertinent role under a contractual relation. Damages refer to the compensation awarded to the party who has suffered as a result of breach by the other party to the contract. In India, awarding of damages is enshrined in Sections 73 and 74 of the Contract Act, 1872 (ICA) which guides the determination of the compensation amount and the penalties which must be awarded in the case of a contractual breach. Section 73 of the Contract Act, 1872 deals with "compensation for loss or damage caused by breach of contract" which provides that when one party does not fulfil a contract, the other affected party is bound to be compensated for the same. Furthermore, it is pertinent to note that this compensation amount will only be given for the damages which naturally arose or the parties had the knowledge of the same. Such compensation shall not include any indirect/remote damages which could be sustained by the reason of such breach. For instance, if there was a breach of the contract due to which a business suffered, however, there was no direct link to the contract; such a breach will not be compensated under this provision.

Building upon this is Section 74 of the ICA applies when a penalty or a pre-specified sum is specified in the contract, the party who has suffered has the right to claim that amount as "compensation" for the breach of contract. The party who has suffered from that breach does not have to prove any actual loss or damage. The mere fact that the contract was breached would be enough to claim the penalty as specified in the contract. Even if the penalty or compensation is stipulated for, the award for it by the courts must be reasonable and mere statement must not bind the court. In *Fateh Chand v. Balkishan Dass*, the Supreme Court held that the purpose of this provision is to ensure that the damages that are claimed for the breach are reasonable. Even if the sum is specified in the contract, the claimant must show that the amount is reasonable, otherwise the court has all the discretion to grant a reasonable sum. Jurisprudence of courts while awarding penalty in India There have been several principles, on the bases of equity and natural justice which the courts rely upon to award compensation to the affected party.

In *Kailash Nath Associates v. DDA*, it was upheld by the Court that while determining a reasonable compensation amount, the amount shall not exceed the amount that has already been stipulated for as liquidated damages/penalty under Section 74. The Court also emphasised that forfeiture of earnest money could occur under certain circumstances, such as in public auctions, where forfeiture may happen before a formal agreement is reached, and Section 74 would not apply.

Q65. Factual Matrix: Mr. Malhotra contracted with Stellar Furnishings to supply bespoke office furniture for ₹15 lakhs, delivery by May 1. Due to delay, Mr. Malhotra lost a corporate lease renewal bonus of ₹2 lakhs, which he had intended to use for the furniture payment. He sues for ₹2 lakhs, claiming it naturally arose from the breach. Under Section 73 of the Contract Act, 1872, is Mr. Malhotra entitled to recover the ₹2 lakhs lost bonus?

- A. Yes, because the loss of the lease bonus was within the reasonable contemplation of both parties when they formed the contract.
- B. No, because the bonus loss is an indirect or remote consequence not naturally arising from delay in furniture delivery.
- C. Yes, but only if evidence shows Stellar Furnishings had actual knowledge of the bonus arrangement at the time of contract.
- D. No, since Section 73 prohibits any compensation for losses arising from failure to negotiate lease renewals.

Q66. Factual Matrix: GreenTech Solutions engaged EnviroClean to install pollution-control equipment for ₹30 lakhs, expressly informing them that government subsidy of ₹5 lakhs hinged on installation by June 30. EnviroClean delivered on July 15, causing GreenTech to forfeit the subsidy. GreenTech sues for the full ₹5 lakhs lost subsidy. Which statement correctly reflects GreenTech's entitlement under Section 73?

- A. GreenTech cannot recover the ₹5 lakhs because forfeiture of subsidy is a remote damage under Section 73.
- B. GreenTech can recover ₹5 lakhs as EnviroClean had knowledge of the special subsidy condition when contracting.
- C. GreenTech can recover only ₹2.5 lakhs, as Section 73 limits damages to half the forfeited amount.
- D. GreenTech must prove additional consequential losses beyond subsidy to claim any compensation.

Q67. Factual Matrix: Aria Developers agreed to pay Metro Realty ₹1 crore as liquidated damages for each month's delay in handing over apartments. After two months' delay, Metro Realty sues for ₹3 crores, asserting the clause imposes a penalty. Under Section 74 of the Contract Act, 1872, what amount can Metro Realty validly claim?

- A. ₹2 crores, being the stipulated sum for two months' delay without judicial interference.
- B. ₹3 crores, since the contract clearly specifies ₹1 crore per month.
- C. A reasonable sum up to ₹2 crores, with the court having discretion to reduce the stipulated amount if excessive.
- D. No amount, because penalty clauses are entirely unenforceable under Section 74.

Q68. Factual Matrix: In *Fateh Chand v. Balkishan Dass*, the defendant agreed to pay ₹50,000 as compensation for each day's delay in supply of machinery. The Supreme Court reduced the award to ₹10,000 per day, deeming the original sum extravagant and unconscionable. Which principle from *Fateh Chand* applies to this judgment?

- A. The courts must enforce stipulated sums without inquiry into reasonableness if expressly agreed.
- B. A court cannot alter a pre-specified sum once incorporated into a valid contract.
- C. Judicial discretion allows reduction of unreasonable or extravagant penalty clauses to a reasonable compensation.
- D. Any compensation clause is void if it provides greater relief than actual loss.

Q69. Factual Matrix: During a public auction for a government lease, the highest bidder forfeited ₹5 lakhs earnest money after withdrawing before signing the formal lease agreement. The government invoked forfeiture despite no formal contract ever being executed. Under the principle in *Kailash Nath Associates v. DDA*, which statement is correct?

- A. The forfeiture is invalid because no formal contract existed to trigger Section 74.
- B. The forfeiture is valid as public auction withdrawals allow earnest money forfeiture even before formal agreement.
- C. The forfeiture is capped at the proportion of work completed under Section 74.
- D. The government must return the earnest money minus reasonable administrative costs.

Q70. Which of the following best captures the distinction between damages under Section 73 and compensation under Section 74?

- A. Section 73 awards damages for losses naturally arising or known to parties; Section 74 enforces a pre-stipulated sum, subject to court's reasonableness.
- B. Section 73 covers only direct losses and forbids recovery of any stipulated sums; Section 74 applies solely to indirect or remote damages.
- C. Section 73 mandates payment of penalty amounts regardless of actual loss; Section 74 requires proof of actual damages.
- D. Section 73 and Section 74 are interchangeable, both governing compensation for breach and allowing unlimited recovery.

Q71. Omega Developers (OD) contracted with BuildRight Constructions (BC) on January 1, 2024 to finish a shopping complex by December 31, 2024 for ₹5 crore. Clause 9 stipulated liquidated damages of ₹10 lakh per month of delay. OD paid ₹25 lakh as earnest money, refundable only upon execution of a final work order. BC's subcontractor became insolvent, delaying completion until April 1, 2025—three months late. OD leased temporary retail space from January to March 2025 at ₹8 lakh per month because tenants expected occupancy on January 1, 2025. BC contends actual loss was ₹24 lakh and the ₹10 lakh figure is an unenforceable

penalty. OD refuses to return the ₹25 lakh earnest money and sues for ₹30 lakh in liquidated damages plus forfeiture. BC counters that under Section 73 OD is limited to ₹24 lakh actual damages and that any excess under Clause 9 is unreasonable under Section 74 and *Kailash Nath Associates v. DDA*. OD replies that ₹10 lakh reflected a genuine pre-estimate, since tenants would have paid that amount, known to BC at contracting. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. OD may recover ₹30 lakh as liquidated damages because Clause 9's ₹10 lakh per month was a good-faith pre-estimate and BC knew tenants would have paid that sum, so proof of actual loss is unnecessary.
- B. OD can recover only ₹24 lakh under Section 73 since the leasing cost of ₹8 lakh per month arose naturally, and the ₹10 lakh/month LD is a penal sum void under Section 74 and *Kailash Nath Associates*.
- C. OD may claim ₹30 lakh under Section 74 if the ₹10 lakh LD genuinely estimates loss, but the court can reduce it if it finds that amount unreasonable or unconscionable.
- D. OD's forfeiture of ₹25 lakh earnest money is invalid due to lack of a final work order, making Section 74 inapplicable; thus OD can claim only ₹24 lakh under Section 73.

Passage 4: Product Liability signifies the legal responsibility borne by a creator, vendor, or service provider for distributing a defective item. Customarily, the producer must comply with all stipulations, warranties, and conditions, fulfilling the standard anticipations of buyers. Product liability can be understood through the lenses of tort law and contract law. The CPA 2019 distinctly outlines product responsibility, offering a detailed legal structure for consumers to claim recompense for harm or damages stemming from faulty goods. Chapter VI of the legislation is devoted to product responsibility cases, detailing the obligations of producers, vendors, and service providers. It enumerates specific bases on which responsibility can be determined, such as production errors, design imperfections, insufficient instructions or alerts, and violations of explicit guarantees. The legislation also introduces the notion of 'harm,' encompassing physical injury, damage to assets (excluding the defective item itself), and psychological pain or emotional suffering. Notably, the Act dismisses claims related to financial or business losses. To commence a product liability case, certain components must be clearly demonstrated:

- Injury: The individual must have experienced injury or damage due to a flawed product.
- Flawed Product: The injury must be a direct consequence of a flaw within the product itself.
- Accountability: The imperfection must be linked to the maker, distributor, or service provider.

The CPA 2019 specifies the distinct accountabilities for each entity participating in the distribution network:

- Manufacturer Accountability: A producer is accountable for any injury resulting from design flaws, production errors, or the failure to honor warranties or provide sufficient guidance.
- Service Provider Accountability: A service provider can be deemed responsible if their carelessness or non-compliance with legal norms causes injury.
- Seller Accountability: Vendors might also bear responsibility if they exert significant control over the product or neglect to offer proper instructions or alerts.

Protections and Exemptions: The Consumer Protection Act of 2019 outlines multiple defenses against claims of product liability. For example, a producer of goods isn't responsible for injuries stemming from the improper use or modification of the item by the user. Likewise, if the producer has supplied sufficient cautions or guidelines, they might not be deemed responsible for any ensuing damage. The legislation also considers exceptions for producers when the product is utilized under particular circumstances, such as in factory environments or by experts under skilled oversight.

Sanctions and Implementation: The Consumer Protection Act of 2019 enforces severe repercussions upon producers, vendors, and service entities deemed accountable for faulty goods. Consumer tribunals, alongside the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), possess the jurisdiction to mandate the withdrawal of perilous products, remunerate purchasers, and levy punitive reparations for carelessness. When it comes to deceptive marketing, the legislation stipulates incarceration and substantial monetary penalties for those at fault.

[<https://legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-18457-protecting-consumers-promoting-accountability-an-analysis-of-product-liability-under-the-consumer-protection-act.html>]

Q72. Factual Matrix: Ms. Rao purchased an "AeroMix" electric blender from BrightHome Ltd. During normal use, the blender's gasket—which was improperly designed—failed, causing hot liquid to spray out and inflict second-degree burns on her forearm requiring hospitalisation. Although the user manual contained standard safety notes, it did not warn of gasket failure under ordinary operating pressure. Ms. Rao now seeks compensation for her physical injuries and medical expenses under the CPA 2019. Who bears primary liability for Ms. Rao's injuries under Chapter VI of the CPA 2019?

- A. The manufacturer of the AeroMix blender, for a design imperfection leading to foreseeable physical harm.
- B. The retailer BrightHome Ltd., for selling the blender without inspecting the gasket design.
- C. The service provider who conducted the post-sale safety inspection on the blender.
- D. Ms. Rao herself, for failing to read and follow the general safety notes in the user manual.

Q73. Factual Matrix: Mr. Singh bought a self-assembly modular bookshelf from FurniCo. The kit lacked clear instructions on load-bearing capacity, providing no warning about overloading. After correctly assembling the unit, he stocked the top shelf heavily, causing it to collapse and severely damage his marble flooring. FurniCo's website displayed only a basic parts list and omitted any

load-capacity alerts. Mr. Singh now sues to recover the costs of repairing his floor and replacing his damaged books. Under the CPA 2019, who is liable for Mr. Singh's property damage?

- A. The service provider who delivered the bookshelf kit without verifying its instructions.
- B. The retailer FurniCo, for failing to provide user-friendly load-capacity guidelines despite controlling distribution.
- C. The manufacturer, for inadequate instructions or warnings regarding the product's safe use and load limits.
- D. No party, because Mr. Singh voluntarily assembled and loaded the bookshelf without professional help.

Q74. Factual Matrix: MediClean Services installed a medical blood-analysis machine in Dr. Gupta's clinic. Although the manufacturer provided accurate operating specifications, MediClean neglected calibration protocols, causing the machine to misread patient results and inflict undue alarm and emotional distress on several patients. Those affected required counselling and emotional-support therapy sessions. A class-action suit is filed seeking compensation for this psychological harm under the CPA 2019. Who is responsible for compensating the patients' emotional distress?

- A. The manufacturer, for not providing a user-friendly calibration guide with the machine.
- B. The seller, for failing to warn patients about potential calibration errors.
- C. Dr. Gupta's clinic, for using the machine for medical diagnostics without licence checks.
- D. MediClean Services, for negligence in service provision causing psychological injury.

Q75. Factual Matrix: TechVista Ltd. sold "SafeCharge" mobile chargers under an express guarantee of fire-safe operation, even offering on-site inspections. Despite this, several units overheated and caught fire during charging, destroying a customer's sofa. The customer bought directly from TechVista's authorised showroom and now claims damages for the household property loss under the CPA 2019. Under Chapter VI of the CPA 2019, which party is chiefly liable for the property damage?

- A. The original manufacturer, for a production error causing overheating.
- B. TechVista Ltd., as the vendor who gave an explicit guarantee and exercised control over distribution.
- C. The inspection service, for failing to detect overheating risk during on-site check.
- D. No one, because the customer should have tested the charger at low power before full use.

Q76. Factual Matrix: Mr. Das bought a pressure cooker from CookSafe Co., meticulously following all usage instructions. Nonetheless, he replaced the safety valve with an aftermarket part to hasten cooking, contrary to clear manual warnings and the company's offer of free valve replacements. The modified cooker later exploded, causing injuries and extensive kitchen damage. Mr. Das sues CookSafe Co. for medical costs and property repair under the CPA 2019. Which defense is available to CookSafe Co. under the CPA 2019?

- A. They are not liable because the injury resulted from Mr. Das's unauthorised modification of the safety valve.
- B. They are partially liable for not retaining proof of valve replacement offers.
- C. They are liable since emotional distress can override improper-use defenses in consumer claims.
- D. They are liable because the cooker's explosion caused damage beyond the product itself.

Q77. Which statement most accurately reflects the CPA 2019's definition of "harm" in product liability cases?

- A. "Harm" includes only physical injuries and damage to the defective product itself, excluding emotional suffering.
- B. "Harm" encompasses physical injury, damage to other property, and psychological pain, but excludes financial or business losses.
- C. "Harm" covers all consequences of a defective product, including loss of profits, business interruption, physical, and emotional injuries.
- D. "Harm" pertains solely to defects in design and manufacture, without requiring proof of actual loss or suffering.

Passage:- 5 Defamation is a civil wrong (tort) and means the publication of false statements that tend to harm the reputation of another. In general, for a statement to be deemed defamatory, the following have to be satisfied:

1. False statement: The legal element is a false statement of factual information that originated from the defendant. Information that proves to be true will not make a statement defamatory, no matter how bad what is shared about someone. The plaintiff carries the responsibility to prove falsity, although courts allow some exceptions that enable defendants to prove untruth in specific conditions.
2. Publication to a third party: At least one person besides the plaintiff must be informed of the defamatory comment. Generally speaking, private discussions without a third party do not qualify as defamation.
3. Harm to reputation
4. Fault (negligence or malice)

Plaintiffs need to establish their legal standing to define exactly how much responsibility must be shown by the defendant. Well-known plaintiffs need to show that defendants displayed a malicious level, which means the defendant knew claims were untrue or took their statements with reckless disregard for truthfulness. Private individuals need to show only negligence to succeed in their case. Defamation is generally classified into two main types:

Libel: The transmission of permanently published material, such as written content that includes images, under the definition of libel. Toxic information in all media formats, including print publications, television broadcasts, electronic postings and internet

articles, falls under this category. Repeated exposure to enduring media containing defamation causes enduring damage to the subject's reputation due to their everlasting nature. The law gives greater weight to libel cases when compared to slander because written and broadcast content continues to exist. The defamation cause remains present because continuously updated material continues to threaten the person's reputation.

Slander: The law considers slander as temporary because it involves slanderous verbal statements made during verbal exchanges. Slander of communication emerges through spoken statements at public speeches and talks, and all forms of verbal exchanges. The duration of slanderous remarks through communication tends to be shorter than libellous statements because conversations evaporate quickly. Plaintiffs who file slander cases must demonstrate that defamatory spoken statements resulted in genuine damage, since these words disappear quickly.

Q78. In January 2025, Galaxy Tech's CEO Priya Shah delivered a speech at a public investors' conference accusing Nova Systems of being under investigation for money laundering based solely on industry rumors. The conference was attended by over 500 investors and PS's remarks were live-streamed to thousands online. Nova Systems denied the allegations the following day, and PS then tweeted the same accusation to her 100,000 followers. In the 24 hours after PS's tweet, Nova's stock price plunged by 15%, causing subscribers an estimated ₹2 crore portfolio loss. Upon discovering the claim was false, PS issued a public apology five days later, but Nova filed a defamation suit seeking ₹10 crore in damages. Nova is a publicly listed company whose board members are private individuals. The trial court must decide whether Nova qualifies as a private individual for fault standard, whether the allegations were published negligently, and the measure of damages for economic and reputational harm. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. Nova can recover ₹10 crore because PS's remarks were false, broadcast to thousands through live-stream and social media, and PS failed to verify rumors, establishing negligence.
- B. Nova can claim only ₹2 crore since a publicly listed company must prove actual pecuniary loss; reputational harm is not separately compensable.
- C. Nova cannot recover because corporations lack standing to sue for defamation under Indian law; only natural persons can claim defamation.
- D. Nova may recover damages for economic loss and harm to its business reputation because it qualifies as a private individual under fault standard, and PS acted negligently.

Q79. In March 2025, fashion blogger Sunita Reddy posted a video review alleging that designer Rahul Mehta's factory used child labor under unsafe conditions and showed photographs purportedly depicting children sewing garments. Mehta immediately invited Reddy to inspect the factory, but Reddy insisted that any inspection would be staged. The video, uploaded on March 10, 2025, received over 200,000 views and was shared by multiple influencers. On March 15, 2025, invited influencers visited the factory and found only underpaid adult workers. Mehta's legal team sent a cease-and-desist notice demanding removal of the video and ₹1 crore in damages. Reddy refused, citing freedom of expression and fair comment on labor practices. Mehta filed a defamation suit on March 22, 2025, seeking ₹2 crore for damage to brand reputation and business losses. Reddy's followers praised her exposé, though none submitted new evidence. The court must determine whether Reddy's allegations are false, whether the video constitutes libel, and the damages Mehta may recover. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. Mehta can recover ₹2 crore because Reddy's video made false accusations of child labor, published permanently online as libel, causing reputational harm.
- B. Mehta can recover only general damages since he must prove special damages, and no specific business losses were documented to justify ₹2 crore.
- C. Mehta may recover damages once falsity is established, because the video is a permanent publication and Reddy acted negligently by failing to verify before posting.
- D. Mehta cannot recover because Reddy's statements qualify as fair comment on labor conditions, a matter of public interest, shielding her from liability.

Q80. In May 2025, national news anchor Rohit Verma broadcast live that Dr. Kavita Singh, a private research scientist, fabricated COVID-19 vaccine trial data, citing a confidential "whistleblower." Verma did not verify the claim with Dr. Singh before airing it. The broadcast reached ten million viewers and was posted on the channel's website. Dr. Singh denied the allegations and requested evidence, but Verma repeated the claim in a prime-time interview. Major research grant bodies paused funding decisions for Dr. Singh's work. On May 9, 2025, Dr. Singh filed a defamation suit seeking ₹50 crore for reputational damage and lost research opportunities. Verma argues his report was a fair comment on vaccine safety, relying on journalistic privilege. The court must determine Dr. Singh's status as private or public, whether Verma acted negligently or with malice, and the damages. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. Dr. Singh can recover ₹50 crore because Verma knew the allegations were unverified and acted negligently, broadcasting false claims that caused extreme harm.
- B. Dr. Singh cannot recover damages because Verma's broadcast qualifies as fair comment on a matter of public interest and enjoys qualified privilege.
- C. Dr. Singh may recover general and special damages once falsity is proved, because reliance on a confidential source does not relieve Verma of the duty to verify.

D. Dr. Singh may recover only nominal damages since she is a public figure requiring proof of actual malice, which has not been established.

Q81. In June 2025, sports magazine GoalPost Weekly published an editorial accusing footballer Vikram Mehra of match-fixing during a major tournament, relying on an anonymous social media post without independent verification. Mehra's manager learned of the claim and demanded a retraction, but GoalPost refused. Sponsors canceled Mehra's endorsement deals, costing him ₹1.5 crore within two weeks. An internal inquiry by the tournament organizer found no evidence of match-fixing. GoalPost published a follow-up article stating investigations were ongoing and reiterated the match-fixing claims. In July 2025, Mehra filed a defamation suit seeking ₹5 crore for false publication, reputational harm, and negligence. Mehra is a well-known athlete frequently covered by media, but he holds no public office. GoalPost contends that sporting integrity is a matter of public interest and that their follow-up was justified. The court must decide whether Mehra is a private individual, whether GoalPost's negligence suffices for liability, and damages. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. Mehra can recover only ₹1.5 crore under special damages since lost endorsements are quantifiable, and general damages are unavailable to sports figures.
- B. Mehra can recover both ₹1.5 crore and general damages because, as a private individual, GoalPost's negligent reliance on unverified social media sources suffices for liability.
- C. Mehra cannot recover because GoalPost's report is fair comment on public interest in sporting integrity, and follow-up coverage is protected by qualified privilege.
- D. Mehra may recover nominal damages only, since as a celebrity athlete he is a public figure requiring proof of actual malice, which has not been proved.

Q82. Which of the following statements correctly reflects the difference between libel and slander as explained in the passage?

- A. Libel covers temporary spoken statements at events, requiring proof of actual damage, while slander encompasses permanent written or broadcast content causing enduring harm.
- B. Libel refers to defamatory content in permanently published media such as print, television, or online articles, causing enduring reputational harm, whereas slander involves temporary spoken statements that quickly evaporate.
- C. Libel includes any repeated defamatory communication regardless of format, while slander applies only to one-off written statements in newspapers or magazines.
- D. Libel demands proof of economic loss before recovery, whereas slander allows recovery of general damages without proof of loss due to its temporary nature.

Q83. Which statement accurately describes the fault standard required for a private individual to succeed in a defamation claim according to the passage?

- A. Private individuals must prove actual malice—that the defendant knowingly published false statements or acted with reckless disregard for truth.
- B. Private individuals need only show negligence—that the defendant failed to exercise reasonable care before publishing false statements—while public figures must prove actual malice.
- C. Private individuals must demonstrate the defendant lacked honest belief in the statement's truth, resembling gross negligence rather than simple negligence.
- D. Private individuals must disprove any reasonable reliance by the defendant on sources, showing the defendant did not undertake a reasonable investigation.

Q84. In July 2025, radio host Arjun Malhotra stated during a live morning broadcast that startup FinEdge's CFO, Rina Desai, had been arrested for embezzling company funds. The allegation was based on a misread police press note about a different individual with a similar name. Thousands of commuters heard the broadcast, and clips were circulated on social media. FinEdge's investors began questioning Desai's integrity, and she was temporarily suspended by the company's board. Within two days, the police issued a clarification confirming Desai had no connection to the case. Desai filed a defamation suit against the radio station for reputational harm, lost income, and emotional distress. The court must determine whether the broadcast amounts to libel or slander, the applicable fault standard, and damages. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. Desai cannot recover damages since radio broadcasts are considered slander, which evaporates quickly, and no economic loss was conclusively proven.
- B. Desai can recover because the radio broadcast constitutes libel as a permanent, widely transmitted medium, and negligence suffices for liability against a private individual.
- C. Desai may recover only nominal damages since the defamatory content was quickly clarified by the police, reducing long-term reputational harm.
- D. Desai cannot recover because mistaken reliance on an official police note amounts to reasonable care, negating negligence or malice.

SECTION D: - LOGICAL REASONING

Passage 1: Colossal Biosciences is an American company with an unusual marketing line: combining genomics with conservation — not in its traditional form, but through de-extinction, which is resurrecting species extinct for thousands of years. Leading this

project is Harvard geneticist George Church, a prominent promoter of the company, who aims to bring back the woolly mammoth, a distant ancestor of the elephant. The stated logic is to combat global warming. During the Pleistocene Ice Ages, the mammoth roamed lush grasslands across the tundra. Until its extinction around 5,000 years ago, the Arctic tundra also supported large populations of bison, wolves, cave lions, and giant deer. As the climate warmed, these species disappeared, and the grasslands gave way to shrubbery and sheets of snow. As temperatures rise, permafrost begins to disappear, resulting in high emissions of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. To prevent this, some scientists at a Siberian park have been transporting large animals that are resistant to cold to see if their foraging can restore the grasslands. Grass absorbs less heat than the tall trees in a shrub forest — the dominant species — and therefore decelerates warming, but it cannot stop warming. The woolly mammoth, though extinct, is seen as a potent weapon in this climate plan. Scientists at Colossal have extracted fragments of its DNA from fossils and reconstructed its genome. By comparing it to that of the modern elephant, they have edited specific genes to recreate mammoth-like traits, with the goal of eventually incubating a hybrid embryo in an elephant's womb. Scientists have also experimented with the dire wolf, an extinct relative of the gray wolf, and birthed three snow-white wolves. However, this claim has yet to pass rigorous peer review. Critics point out that only 20 genes were edited, and what has been created is, in essence, a "strange-looking gray wolf". Despite such criticisms, the technological achievement is a testament to the ability to engineer precision edits to the genome. The work of Chinese scientist He Jiankui, who claimed to have produced gene-edited human babies, remains controversial. Colossal may be credited for its genomics work, but the claim that it is reviving species for conservation is not credible. Thousands of living species are vanishing due to habitat loss and human encroachment. Spending millions of dollars on speculative projects, whose benefits, if there are any, will fructify only over centuries, takes away resources from immediate conservation efforts. The scientific community must lay down strict guidelines on the use of gene-editing technology in applications other than health.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/dire-efforts-on-de-extinction-and-conservation/article69440044.ece>]

Q85. Which of the following statements most clearly expresses an explicitly stated premise in the passage?

- A. Colossal Biosciences aims to merge genomics and conservation by attempting de-extinction—such as bringing back the woolly mammoth—as a means to combat global warming, a goal rooted in the idea that these ancient species maintained ecosystems (grasslands) that limited warming.
- B. Colossal Biosciences is solely focused on the resurrection of the woolly mammoth because its genetic sequence is the easiest to reconstruct from fossil fragments, rendering it a low-priority candidate compared to other extinct species.
- C. The primary concern of the passage is that de-extinction is technically feasible, but its success will ultimately depend on the ability to clone long-extinct species without any modifications or hybridizations with modern relatives.
- D. The passage suggests that de-extinction efforts, such as producing a "strange-looking gray wolf" by editing 20 genes, will lead to the complete restoration of lost ecosystems without undermining existing conservation priorities.

Q86. Which inference is most reasonably drawn from the passage regarding Colossal Biosciences' de-extinction project?

- A. The project is primarily a marketing stunt intended to distract the public from the company's other less controversial activities in the field of genomics.
- B. The efforts at de-extinction, while technologically impressive, serve as a speculative venture whose resources might better be used in preserving extant species that are threatened by habitat loss and human encroachment.
- C. The resurrection of extinct species automatically guarantees a reversal of global warming effects since it can restore long-lost ecosystems without any additional intervention.
- D. The project indicates that gene-editing technology has reached a level where traditional conservation methods are now obsolete and unnecessary in the face of rapid climate change.

Q87. Which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by the passage?

- A. The de-extinction initiatives by Colossal Biosciences will soon replace traditional conservation approaches as the primary strategy to combat climate change.
- B. The resurrection of species like the woolly mammoth is inevitable due to advances in gene-editing technology, thereby ensuring the future stability of the Arctic tundra ecosystem.
- C. The technological achievements in genome editing conclusively prove that de-extinction is a viable method for curbing methane emissions from thawing permafrost.
- D. Colossal Biosciences' focus on de-extinction is misguided because, despite its impressive genetic engineering work, it diverts critical resources from immediate conservation efforts needed to prevent the extinction of extant species.

Q88. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument that de-extinction projects are a beneficial conservation strategy?

- A. Long-term studies reveal that restored grasslands created by introducing cold-resistant animals do not significantly affect the rate of methane emissions or permafrost degradation.
- B. A comprehensive review shows that the cost of de-extinction projects far exceeds the financial requirements for maintaining and protecting modern habitats where endangered species currently reside.
- C. New evidence demonstrates that de-extinction projects, while technologically innovative, have not yet been shown to produce any measurable environmental benefits and that direct investments in habitat preservation yield far more immediate results.
- D. Research indicates that public enthusiasm for de-extinction projects diminishes significantly once the speculative nature and long-term time horizon of the benefits become clear.

Q89. Which assumption is most critical to the critics' argument that de-extinction diverts vital resources away from urgent conservation efforts?

- A. It is assumed that public and private funding for advanced genomic research is limited, meaning that money spent on speculative de-extinction projects directly reduces the funds available for protecting species currently at risk.
- B. It is assumed that the resources—both financial and intellectual—allocated to de-extinction projects could be more effectively used to address immediate threats to biodiversity caused by habitat loss and human encroachment.
- C. It is assumed that the technological breakthroughs in gene-editing will ultimately lead to a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, rendering traditional conservation irrelevant over time.
- D. It is assumed that environmental policies and regulations will soon mandate a shift from experimental projects to proven conservation strategies, regardless of ongoing scientific advances in genomics.

Q90. Which option best encapsulates the paradox evident in Colossal Biosciences' de-extinction initiative as discussed in the passage?

- A. The paradox that an advanced genomic project intended to combat climate change and restore lost ecosystems may ultimately become a costly distraction that undermines urgent efforts to conserve species and habitats that are currently endangered.
- B. The paradox that while gene-editing technology is celebrated for its precision and potential in revolutionizing medicine, its application in de-extinction projects raises ethical questions that have no clear solution within the scientific community.
- C. The paradox that resurrecting a species long extinct for thousands of years might rejuvenate an ecosystem, yet such an approach is inherently unable to address the fundamental issues of habitat destruction and climate change.
- D. The paradox that despite the technical feasibility of de-extinction, the use of modern elephants as surrogate mothers for hybrid embryos ultimately challenges the natural evolutionary process and raises profound ecological dilemmas.

Passage 2: Every evening the young Fisherman went out upon the sea, and threw his nets into the water. When the wind blew from the land he caught nothing, or but little at best, for it was a bitter and black-winged wind, and rough waves rose up to meet it. But when the wind blew to the shore, the fish came in from the deep, and swam into the meshes of his nets, and he took them to the market-place and sold them.

Every evening he went out upon the sea, and one evening the net was so heavy that hardly could he draw it into the boat. And he laughed, and said to himself 'Surely I have caught all the fish that swim, or snared some dull monster that will be a marvel to men, or some thing of horror that the great Queen will desire,' and putting forth all his strength, he tugged at the coarse ropes till, like lines of blue enamel round a vase of bronze, the long veins rose up on his arms. He tugged at the thin ropes, and nearer and nearer came the circle of flat corks, and the net rose at last to the top of the water.

But no fish at all was in it, nor any monster or thing of horror, but only a little Mermaid lying fast asleep.

Her hair was as a wet fleece of gold, and each separate hair as a thread of line gold in a cup of glass. Her body was as white ivory, and her tail was of silver and pearl. Silver and pearl was her tail, and the green weeds of the sea coiled round it; and like sea-shells were her ears, and her lips were like sea-coral. The cold waves dashed over her cold breasts, and the salt glistened upon her eyelids. So beautiful was she that when the young Fisherman saw her he was filled with wonder, and he put out his hand and drew the net close to him, and leaning over the side he clasped her in his arms. And when he touched her, she gave a cry like a startled sea-gull and woke, and looked at him in terror with her mauve-amethyst eyes, and struggled that she might escape. But he held her tightly to him, and would not suffer her to depart. And when she saw that she could in no way escape from him, she began to weep, and said, 'I pray thee let me go, for I am the only daughter of a King, and my father is aged and alone.' But the young Fisherman answered, 'I will not let thee go save thou makest me a promise that whenever I call thee, thou wilt come and sing to me, for the fish delight to listen to the song of the Sea-folk, and so shall my nets be full.'

[<https://englishliterature.net/oscar-wilde/the-fisherman-and-his-soul>]

Q91. Which of the following statements most clearly expresses an explicitly stated premise in the passage?

- A. The Fisherman's regular routine and his expectations of catching fish or a monstrous wonder reveal his longstanding ambition to impress the Queen with extraordinary catches.
- B. Every evening the young Fisherman went out upon the sea, cast his nets, and, when the wind blew in his favor, the fish swam into his nets—until one evening the net proved so heavy that it contained a sleeping little Mermaid.
- C. The Fisherman's habitual trips ensured he always encountered either ordinary fish or occasionally, by accident, a mythical being that exceeded his wildest imaginations.
- D. The narrative implies that the true marvel lies not in the nature of the catch but in the Fisherman's imaginative interpretation of his daily success at sea.

Q92. Which inference is most reasonably drawn from the passage regarding the Fisherman's encounter?

- A. The Fisherman's routine is entirely predictable, and his encounter with the mermaid was simply a random deviation from an otherwise monotonous life at sea.
- B. The heavy net's unexpected burden indicates that the sea, though generally yielding ordinary catches, occasionally brings forth secrets that defy natural expectation.
- C. The extraordinary heaviness of the net, culminating in the capture of a mermaid rather than fish, implies that extraordinary events may emerge from the most routine activities.
- D. The nature of the catch suggests that mythical occurrences at sea are common if one persists in a dedicated and frequent fishing routine.

Q93. Which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by the passage?

- A. The Fisherman regrets seizing the mermaid once he realizes her noble identity, showing a momentary lapse in his otherwise practical nature.
- B. The encounter with the mermaid proves that routine fishing expeditions can lead to the discovery of creatures from legend, thereby validating ancient maritime lore.
- C. The narrative demonstrates that the sea conceals both wonder and peril, requiring a cautious respect from those who venture into its depths.
- D. By holding the mermaid captive and bargaining for her song, the Fisherman's actions illustrate a self-serving exploitation of an extraordinary being, prioritizing personal gain over the mermaid's liberty.

Q94. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument justifying the Fisherman's insistence on keeping the mermaid until she agrees to sing?

- A. Research shows that mermaids, unlike fish, inherently do not possess the ability to produce a song recognized as melodious by human audiences, rendering the Fisherman's demand baseless.
- B. Historical accounts suggest that mermaids captured by fishermen often escaped on their own, demonstrating an instinctual drive for freedom regardless of any imposed bargain.
- C. Data indicate that even when forced, mermaids' "songs" are incoherent and fail to attract fish, thereby negating any practical benefit derived from their singing.
- D. A survey among seafaring folk reveals that most believe the mermaid's captivity is a rare, isolated incident that does not set a precedent for future encounters.

Q95. Which assumption is most critical to the Fisherman's argument that he deserves the mermaid's promise to sing for him whenever called?

- A. It is assumed that the mermaid is capable of understanding human language and is thus able to enter into bargains with humans on equal terms.
- B. It is assumed that the mermaid's singing possesses a supernatural quality that directly benefits the Fisherman by attracting more fish to his nets.
- C. It is assumed that the Fisherman's livelihood depends on occasional magical interventions that augment his ordinarily modest catches, and that such interventions are worth trading the mermaid's freedom for her song.
- D. It is assumed that all sea creatures, especially those of mythical repute, are obligated by nature to render services when captured by mortal men.

Q96. Which option best encapsulates the paradox inherent in the Fisherman's encounter with the mermaid?

- A. The paradox that the very act of routine fishing—a mundane, ordinary activity—can unexpectedly yield an encounter with a being of myth, thereby blurring the line between the ordinary and the extraordinary.
- B. The paradox that, although the Fisherman longed for either a monstrous wonder or a marvel to awe men, his catch—the mermaid—proved both wondrous in beauty and pitiable in her vulnerability, challenging his initial expectations and justifications.
- C. The paradox that a creature of great beauty and noble lineage, like the mermaid, is reduced to a bargaining chip in the Fisherman's pursuit of personal profit from her supernatural song.
- D. The paradox that the promise of a mesmerizing song, intended to bring abundance to his nets, simultaneously reveals a profound disrespect for the mermaid's inherent rights and freedom.

Passage:- 3 It starts the way these things always do — innocently, passively. A woman, sitting in her tiny apartment, thumb idly grazing the screen, watching as an influencer unboxes an \$800 skincare fridge with the reverence of an archaeologist uncovering a lost relic. A fitness coach, impossibly toned, insists that the secret to effortless workouts isn't discipline or diet, but a \$300 pair of running shoes. A tech reviewer, speaking with the authority of an economist, explains why owning four different tablets isn't indulgence — it's strategy. Suddenly, what was once an idle curiosity hardens into something else entirely: A need. Not just to own but to belong. This isn't advertising — not in the way billboards and magazine spreads once were. This is something much subtler. Something designed not to sell, but to seep.

In 1899, sociologist Thorstein Veblen coined the term "conspicuous consumption" to describe the tendency of people to buy things not for their utility but as a display of wealth and status. At the time, his theory applied mostly to the ultra-rich — the ones who could afford to spend frivolously to signal their social standing. But more than a century later, Instagram has democratized that impulse. The allure of curated lifestyles, paired with a digital economy that rewards visibility, has transformed Instagram into both a marketplace and a stage where desire is manufactured and monetized at an unprecedented scale.

Instagram didn't invent aspiration, but it did something more powerful: It made it feel personal. Traditional luxury marketing was built on distance — runway models, glossy magazine ads — a world beyond immediate reach. Instagram collapsed that distance. Now, it's not celebrities selling the dream; it's the girl you went to high school with, the fitness coach with 10k followers, the influencer whose morning routine feels both enviable and attainable. A new kind of behavioural economics — where the old levers of desire (scarcity, social proof and comparison) operate at hyperspeed.

The influencer economy is worth over \$21 billion because it replaces cold corporate persuasion with something far more effective: Trust. When a friend — or someone who feels like one — recommends a product, the line between marketing and reality disappears. A \$500 Dyson Airwrap isn't just a hair tool; it's an investment in self-worth. A Stanley Cup isn't just a water bottle; it's

a lifestyle choice. The more we scroll, the more we buy — not because we need more, but because we’re chasing a version of ourselves that feels just within reach.

The influencer economy is now a multi-billion-dollar industry. According to McKinsey, Gen Z consumers are particularly susceptible to influencer marketing, with nearly 75 per cent reporting that they rely on social media recommendations before making a purchase. Companies are now focusing on “ROI-driven [return on investment] influencer collaborations”, prioritising engagement metrics over follower counts. In other words, influencers are no longer just aspirational figures — they are business assets, meticulously selected based on their ability to convert visibility into sales.

[https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/instagram-is-making-us-buy-our-belongingness-9936676/?ref=top_opinion]

Q97. Which of the following statements most clearly expresses an explicitly stated premise in the passage?

- A. Traditional luxury marketing relied solely on unreachable aspirations communicated through glossy magazine ads and runway shows.
- B. Influencer recommendations are based on the celebrity status of the person promoting the product, drawing on their widespread popularity.
- C. Expensive products are now promoted as essential tools for social mobility rather than only for status display.
- D. Instagram has collapsed the traditional distance between aspirational luxury and everyday life by making curated lifestyles appear personal and accessible.

Q98. Which inference is most reasonably drawn from the passage concerning the influence of social media on consumer behavior?

- A. Social media transforms products that once symbolized distant luxury into items that seem immediately attainable through the personal influence of everyday figures.
- B. The transition from traditional advertising to influencer marketing has made consumers less critical of price and more focused on image.
- C. The widespread use of Instagram ensures that everyone, regardless of economic background, will attain the same level of luxury.
- D. Digital marketing has completely replaced all forms of traditional corporate advertising, rendering old media obsolete.

Q99. Which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by the passage?

- A. Traditional advertising is completely ineffective in modern markets because consumers now only trust recommendations from their peers.
- B. The influencer economy is successful largely because it leverages personal connection and trust to convert visibility into sales, thereby redefining aspiration into a personal experience.
- C. The rise of influencer marketing indicates that consumers no longer desire luxury, but instead seek practicality in high-end products.
- D. Instagram’s impact is limited to aesthetic influences and has not substantially altered the overall strategies of modern luxury brands.

Q100. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that influencer marketing is a more effective strategy than traditional advertising?

- A. Surveys indicate that traditional advertising is increasingly ignored by younger consumers who spend most of their time on social media.
- B. Research shows that recommendations made by influencers generate more engagement on social media than standard TV advertisements.
- C. Studies demonstrate that metrics based on engagement (such as likes, shares, and comments) are significantly correlated with actual purchase behavior, surpassing the impact of mere follower counts.
- D. Data reveals that brands investing in influencer collaborations experience a faster rise in market share compared to those using conventional advertising channels.

Q101. Which assumption is most critical to the argument that the personalized nature of influencer marketing effectively transforms consumer aspirations into attainable goals?

- A. It is assumed that consumers find social media platforms inherently trustworthy, regardless of the product being advertised.
- B. It is assumed that luxury is only appealing if it appears both attainable and personally relevant to the consumer.
- C. It is assumed that the personal connection established by influencers is more influential than traditional forms of advertising in modifying consumer behavior.
- D. It is assumed that when recommendations come from someone who feels like a friend or peer, consumers are more likely to believe that the luxury lifestyle promoted is within their reach.

Q102. Which option best encapsulates the paradox inherent in the contemporary influencer economy as depicted in the passage?

- A. The paradox that although influencer marketing is based on a veneer of personal authenticity and relatability, it is ultimately a calculated commercial strategy designed to commodify personal aspiration and drive consumer spending.
- B. The paradox that despite democratizing aspiration and making luxury seem attainable, influencer marketing simultaneously reinforces the notion of exclusivity by rewarding visibility and curated lifestyles.
- C. The paradox that although social media platforms claim to empower ordinary consumers, they simultaneously create pressures for conformity to idealized lifestyles that are unattainable for most.

D. The paradox that while digital influencers are perceived as genuine and relatable, their endorsements are fundamentally driven by corporate interests rather than personal taste.

Passage:- 4 There was a lot of art that came out during and in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic that was...shall we say, best forgotten. But there was also a lot of art that met the moment, that made us feel something more acutely about the exceedingly strange moment we were living through or simply offered a balm in very troubling times. Five years after we learned what coronavirus even is, we are looking back at the cultural touchstones of that period—and those that will stand the test of time.

If we knew each other during the summer of 2021, you’ve heard this rant before: Bo Burnham: *Inside* is a masterpiece. This was my position without qualifiers. The 87-minute-long musical-comedy special wasn’t just “good for the pandemic”; it was a full-scale theatrical tour de force, directed, written, and performed by a single person within the confines of a tiny guest house in Los Angeles. Over 20 tracks Burnham (who was already a successful comedian and filmmaker prior to this Netflix special, though entirely unknown to me) captures the experience of living through the pandemic in a way that felt both blisteringly funny and devastatingly honest. He ricochets from describing the absurd mundanities of the moment (“FaceTime With My Mom (Tonight),” “White Women’s Instagram”) to visiting the darkest parts of his psyche (“All Time Low,” “Shit”).

The music is also just really good: The album, *Inside (The Songs)*, charted all around the world. He was “Weird Al” Yankovic for the deeply online. *Inside* delighted me at a terrifying time—I have misty-colored memories of scream-singing during endless solo walks—but even five years later, I still find the whole thing pretty astonishing. —Jessie Heyman.

Improbably—or not, given how nimble and ingenious theater people are—the pandemic yielded some truly wonderful dramatic experiments, from world-class performances filmed in empty studios and on vacant stages to productions created for Zoom or rejiggered for the radio. What was perhaps my very favorite, however, came close to being a total disaster. In April 2020, when giants of the musical theater world gathered to honor Stephen Sondheim’s birthday (he, the king giant, had turned 90 in March), the tribute was initially beset with technical difficulties: a long delay, issues with the sound, some troubling live feed of the stricken director. But when the show did finally get going, it was the best. Meryl Streep, Christine Baranski, and Audra McDonald singing “The Ladies Who Lunch”! Beanie Feldstein and Ben Platt doing “It Takes Two”! Aaron Tveit’s “Marry Me a Little”! Elizabeth Stanley’s gorgeous “The Miller’s Son”! Plus selections from Bernadette Peters, Mandy Patinkin, Raúl Esparza, Patti LuPone, Lea Salonga, and, and, and! (Devoid of their usual engagements, anyone who was anyone was very available to participate.)

[<https://www.vogue.com/article/great-pandemic-art>]

Q103. Which of the following statements most clearly expresses an explicitly stated premise in the passage?

- A. The pandemic produced a vast amount of art, most of which is destined to be forgotten because it lacks relevance to the times.
- B. While much pandemic art was forgettable, some works—like Bo Burnham’s *Inside*—captured the moment with such authenticity and innovation that they will be remembered as enduring cultural touchstones.
- C. The passage argues that every work of art created during the pandemic serves as a historical document, regardless of its emotional impact.
- D. The author believes that the art of the pandemic was mainly a distraction from the broader social and economic crises of the era.

Q104. Which inference is most reasonably drawn from the passage regarding pandemic-era art?

- A. The majority of art produced during the pandemic was of low quality and quickly became irrelevant as conditions improved.
- B. Technical difficulties and isolation inherently lead to superior artistic innovation because they force creators to experiment.
- C. Despite the various challenges and technical issues that plagued live and digital performances during the pandemic, some productions transcended these obstacles to produce work of exceptional quality and lasting impact.
- D. Art created during the pandemic was primarily aimed at evoking nostalgia for the pre-pandemic era rather than reflecting the realities of the crisis.

Q105. Which of the following conclusions is most strongly supported by the passage?

- A. The fleeting nature of most pandemic-era art indicates that only the work of major celebrities will be remembered.
- B. The sheer volume of pandemic art demonstrates that cultural production increased exponentially during the crisis, regardless of quality.
- C. Even productions that encountered significant technical hurdles managed to prove that the creative spirit endures in the most challenging of circumstances.
- D. Art and performances that authentically reflected the emotional reality of the pandemic—like *Inside* and the Sondheim tribute—have attained enduring cultural significance and are likely to be celebrated long after the crisis has passed.

Q106. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that certain pandemic-era art will stand the test of time?

- A. Longitudinal studies show that works such as *Inside* continue to receive critical acclaim and influence emerging art forms years after their release, proving their lasting impact.
- B. Surveys indicate that while audiences enjoyed pandemic art initially, their interest wanes over time as the crisis becomes a distant memory.
- C. Box-office revenues and streaming numbers for pandemic-era productions dramatically declined after the first year, suggesting their appeal was only momentary.

D. Traditional advertising and media campaigns continue to favor blockbuster movies over independent artistic productions, indicating that lasting cultural influence is reserved for large-budget projects.

Q107. Which assumption is most critical to the argument that Bo Burnham's *Inside* qualifies as a masterpiece and enduring cultural touchstone?

- A. It is assumed that artistic merit is best measured by an artist's technical skills in writing, directing, and performing.
- B. It is assumed that the personal, solitary nature of pandemic creativity inherently produces art of higher emotional authenticity than pre-pandemic works.
- C. It is assumed that art which captures the raw, authentic emotions of a crisis, making personal experiences feel universally relatable, will be valued and remembered by future generations.
- D. It is assumed that art made in isolation is automatically more innovative than art produced in collaborative or traditional settings.

Q108. Which option best encapsulates the paradox inherent in the cultural landscape described in the passage?

- A. The paradox that while the pandemic forced artists into isolation and technical limitations, these very constraints spurred creative breakthroughs that produced art of astonishing depth and enduring appeal.
- B. The paradox that although pandemic art was created under conditions of extreme hardship, its emotional impact remains as light and transient as the fleeting moment of its creation.
- C. The paradox that the same digital platforms which commodified personal aspiration also became the avenue through which artists expressed their deepest vulnerabilities.
- D. The paradox that while traditional art relied on distance and detachment to build mystique, pandemic art achieved authenticity by breaking down those very barriers, yet in doing so, lost some of its mystique.

SECTION E: - QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Direction:- 1 Food and Fruits is a popular fruit shop on the outskirts of Bengaluru, known for its wide variety of fresh fruits. Last weekend, there was an unexpectedly high demand, leaving the shop with only 50 fruits in total. The fruit distribution was 20 Apples, 15 Oranges, 10 Grapes and 5 Bananas. Due to the rush, the shop owner decided to revise the prices. Each apple is sold at ₹15, each orange at ₹10, each grape at ₹5, and each banana at ₹8. The shop runs a discount policy where, for every 5 apples purchased, a 10% discount is applied to their price. Similarly, for every 4 oranges purchased, a 5% discount applies. For grapes, a "buy 8, get 2 free" offer is active, while for bananas, there is no discount. Additionally, the shopkeeper has introduced a loyalty program. Regular customers get an extra 5% discount on their total bill after all other discounts have been applied. The shop has an existing list of 100 regular customers, and on that particular weekend, 25 of them visited and made purchases.

Q109. If a customer purchases 10 apples in one transaction (and is not a regular customer), what is the total amount payable for the apples after applying the apple-discount policy but before any loyalty discount?

- A. ₹150.00 B. ₹120.00 C. ₹135.00 D. ₹110.00

Q110. A non-regular customer buys 8 oranges and 5 apples together. What is the total discount amount (in ₹) they receive on just the fruit prices before loyalty discounts?

- A. ₹12.50 B. ₹11.50 C. ₹10.75 D. ₹9.00

Q111. What percentage of the shop's total stock does the grapes constitute?

- A. 25% B. 20% C. 15% D. 10%

Q112. A customer takes home 10 grapes under the "buy 8, get 2 free" offer. What is the effective price per grape (in ₹) before any loyalty discount?

- A. ₹5.00 B. ₹4.50 C. ₹3.50 D. ₹4.00

Q113. If all 25 regular customers each buy exactly one apple, what is the total amount paid by them *after* applying both the apple discount policy and the 5% loyalty discount (rounded off)?

- A. ₹321 B. ₹310.00 C. ₹312.00 D. ₹325.00

Q114. Assuming the shop sells its entire remaining stock of fruits last weekend, what is the simplified ratio of total revenues from apples, oranges, grapes (after offers), and bananas?

- A. 30 : 16 : 4.44 : 4.44 B. 15 : 10 : 1 : 1 C. 3 : 1.5 : 0.4 : 0.4 D. 60 : 30 : 8 : 8

Direction:- 2 There is a rectangular plot of land in Bangalore with dimensions 300 meters by 200 meters. Half of this plot, measuring 150 meters by 200 meters, is reserved for a school playground. The other half is designated as a public park, which is further divided as follows. There is a walking track of 5 meters width which runs around the entire park. Within the walking track, there is a central rectangular lawn measuring 140 meters by 180 meters. Three circular flower beds of radius 10 meters each are placed symmetrically along the walking track. Additionally, there is a rectangular pond of 20 meters by 15 meters at one corner of the park. The park is enclosed by a boundary wall of 4 meters in height. The local municipal authority has decided to paint this boundary wall at a rate of ₹30 per square meter. Furthermore, they have also planned to install decorative tiles around the pond at a cost of ₹250 per square meter. The flower beds are to be maintained with a monthly maintenance cost of ₹20 per square meter.

Q115. What percentage of the public park's area is occupied by the central lawn?

- A. 78% B. 84% C. 88% D. 92%

Q116. What is the total monthly maintenance cost for all three flower beds? (Use $\pi = 3.14$.)

- A. ₹18,840 B. ₹17,670 C. ₹19,200 D. ₹20,160

Q117. What is the total cost to paint the boundary wall of the park?

- A. ₹72,000 B. ₹108,000 C. ₹96,000 D. ₹84,000

Q118. What is the cost to install decorative tiles around the pond if the tile area equals the pond's surface area?

- A. ₹50,000 B. ₹62,500 C. ₹75,000 D. ₹90,000

Q119. What is the simplified ratio of the area of the lawn to the area of the pond?

- A. 84 : 1 B. 70 : 3 C. 42 : 5 D. 168 : 2

Q120. After accounting for the walking track, central lawn, flower beds, and pond, how many square meters of the park remain unoccupied by these features?

- A. 612 m² B. 342 m² C. 450 m² D. 158 m²