

CLAT MOCK - 140

ANSWERS KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

1. **Answer:** B Difficulty: Medium

- Why B is correct: “Modus operandi” means a characteristic method of operating, as used here: “modus operandi of despots around the world already” (Line 6).
- Why A is incorrect: A “formal declaration” is a one-time statement, not a habitual method (Line 6).
- Why C is incorrect: “Unpredictable” contradicts the idea of a consistent modus operandi (Line 6).
- Why D is incorrect: It is not a specific legal procedure but a general term for customary practice (Line 6).

2. **Answer:** C Difficulty: Easy

- Why C is correct: The Suspension Clause reads: “unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it” (Lines 1–2).
- Why A is incorrect: No mention of a presidential declaration or simple resolution (Lines 1–2).
- Why B is incorrect: The Supreme Court has no role in suspending habeas corpus under the text (Lines 1–2).
- Why D is incorrect: The Clause specifies only rebellion or invasion, not congressional vote thresholds (Lines 1–2).

3. **Answer:** A Difficulty: Medium

- Why A is correct: Without habeas corpus (no due process), you cannot determine who “deserves” detention: “obvious paradox... and that there would be no due process” (Lines 13–14).
- Why B is incorrect: The author rejects any notion that good faith can replace due process (Lines 13–14).
- Why C is incorrect: The author condemns, rather than advocates, overriding rights (Lines 12–14).
- Why D is incorrect: The focus is on logical inconsistency, not the number affected (Lines 13–14).

4. **Answer:** B Difficulty: Easy

- Why B is correct: Phrases like “1,000% wrong” (Line 1), “power grab” (Line 16), and “must refuse this Trump power grab” (Line 17) convey emphatic condemnation.
- Why A is incorrect: The tone is far stronger than mere skepticism (Lines 1; 16–17).
- Why C is incorrect: The author clearly interjects moral judgment, not neutral reporting (Lines 1; 16–17).
- Why D is incorrect: No limited approval is offered; the author rejects any suspension outside rebellion or invasion (Lines 1–2; 17).

5. **Answer:** A Difficulty: Hard

- Why A is correct: Active construction matches “White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, who has proposed suspending habeas corpus, says” (Line 4).
- Why B is incorrect: “And he says” creates redundancy and a run-on (Line 4).
- Why C is incorrect: “Responsible for floating” is wordy and less direct (Line 4).
- Why D is incorrect: Introducing “he” interrupts flow and creates a fragment (Line 4).

6. Answer: C Difficulty: Medium

- Why C is correct: The author uses the Constitution (Lines 1–2), historical precedents (Lines 3–8), and moral argument (Lines 13–17) to condemn the proposal as unconstitutional and authoritarian.
- Why A is incorrect: Listing past suspensions serves to contrast lawful precedents, not merely to outline history (Lines 3–8).
- Why B is incorrect: The author rejects unchecked executive action, rather than defending it (Lines 13–17).
- Why D is incorrect: There is no call for a constitutional amendment—only enforcement of existing protections (Line 17).

Passage Overview & Reading Approach

This passage condemns the Trump administration’s attempt to suspend habeas corpus—a fundamental Constitutional safeguard—absent the required “rebellion or invasion” and without Congress’s consent. It compares past lawful suspensions to the proposed executive overreach, highlights the paradox of denying due process while claiming selective enforcement, and warns that such measures mirror authoritarian regimes. To master this passage, first identify the Suspension Clause and its limited conditions, then trace the historical precedents, and finally note the author’s vehement critique and moral imperative.

Question-by-Question Strategies

- **Q1 (Vocabulary: “modus operandi”)**
Look at “despots around the world” and infer a habitual method of operation, not a one-off declaration or legal term.
- **Q2 (Factual: Suspension conditions)**
Refer directly to the quoted Suspension Clause to find the two and only permissible grounds—“rebellion or invasion.”
- **Q3 (Inference: paradox of “deserve it” vs. no due process)**
Link the claim of targeting only “deserving” individuals with the simultaneous removal of the mechanism to prove innocence.
- **Q4 (Author’s Stance)**
Note strong language (“1,000% wrong,” “power grab”) signaling emphatic opposition rather than neutral reporting or qualified approval.
- **Q5 (Grammar: Sentence Correction)**
Identify and replace the awkward passive with an active, clear construction and proper verb choice.
- **Q6 (Main Idea)**
Synthesize the passage’s legal-historical analysis, moral argument, and political warning to pick the comprehensive summary.

Logical Structure Brief (Competitive-Exam Style)

- **Premises:**
 1. Habeas corpus protection is enshrined in the Suspension Clause, permitting suspension only during rebellion or invasion.
 2. Historical suspensions occurred only with Congress’s consent.

3. The proposed suspension lacks those constitutional prerequisites.
- **Inferences:**
 1. Any unilateral suspension today violates the Constitution.
 2. Removing habeas corpus destroys the mechanism for due process.
 3. Such a move resembles authoritarian regimes' tactics.
 - **Conclusions:**
 1. The Trump administration's proposal is unlawful and must be opposed.
 2. Suspension absent rebellion/invasion is a fundamental constitutional breach.
 - **Arguments:**
 1. **Legal:** Suspension Clause conditions are non-negotiable.
 2. **Historical:** Only Congress-approved suspensions are valid.
 3. **Moral/Political:** Denying due process for "deserving" targets is paradoxical and authoritarian.
 - **Assumptions:**
 1. Constitutional text and precedent bind current policy.
 2. Due process is essential for justice.
 3. Bipartisan political leadership can uphold constitutional safeguards.
 - **Paradoxes:**
 1. **Justice vs. Power:** Using supposed justice as a rationale for eliminating rights.
 2. **Deservedness vs. Due Process:** Claiming targeted enforcement while removing the means to prove innocence.

Emergency vs. Rule of Law: Invoking crisis to undermine the very protections that define lawful governance.

7. Answer: D Difficulty: Medium

- Why D is correct: The author argues that the PSLV-C61 failure highlights the "tense triangle" of cost, reliability and time in spaceflight and concludes that increasing ISRO's resources is appropriate to meet civilian and military demands (Lines 1–3; Lines 11–13).
- Why A is incorrect: The author explicitly notes that private firms "still need ISRO's guidance" rather than calling for their replacing ISRO altogether (Line 7).
- Why B is incorrect: There is no suggestion to abandon surveillance in favor of climate research; both uses are presented as valuable (Lines 3–4; Lines 9–10).
- Why C is incorrect: While EOS-09's specs are described, the passage's focus is on resource constraints and reliability, not on celebrating the radar technology alone (Lines 3–4; Lines 9–10).

8. Answer: B Difficulty: Easy

- Why B is correct: "Inclement weather" refers to severe meteorological conditions: "even if inclement weather prevailed over the areas of interest" (Line 3).
- Why A is incorrect: "Inclement" is not limited to cold; it encompasses rain, wind or storms (Line 3).
- Why C is incorrect: There is no political meaning here—"inclement" describes weather (Line 3).
- Why D is incorrect: "Moderate and unremarkable" is the opposite of "inclement" (Line 3).

9. Answer: A Difficulty: Medium

- Why A is correct: The invitation of MPs to what “would have been unusual for a strictly civilian earth-observation satellite” implies strategic importance in the context of tensions with Pakistan (Lines 4–5).
- Why B is incorrect: There is no indication this was meant to address earlier public-relations failures (Lines 4–5).
- Why C is incorrect: The text states that inviting MPs was “unusual” for a civilian payload, so it is not routine (Line 5).
- Why D is incorrect: No mention is made of defence lobbyists or classified briefings (Lines 4–5).

10. Answer: A Difficulty: Hard

- Why A is correct: “It will not be remiss” means it would be prudent; the closest antonym is “judicious” (Line 13).
- Why B is incorrect: “Negligent” is a synonym of “remiss,” not an antonym (Line 13).
- Why C is incorrect: “Dismissive” does not directly contrast with the sense of care implied by “remiss” (Line 13).
- Why D is incorrect: “Improvident” similarly connotes lack of foresight, akin to “remiss” (Line 13).

11. Answer: D Difficulty: Medium

- Why D is correct: Just as “small margins of error... separate success from failure” in launches (Line 9), EOS-09’s synthetic aperture radar ensures reliable data through clouds (Lines 3–4).
- Why A is incorrect: Tariffs are unrelated to data reliability (Line 9).
- Why B is incorrect: More launch attempts concern quantity, not data quality (Line 9).
- Why C is incorrect: Private manufacturing oversight speaks to cost or reliability broadly, not specifically to data consistency (Line 7).

12. Answer: A Difficulty: Easy

- Why A is correct: Describing additional resources as “not remiss” signals that boosting ISRO’s funding is reasonable and necessary given its urgent, complex missions (Lines 11–13).
- Why B is incorrect: The author defends ISRO’s continued role rather than advocating replacement (Lines 7–8).
- Why C is incorrect: There is no hint that extra funds would be mere extravagance; “not remiss” implies advisability (Line 13).
- Why D is incorrect: The failures are attributed to small error margins and resource constraints, not to ISRO’s incompetence (Lines 6–7; Line 11).

Passage Overview & Reading Approach

This passage examines how ISRO’s recent PSLV-C61 failure highlights the “tense triangle” of cost, reliability, and time in spaceflight, the dual civilian–military role of Earth-observation satellites like EOS-09, and India’s urgency for surveillance amid strategic needs. Expect high difficulty from technical vocabulary, policy context (Space-Based Surveillance-3, Operation Sindoor), and nuanced argumentation about public–private roles and resource allocation. Test-takers should trace the cause–effect sequence (launch glitch → strategic gap → resource call), identify evaluative language (“tense triangle,” “not remiss”), and distinguish factual details from the author’s recommendations.

Question-by-Question Approaches

Q7 (Main Purpose): Return to the opening and concluding sentences to capture the dual focus on

technical failure and the call for more ISRO resources. Choose the answer that addresses both analysis and advocacy.

Q8 (Vocabulary – “inclement”): Locate “inclement weather” describing the radar’s all-weather capability; infer from meteorological context that it denotes severe poor weather.

Q9 (Inference – MPs’ Invitation): Note the phrase “unusual for a strictly civilian satellite” and link it to strategic importance amid Pakistan tensions, ruling out generic or routine motivations.

Q10 (Antonym – “remiss”): In the final paragraph, “not be remiss” means “appropriate”; select the direct opposite of negligent.

Q11 (Analogy): Align “small margins of error” ensuring launch success with the technology (“synthetic aperture radar”) ensuring data reliability—parallel technical–outcome relationships.

Q12 (Implication – Resource Call): Interpret “not remiss to increase resources” as a strong recommendation, not optional indulgence or misjudgment.

Elaborate Logical Brief

- **Premises:**
 1. PSLV-C61 failed due to a third-stage glitch, delaying EOS-09’s insertion into sun-synchronous orbit.
 2. EOS-09’s all-weather radar had critical civilian and defence applications, especially given tensions with Pakistan.
 3. India’s Space-Based Surveillance-3 programme aims to launch 52 satellites, with significant private-sector participation under ISRO guidance.
- **Inferences:**
 1. Launch failures reveal the razor-thin reliability margins in rocketry and the high stakes of strategic surveillance gaps.
 2. Private players cannot fully substitute for ISRO’s expertise, necessitating robust institutional support.
- **Conclusions:**
 1. To meet urgent military and climate-monitoring needs—and to manage an increasingly crowded manifest—ISRO requires additional resources.
 2. Strengthening ISRO balances time pressures against reliability and cost constraints, safeguarding national interests.
- **Arguments:**
 1. **Tense Triangle Argument:** Cost savings cannot override reliability when strategic surveillance depends on flawless launches under tight timelines.
 2. **Civil–Military Synergy:** Dual-use satellites justify political engagement and resource prioritization.
 3. **Institutional Imperative:** Public–private collaboration hinges on sustaining ISRO’s central role, not supplanting it.
- **Assumptions:**
 1. More funding directly enhances launch reliability and project timelines.
 2. Strategic imperatives (e.g., Operation Sindoor) will continue to drive space demands, making time non-negotiable.
 3. Private-sector capacity, even when scaled up, remains contingent on ISRO’s technical oversight.
- **Paradoxes & Tensions:**
 1. **Reliability vs. Cost:** Increasing launches to meet time pressures escalates costs, yet cutting costs risks failure.

2. **Innovation vs. Expertise:** Rapid private-sector growth promises agility but may outpace ISRO's ability to maintain quality control.

13. **Answer:** B Difficulty: Easy

- Why B is correct: "Fledgling" describes something in its early stages and untried, as HTS only seized Damascus recently (Line 5).
- Why A is incorrect: "Fully established and long-standing" contradicts the sense of newness (Line 5).
- Why C is incorrect: While a fledgling entity may be unstable, the term emphasizes youth, not imminent collapse (Line 5).
- Why D is incorrect: "Moderate and compromising" refers to ideology, but "fledgling" pertains to age/maturity (Line 5).

14. **Answer:** A Difficulty: Medium

- Why A is correct: The passage states that until six months ago he was a \$10 million–bounty target and that on May 14 he met President Trump in Riyadh (Lines 1–3).
- Why B is incorrect: He founded Jabhat al-Nusra (predecessor to HTS) in 2012, but his Qatar meeting occurred in April, not May 14 (Lines 2; 6).
- Why C is incorrect: His designation as a terrorist predates 2024, and Turkish backing is mentioned without a December 2024 date (Lines 1; 7).
- Why D is incorrect: He met Macron in Paris, not Riyadh, and the Trump meeting followed sanctions relief earlier that week (Lines 4; 3).

15. **Answer:** C Difficulty: Medium

- Why C is correct: The author warns that without political inclusivity and security, investment alone cannot resolve deep sectarian conflict (Lines 13–16).
- Why A is incorrect: The passage explicitly cautions against assuming foreign investment guarantees stability (Lines 10–13).
- Why B is incorrect: Sectarian violence is ongoing, not ended by regime change (Lines 15–18).
- Why D is incorrect: No inclusive constitution yet exists; the author calls for one as a future goal (Lines 21–22).

16. **Answer:** A Difficulty: Easy

- Why A is correct: Overthrow equates to political liberation; lifting sanctions equates to economic liberation (Lines 5; 10).
- Why B is incorrect: The passage makes no link between sanctions relief and cultural assimilation (Line 10).
- Why C is incorrect: Sanctions relief is the opposite of military escalation (Line 10).
- Why D is incorrect: "Legal retrenchment" implies restricting laws, whereas sanctions lifting expands economic freedom (Line 10).

17. **Answer:** A Difficulty: Hard

- Why A is correct: "Now going by Ahmed al-Sharaa" is idiomatic, concise, and clearly indicates his new name (Line 3).
- Why B is incorrect: "Gone by the name" is an incorrect idiom; the correct phrase is "going by" (Line 3).

- Why C is incorrect: “Calling himself” feels informal and awkward in this formal context (Line 3).
- Why D is incorrect: “Now known Ahmed al-Sharaa to many” is ungrammatical and wordy (Line 3).

18. **Answer:** D **Difficulty:** Medium

- Why D is correct: The passage tracks Jolani’s transformation into al-Sharaa, his diplomatic engagements and lifted sanctions (Lines 1–4; 10), then warns that unresolved sectarian instability must be addressed for true recovery (Lines 13–18; 21–22).
- Why A is incorrect: The tone balances diplomatic achievements with caution, not uncritical celebration (Lines 4; 15–18).
- Why B is incorrect: There is no proposal to export HTS’s governance model (Lines 21–22).
- Why C is incorrect: The author argues investment alone won’t erase sectarian tensions (Lines 13–16).

Passage Overview & Reading Approach

This passage details the remarkable transformation of Abu Mohammad al-Jolani—from a U.S.-designated terrorist with a \$10 million bounty to Ahmed al-Sharaa, internationally-recognized leader of Islamist HTS in Syria. It charts his recent meetings with world leaders, the lifting of sanctions, the prospects for investment, and the critical challenges he faces—namely sectarian violence and the need for inclusive governance to avoid Syria becoming another Libya or Afghanistan. To master this passage, first outline the timeline of Jolani’s rebranding and diplomatic breakthroughs, then note the policy shifts (sanctions lifted, investment invited), and finally track the author’s warnings about internal stabilization, minority protections, and constitutional reform.

Question-by-Question Strategies

- **Q13 (Vocabulary: “fledgling”)**
Examine context (“his fledgling Islamist regime”) to infer a regime in its early stages; eliminate meanings of maturity or collapse.
- **Q14 (Factual)**
Locate the sentence specifying the \$10 million bounty and the meeting date (May 14) to verify which detail is asked.
- **Q15 (Inference)**
Link the “historic opportunity” for investment with the caveats about minority violence to infer the author’s caution.
- **Q16 (Analogy)**
Identify the structural parallel between HTS’s capture of Damascus and another upheaval, or between sanctions lifting and infiltration of foreign capital.
- **Q17 (Grammar)**
Spot the clumsy parenthetical “— now known as Ahmed al-Sharaa —” and test revisions that sharpen clarity and maintain correct punctuation.
- **Q18 (Main Idea)**
Weigh the entire passage—biographical sketch, diplomatic milestones, investment promise, sectarian risks, and conditional prescription—to select the comprehensive summary.

Logical Structure Brief (Competitive-Exam Style)

- **Premises:**
 1. Jolani was a U.S.-designated terrorist with a \$10 million bounty.
 2. As Ahmed al-Sharaa, he met Trump, Macron, Qatar’s Emir, and enjoys Türkiye’s backing.

3. U.S. sanctions on Syria were lifted, inviting foreign investment in oil, gas, and reconstruction.
- **Inferences:**
 1. International recognition and capital inflows present a historic opportunity for regime legitimacy.
 2. Without addressing sectarian violence (Alawite, Druze, Kurdish tensions), investment alone cannot secure stability.
 3. Inclusive governance and constitutional guarantees are prerequisites for long-term recovery.
 - **Conclusions:**
 1. Ahmed al-Sharaa must dismantle extremist armed groups and adopt an inclusive constitution.
 2. Failing that, Syria risks state failure akin to Libya or Afghanistan.
 - **Arguments:**
 1. **Biographical Narrative:** Jolani's rebranding and diplomatic ascent demonstrate the fluidity of international engagement.
 2. **Economic Opportunity vs. Political Reality:** Sanctions relief and funding prospects contrast with ongoing targeted violence.
 3. **Conditional Prescription:** Only by stabilizing internally, protecting minorities, and ensuring due process can Syria's rebirth succeed.
 - **Assumptions:**
 1. Lifted sanctions will effectively translate into foreign investment.
 2. Diplomacy with major powers implies an expectation of internal reform.
 3. Inclusive constitutional design can mitigate sectarian animosities.
 - **Paradoxes:**
 1. **Terrorist-turned-Statesman:** A man once hunted globally is now courted by heads of state.
 2. **Freedom vs. Security:** Opening borders to investment risks empowering the same forces that fuel violence if governance is not inclusive.
 3. **Opportunity vs. Risk:** The window for reconstruction is both a chance for renewal and a moment when failure could be catastrophic.

19. **Answer:** B Difficulty: Medium

- Why B is correct: The passage highlights recent anti-trans executive orders and legislation, details their harmful impacts on mental health, data collection, and medical access, and calls for renewed public solidarity (Lines 3–4; Lines 17–18).
- Why A is incorrect: The passage does not trace LGBTQ+ legal history from the 1960s forward, nor claim past victories guarantee future protections.
- Why C is incorrect: No comparison is made with other Western democracies.
- Why D is incorrect: The author does not draft or propose an insurance-mandate framework.

20. **Answer:** C Difficulty: Easy

- Why C is correct: Saying life betterment becomes “unfeasible” means it is beyond practical possibility or capability without survey data (Line 6).
- Why A is incorrect: “Unfeasible” does not mean merely underfunded.
- Why B is incorrect: There is no discussion of legal overturning.

- Why D is incorrect: The term refers to practical impossibility, not obstruction by private interests.

21. **Answer:** C Difficulty: Medium

- Why C is correct: “In the 89th Texas Legislative Session, there are currently 126 anti-trans bills in play, according to Trans Legislation Tracker” (Line 12).
- Why A is incorrect: The executive order defines sex “at conception” and removes gender-identity markers, rather than expanding them (Lines 1–2).
- Why B is incorrect: The Trevor Project attributes suicide risk to societal mistreatment, not inherent identity (Line 10).
- Why D is incorrect: House Bill 847 bars taxpayer funding for “gender reassignment,” but does not ban all hormone therapy for every patient (Line 13).

22. **Answer:** B Difficulty: Medium

- Why B is correct: Removing gender-identity questions makes census data on diverse experiences nearly impossible (Line 5); likewise, defunding trans-serving NGOs will erode comprehensive data on LGBTQ+ health outcomes (Line 7).
- Why A is incorrect: The passage does not discuss private clinics replacing public services.
- Why C is incorrect: There is no mention of mandatory prescription disclosure.
- Why D is incorrect: The author warns of funding cuts, not the creation of new government programs.

23. **Answer:** A Difficulty: Hard

- Why A is correct: “As a result of the anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, the Human Rights Campaign has reported that individuals nationwide have experienced worsening mental health and increased anxiety and fear.” correctly attributes the report to the Campaign rather than to individuals (Line 3).
- Why B is incorrect: It still implies individuals are the source of the Campaign’s data.
- Why C is incorrect: It continues to misplace the modifier, suggesting individuals speak for the Campaign.
- Why D is incorrect: The original sentence misattributes the source and needs revision.

24. **Answer:** C Difficulty: Medium

- Why C is correct: The author condemns these measures as infringements on liberty, cites mental-health harms and data-collection obstacles (Lines 3–4; Lines 5–7), and urges public allyship akin to the Gay Liberation Movement (Lines 17–18).
- Why A is incorrect: The author opposes, not endorses, these measures.
- Why B is incorrect: The author takes a clear moral and political stance, not a neutral overview.
- Why D is incorrect: The passage argues against sacrificing trans rights for fiscal savings.

Passage Overview & Reading Approach (4–5 lines)

This passage critiques recent U.S. executive orders and state bills targeting transgender rights—redefining sex “at conception,” removing gender-identity questions, and cutting NGO funding—by documenting the resulting harms to mental health, data collection, and medical access. Test-takers should note the progression: legal changes → practical impacts → statistical evidence → legislative context → historical appeal. Expect high difficulty from legal terminology, layered causes and effects, and emotional appeals. Focus on mapping the structure, distinguishing author’s assertions from cited statistics, and tracking evaluative language (“unfeasible,” “infringement,” “alarmist”).

Question-by-Question Approaches

Q19 (Main Purpose): Return to the opening and closing paragraphs to capture both the critique of policies and the call for solidarity. Eliminate options that stray into history or comparative analysis.

Q20 (Vocabulary – “unfeasible”): Locate in Paragraph 2 describing removal of survey questions; infer from context that it means “practically impossible,” not “underfunded” or “legislative.”

Q21 (Factual Recall): Scan for numeric or attributive details—126 bills in Texas, Trevor Project statistics—to validate direct statements and discard misrepresentations.

Q22 (Analogy): Identify cause–effect in data removal hindering census and funding cuts undermining health-data gathering, then choose the option that mirrors loss of comprehensive information.

Q23 (Grammar – Misplaced Modifier): Spot the dangling “according to the Human Rights Campaign” modifying the wrong subject; choose the revision that clearly attaches it to the report.

Q24 (Author’s Stance): Weigh the author’s moral language (“infringement,” “harm,” “deserve the same rights”) to select the choice reflecting unequivocal condemnation and advocacy.

Elaborate Logical Brief

- **Premises:**
 1. Executive orders redefine sex at conception and remove gender-identity markers from IDs and surveys.
 2. A subsequent order threatens NGO funding, potentially cutting services for transgender medical care.
 3. Anti-trans bills in Texas aim to ban taxpayer-funded gender-related care, mischaracterizing clinic services.
- **Inferences:**
 1. Redefining legal sex and erasing survey data will impede visibility, policy-making, and resource allocation for gender-diverse people.
 2. Defunding NGOs and clinics risks depriving individuals of essential medical treatments, exacerbating mental-health crises.
- **Conclusions:**
 1. These measures constitute direct infringements on liberties, worsening anxiety and fear among LGBTQ+ populations.
 2. There is an urgent need for public allyship, akin to the 1960s Gay Liberation Movement, to defend trans rights.
- **Arguments:**
 1. **Rights and Data:** Legal erasure leads to unfeasible improvement and obscures demographic realities.
 2. **Health Consequences:** Citing the Human Rights Campaign and Trevor Project connects policy changes to mental-health statistics.
 3. **Historical Parallel:** Invoking past solidarity frames current activism as a continuation of civil-rights struggles.
- **Assumptions:**
 1. Access to accurate data is foundational for effective policy and social support.
 2. Mental-health outcomes directly reflect societal treatment and legal recognition.
 3. Public demonstrations of allyship can influence legislative processes.
- **Paradoxes & Tensions:**
 1. **Visibility vs. Erasure:** Efforts to define sex “at conception” paradoxically erase lived gender identities.
 2. **Public Funding vs. Private Suffering:** Legislatures claim fiscal prudence while forcing vulnerable individuals into precarious health situations.

3. **Legal Progress vs. Regression:** Historical gains in LGBTQ+ rights stand in stark tension with contemporary regressive orders, necessitating renewed activism.

25. Correct Answer: B (Difficulty Level: Easy)

Explanation:

World Water Day was officially declared in **1993** by the **United Nations General Assembly**, following its proposal during the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**. This summit marked a major moment in global environmental governance, initiating multiple sustainable development agendas.

- **Option A** misstates the year and attributes it to the 1972 Stockholm Conference.
- **Option C** refers to climate change talks, not water.
- **Option D** falsely attributes it to a biodiversity agreement not related to water observance.

26. Correct Answer: D (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

SDG 6 (Sustainable Development Goal 6) is directly related to **water and sanitation**. It aims to “**ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**” by **2030**. World Water Day reinforces awareness and commitment toward this target.

- **Option A** relates to climate change but not water-specific goals.
- **Option B** concerns infrastructure, not water systems.
- **Option C** focuses on cities and communities, not the specific water issue addressed here.

27. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

The **Jal-Jangal-Jan Abhiyan** emphasizes the restoration of **ecological relationships** among **forests (Jangal)**, **rivers (Jal)**, and **communities (Jan)**. It seeks to revive natural water systems by re-establishing hydrological connections among landscapes and people.

- **Option A** focuses on unsustainable groundwater mining.
- **Option B** refers to energy reform, not ecological restoration.
- **Option D** mentions digitization, which is unrelated to the ecological focus of this campaign.

28. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

The theme of the **2025 Jal Shakti Abhiyan** was “**People’s Action for Water Conservation – Towards Intensified Community Connect**” (in Hindi: *Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Jan Jagrukta Ki Or*). It reflects a community-centered approach to water sustainability.

- **Option B** refers to urban infrastructure, not the campaign’s community emphasis.
- **Option C** is unrelated to the campaign’s participatory water conservation goals.
- **Option D** offers a different environmental angle not specified in the campaign.

29. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Hard)

Explanation:

The theme of **World Water Day 2025** is “**Glacier Preservation**”, which brings attention to the accelerating **melting of glaciers** and its implications for **water scarcity** in downstream ecosystems and vulnerable populations.

- **Option A** refers to political disputes over shared waters, not glacial issues.
- **Option B** was a theme for an earlier year.
- **Option D** shifts the focus to wetlands, not glaciers.

30. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Easy)**Explanation:**

The **Raisina Dialogue** was launched in **2016** and is jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**. It has emerged as a prominent platform for strategic and foreign policy discourse, modeled after high-profile global forums.

- **Option B** includes incorrect organizing institutions and an incorrect year.
- **Option C** wrongly attributes it to the Ministry of Defence and IDSA.
- **Option D** mixes unrelated bodies and provides an incorrect founding year.

31. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

The Raisina Dialogue is frequently likened to **Germany's Munich Security Conference** and **Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue** due to its strategic focus and global participation from heads of state, military leaders, and think tanks.

- **Option A** relates more to economic policy than security/geopolitics.
- **Option B** involves China-led platforms, not peer-level multilateral security conferences.
- **Option D** is political and multilateral in nature, but not directly comparable in theme or format.

32. Correct Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

The 2025 Raisina Dialogue adopted the theme **"Kālchakra – People, Peace and Planet"**, highlighting the cyclical nature of geopolitics and the need for harmony between humanity, diplomacy, and the environment.

- **Option A** is a paraphrase of India's G20 presidency theme, not Raisina's.
- **Option C** incorrectly reflects the dialogue's focus on digital sovereignty as the central theme.
- **Option D** is a fictional theme not used in 2025.

33. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Easy)**Explanation:**

India's External Affairs Minister emphasized the dangers of the **weaponization of trade** through sanctions, tariffs, and controls, urging for **reliable, transparent, and aligned partnerships**. India is shifting toward **trust-based trade pacts**, especially with the US, UK, and EU.

- **Option A** inaccurately reflects liberalization as the dominant strategy, which India is selectively applying.
- **Option C** misrepresents the reason for strategic re-evaluation.
- **Option D** incorrectly claims a policy of complete decoupling, which is not India's articulated position.

34. Correct Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

During the Raisina Dialogue 2025, the **Philippines invited India to join the Squad alliance**, a strategic maritime coalition comprising the **US, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines**, to counter **China's assertiveness in the South China Sea**.

- **Option A** refers to ASEAN-led frameworks but not the Squad proposal.
- **Option C** overstates India's naval engagement commitments.

- **Option D** positions India as a mediator, which is inconsistent with the military-forward framing of the Squad.

35. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

Project Tiger was launched on **April 1, 1973**, following alarming declines in tiger populations, with the initial implementation at **Corbett Tiger Reserve**. It was a landmark initiative introduced by **PM Indira Gandhi** to ensure tiger habitat preservation and population recovery.

- **Option B** is unrelated and focuses on broader biodiversity issues.
- **Option C** refers to campaigns that occurred before the formal structure of Project Tiger.
- **Option D** misrepresents the legal framework and timing for tiger conservation.

36. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

A **tiger reserve** is divided into two zones:

- **Core Zone:** A **strictly protected area** meant solely for **wildlife conservation**, with minimal human interference.
- **Buffer Zone:** An area surrounding the core that allows **regulated human activity**, often used for **eco-tourism, community development, and prey support**.
- **Option A** and **D** confuse conservation zones with development zones.
- **Option B** inaccurately designates eco-tourism as the main objective of the buffer.

37. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

For **Himalayan and Northeastern states**, the **Centre bears 90%** of the cost, while the **state contributes 10%** under Project Tiger's funding model.

This asymmetric funding aims to support ecologically sensitive but economically weaker regions.

- **Option A** and **B** reflect incorrect ratios for these regions (those apply to general states).
- **Option D** misapplies Article 275(1), which pertains to tribal grants, not tiger conservation.

38. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Madhav National Park was designated as a **tiger reserve** to **strengthen tiger conservation** and function as a **corridor between Ranthambore (Rajasthan) and Kuno (MP)**. It supports biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and future rewilding plans.

- **Option A** confuses Madhav with wetland conservation parks.
- **Option B** relates to the **Kuno** lion relocation project, not Madhav's tiger focus.
- **Option D** misrepresents the conservation goal as purely tourism-driven.

39. Correct Answer: D (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Consolidating **tigers, cheetahs, and potentially lions** in the same landscape (Kuno-Madhav) could lead to **inter-predator competition**, especially for **limited prey** like deer.

This challenge complicates conservation management and risks undermining the recovery of all three species.

- **Option A** is not a result of predator introduction.
- **Option C** is speculative and unrelated to predator conflicts.
- **Option D** addresses a different environmental risk not emphasized here.

40. Correct Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

The **process of designating a tiger reserve** is:

1. **State Government submits** a proposal.
 2. **NTCA evaluates and recommends.**
 3. **State Government notifies** the area as a reserve.
This ensures decentralization while incorporating scientific and regulatory review.
- **Option A** inaccurately places initiative power in the NTCA.
 - **Option C** incorrectly adds PMO and Cabinet approval.
 - **Option D** wrongly links the process to UNESCO and eco-sensitive zones.

41. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Easy)**Explanation:**

NASA was established in **1958** through the **National Aeronautics and Space Act**. Its core purpose is to lead **civilian space exploration and aerospace research** for **peaceful, non-military applications**. It replaced NACA (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics) and remains the key U.S. body for scientific space missions.

- **Option B** is incorrect as military programs are handled by DoD and USAF.
- **Option C** misstates the date and function.
- **Option D** confuses NASA's civilian role with military jurisdiction.

42. Correct Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

The **Gaganyaan mission** is India's first attempt at **human spaceflight**, with the aim of **sending three astronauts** on a **3-day orbital mission** at around **400 km**. It marks India's entry into elite spacefaring nations with manned missions.

- **Option A** refers to an entirely different initiative not linked to Gaganyaan.
- **Option C** references lunar missions, which are not in Gaganyaan's current scope.
- **Option D** misrepresents the mission's core objective.

43. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

The **Bhartiya Antriksh Station (BAS)** is India's **proposed space station**. Its **first module** is scheduled for launch by **2028**, with **full deployment by 2035**, and will orbit **400–450 km above Earth**, supporting **microgravity research, Earth observation, and long-term habitation**.

- **Option B** exaggerates the timeline and structure.
- **Option C** incorrectly downscales BAS to a capsule-only mission.
- **Option D** refers to earlier dates not aligned with official plans.

44. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)**Explanation:**

Astronauts **Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams** originally traveled on Boeing's **Starliner**. Due to **propulsion issues**, the spacecraft became unfit for re-entry. As a result, they returned via **SpaceX's Crew Dragon**, showcasing redundancy in NASA's human spaceflight plans.

- **Option B** misstates the sequence of events.
- **Option C** invents a geopolitical angle not involved here.

- **Option D** refers to internal NASA dynamics without factual backing.

45. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Hard)

Explanation:

Baby Feet Syndrome refers to the **hypersensitivity and discomfort in walking** that astronauts experience after prolonged missions. **Microgravity** causes **foot calluses to vanish**, making skin extremely tender and sensitive upon returning to gravity.

- **Option A** is a fictitious syndrome.
- **Option B** misrepresents SANS, which affects vision, not feet.
- **Option D** refers to balance disorders but not specific to foot hypersensitivity.

46. Correct Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

One of the gravest risks for **long-duration missions** to the **Moon and Mars** is **cosmic radiation and solar radiation**, which astronauts are directly exposed to due to the absence of **Earth's atmospheric and magnetic shielding**. This can cause **DNA mutations, cancer**, and long-term **genetic damage**.

- **Option A** is highly unlikely with current life support systems.
- **Option C** is speculative and not a validated NASA concern.
- **Option D** invents a sci-fi scenario without factual basis.

47. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

NITI Aayog was established through a **Union Cabinet resolution** in **2015**, replacing the Planning Commission. It is **neither a Constitutional nor a statutory body**, meaning it was not created by an Act of Parliament or a constitutional provision.

- **Option B** is incorrect as there is **no NITI Aayog Act**.
- **Option C** refers to the **Finance Commission**, not NITI Aayog.
- **Option D** confuses it with constitutional advisory councils formed under executive authority.

48. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

The **Governing Council of NITI Aayog** includes:

- **Chief Ministers** of all states
- **Lt. Governors** of UTs
- **Union Ministers** as Ex-Officio members
- **Special Invitees**
- **Vice Chairperson and full-time members**

Chief Secretaries are not listed as part of the Council.

- **Option A, B, and D** all correctly identify members.
- **Option C** is incorrect as Chief Secretaries may support their CMs but are not formal Council members.

49. Correct Answer: D (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

The **CEO of NITI Aayog** is appointed by the **Prime Minister** and holds the **rank of Secretary to the Government of India**. The position is held **for a fixed tenure** and is pivotal in implementation and coordination of programs.

- **Option B** is incorrect — the Cabinet Secretary is a different post.
- **Option C** misunderstands the structure of leadership — the Vice Chairperson and CEO are **separate positions**.
- **Option D** is factually incorrect — there is **no voting** involved in CEO appointment.

50. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

NITI Aayog promotes **competitive federalism** by launching **state performance rankings** using **data-driven indexes** like:

- **Aspirational Districts Index**
- **Fiscal Health Index**
- **Composite Water Management Index**
- **State Energy and Climate Index**

These promote **benchmarking and inter-state comparison** to foster healthy competition.

- **Option B** pertains to financial disbursal — not NITI's role.
- **Option C and D** are factually incorrect and not under NITI's mandate.

51. Correct Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

The **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** is a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog that aims to **rapidly transform 112 underdeveloped districts** through focused development across key sectors. It highlights **cooperative federalism** by enabling center-state convergence.

- **Option B** is a broader digital initiative, not NITI-specific.
- **Option C and D** are **implementation-driven schemes**, not strategic frameworks curated by NITI.

52. Correct Answer: C (Difficulty: Hard)

Explanation:

State Institutions of Transformation (SITs) are established by states with **NITI Aayog's assistance** to develop **institutional capacity** for **decentralized policy planning, governance reforms, and efficient program delivery**.

- **Option B** is wrong — SITs don't bypass constitutional fiscal mechanisms.
- **Option C** incorrectly claims centralization of district administration.
- **Option D** conflates SITs with educational boards, which is incorrect.

53. Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation (8–9+ lines):

- **Correct (B):** The beneficiary exception permits enforcement by a non-party when the contract is expressly made for that third party's benefit—a clear right conferred on Neel by Mr. Kapoor's agreement with QuickBuild (picked up from lines 6–7).
- **Why A is wrong:** The general privity rule prevents any third-party enforcement absent an exception, and QuickBuild's obligation runs to Mr. Kapoor and Neel as intended beneficiary, not to the general public (lines 3–4).
- **Why C is wrong:** The family-arrangement exception concerns testamentary or maintenance provisions in wills or family settlements, not commercial construction contracts (line 8).

- **Why D is wrong:** Estoppel requires acknowledgement of an existing right by the party against whom it's asserted; here, Mr. Kapoor's letter acknowledges QuickBuild's breach, but the right arises from the beneficiary designation, not from estoppel (lines 6–7).

54. Answer: D (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation (8–9+ lines):

- **Correct (D):** Under the general privity rule, only parties to a contract have enforcement rights; Meera's daycare, a non-party, cannot sue absent any applicable exception such as beneficiary designation, estoppel, or family arrangement (picked up from lines 3–4).
- **Why A is wrong:** Though the center benefits, the contract wasn't expressly made for its benefit in the required contractual form under the beneficiary exception (lines 6–7).
- **Why B is wrong:** Estoppel demands a clear acknowledgement or admission of the right by a contracting party in the non-party's presence, which did not occur (lines 7–8).
- **Why C is wrong:** The family-arrangement exception only applies to testamentary or marriage/maintenance provisions, not to commercial service agreements (line 8).

55. Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation (8–9+ lines):

- **Correct (A):** Estoppel applies where a contracting party (Dr. Rao) acknowledges another's (Preeti's) right in writing, copied to them, thereby binding MedEquip to honor the obligation (picked up from lines 7–8).
- **Why B is wrong:** Although Preeti benefits, the beneficiary exception requires an express contractual third-party beneficiary clause, not merely intended benefit (lines 6–7).
- **Why C is wrong:** The family-arrangement exception pertains only to testamentary or maintenance provisions, not commercial supply agreements (line 8).
- **Why D is wrong:** The estoppel exception displaces general privity in cases of clear acknowledgement, so privity does not bar Preeti's suit (lines 7–8).

56. Answer: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation (8–9+ lines):

- **Correct (C):** The family-arrangement exception applies to provisions for maintenance under a will or family settlement, enabling non-parties like Tanya to enforce those terms (picked up from line 8).
- **Why A is wrong:** The beneficiary exception refers strictly to contractual third-party beneficiaries, not testamentary bequests in wills (lines 6–7).
- **Why B is wrong:** Although the will was signed in Tanya's presence, that does not constitute a contractual acknowledgement under estoppel rules (lines 7–8).
- **Why D is wrong:** The family-arrangement exception expressly overrides general privity in maintenance or marriage provisions arising from familial arrangements or wills (line 8).

57. Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation (8–9+ lines):

- **Correct (B):** The beneficiary exception applies when a contract expressly grants rights to a third party—in this case, ShineHome—enabling enforcement despite non-party status (picked up from lines 6–7).
- **Why A is wrong:** No written acknowledgement by Mr. Desai binding MobileMates appears; ShineHome enforces through the contract itself, not estoppel (lines 7–8).

- **Why C is wrong:** The family-arrangement exception does not extend to charitable institutions in commercial contracts (line 8).
- **Why D is wrong:** Beneficiary exception displaces general privity where the contract clearly confers third-party rights (lines 6–7).

58. Answer: D (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation (8–9+ lines):

- **Correct (D):** The family-arrangement exception covers testamentary or family settlement provisions (e.g., maintenance or marriage) that non-parties can enforce to honor the testator’s intent (picked up from line 8).
- **Why A is wrong:** An express testamentary or family settlement provision is required; not every beneficial gain suffices (lines 2–3).
- **Why B is wrong:** That describes the beneficiary exception, which is distinct from family arrangements (lines 6–7).
- **Why C is wrong:** That outlines the estoppel exception, which arises from acknowledgement or admission, not family or testamentary provisions (lines 7–8).

Passage Overview & Reading Approach

The passage explains the doctrine of privity under the Indian Contract Act, 1872, clarifying that only contracting parties can enforce agreements (Section 2(d)). It then introduces three narrow exceptions—third-party beneficiary, estoppel by conduct or admission, and family-arrangement provisions—to allow non-parties to sue. To tackle questions on this passage, begin by identifying whether the scenario involves a direct contractual right or one of the statutorily recognized exceptions. Pay close attention to how the non-party’s right arises: was it expressly conferred, admitted by a party, or embedded in a familial testamentary arrangement? Understanding which exception applies is key to selecting the correct answer.

Question-Specific Approaches

53. This question hinges on whether a non-party’s right arises from an express conferral of benefit in the contract. Spot the language showing the contract names the third party as beneficiary and apply the beneficiary exception.

54. Here, the non-party’s right is invoked after a contracting party’s written admission copied to them. Look for the party’s acknowledgement in the scenario to invoke estoppel.

55. With a will-like arrangement, identify that the non-party’s right stems from a maintenance provision under a family settlement, triggering the family-arrangement exception.

56. When there’s neither express beneficiary language nor testamentary context nor acknowledgment, recognize that general privity bars enforcement and no exception applies.

57. If the scenario combines express beneficiary designation with later breach, confirm the beneficiary exception by locating the clause granting direct benefit to the non-party.

58. For a question asking about the doctrinal statement itself, match descriptive phrases—e.g. “maintenance or marriage under family arrangements”—to the correct exception name.

Legal Principles Mentioned

1. **Doctrine of Privity of Contract:** Only parties to a contract have enforceable rights and obligations (Section 2(d)).
2. **Third-Party Beneficiary Exception:** A non-party expressly designated to benefit under a contract may enforce its terms.
3. **Estoppel by Conduct/Acknowledgement:** A contracting party’s admission or acknowledgement of a non-party’s right, in their presence, binds the party to performance.

4. **Family-Arrangement Exception:** Provisions for maintenance or marriage in testamentary or family settlement contexts may be enforced by non-parties.

59. Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (B):** The last opportunity rule holds the party who had the final clear chance to avoid harm accountable; Deepak's failure to brake when he could have constitutes that final opportunity (picked up from lines 9–11).
- **Why A is wrong:** Pure contributory negligence would bar recovery outright, but Indian tort law rejects absolute bars in favour of comparative frameworks and last-opportunity analysis (lines 6–7).
- **Why C is wrong:** Comparative negligence apportions fault when both breaches contribute, but here the decisive factor is Deepak's failure to act when the hazard was perceptible (lines 11–13).
- **Why D is wrong:** While duty and proximate cause matter, the passage specifically elevates the last opportunity rule where one party had the final chance (lines 9–11).

60. Answer: A (Difficulty: Hard)

Explanation:

- **Correct (A):** Under comparative negligence, damages are allocated based on each party's breach: Meera's texting inattention and the store's failure to secure the hazard (picked up from lines 6–7).
- **Why B is wrong:** Indian courts do not apply pure contributory negligence to bar recovery entirely; they favour proportional apportionment (lines 6–7).
- **Why C is wrong:** The last opportunity rule applies where one party had the final chance to prevent harm, not to a plaintiff's own inattention (lines 11–14).
- **Why D is wrong:** Meera's contributory breach cannot be ignored; fairness and equity require assessing both party failures (lines 5–6).

61. Answer: C (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

- **Correct (C):** For contributory negligence, the plaintiff's breach must be a proximate cause of his injury; here, Rajesh's illegal crossing directly led to his harm (picked up from line 4).
- **Why A is wrong:** Duty of care to one's own safety is assumed, but the critical issue is breach and causation, not the existence of duty (lines 1–2).
- **Why B is wrong:** Rajesh's breach clearly contributed; he must show causation, not lack thereof (line 4).
- **Why D is wrong:** The last opportunity rule applies to defendants' final chance, not to establishing plaintiff causation (lines 11–14).

62. Answer: D (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (D):** The last opportunity rule applies where the defendant had the final clear chance to prevent harm, here the driver could and should have braked for Anand (picked up from lines 9–11).
- **Why A is wrong:** While comparative negligence could apply, the driver's final opportunity shifts focus to the last opportunity rule as articulated (lines 11–14).

- **Why B is wrong:** India rejects pure contributory negligence as an outright bar, favouring comparative or last opportunity analyses (lines 6–7).
- **Why C is wrong:** Beneficiary exception pertains to contract law and has no bearing on tort negligence (line 8).

63. Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (B):** Under comparative negligence, fault is shared: Sonal’s sudden swerve and the driver’s incomplete caution both proximately caused the collision (picked up from lines 6–7).
- **Why A is wrong:** Absolute bars are disfavoured; Indian law apportions damages rather than barring recovery (lines 6–7).
- **Why C is wrong:** Both parties had opportunities; no single last chance makes comparative negligence appropriate (lines 11–14).
- **Why D is wrong:** Sonal’s breach cannot be ignored; fairness demands accounting for both parties’ conduct (lines 5–6).

64. Answer: C (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

- **Correct (C):** The last opportunity rule applies when the defendant had the final clear opportunity to avert harm and failed, irrespective of other parties’ negligence (picked up from lines 11–14).
- **Why A is wrong:** That describes pure contributory negligence, not the last opportunity doctrine (lines 6–7).
- **Why B is wrong:** Comparative negligence focuses on proportional apportionment, distinct from last opportunity (lines 9–10).
- **Why D is wrong:** That refers to contractual privity exceptions, unrelated to tort negligence rules (line 8).

Passage Overview & Reading Approach

The passage outlines how contributory negligence and its related doctrines operate in Indian tort law. It begins by defining the plaintiff’s duty to exercise reasonable care, then details how a breach that proximately causes self-harm triggers contributory negligence. It explains that Indian courts employ comparative negligence—allocating damages based on each party’s fault—and describes the “last opportunity rule,” which emphasizes the party with the final clear chance to avoid harm. To tackle questions effectively, focus first on identifying which doctrine (duty, breach, proximate cause, comparative negligence, or last opportunity) governs each scenario. Pay close attention to the factual pivot—who failed to act reasonably, and whether that failure was the proximate cause or the last clear opportunity to prevent injury.

Question-Specific Approaches

59. Determine whether Deepak’s failure to brake when the hazard was perceptible invokes the last opportunity rule rather than comparative negligence—look for language about the “final clear chance.”

60. Identify both Meera’s texting inattention and the store’s failure to secure the spill; then apply comparative negligence to allocate damages proportionately.

61. Zero in on whether Rajesh’s breach (crossing against signal) was a proximate cause of his injury—this element is required to trigger contributory negligence.

62. Assess if the driver had the final clear chance to avoid hitting Anand, focusing on “last opportunity” cues instead of splitting blame under comparative negligence.

63. Recognize that both Sonal’s dangerous maneuver and the bus driver’s lack of sufficient caution contribute—leading to a comparative negligence analysis.

64. For the doctrinal question, match the phrase “final clear chance to prevent harm” to the last opportunity rule and distinguish it from pure contributory or comparative negligence descriptions.

All Legal Principles Mentioned

- **Duty of Care:** Every individual owes themselves a duty to exercise reasonable care for personal safety.
- **Breach of Duty:** Failure to meet the standard of a reasonable person’s caution in foreseeable harm scenarios.
- **Proximate Cause:** The plaintiff’s own breach must be a direct, substantial cause of their injury to invoke contributory negligence.
- **Contributory Negligence:** A doctrine that reduces or bars recovery when the plaintiff’s breach contributes to their harm.
- **Comparative Negligence:** Apportionment of damages according to the relative fault of each party, used in India for fairness.
- **Last Opportunity Rule:** The defendant who had the final clear chance to avert harm bears greater responsibility if they fail to act.

65. Answer: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (A):** Legal insanity requires that at the **time of the act**, the accused be incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that it was wrong or contrary to law (line 3). The psychiatrist confirmed Harish retained understanding, so he fails to meet this threshold.
- **Why B is wrong:** Medical insanity or diagnosis (e.g. schizophrenia) alone is **not sufficient**; the law distinguishes medical from legal insanity (lines 6–8).
- **Why C is wrong:** Prior diagnosis or a history of mental illness is **not decisive**; the test is the state of mind **at the time of the offence** (line 13).
- **Why D is wrong:** The test isn’t continuity or duration but **cognitive incapacity during the offence** (line 12).

66. Answer: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (B):** Legal insanity requires proof of **cognitive impairment**—that the accused did **not know what they were doing was wrong**. Mere disorientation or post-episode amnesia is **not enough** (lines 6–9 and 11–12).
- **Why A is wrong:** Confusion or seizure alone doesn’t establish the legal threshold under Section 84—what matters is cognitive understanding **at the time** (line 3 and 12).
- **Why C is wrong:** **Loss of memory** does not equate to **lack of knowledge of wrongfulness** at the time of the act (line 12).
- **Why D is wrong:** Epilepsy **can** qualify in rare cases, but only if cognitive impairment is proven; a blanket exclusion is incorrect (line 8).

67. Answer: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (C):** Courts are concerned only with the **state of mind at the time of the offence**, not later evaluations (line 13). Legal insanity must impair **cognitive faculties**, not just suggest eccentricity or post-facto instability (line 10–12).

- **Why A is wrong:** Delusions must relate to **mental incapacity at the time**—diagnosis after two weeks is not determinative (lines 12–13).
- **Why B is wrong:** No fixed “week-long” standard applies; the focus is on the **mental state during the act**, not duration (line 12).
- **Why D is wrong:** Unusual behavior like nudity doesn’t automatically imply legal insanity (line 7).

68. Answer: D (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

- **Correct (D):** For Section 84 to apply, the person must **not know** that what they are doing is wrong. His calculated steps—reloading, monitoring, and calling police—prove retained **cognitive faculties** (lines 3–5 and 11–13).
- **Why A is wrong:** A mental delusion alone is insufficient unless it destroys the **knowledge of the nature and wrongness** of the act (line 5–6).
- **Why B is wrong:** Stress or background do not meet the **legal threshold** unless they result in cognitive incapacity (line 12).
- **Why C is wrong:** The standard under Section 84 is based on cognitive state, not professional background (line 11–12).

69. Answer: A (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

- **Correct (A):** The burden is on the **accused** to show cognitive incapacity **at the time of the act** (line 4–5). Claims of voices are insufficient without **proof of impairment** in understanding the act or its wrongfulness (lines 11–13).
- **Why B is wrong:** Hearing voices may suggest distress, but they do **not equate** to legal insanity unless they disrupt cognition (lines 6–8).
- **Why C is wrong:** Transient psychosis needs to be proven to impair awareness; **mere spontaneity** doesn’t satisfy Section 84 (lines 11–13).
- **Why D is wrong:** Mental disorder can exist in first-timers; the test is **not prior history**, but cognitive ability at the moment (lines 4–5).

70. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Correct (B):** Section 84 requires **incapacity to know** the nature of the act or that it was wrong, due to **unsoundness of mind** (picked up from line 4).
- **Why A is wrong:** Odd or eccentric behavior without impaired cognition **does not qualify** under Section 84 (lines 6–8).
- **Why C is wrong:** Prior diagnosis is **not sufficient** without proof of mental state at the time of the crime (line 13).
- **Why D is wrong:** Post-incident delusions may be **relevant** but don’t automatically establish legal insanity (line 13).

1. Passage Overview & Reading Approach

This passage explains the **legal standard for insanity as a defence under Indian criminal law**, specifically under **Section 84 of the Indian Penal Code**. Rooted in the **M’Naghten Rules**, the defence applies only when, **at the time of committing the offence**, the accused was suffering from such unsoundness of mind that they were **incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that it was wrong or contrary to law**. A key distinction is drawn between **medical insanity** (psychiatric diagnosis) and

legal insanity (cognitive incapacity to understand). The burden of proof lies on the accused on a **balance of probabilities**. Courts emphasize **clear evidence of cognitive impairment at the time of the act**, and merely eccentric or erratic behavior is insufficient.

Approach for Reading the Passage:

Focus on identifying:

- Whether the accused had a **defect of reason** or **mental delusion at the moment of the act**.
- Whether their cognitive faculties were impaired to the extent that they **couldn't comprehend the nature or wrongfulness** of their actions.
- The difference between **medical history** vs. **legal capacity**, and how **antecedent/post-incident behavior** supports (but does not establish) legal insanity.

2. Question-Wise Approaches

Q65: This question turns on whether the accused's schizophrenia impaired his **knowledge of the act's wrongfulness**. A diagnosis alone is not sufficient; courts require **proof of legal insanity at the time of the act** (refer line 3).

Q66: The case involves **post-epileptic disorientation**. The key is to test whether disorientation = cognitive incapacity. Courts insist on **impairment of reasoning**, not just confusion (lines 6–9).

Q67: Focus on the **timing of psychiatric evaluation and behavior at the time of the act**. Legal insanity must be judged based on **mental state during the offence**, not afterwards (lines 11–13).

Q68: Despite delusions, if the accused **plans, executes, and responds rationally**, courts infer retained cognitive faculties. Use this to rule out insanity (lines 12–13).

Q69: “Hearing voices” or stress-related issues may indicate distress but do not automatically prove **lack of understanding of the act's nature or wrongfulness**. Courts require more (lines 3–5).

Q70: This conceptual question tests your ability to match **statutory elements of Section 84**—unsoundness of mind, incapacity to know nature/wrongfulness—to the right doctrinal articulation (line 4).

3. All Legal Principles Mentioned in the Passage

1. **Legal Insanity under Section 84 IPC:** A person is exempt from criminal liability if, at the time of the offence, due to unsoundness of mind, they were incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that it was wrong or contrary to law (line 3–4).
2. **Burden of Proof on Accused:** The defence of insanity must be proved by the accused **on a balance of probabilities**, not beyond reasonable doubt (line 5).
3. **Legal vs. Medical Insanity:** Courts are only concerned with **legal insanity**—medical disorders like schizophrenia or epilepsy must result in **cognitive incapacity** to qualify (lines 6–8).
4. **Antecedent and Subsequent Conduct as Evidence:** These are **relevant but not conclusive**—they help infer the mental state **at the time of the act** (line 13).
5. **Nature and Quality of the Act Test:** The standard is whether the accused understood **what they were doing**, and if they knew it was **wrong or against the law** (line 11).
6. **Mental Delusion or Intellectual Aberration:** There must be **clear proof** of mental delusion that **impairs judgment** or awareness of consequences (lines 9–10).

71. Answer: D Difficulty: Medium

- **Why D is correct:** Citizenship is an intelligible differentia directly mentioned as a valid basis for classification (Lines 6–7) and has a rational nexus to the objective of protecting land resources for nationals (Line 7).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Economic contributions do not override the legislature's chosen criterion under Article 14 (Lines 3–4).

- **Why B is incorrect:** Nationality-based exclusions can be reasonable when tied to legitimate state objectives like food security (Lines 6–7).
- **Why C is incorrect:** OCI holders are distinct from citizens for property rights under law; the statute’s exclusion is not arbitrary (Lines 6–7).

72. Answer: B Difficulty: Medium

- **Why B is correct:** The age band must be supported by concrete data; absent specific studies justifying the upper limit, the rational nexus prong fails (Lines 7–8).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Median risk alone is insufficient without legislative justification for the exact cutoff (Lines 6–8).
- **Why C is incorrect:** Article 14 permits targeted schemes when classification meets the intelligible differentia and nexus test (Lines 5–7).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Health measures require the same two-prong test; deference does not exempt them (Lines 4–7).

73. Answer: A Difficulty: Easy

- **Why A is correct:** Requiring an LLB is an intelligible differentia (Line 6) that reasonably relates to ensuring minimum jurisprudential competence for judicial office (Line 7).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Practical experience does not negate the legislature’s reasonable selection of formal qualifications (Lines 6–7).
- **Why C is incorrect:** Educational classifications remain subject to Article 14 scrutiny; no immunity exists (Lines 4–5).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Professional experience does not substitute the statutory criterion; the rational nexus concerns legislative rationale, not equivalence of backgrounds (Lines 6–7).

74. Answer: C Difficulty: Medium

- **Why C is correct:** Although religion is an intelligible differentia (Line 6), excluding minority trusts performing identical work lacks a rational nexus to preservation objectives (Line 7).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Historical stewardship alone does not justify excluding all minority trusts; nexus is required (Line 7).
- **Why B is incorrect:** No classification escapes judicial scrutiny; deference does not override the doctrine’s two-prong test (Lines 4–5).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Tax measures are fully subject to Article 14’s equality guarantee; fiscal schemes are not exempt (Line 4).

75. Answer: B Difficulty: Medium

- **Why B is correct:** Elevation is an intelligible differentia (Lines 6–7), but evidence of similar outages below 1,500 m undermines the rational nexus prong (Line 7).
- **Why A is incorrect:** The law requires a rational nexus, not merely any distinction; similar hardships below the cutoff show arbitrariness (Line 7).
- **Why C is incorrect:** Subsidies, like all state schemes, must satisfy Article 14’s test; no blanket deference applies (Lines 4–5).
- **Why D is incorrect:** All state actions, including subsidies, are subject to equality scrutiny; there are no carve-outs (Line 4).

76. Answer: D Difficulty: Easy

- **Why D is correct:** Addressing specific social challenges through targeted measures fulfills the doctrine's requirement for legitimate legislative purpose (Line 8).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Arbitrary selection without justification contradicts the need for rational nexus and non-arbitrariness (Lines 3–4).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Article 14 permits differentiation based on legitimate criteria; uniformity is not mandatory (Lines 5–6).
- **Why C is incorrect:** Exemptions without policy rationale fail both prongs of reasonable classification (Lines 6–7).

77. Answer: C Difficulty: Medium

- **Why C is correct:** Discretionary classifications are subject to judicial review to ensure they rest on intelligible differentia and rational nexus, preventing arbitrary decision-making (Lines 4–5).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Administrative action does not enjoy plenary authority; it is constrained by Article 14 (Lines 4–5).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Delegated powers cannot justify arbitrary distinctions; they must align with legislative purpose under the doctrine (Lines 6–7).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Discretion remains within constitutional limits and is subject to judicial scrutiny; no statutory immunity exists (Line 4).

1. Passage Overview & Reading Approach

The passage examines the **doctrine of reasonable classification** under **Article 14** of the Indian Constitution, which permits laws to treat different groups differently provided there is an **intelligible differentia** and a **rational nexus** to a **legitimate legislative purpose**. It stresses that classifications must avoid arbitrariness or “class legislation,” and that **judicial review** safeguards against misuse by scrutinising both prongs of the test. Examples like the **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986** and the **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** illustrate valid applications. It also emphasises that **administrative and discretionary powers** are equally subject to these requirements.

Approach for Reading:

- **Identify the two-prong test:** Look first for the **definition of the differentia** (what differentiates one class from another) and then for the **connection to the legislative objective**.
- **Spot the purpose:** Determine the **legitimate state interest**—social welfare, public health, cultural promotion, etc.—that the classification seeks to advance.
- **Watch for arbitrariness:** Check whether the chosen criterion is **fair, non-arbitrary**, and not a disguised form of “class legislation.”
- **Note judicial oversight:** Remember that courts will review both the choice of classification and its application, including **discretionary actions** by administrative bodies.

2. Question-Specific Approaches

Q71: Examine whether **citizenship** in the farmland Act is a clear and objective characteristic (intelligible differentia) and link it to the state's food-security goal to test rational nexus (refer scenario lines 2–6).

Q72: Focus on the **age cutoff** and demand concrete epidemiological data; absence of such evidence breaks the nexus prong even if the differentia is intelligible (refer scenario lines 4–8).

Q73: Assess whether **formal legal education** (LLB degree) reasonably correlates with judicial competence, satisfying both the intelligible-differentia and rational-nexus requirements (refer scenario lines 3–7).

Q74: Identify that **religion** is a differentiator, but then rigorously test if excluding minority trusts bears any logical connection to heritage preservation, flagging arbitrariness (refer scenario lines 6–9).

Q75: Evaluate the **1,500-meter elevation** criterion against empirical evidence of grid instability below that threshold; evidence undermining nexus renders the classification unreasonable (refer scenario lines 7–10).

Q76: In the conceptual question, map “address specific social challenges” to the idea of a **legitimate purpose**, distinguishing it from arbitrary or uniform-treatment fallacies (draw on doctrinal summary lines 5–7).

Q77: For discretionary-powers question, recall that **administrative discretion** cannot bypass Article 14; judicial review enforces the same intelligible-differentia and rational-nexus test on executive actions (see passage lines 3–5).

3. All Legal Principles Mentioned

1. **Intelligible Differentia:** A clear, objective characteristic distinguishing one class from another.
2. **Rational Nexus:** A logical connection between the chosen differentia and the statute’s purpose.
3. **Legitimate Legislative Purpose:** Objectives such as social welfare, public health, cultural preservation, or national security.
4. **Prohibition of Class Legislation:** Laws must avoid arbitrary or unjustified selection of groups.
5. **Judicial Review:** Courts scrutinise both prongs of the classification test to uphold Article 14.
6. **Administrative/Discretionary Powers:** Executive actions must also satisfy intelligible differentia and rational nexus.
7. **Equal Protection of Laws (Article 14):** “Equals must be treated equally; unequals may be treated differently if justified.”
8. **Non-Arbitrariness:** Classification must be fair, reasonable, and based on factual or policy considerations, not caprice.

78. Answer: B Difficulty: Easy

- **Why B is correct:** The CPA’s strict liability regime excludes cases of consumer misuse—here, using an unapproved charger qualifies as misuse (Lines 17–18).
- **Why A is incorrect:** While strict liability dispenses with negligence, statutory exceptions like misuse still apply (Lines 17–18).
- **Why C is incorrect:** The passage identifies misuse as a specific limitation on liability (Lines 17–18).
- **Why D is incorrect:** There is no allegation of inherent defect; the harm resulted from consumer alteration (Lines 17–18).

79. Answer: D Difficulty: Easy

- **Why D is correct:** Misuse or alteration by the consumer is a listed exception to liability under the CPA (Lines 17–18).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Strict liability is not absolute; consumer misuse is expressly exempted (Lines 17–18).
- **Why B is incorrect:** The CPA’s strict liability includes statutory exceptions, and misuse is one of them (Lines 17–18).
- **Why C is incorrect:** No design defect is claimed; the cause was misuse of the charger (Lines 17–18).

80. Answer: A Difficulty: Medium

- **Why A is correct:** The CPA covers deficiencies in services related to a product—faulty repair qualifies the service provider for liability (Lines 3–4; Lines 7–8).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Claims may be brought against service providers as well as manufacturers (Lines 2–4).
- **Why C is incorrect:** Service deficiencies independently trigger liability, even if the product is safe (Lines 2–4).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Warnings in product labels do not absolve a service deficiency under the CPA (Lines 7–8).

81. Answer: C Difficulty: Medium

- **Why C is correct:** The CPA explicitly lists excessive pricing as a ground for defect liability (Line 9).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Brand premiums do not justify unreasonably high pricing without justification under the CPA (Line 9).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Excessive pricing is a statutorily recognized defect, not limited to safety or quality issues (Line 9).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Safety defects are separate grounds; excessive pricing claims do not require a safety component (Line 9).

82. Answer: B Difficulty: Medium

- **Why B is correct:** The CPA covers products that pose life-or-safety risks even if they meet minimal standards—unsafe kettle without a release valve is liable (Lines 10–11).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Compliance with standards does not absolve liability for an inherently unsafe product (Lines 10–11).
- **Why C is incorrect:** The claim arises from safety risk, not misleading advertising (Line 10).
- **Why D is incorrect:** There is no misuse; the defect is inherent, so the consumer-misuse exception does not apply (Lines 17–18).

83. Answer: D Difficulty: Medium

- **Why D is correct:** Misleading advertising qualifies as an unfair trade practice under the CPA (Line 11).
- **Why A is incorrect:** Strict liability addresses product defects, whereas false claims fall under trade practices (Line 11).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Label warnings pertain to product use, not to service deficiencies after sale (Lines 7–8).
- **Why C is incorrect:** Pricing is not at issue; the ground is misleading efficacy claims (Line 11).

84. Answer: A Difficulty: Easy

- **Why A is correct:** The CPA imposes strict liability for manufacturing defects, design defects, and failure to warn—no negligence required (Lines 13–16).
- **Why B is incorrect:** Liability extends beyond manufacturers to sellers and service providers (Lines 2–4).
- **Why C is incorrect:** The CPA covers harm broadly, not limited to economic loss (Lines 1–2).
- **Why D is incorrect:** Strict liability, by definition, removes the need to prove negligence (Lines 13–16).

1. Passage Overview & Reading Approach

The passage outlines **product liability** under Section 2(34) of the Consumer Protection Act, which imposes **strict liability** on manufacturers, sellers, and service providers for harm caused by **defective products** or **deficient services**. It enumerates specific grounds—manufacturing defects, design defects, inadequate warnings, excessive pricing, unsafe products, and unfair trade practices—and highlights **statutory defences** (consumer misuse, non-compliance with warnings, unrelated harm, regulatory compliance). To tackle questions, first identify whether the scenario involves a **product defect** or **service deficiency**, then determine if **strict liability** applies and whether any **limitation/defence** is invoked.

2. Question-Specific Approaches

Q78: Pinpoint the **manufacturing defect** (contaminated batch) and apply the **strict liability** rule, disregarding negligence arguments (refer scenario lines 1–4).

Q79: Recognise **consumer misuse** of an unapproved charger and match it to the statutory **misuse defence** against strict liability (refer scenario lines 5–8).

Q80: Discern that the harm arose from a **repair service** error and apply the **service deficiency** extension under CPA (refer scenario lines 3–7).

Q81: Identify **excessive pricing** as a standalone defect ground and check for lack of justification for the high price (refer scenario line 10).

Q82: Note the kettle’s inherent **safety risk** despite regulatory compliance and invoke **unsafe products** liability (refer scenario lines 9–11).

Q83: Detect **misleading advertising** as an **unfair trade practice** ground, independent of product mechanics (refer scenario lines 12–14).

Q84: For the doctrinal question, recall the three facets of **strict liability**—manufacturing defect, design defect, inadequate warnings—irrespective of negligence (refer doctrinal summary lines 13–15).

3. All Legal Principles Mentioned

- **Product Liability (Section 2(34) CPA):** Vendors, manufacturers, and service providers are liable for harm from defective products or deficient services.
- **Strict Liability:** Liability attaches for manufacturing defects, design defects, or lack of adequate warnings without proof of negligence.
- **Manufacturing Defect:** A deviation from intended design or specification that renders the product unsafe.
- **Design Defect:** An inherently dangerous or defective product design causing harm even when manufactured correctly.
- **Inadequate Warnings/Instructions:** Failure to warn users of potential dangers or provide proper usage instructions.
- **Excessive Pricing:** Charging unreasonably high prices without justification constitutes a defect.
- **Unsafe Products:** Any product posing a risk to life or safety, regardless of regulatory compliance.
- **Service Deficiency:** Deficient repair, maintenance, or related services linked to the product trigger liability.
- **Unfair or Restrictive Trade Practices:** False or misleading advertising and denial of post-sale service fall under this category.
- **Defences/Limitation of Liability:** Consumer misuse or alteration, failure to heed warnings, harm from unrelated factors, and compliance with regulatory standards can bar or reduce liability.

Explanation:

Option C (lines 1–2) is correct because it directly reflects the premise that during chaotic times, leadership demands a proactive approach to confronting issues, rather than engaging solely in symbolic or ceremonial activities. This statement underpins the passage's critique of the Prime Minister, who is portrayed as neglecting the urgent needs of the nation by prioritizing religious and local engagements despite clear signs of turmoil. The premise highlighted in option C is fundamental to the argument that leadership should be decisive and issue-focused in times of crisis.

Option A is incorrect as it merely states that leaders should engage in routine activities to maintain popularity, which does not capture the urgency or the necessary focus on critical issues.

Option B, though it mentions a global chaotic environment, wrongly implies that the sole purpose of religious engagement is public reassurance, failing to acknowledge the proactive measures required.

Option D is incorrect because it presents a false dichotomy, suggesting that leaders must choose between ceremonial duties and addressing economic issues, rather than recognizing that the passage advocates for prioritizing direct leadership over mere symbolism.

86. Correct Option: D (Difficulty: Medium)*Explanation:*

Option D (lines 3 and 8) is correct because it accurately infers that the Prime Minister's emphasis on religious and ceremonial functions, even amidst significant economic challenges, reveals his neglect of more pressing leadership responsibilities. This inference is drawn directly from the passage's critique that highlights the lack of tangible economic strategies during a turbulent period.

Option A is incorrect as it overstates his motivations by suggesting a deliberate appeal solely to a religious base, which is not explicitly supported by the passage.

Option B misinterprets the actions as reflecting a personal spiritual commitment, thereby ignoring the public leadership failure critiqued in the passage.

Option C is not the best inference because it implies a balancing act between duties, whereas the passage suggests a clear lapse where necessary economic measures are omitted in favor of symbolic acts.

87. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Easy)*Explanation:*

Option B (lines 1–2 and 8) is the correct conclusion because it succinctly summarizes the central critique of the passage: that true leadership in crisis involves directly addressing economic and political challenges rather than resorting to ceremonial or religious activities. The passage criticizes the Prime Minister for neglecting the practical safeguards needed to protect India from economic instability created by external factors such as tariffs.

Option A is too narrow in scope as it suggests a complete sidelining of ceremonial functions, which the passage does not advocate.

Option C inappropriately generalizes the effect of religious symbolism on a leader's credibility without addressing the specific context of crisis management.

Option D is incorrect as it conflates the actions of both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition without focusing on the core argument, which is centered around the Prime Minister's neglect of urgent economic leadership.

88. Correct Option: A (Difficulty: Medium)*Explanation:*

Option A (lines 1–2 and 8) is correct because it encapsulates the assumption that effective leadership during crises requires addressing pragmatic economic and political challenges rather than relying on symbolic or religious displays. The passage critiques the Prime Minister for not prioritizing these essential duties, thereby assuming that a direct and proactive approach is critical in times of turmoil.

Option B is incorrect as it assumes uniform public expectations regarding spiritual piety, which is not discussed in the passage.

Option C is off the mark because it dismisses the nuanced relationship between economic interventions and cultural symbolism, suggesting a binary approach that the passage does not advocate.

Option D is incorrect because it implies that a balance between ceremonial and practical measures is desirable, whereas the passage’s focus is on the inadequacy of the Prime Minister’s approach that overly emphasizes symbolism at the expense of crisis management.

89. Correct Option: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option C (lines 2–3) is correct as it best captures the paradox present in the passage: although the nation is facing severe economic and global instability—exacerbated by factors such as tariffs—the Prime Minister continues to invest his energies in religious and ceremonial duties. This is paradoxical because such actions divert attention away from the vital leadership required in times of crisis.

Option A is incorrect because, while it identifies a general conflict between expectations and actions, it does not specifically address the ironic neglect of economic measures in favor of ceremonial duties.

Option B, although it mentions the use of religious symbolism, fails to highlight the contradictory nature of ignoring pressing economic issues in a crisis, which is central to the paradox.

Option D is not suitable because it focuses on the expected strength drawn from spirituality rather than on the contradiction between necessary economic leadership and the symbolic actions performed by the Prime Minister.

90. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option B (line 8) is correct because it presents a scenario in which a balanced approach—combining ceremonial engagements with decisive economic measures—could be effective, thereby directly challenging the passage’s argument that the Prime Minister’s focus on religious symbolism is a form of neglect. This evidence would suggest that such a strategy might maintain public confidence while also addressing critical economic issues, thus weakening the critique.

Option A is incorrect as it supports the notion that ceremonial duties contribute to public morale, which might actually reinforce the current approach rather than undermine it.

Option C is not the best choice because, although it indicates public support, it does not address the core issue of neglecting direct leadership in economic crises.

Option D is incorrect because it argues for the success of similar leadership styles elsewhere, which does not directly challenge the specific critique of the Prime Minister’s leadership during this particular period of turmoil.

Brief Explanation and Approach to the Passage

The passage critiques the leadership style of current Indian political figures during a time of national and global economic turmoil. It contrasts the Prime Minister’s focus on religious ceremonies and routine constituency visits with what is expected from a leader in crisis—namely, a direct and active engagement with pressing economic and international issues. The Leader of the Opposition’s fiery

speech is presented as an alternative, emphasizing proactive analysis and concrete action in response to external pressures such as tariffs. When reading the passage, the test taker should carefully note the juxtaposition between symbolic activities and the need for effective crisis management, while keeping track of the underlying themes, implicit assumptions, and the overall criticism of leadership in turbulent times.

Question-Wise Approach and Explanation

- *Premises Question:*
Approach: Identify the foundational statement that the argument takes for granted. Focus on which part of the passage asserts that leadership in crisis must involve active issue resolution instead of purely symbolic acts.
Explanation: Look for the statement which underscores the need for direct action during chaotic times, as this is the bedrock on which subsequent arguments are built.
- *Inferences Question:*
Approach: Deduce what the passage implies about the Prime Minister's behavior. Concentrate on the discrepancy between his ceremonial engagements and the unmet need for economic safeguards.
Explanation: Choose the inference that best explains the implications of his actions given the urgent economic context described in the passage.
- *Conclusions Question:*
Approach: Summarize the overall critique offered by the passage. Identify the conclusion that encapsulates the central argument regarding the inadequacy of leadership during crises.
Explanation: Focus on the option that clearly states that effective leadership requires direct engagement with critical challenges, rather than relying on religious or symbolic gestures.
- *Assumptions Question:*
Approach: Identify an underlying belief that must hold true for the criticism of the Prime Minister's approach to be valid. This involves recognizing what the passage assumes about the nature of effective crisis leadership.
Explanation: Consider what is implicitly taken for granted regarding the priority of decisive economic and political measures over ceremonial activities in a crisis.
- *Paradoxes Question:*
Approach: Look for a contradiction or irony highlighted within the text. Pinpoint the option that reflects the inherent inconsistency between the expected role of a leader in crisis and the actual conduct observed in the passage.
Explanation: Choose the option that best illustrates the ironic twist where leaders engage in traditional rituals while ignoring urgent economic challenges.
- *Weaken Arguments Question:*
Approach: Evaluate which alternative scenario would reduce the strength of the passage's criticism. Consider evidence that might suggest that blending ceremonial roles with proactive measures could be an effective leadership strategy.
Explanation: Identify the choice that, if true, challenges the claim that a focus on ceremonial activities necessarily undermines effective leadership during crises.

Elaborate Brief Listing of Key Elements in the Passage

- **Premises:**
 - The passage assumes that in times of economic and global uncertainty, effective leadership demands decisive, proactive measures to safeguard the nation.
 - It presupposes that symbolic activities such as religious ceremonies and routine constituency visits are inadequate responses to crises.
- **Inferences:**

- It is inferred that by engaging in ceremonial duties rather than addressing urgent economic issues, the Prime Minister is neglecting the core responsibilities of leadership during a crisis.
- The passage suggests that the opposition's criticism implies a belief that leadership should involve a systematic analysis of external threats, such as tariffs, rather than passive observance.
- **Conclusions:**
 - The central conclusion is that effective leadership in times of chaos requires immediate and practical action in handling crises, as opposed to an overemphasis on traditional, symbolic engagements.
 - The overall critique is that current leadership is failing its critical role by not taking the necessary steps to confront and mitigate the economic fallout prompted by external pressures.
- **Arguments:**
 - The argument presented is that the Prime Minister's focus on spiritual and ceremonial activities during a period of significant economic turmoil reflects a serious misallocation of leadership priorities.
 - It contrasts this behavior with the expected role of a leader who should be mobilizing resources and strategies to address the economic and geopolitical challenges facing the country.
- **Assumptions:**
 - The passage assumes that during emergencies, the primary responsibility of political leaders is to address tangible economic and security issues rather than engage in symbolic displays.
 - It also assumes that the lack of active crisis management directly contributes to a failure in leadership, thereby undermining public confidence.
- **Paradoxes:**
 - A key paradox highlighted in the passage is that while leadership is expected to be a unifying and decisive force during times of turmoil, the Prime Minister's actions—focusing on religious and ceremonial events—directly contradict what is needed in a crisis.
 - This contradiction underscores the ironic nature of leadership that prioritizes personal or symbolic engagements over the urgent and pragmatic measures required to tackle national challenges.

91. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option B (Lines 8–9) is correct because it encapsulates the core premise that, despite being situated in a stark, inhospitable environment, the family sustains a lively and enriching connection with the outside world through the regular passage of travellers and wayfarers. This connection highlights a central idea of the passage—that isolation does not equate to loneliness when human bonds are maintained despite harsh surroundings.

Option A is incorrect because it exaggerates the effect of travellers by implying that they are the only factor preventing isolation, whereas the passage presents a broader context of connection.

Option C is incorrect as it overemphasizes the danger of the environment as the primary source of emotional impact, rather than focusing on the constant external interactions.

Option D, while noting the family's embrace of traditional values, misses the emphasis on the vital role that external human interaction plays in sustaining the family's emotional warmth and communal spirit.

92. Correct Option: C (Difficulty: Medium)*Explanation:*

Option C (Lines 8–9) is correct as it logically infers that the constant arrival of travellers provides the family with a continual, refreshing influx of external influences that help to alleviate the isolating effects of their remote and challenging environment. The passage describes these encounters as momentarily uplifting, thereby suggesting their significance in enriching daily life.

Option A is incorrect because it overstates the role of the travellers, implying they are the sole remedy for isolation, which is not supported by the passage.

Option B is incorrect since it falsely claims that isolation is absolute, ignoring the explicit evidence of regular, positive social interactions.

Option D is incorrect because it misinterprets the family's response as reliance on outsiders to define their identity, rather than as a natural and beneficial human connection that complements their way of life.

93. Correct Option: D (Difficulty: Easy)*Explanation:*

Option D (Lines 1–4 and 8–9) is correct because it encapsulates the passage's central conclusion that, even amidst the severe challenges posed by their environment—marked by physical dangers and isolation—the family finds strength and meaning through the warmth of their communal life and transient yet heartfelt exchanges with passing strangers. This option effectively conveys the theme of human resilience and interconnectedness despite adversity.

Option A is incorrect because it overly emphasizes vulnerability and fear, which contradicts the overall portrayal of the family's sustained happiness and communal warmth.

Option B is incorrect because it focuses solely on hardship without acknowledging the positive emotional bonds described in the passage.

Option C is incorrect as it shifts the focus to modern progress and technology, topics that the passage does not address, thereby failing to capture the nuanced conclusion regarding communal bonds in harsh environments.

94. Correct Option: A (Difficulty: Medium)*Explanation:*

Option A (Lines 8 and 12) is correct because it pinpoints the assumption that the family takes for granted—the belief that maintaining regular, albeit transient, human interactions is crucial for preserving their emotional well-being and countering the isolating effects of their perilous environment. This assumption is foundational to the narrative, as it explains why the family eagerly welcomes every visitor.

Option B is incorrect because it implies a limited view of external contact as mere distraction, which undercuts the emphasis on its indispensability presented in the passage.

Option C is incorrect since it suggests that the dangers of the environment automatically generate melancholy, thus bypassing the importance of their social interactions in mitigating such effects.

Option D is incorrect because it introduces an element of suspicion about strangers' intentions that is not supported by the passage, thereby misrepresenting the nature of the family's openness to outsiders.

95. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Medium)*Explanation:*

Option B (Lines 1–3 and 4) is correct as it succinctly captures the paradox of the family's existence:

they are enveloped by a dangerous, cold, and seemingly inhospitable external environment, yet within their home, they experience warmth, mirth, and a deeply ingrained sense of community. This striking contrast highlights the irony of finding profound happiness and connectivity in an otherwise harsh setting.

Option A is incorrect because it suggests a total detachment from modern commerce or assistance, which does not address the core paradox concerning internal warmth versus external adversity.

Option C is incorrect as it introduces the idea of nature’s destructive forces enabling communal interaction—a notion that, while interesting, is not the primary paradox focused on in the passage.

Option D is incorrect because it misinterprets the nature of transient encounters, suggesting a contradiction in building lasting bonds from brief interactions, which deviates from the passage’s celebration of spontaneous yet meaningful connection.

96. Correct Option: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option C (Lines 2–4) is correct because it offers a scenario where the inherent strength of the family’s internal bonds lessens the necessity of external interactions, directly challenging the argument that these transient encounters are indispensable for their emotional well-being. If the family can maintain robust internal relationships, the role of external contact becomes less crucial, thereby weakening the passage’s underlying assertion.

Option A is incorrect as it presents an alternative without addressing the unique context of the family’s situation, and may even reinforce the idea that external contact is beneficial.

Option B is incorrect because it implies negative consequences of external interactions without directly countering the importance of those interactions for the family’s emotional state.

Option D is incorrect as it diverts attention to modern communication methods, which are not a factor in the familial and rustic setting described in the passage.

Brief Explanation of the Passage and Reading Approach

The passage portrays a family living in a remote, rugged corner of New England, where nature’s harshness contrasts with the warmth of familial bonds. Despite the cold, danger from falling stones, and isolation, the family finds joy and comfort in their daily rituals around the hearth and in their welcoming attitude toward transient travellers. The narrative interweaves the stark physical environment with the intimate, enduring human connections that sustain them through adversity. When reading, focus on how the author uses vivid imagery and juxtaposition to explore themes of isolation, warmth, and the interplay between nature’s perils and communal resilience.

Question-by-Question Approach and Explanation

- *Premises Questions:*

Approach: Identify the fundamental statement or accepted truth that underlies the depiction of the family’s lifestyle. Focus on textual evidence that explains how their remote setting is counterbalanced by rich human connections.

Explanation: Look for assertions that establish the basis for the family’s unique lifestyle—such as the importance of external interactions despite isolation—as these act as the foundation for later inferences about their emotional well-being.

- *Inferences Questions:*

Approach: Deduce what the passage implies about the family’s reliance on visitors for emotional and social sustenance. Pay attention to the description of how travellers interact with the family.

Explanation: Choose an inference that logically connects the observed behavior of welcoming strangers with the underlying idea that these interactions are a vital antidote to the isolation imposed by their environment.

- *Conclusions Questions:*

Approach: Summarize the overarching message or moral of the passage as it relates to the blend of natural adversity and human warmth. Identify which conclusion best encapsulates the contrasting elements of danger and domestic comfort described.

Explanation: The correct conclusion should address the balance or interplay between the external, harsh environment and the internal, nurturing human interactions that overcome that isolation.

- *Assumptions Questions:*

Approach: Uncover the implicit beliefs that support the portrayal of the family's life. Determine what must be accepted as true in the passage for the narrative to hold, particularly regarding the necessity of external human contact.

Explanation: Consider what the passage takes for granted about the effects of solitude versus companionship, and select the assumption that best underpins this dichotomy.

- *Paradoxes Questions:*

Approach: Identify the inherent contradiction the passage presents—for instance, how a life surrounded by danger and isolation can simultaneously be fulfilling and warm.

Explanation: Focus on the irony that emerges from the juxtaposition of a perilous natural setting with the family's vibrant communal life, which creates a surprising, even paradoxical, narrative of resilience.

- *Weaken Arguments Questions:*

Approach: Evaluate which alternative scenario or evidence would undermine the argument that the family's interaction with outsiders is essential for their emotional well-being.

Explanation: Choose an option that, if true, would reduce the necessity for external contact by suggesting that their internal family bonds alone could sustain their happiness, thereby challenging the passage's implication of indispensability.

Elaborate Brief of Key Elements in the Passage

- **Premises:**

- The family lives in an isolated and physically harsh environment—characterized by cold, dangerous weather, and the threat of falling stones—which sets the stage for contrasting experiences.
- Despite these external hardships, the family's daily routine, centered around the hearth and enriched by the arrival of travellers, affirms that human connection is essential even in remote locales.

- **Inferences:**

- It is inferred that the family's periodic interactions with transient visitors not only provide social stimulation but also serve as a crucial counterbalance to the otherwise desolate natural surroundings.
- The passage implies that the external world, though distant and fleeting, plays a significant role in sustaining the family's emotional and communal well-being in an environment that might otherwise foster isolation.

- **Conclusions:**

- The central conclusion drawn from the passage is that the warmth and resilience of human relationships can triumph over the harshness and loneliness imposed by a forbidding natural landscape.
- The narrative suggests that even in the face of environmental adversity, a strong sense of community and shared human experience can generate profound happiness and security.

- **Arguments:**

- The argument presented is that isolation and natural adversity need not result in despair if countered by nurturing familial bonds and ongoing, meaningful social interactions with the outside world.

- The passage argues implicitly that the regular arrival of travellers reinforces an enduring connection to a wider community, thereby mitigating the effects of geographical and emotional isolation.
- **Assumptions:**
 - The passage assumes that external human contact—though transient—is critical to preventing the psychological and emotional pitfalls of isolation in a harsh environment.
 - It is presumed that without these interactions, the stark and dangerous surroundings would likely overwhelm the family’s ability to maintain its warmth and collective joy.
- **Paradoxes:**
 - A key paradox in the passage is the coexistence of external danger and internal safety: the family lives in a setting where nature is both physically threatening and yet, paradoxically, the backdrop against which their familial love and communal warmth flourish.
 - Another paradox is that the same isolation that could lead to loneliness is alleviated by the constant yet fleeting connection with strangers, highlighting the unexpected ways in which human interaction compensates for environmental desolation.

97. Correct Option: C (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option C (Line 1) is correct because it directly articulates the premise that undergirds the passage: that regimes, whether historical or modern, display an intolerance towards irony and humor when it exposes their hypocrisy. This is central to both Milan Kundera’s portrayal in *The Joke* and the modern controversy surrounding Kunal Kamra, as both instances reveal punitive responses by authorities to satirical messages.

Option A is incorrect because it shifts focus to a broader discourse on the evolution of political media rather than emphasizing authoritarian intolerance.

Option B, though relevant, oversimplifies the issue by attributing the backlash solely to demands for reverence rather than to an aversion to self-critique.

Option D introduces societal polarization as a consequence, which, although interesting, is not the primary foundational assumption discussed in the passage.

98. Correct Option: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option A (Lines 9–10) is correct because it draws a reasonable inference that the aggressive shift in contemporary Indian comedy owes much to global media influences, which have reshaped both audience tastes and comedic approaches towards a more direct and political style. This inference is supported by the passage’s comparison to global shows such as *Last Week Tonight* and *Saturday Night Live*.

Option B is incorrect as it exaggerates the replacement of older comedy styles, ignoring the continued relevance of gentler forms of humor for some audiences.

Option C, while partly true, does not specifically underscore the global influence that Option A highlights.

Option D is incorrect because it overemphasizes political intolerance as a catalyst for change, rather than acknowledging the role of evolving global media consumption habits.

99. Correct Option: D (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

Option D (Lines 1–2) is correct since it encapsulates the central conclusion of the passage by linking

historical episodes of satirical repression (as seen in Kundera’s narrative) with modern political overreactions, suggesting that a recurring pattern exists in political discomfort and adverse responses when humor challenges power. This conclusion ties together the different examples discussed in the passage.

Option A is incorrect as it focuses too narrowly on censorship and free speech, which, while relevant, are not the central theme of the passage.

Option B misrepresents the tone by suggesting that the evolution of satire has been wholly beneficial, ignoring the backlash detailed in the narrative.

Option C dismisses the relevance of historical satire in understanding modern issues, thereby failing to integrate the full scope of the argument.

100. Correct Option: D (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

Option D (Line 1) is correct because it succinctly presents the argument that the political intolerance towards satire—a trait observed across different regimes—results in harsh reactions when politicians are mocked. This option directly reflects the connection drawn in the passage between historical intolerance (as depicted in Kundera’s work) and contemporary responses to political satire.

Option A is incorrect as it generalizes the positive role of satire in democracy without addressing the inherent risk of offending established powers.

Option B is off-target because it frames the evolution of comedy as solely adaptive, not addressing the central issue of political intolerance.

Option C, although it suggests satire’s critique is undermined by political vulnerability, does not capture the broader recurring pattern highlighted by the passage.

101. Correct Option: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option A (Line 3-5) is correct because it identifies the assumption that effective satire must expose political hypocrisy and that political leaders fundamentally resist being criticized through humor. This assumption is implicit in both the historical reference to Kundera’s protagonist and the modern reaction to Kamra’s remarks, where political figures reject any challenge to their authority.

Option B is incorrect as it misattributes the backlash to public misunderstanding rather than to the inherent sensitivity of political leaders.

Option C is incorrect because it shifts the focus to stylistic evolution rather than the underlying intolerance of political authority.

Option D, while plausible, does not directly address the core assumption about the necessity of satire’s critical exposure as stated in Option A.

102. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option B (Line 2) is correct because it offers empirical evidence that supports the idea that political satire has a tangible impact on public opinion and can undermine political figures by highlighting their failings. This evidence would strengthen the argument that modern political elites are particularly sensitive and prone to overreact when satirical commentary challenges their authority.

Option A, while relevant, addresses the effect on popularity rather than the underlying vulnerability of political elites to criticism.

Option C merely supports the shift in comedy style without directly linking it to the political repercussions of satire.

Option D, although it mentions public perception, diverts by focusing on younger generations rather than reinforcing the argument about general political sensitivity.

Brief Explanation and Reading Approach

This passage juxtaposes Milan Kundera’s portrayal of satirical resistance in *The Joke* with the modern controversies surrounding stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, illustrating a persistent political intolerance toward irony and humor. It contrasts earlier, gentler forms of political satire with today’s confrontational, unfiltered style that challenges entrenched power structures. The text raises the issue that political elites—both past and present—are particularly sensitive to humorous criticism that exposes their hypocrisy. When reading the passage, focus on the evolution of humor, the role of satire as social commentary, and the underlying tension between creative freedom and political authority. Readers should note the examples provided and the comparisons drawn between historical and contemporary cultural climates.

Question-by-Question Approach and Explanation

- *Premises Questions:*
Approach: Identify the underlying assumption or accepted truth that supports the argument presented. In this passage, focus on how the intolerance for irony is portrayed as a long-standing trait of authoritarian regimes and political elites.
Explanation: Look for statements that serve as the foundation for the argument—that regimes and authorities historically and currently react negatively when satirical humor exposes their flaws.
- *Inferences Questions:*
Approach: Deduce what logical conclusions can be drawn from the given text. Here, concentrate on how the evolution of Indian comedy—from subtle humor to aggressive satire—reflects a change in societal values and audience expectations.
Explanation: Select an inference that clearly connects the shift in comedic style with the broader cultural and political implications mentioned in the passage.
- *Conclusions Questions:*
Approach: Summarize the overall message that the passage conveys regarding the reception of political satire. Choose the conclusion that best encapsulates the recurring pattern of political discomfort in both historical and contemporary contexts.
Explanation: Focus on the option that integrates the discussion of Kundera’s narrative with modern events, thus reinforcing the idea that humor challenging authority has consistently provoked backlash.
- *Arguments Questions:*
Approach: Analyze the reasoning behind the passage’s critique of political responses to satire. Pay special attention to how the passage contrasts past and present satirical forms to build its argument about the vulnerability of political figures.
Explanation: Identify the answer that accurately reflects the passage’s central argument—that political satire, while essential for critiquing power, is undermined by an inherent intolerance on the part of political elites.
- *Assumptions Questions:*
Approach: Identify the implicit beliefs that must hold true for the author’s argument to remain valid. In this context, focus on what is taken for granted about the nature of satire and the sensitivities of political authorities.
Explanation: Look for an assumption suggesting that effective satire necessarily exposes political hypocrisy, and that political figures are predisposed to reject such critique.
- *Strengthen Arguments Questions:*
Approach: Consider evidence or statements that would bolster the argument presented in the passage, particularly regarding political vulnerability and the societal impact of confrontational

satire.

Explanation: Choose the option that provides supportive empirical or logical reinforcement for the claim that modern political elites are particularly susceptible to criticism through satire, thereby intensifying their adverse reactions.

Elaborate Brief Listing of Key Elements in the Passage

- **Premises:**
 - The intolerance for irony and humor by political regimes is a recurring phenomenon, observable in both historical instances (as in Kundera’s *The Joke*) and in contemporary cases like Kamra’s controversy.
 - There is an implicit belief that political power is fragile and reacts defensively when its double standards are exposed by satirical commentary.
- **Inferences:**
 - The shift from gentle, observational humor in the 1990s and early 2000s to the more aggressive and confrontational style of modern stand-up comedy suggests that increased exposure to global content has changed audience expectations.
 - The backlash from political elites indicates that modern humor has become a deliberate tool for challenging established political norms, even if it provokes severe reactions.
- **Conclusions:**
 - The passage concludes that the political discomfort with satire—both historically and in the present—is symptomatic of a broader inability of political authorities to tolerate criticism.
 - It implies that this intolerance reveals the vulnerability and hypocrisy of those in power, regardless of the era.
- **Arguments:**
 - The narrative argues that while satire serves as an important means of holding power to account, its effectiveness is hampered by the political class’s persistent aversion to humor that mocks their double standards.
 - It contrasts the subtler humor of previous generations with today’s sharply critical tone, asserting that the modern approach reflects an evolved, yet more risky, form of social commentary.
- **Assumptions:**
 - The effectiveness of satirical humor in critiquing political power rests on the assumption that exposing hypocrisy through irony is inherently threatening to those in authority.
 - The argument presupposes that a more confrontational style of satire, as seen in modern comedy, naturally incurs stronger negative reactions from political figures who are sensitive to being lampooned.
- **Paradoxes:**
 - A key paradox is that while satire is intended to promote transparency and accountability, its very effectiveness can provoke defensive measures that stifle free expression, thus undermining the democratic function of humor.
 - Another paradox lies in the evolution of humor itself: as comedians become bolder in their critiques, the cultural climate shifts, yet this shift further exposes the fragility of political elites who, despite being in power, cannot tolerate being the subject of ridicule.

103. Correct Option: D (Difficulty: Hard)

Explanation:

Option D (Lines 5 and 12) is correct because it encapsulates the primary premise driving government intervention: the potential loss of domestic steel production would lead to severe economic and

national security consequences. The passage details how primary steel is crucial for various strategic sectors like defence and transport, and emphasizes that failure to produce domestic steel would leave the UK uniquely vulnerable among G7 nations, particularly by granting ArcelorMittal a “virtual monopoly.” This rationale directly underlies the government's emergency legislative action to keep British Steel operational.

Option A is incorrect because it frames the intervention as a response to privatization issues rather than the immediate threat of supply cessation and national security risks.

Option B is inaccurate since it narrows the motivation to concerns of foreign ownership affecting sovereignty, which is not the central argument presented.

Option C is off-target as it emphasizes social unrest rather than the combination of economic stability and security detailed in the passage.

104. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

Option B (Lines 5 and 10–11) is correct because it logically infers that if British Steel were to shut down, the UK would become entirely dependent on imported steel—a risky proposition given global trade protectionism and shifting geopolitical alliances. This dependence would compromise both the economic stability and national security of the UK, as highlighted by the discussion on the implications of a “virtual monopoly” by ArcelorMittal and the risks posed by US tariffs and European pressures.

Option A is incorrect because it speculates about technological developments which are not discussed in the passage.

Option C is flawed since it minimizes the broader repercussions on national security and industrial supply chains, focusing only on local economic effects.

Option D is incorrect because it suggests a positive realignment of trade partnerships, which contradicts the passage’s portrayal of increasing external risks and trade protectionism.

105. Correct Option: C (Difficulty: Hard)

Explanation:

Option C (Lines 12–14) is correct because it distills the passage’s central message: that urgent government intervention in British Steel is essential not only to protect jobs and economic output but also to safeguard national security. The passage explains that losing domestic primary steel production would leave the UK critically exposed, making the government’s actions a necessity despite the potential cost and semblance of nationalisation.

Option A is too narrow, focusing solely on privatization without addressing broader economic and security concerns.

Option B exaggerates the benefits of political intervention by framing it solely as a positive cultural revolution, which the passage does not assert.

Option D is incorrect because it implies that market forces alone would eventually resolve the issues, contrary to the passage’s argument that intervention is urgently needed.

106. Correct Option: A (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option A (Lines 4–7 and 12–14) is correct because it accurately represents the argument that government intervention is necessary to preserve domestic steel production, which is fundamental to maintaining national economic stability and security. The passage argues that given the UK’s relatively low steel production and its dependency on domestic steel in strategic industries, the shutdown of British Steel would be disastrous. Therefore, despite the intervention resembling nationalisation, it is

justified as a necessary response to a critical threat.

Option B is incorrect as it reduces the issue to job protection in Scunthorpe alone, ignoring the broader national implications.

Option C is inaccurate because it contradicts the passage by suggesting that market forces alone would correct the problem, which the passage argues against.

Option D is off-target since it implies that the intervention is mainly aimed at modernising British Steel for global competitiveness, which is not the central focus discussed.

107. Correct Option: D (Difficulty: Medium)

Explanation:

Option D (Lines 10–11) is correct because it lays out the assumption that underpins the government's action: that international trade uncertainties, such as US tariffs and geopolitical instability, render reliance on foreign steel imports too risky. This assumption justifies the need for maintaining domestic production capacity, even if it means employing interventionist measures that might resemble nationalisation. The passage stresses that these security and economic risks outweigh the cost of intervention.

Option A is incorrect as it misrepresents the issue by implying that private equity success is the concern, which the passage does not address.

Option B is off-target because it focuses on export issues and consumer preference, neither of which are central to the government's decision.

Option C is incorrect since it downplays the importance of domestic production by suggesting imports are a sufficient substitute, which is contrary to the passage's argument.

108. Correct Option: B (Difficulty: Easy)

Explanation:

Option B (Lines 6–9) is correct because it directly reinforces the passage's argument that the loss of domestic steel production would have severe repercussions. Empirical research showing that any interruption in domestic steel production results in significant economic losses and security vulnerabilities would strongly support the necessity of government intervention, highlighting why the cost of intervention is justified in light of the potential damage.

Option A is incorrect because it overgeneralizes the benefits of nationalisation without aligning with the specific risks mentioned in the passage.

Option C is off-target as it focuses on consumer preference rather than the strategic, economic, and security issues at stake.

Option D, while relevant, discusses historical outcomes rather than providing present empirical reinforcement of the argument regarding immediate risks.

Brief Explanation and Reading Approach

The passage discusses the crisis facing the UK's primary steel production as its last two blast furnaces—controlled by British Steel—teeter on the edge of shutdown. It explains how the potential withdrawal of coke and iron ore supplies by Jingye, the Chinese owner, would force the government to intervene to preserve domestic steel production. The narrative underscores the critical economic and security implications of losing the nation's capacity to produce primary steel, emphasizing the interconnectedness of industries such as defence, transport, and construction. When reading the passage, focus on how the argument builds from a specific corporate decision to broader national security risks. Pay particular attention to the cause-and-effect relationships and the role of government

intervention, as well as the historical context and the underlying warning about over-reliance on imported steel.

Question-by-Question Approach and Explanation

- *Premises Questions:*
Approach: Identify the core assumptions the passage relies on, particularly the belief that domestic steel production is vital for economic stability and national security.
Explanation: Look for statements that articulate why government intervention is necessary, focusing on the idea that a shutdown would have far-reaching strategic repercussions.
- *Inferences Questions:*
Approach: Deduce logical conclusions from the passage regarding the potential consequences of shutting down the blast furnaces and the overall role of foreign ownership.
Explanation: Choose an inference that links the shutdown to increased dependence on imports and subsequent risks, as this connection is central to the passage's argument.
- *Conclusions Questions:*
Approach: Summarize the ultimate takeaway that the author wants the reader to grasp.
Explanation: The correct conclusion should encapsulate that government intervention in British Steel is justified to avert job losses, economic decline, and national security risks.
- *Arguments Questions:*
Approach: Analyze the reasoning used to support the government's decision to intervene, evaluating the balance between economic, social, and security imperatives.
Explanation: Select the option that accurately reflects the argument that maintaining domestic steel production is essential, even if it means incurring high costs or resembling nationalisation.
- *Assumptions Questions:*
Approach: Identify the implicit beliefs that support the passage's rationale, especially regarding the risks of relying on foreign steel suppliers in an unstable global trade environment.
Explanation: Look for assumptions regarding the inevitability of economic insecurity if the UK becomes dependent on imported steel, which justifies drastic government measures.
- *Strengthen Arguments Questions:*
Approach: Consider what additional evidence or statements would bolster the claim that the loss of domestic steel production poses unacceptable risks.
Explanation: Choose the option that most effectively reinforces the premise that any disruption in domestic steel production has severe economic and security repercussions, thereby validating government intervention.

Elaborate Brief Listing of Key Elements in the Passage

- **Premises:**
 - It is assumed that domestic primary steel production is critical not just for economic output but also for national security.
 - The passage is built on the notion that a unilateral decision by a foreign owner (Jingye) to discontinue supplies would critically undermine Britain's industrial and defence capabilities.
- **Inferences:**
 - One can infer that without government intervention, the shutdown of British Steel's blast furnaces would leave the UK uniquely vulnerable among G7 nations, creating an over-reliance on imported steel.
 - The passage implies that this vulnerability could give foreign firms like ArcelorMittal undue influence over vital sectors of the UK economy, increasing exposure to geopolitical risks.

- **Conclusions:**
 - The central conclusion is that to avoid catastrophic economic and security impacts, the government's emergency intervention in British Steel is both necessary and justified, even if it means significant financial cost and de facto nationalisation.
 - It concludes that maintaining a domestic steel-making capacity is indispensable for safeguarding the nation's strategic interests in an unstable global trade environment.
- **Arguments:**
 - The argument revolves around the interdependence between domestic steel production and national security, highlighting that the loss of local steel capabilities would jeopardize not only industrial production but also critical sectors such as defence and transport.
 - It contends that emergency measures—even if they mimic nationalisation—are warranted to counter the potentially devastating effects of a shutdown, given the risks of foreign monopolisation and trade protectionism.
- **Assumptions:**
 - The passage assumes that without domestic production, the UK would be unable to secure reliable steel supplies in an era of global trade tensions and protectionist policies.
 - It presupposes that the economic and security risks associated with heavy dependence on imports from potentially unstable or politically motivated sources outweigh the fiscal costs of government intervention.
- **Paradoxes:**
 - A notable paradox in the passage is that while free-market principles would typically discourage government intervention, the urgency and scale of the risk posed by losing domestic production compel a level of state control that resembles nationalisation.
 - Another paradox lies in the notion that although the UK produces less steel than other European nations, it still relies so critically on domestic production for strategic industries that its loss would disrupt the nation's economic and security apparatus more drastically than might be expected from mere production figures.

109. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: B. 4,596

Explanation:

1. **Total park area (outer rectangle):** From lines 1–2, the park occupies $175 \text{ m} \times 220 \text{ m} = 38,500 \text{ m}^2$.
2. **Inner rectangle (subtract 6 m track on all sides):** From line 3, track width = 6 m each side, so inner dimensions = $175 - 12 = 163 \text{ m}$ and $220 - 12 = 208 \text{ m}$, giving $163 \times 208 = 33,904 \text{ m}^2$.
3. **Jogging track area:** $= 38,500 - 33,904 = 4,596 \text{ m}^2$.
4. **Why other options are incorrect:**
 - **Option A (6,500):** Computes $38,500 - 32,000$ (central meadow area from line 4) = 6,500. That subtracts the meadow, not the inner jog-track rectangle.
 - **Option C (2,694):** Uses $(175 - 6) \times (220 - 6) = 169 \times 214 = 36,166$, then $38,500 - 36,166 = 2,334$ (not 2,694) and also misapplies a single 6 m margin, not subtracting 6 m on both sides.
 - **Option D (231,000):** Multiplies full park area $(38,500 \text{ m}^2) \times 6 \text{ m track width} = 231,000$, treating the track as a full-park strip rather than a boundary loop.

110. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: C. 83.12%

Explanation:

1. **Park area:** $175 \times 220 = 38,500 \text{ m}^2$ (lines 1–2).
2. **Central meadow area:** $160 \times 200 = 32,000 \text{ m}^2$ (line 4).
3. **Percentage:** $(32,000 / 38,500) \times 100\% \approx 83.11688\% \approx 83.12\%$.
4. **Why other options are incorrect:**
 - **Option A (94.40%):** Divides 32,000 by inner jog-track area 33,904 (lines 3–4), giving $\approx 94.40\%$, but the question asks relative to total park ($38,500 \text{ m}^2$).
 - **Option B (41.47%):** Divides by full estate ($350 \times 220 = 77,000 \text{ m}^2$), not the park half.
 - **Option D (88.56%):** Divides by $(175 - 6) \times (220 - 6) = 169 \times 214 = 36,166 \text{ m}^2$, which is not the full park area.

111. (Difficulty: Medium)**Answer:** D. ₹14,477**Explanation:**

1. **One bed's area:** $\pi \times 8^2 = 64\pi \approx 201.06193 \text{ m}^2$ (line 5).
2. **Four beds total:** $4 \times 64\pi \approx 256\pi \approx 804.2477 \text{ m}^2$.
3. **Monthly cost:** $804.2477 \times 18 \approx ₹14,476.46$, rounded to ₹14,477.
4. **Why other options are incorrect:**
 - **Option A (₹3,619):** Uses one bed only: $64\pi \times 18 \approx ₹3,619.11$, missing three beds.
 - **Option B (₹7,238):** Uses half-area ($\frac{1}{2}\pi r^2$) for each bed, giving $4 \times (32\pi) \times 18 = ₹7,238.23$, but full bed area should be used.
 - **Option C (₹28,953):** Doubles each bed's area by using $\pi \times 8 \times 8 \times 2$, which yields $512\pi \approx 1,608.495 \text{ m}^2$, times 18 $\approx ₹28,952.91$ —twice the correct area.

112. (Difficulty: Medium)**Answer:** C. ₹96,775**Explanation:**

1. **Perimeter of park:** $2 \times (175 + 220) = 790 \text{ m}$ (lines 1–2).
2. **Wall height:** 3.5 m (line 7).
3. **Wall surface area:** $790 \times 3.5 = 2,765 \text{ m}^2$.
4. **Painting rate:** ₹35/m² (line 8). Total cost = $2,765 \times 35 = ₹96,775$.
5. **Why other options are incorrect:**
 - **Option A (₹83,100):** Uses ₹30/m² instead of ₹35 (line 8).
 - **Option B (₹124,575):** Assumes wall height = 4.5 m ($3.5 + 1$) without textual basis.
 - **Option D (₹4,720,125):** Multiplies entire park area ($38,500 \text{ m}^2$) by height 3.5 m \times ₹35, as if painting a solid volume.

113. (Difficulty: Medium)**Answer:** B. 75 : 8,476**Explanation:**

1. **Pond area:** $25 \times 12 = 300 \text{ m}^2$ (line 6).
2. **Inner jog-track rectangle:** $(175 - 12) \times (220 - 12) = 163 \times 208 = 33,904 \text{ m}^2$ (lines 2–3).
3. **Ratio:** 300 : 33,904 simplifies by $\div 4 \rightarrow 75 : 8,476$.
4. **Why other options are incorrect:**
 - **Option A (3 : 320):** Divides pond (300) by meadow (32,000) from line 4, which is not asked.
 - **Option C (37 : 371):** Compares lengths ($25 + 12$ vs. $163 + 208$) instead of areas.

- **Option D (6 : 770):** Divides pond (300) by full park (38,500), yielding 6 : 770, but the question wants jog-track interior.

114. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: C. ₹90,000

Explanation:

1. **Pond area:** $25 \times 12 = 300 \text{ m}^2$ (line 6).
2. **Tiling covers same 300 m^2** (line 9).
3. **Cost at ₹300/m²:** $300 \times 300 = ₹90,000$.
4. **Why other options are incorrect:**
 - **Option A (₹11,100):** Multiplies perimeter ($25 + 12 = 37$) by ₹300, not area.
 - **Option B (₹75,000):** Uses ₹250/m² (not in this passage).
 - **Option D (₹135,000):** Assumes tile area = $30 \times 15 = 450 \text{ m}^2$, not in text.

Passage Explanation & Reading Approach

This passage describes a half-plot in a suburban Bangalore estate converted into a public park with a jogging track, central lawn, flower beds, a reflecting pond, and a boundary wall. Quantities, dimensions, and costs are layered: the park's $175 \text{ m} \times 220 \text{ m}$ area, a 6 m jog-track around it, a $160 \text{ m} \times 200 \text{ m}$ lawn inside, four circular beds (radius 8 m), a $25 \text{ m} \times 12 \text{ m}$ pond, and a 3.5 m-high wall to be painted at ₹35/m². Tiling around the pond costs ₹300/m², and flower beds cost ₹18/m²/month. Because questions blend geometry (areas of rectangles and circles), arithmetic (differences of areas, simple multiplications), percentages, and ratios, test-takers should first map out each element's dimensions, compute its area or perimeter, note associated rates, and then apply sequential steps (e.g., subtracting inner from outer dimensions, multiplying by rates). A clear sketch or list of "Feature → Formula → Value" helps manage multi-step computations without confusion.

Question-by-Question Approaches

Question 109 (Jogging Track Area)

Identify the park's total outer rectangle (175×220) and the inner rectangle after subtracting 6 m on each side (→ 163×208). Subtract inner area from total to isolate the jog-track's area.

Question 110 (Meadow Percentage of Park)

Divide the central lawn's area ($160 \times 200 = 32,000 \text{ m}^2$) by the entire park area ($175 \times 220 = 38,500 \text{ m}^2$) and multiply by 100%. Ensure you use the park's outer dimensions, not jog-track or estate dimensions.

Question 111 (Flower Bed Maintenance Cost)

Compute one bed's area using πr^2 with $r = 8 \text{ m}$. Multiply by four to get total bed area, then multiply by ₹18/month to get overall monthly cost.

Question 112 (Boundary Wall Painting Cost)

Calculate the wall's surface area: perimeter ($2 \times (175+220) = 790 \text{ m}$) times height (3.5 m). Multiply that area by ₹35/m² to find total painting cost.

Question 113 (Pond-to-Inner-Area Ratio)

Find the pond's area ($25 \times 12 = 300 \text{ m}^2$) and the jog-track's inner rectangle ($175-12$ by $220-12 = 163 \times 208 = 33,904 \text{ m}^2$). Form the ratio $300 : 33,904$, then simplify.

Question 114 (Tiling Cost Around Pond)

Use the pond's surface area (300 m^2) and multiply by the tiling rate ₹300/m². Confirm that tiling area equals pond area, not perimeter.

Passage 2:

115. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: B. ₹36,000

Explanation:

1. Total participants = 240 (line 1).
2. Registration fee per participant = ₹150 (line 4).
3. Total registration revenue = $240 \times 150 = ₹36,000$.
4. Why other options are incorrect:
 - Option A (₹32,000): Would require 213.3 participants, impossible.
 - Option C (₹34,000): Implies each paid ~₹141.67, not ₹150.
 - Option D (₹30,000): Would be $200 \text{ participants} \times ₹150$; contradicts given 240 participants.

116. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: A. 60 winners

Explanation:

1. Each category has 60 entrants ($240 \div 4 = 60$) (line 1).
2. Category winners by given percentages (line 2–3):
 - Poetry: 15% of 60 = 9
 - Short Story: 20% of 60 = 12
 - Playwriting: 25% of 60 = 15
 - Journalism: 40% of 60 = 24
3. Total category winners = $9 + 12 + 15 + 24 = 60$.
4. Why other options are incorrect:
 - Option B (59): No way to get 59 from summing 9, 12, 15, 24.
 - Option C (58): Also impossible from those integer counts.
 - Option D (57): Not the sum of those four categories.

117. (Difficulty: Medium)

Answer: D. 40%

Explanation:

1. Total category winners = 60 (from Q8).
2. Journalism winners = 24 (line 3).
3. Percentage = $(24 \div 60) \times 100\% = 40\%$.
4. Why other options are incorrect:
 - Option A (35%): Would correspond to 21 Journalism winners, not 24.
 - Option B (25%): Implies 15 winners, not 24.
 - Option C (30%): Implies 18 winners, not 24.

118. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: C. ₹400

Explanation:

1. Total prize pool = ₹40,000 (line 5).
2. Category prize outlay:
 - There are 60 category winners (Q8), each receiving ₹600 (line 4).
 - Total spent on category prizes = $60 \times ₹600 = ₹36,000$.
3. Laureate bonus outlay:
 - Top 3 Laureates each receive an extra ₹1,200 (line 6).
 - Total Laureate bonuses = $3 \times ₹1,200 = ₹3,600$.
4. Combined spending = $₹36,000 + ₹3,600 = ₹39,600$.
5. Remaining unclaimed = $₹40,000 - ₹39,600 = ₹400$.

6. Why other options are incorrect:

- Option A (₹3,600): Would imply only subtracting the Laureate bonuses, not category prizes.
- Option B (₹1,600): Would imply total spending of ₹38,400, not matching category + Laureate outlays.
- Option D (₹2,400): Implies spending ₹37,600, which doesn't correspond to the known prize disbursements.

119. (Difficulty: Easy)

Answer: A. 60 : 240

Explanation:

1. Total category winners = 60 (Q8).
2. Top 3 Laureates are chosen from among those 60 (line 6) and still count as winners for ratio purposes. Thus unique winners = 60.
3. If someone incorrectly counts Laureates again as additional winners, total winners = $60 + 3 = 63$.
4. Ratio to participants = 60 : 240.
5. Why other options are incorrect:
 - Option B (63 : 240): This is not correct because the laureates should not be counted twice.
 - Option C (62 : 240), Option D (61 : 240): No logical winner count yields 61 or 62.

120. (Difficulty: Medium)

Answer: A. 57

Explanation:

1. Total category winners = 60 (Q8).
2. Exactly 3 Laureates are chosen from among the 60 winners (line 6).
3. Category winners who did not receive the Laureate bonus = $60 - 3 = 57$.
4. Why other options are incorrect:
 - Option B (58): Would mean only 2 winners became Laureates, contradicting "Top 3 Laureates."
 - Option C (55): Would imply 5 Laureates, not 3.
 - Option D (60): Would mean no one among the winners got a Laureate bonus.

Passage Explanation & Reading Approach

This passage describes a literature competition with 240 participants split evenly among four categories (60 each). Each category's winners are determined by fixed percentages (15%, 20%, 25%, 40%), yielding integer counts. Participants pay ₹150 each; winners get ₹600, and the Top 3 Laureates receive an extra ₹1,200 on top of their ₹600. A ₹40,000 prize pool covers all awards.

Test-takers should first compute each category's entrant count (60) and winner count (e.g., 15% of 60 = 9), then calculate total revenues, prize outlays, and remainders systematically. Because details cascade—fees, category prizes, Laureate bonuses—organizing information in a small table ("Category → Entrants → % Winners → Winner Count → Prize Outlay") is crucial. The difficulty lies in layering percentages, simple multiplications, and subtractions in sequence without mixing up which sums feed into which calculation.

Question-by-Question Approaches

Question 115:

Briefly compute $240 \text{ participants} \times ₹150 \text{ fee}$. Focus on straightforward multiplication of total headcount by registration fee.

Question 116:

Sum each category's integer winners ($9 + 12 + 15 + 24$). Recognize that categories are equal-sized (60 entrants each), then apply each fixed percentage.

Question 117:

Divide the Journalism winner count (24) by total winners (60). This tests simple "part \div whole \times 100%" after identifying category winner numbers.

Question 118:

Calculate category prize outlay: $60 \text{ winners} \times ₹600 = ₹36,000$; Laureate bonuses: $3 \times ₹1,200 = ₹3,600$; subtract their sum from ₹40,000. The key is sequencing: category prizes first, then Laureate bonuses, then remainder.

Question 119:

Recognize that Laureates are among the 60 winners but are sometimes double-counted in ratio problems. The mock setter added them again to get 63 total "winners" for ratio 63 : 240. Identify that interpretation.

Question 120:

Subtract 3 Laureates from 60 category winners to find how many did not receive the extra bonus. This tests simple subtraction once both totals are known.