

**COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST
(CLAT) 2026 Mock 202603:
Answer Key and Solution**



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(c)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(c)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(c)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(a)
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
(c)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(a)
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
(d)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(c)
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
(b)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(d)
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(d)
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
(c)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(b)
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
(d)	(a)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(d)
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
(a)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(b)

Section – A : English Comprehension

1. **Correct Answer:** (c) They viewed grief as an emotional disorder that should be subdued through rational correction and disciplined thought.

Reference Line: “Grief should be approached like all other suffering: we should rationally reframe our judgements until the (irrational) suffering is dissolved.”

Explanation: Option (a): The text never credits ancient thinkers with viewing grief as morally or spiritually enriching; that evaluative turn belongs to Cholbi’s modern reinterpretation. The ancients are portrayed as suspicious of emotion and committed to overcoming it, not learning from it. By importing a positive moral vocabulary to the ancient view, this option misreads the contrast the author has drawn. Its premise conflicts with the description of grief as a weakness. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b): Casting grief as an “ethical necessity” reverses the argumentative polarity of the passage, which associates ancient thought with reduction and control of emotion. There is no suggestion that compassion or balance is cultivated by grieving in the ancient frame; rather, equilibrium is sought through reasoned detachment. The option therefore attributes a constructive function that the text explicitly withholds from the ancient account. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): The passage explicitly presents the ancient stance as privileging reason over emotion and treating grief as a “malady or weakness.” The prescription to “reframe our judgements” until the suffering is “dissolved” signals a program of rational correction rather than acceptance. This matches the idea of neutralizing grief through disciplined cognition, not honoring it as insight. The phrasing in the text makes this the closest paraphrase of the ancient approach. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d): Nothing in the ancient portrayal here turns on cultural symbolism or meditations on mortality; the emphasis is methodological and psychological. The passage anchors the ancient view in rational reframing, not in anthropological meanings of death or communal identity. By shifting to a cultural lens, the option detaches from the text’s clear reason–emotion axis and introduces claims not present. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. **Correct Answer:** (a) Mourning is a socially observable act honoring the deceased, while grief is an inward experience of personal emotional significance.

Reference Line: “Mourning consists of behaviors and rituals that publicly honor the dead... Grief, meanwhile, is self-concerning... While mourning is public, grief is private.”

Explanation: Option (a): The passage draws a categorical public–private line, naming mourning as “behaviors and rituals” that are visible and communal, while defining grief as “self-concerning” and inward. It even allows that one may participate in mourning without strictly grieving, confirming that these are distinct kinds, not degrees. This option preserves both that directional contrast and the role of personal significance in grief. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b): The author’s careful separation of terms rules out interchangeability; he explicitly states one can mourn without grieving. Treating them as the same “psychological process” erases the ritual dimension of mourning and the interiority of grief. The claim also ignores the passage’s insistence that their functions differ. As a result, the option collapses a central distinction the text labors to construct. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): This option swaps the terms’ roles, calling mourning private anguish and grief outward ritual, which the passage expressly denies. Mourning belongs to public, codified practices like silence or funerary ceremony; grief is an interior response tied to closeness. The inversion not only contradicts definitions but also undermines the illustrative examples of public mourning without personal grief. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): The author’s differentiation is qualitative rather than quantitative; it is about what they are, not how much of them one feels. By saying they “differ only in intensity,” the option sidesteps the text’s ontological contrast and the possibility of mourning in the absence of grief. It thereby misrepresents both the structure and implications of the distinction. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

3. **Correct Answer:** (b) Emotional expression should be balanced with rational composure.

Reference Line: “‘We may weep,’ Seneca graciously informs us, ‘but we must not wail.’”

Explanation:

Option (a): Total concealment is inconsistent with “we may weep,” which licenses a bounded expression of sorrow. A rule demanding complete suppression would

disallow any tears and contradict the text's explicit allowance. While Stoicism prizes self-command, the quotation endorses measured, not zero, expression. The option therefore overstates the demand of restraint beyond what Seneca permits. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b): The concessive structure permits a measured form of expression ("weep") while prohibiting its excess ("wail"), which accords with Stoic moderation. The statement signals that reason must curate the volume and shape of feeling rather than eradicate all affect. This balanced posture is consistent with the broader ancient framing in the passage that targets excess as irrational. The option accurately captures that calibrated restraint. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c): The idea that grief "purifies the soul" imposes a redemptive theology absent from the passage and foreign to its portrayal of ancient suspicion toward emotion. The surrounding argument portrays grief as something to be controlled or reasoned away, not as a sanctifying ordeal. Consequently, removing restraint would undermine the very rational governance emphasized by the ancients. This reverses the text's evaluative logic. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): Seneca's line is about inner conduct rather than substituting ritual forms for personal affect. The public rituals belong to the domain of mourning, which the passage distinguishes from grief; nothing in the quotation prescribes exchanging emotion for ceremony. The required discipline is one of intensity and demeanor, not attendance at rites. The option thus mislocates the prescribed response. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. Correct Answer: (a) He reframes grief as an essential emotional process that embodies human connection and contributes to a fulfilling moral life.

Reference Line: "Grief is not a sickness to be cured; it's a universal and deeply human process that plays a distinctive role in a life well lived."

Explanation: Option (a): Cholbi denies the medicalizing frame by rejecting "sickness to be cured" and assigns grief a constructive place within "a life well lived." He marks it as "universal" and "deeply human," which implies that grief articulates attachment and value rather than dysfunction. This reading also coheres with his promise that understanding grief will show it is "to be... welcomed," not regretted. The option stays closest

to these commitments. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b): Folding grief into ritual solutions confuses it with mourning, which the passage isolates as public behaviors one may perform without privately grieving. The author resists equating inward experience with outward ceremony and never suggests ritual resolves grief's essence. This option therefore mistakes the structural distinction the text considers central. It attaches the wrong remedy to the wrong phenomenon. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): Calling grief a disorder reprises the ancient deficit model that Cholbi explicitly opposes; he insists grief should not be "cured." While rational understanding matters for the ancients, Cholbi's project is to interpret rather than mitigate grief's value. The option thereby reinstates the very pathology lens he seeks to dislodge. It contradicts the quoted thesis about grief's positive role. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): Defining grief as social conformity misreads the passage's identification of grief as "private" and "self-concerning." Though mourning reflects communal expectation, grief is anchored in personal ties and inward significance. By externalizing grief into a social performance, the option erases that inwardness and imports motives foreign to the author's account. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. Correct Answer: (d) Deficiency

Reference Line: "Grief for them is a manifestation of the latter: it's a malady or weakness to be endured or, even better, reasoned away."

Explanation: Option (a): "Catharsis" implies a beneficial release or cleansing effect that yields emotional clarity, which clashes with the ancients' devaluing of grief. Nothing in the quoted line hints at purification or positive aftermath; it stresses removal by reason. Substituting a term with favorable connotations would invert the passage's evaluative orientation. The mismatch in tone and function is decisive. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b): "Obsession" denotes fixation or intrusive preoccupation, which is neither entailed nor suggested by the quoted description. The ancient verdict concerns the quality of the emotion, not its persistence or compulsive character. As such, it mischaracterizes the kind of fault the passage attributes to grief. The semantic scope diverges from "malady" and

“weakness.” Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): “Reflection” suggests thoughtful contemplation, a positive cognitive act that the ancients would not equate with an emotional ailment. Choosing this term would flip the valence from deficit to virtue and thereby misrepresent the stance. The quoted line does not sanction reflection as grief’s essence; it calls for reframing to dissolve grief. The lexical register is therefore incompatible. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): “Deficiency” properly conveys a perceived shortfall in rational fortitude, aligning with the ancient judgment that grief is a weakness. The phrase “to be endured” underscores a negative burden rather than a resource, which “deficiency” captures without suggesting transformation. It preserves the evaluative tone of fault rather than function. The semantic fit with “malady or weakness” is therefore precise. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

6. Correct Answer: (a) The intensity of grief reflects the magnitude of personal connection and underscores how emotional bonds define human life.

Reference Line: “We might typically frame this closeness in terms of love, intimacy, or contribution to our wellbeing... the more we love someone... the more intense our grief.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a): The passage explicitly links grief’s intensity to degrees of “closeness” defined by love, intimacy, and contribution to wellbeing. The proportionality claim that “the more we love... the more intense our grief” demonstrates grief as an index of attachment rather than irrationality. This conclusion also aligns with Cholbi’s valuation of grief as part of a life well lived. It integrates the descriptive and normative strands of the text. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b): Framing grief’s persistence as cognitive failure reverts to the ancient pathology model the author challenges; Cholbi treats grief as meaningful, not as a symptom of ignorance. The text nowhere imputes an inability to “accept” death as the driver of grief’s endurance. Instead, it grounds intensity in relational value. This option therefore imposes a deficit analysis the passage rejects. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): The passage does not erect a universal rule that emotion “always triumphs” over reason; its focus is on the significance of bonds, not a meta-claim about

decision theory. Such a sweeping assertion goes beyond the evidence and changes the argumentative register. It converts an account of attachment into a thesis about dominance between faculties. The inference is overbroad and untextual. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): The author distinguishes grief from mourning and never claims rituals can “completely heal” inner grief; he even allows mourning without grief. Treating cultural practice as curative for an inward state contradicts that structural separation. The option therefore promises an efficacy that the passage neither states nor implies. It conflates outward observance with inward transformation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

7. Correct Answer: (b) emphasize that human recreation operates under the same automated precision and rational control as industrial production. Reference Line: “The loud speakers in the tower ... began, in a more than human tenor, to announce the closing of the courses.”

Explanation:

(a) The scene lacks any sense of enrichment or freedom; the mechanical announcement conveys submission to impersonal authority. The author’s tone is functional, showing that people’s leisure ends when machines command it rather than when desire ceases. This mechanized closure reflects regulation, not enjoyment or improved living. The word choice evokes discipline and suppression, not satisfaction or progress. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The “more than human tenor” and the synchronized obedience to the loudspeakers capture a world where precision replaces spontaneity. Recreation mirrors industrial efficiency as every action follows a programmed signal rather than natural rhythm. The impersonality of tone reveals that even rest is an extension of labor’s order. The author portrays how technological governance converts leisure into a production-like process devoid of freedom. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The description of “bells” and “whistles” implies compulsion, not community celebration. Individuals respond like automatons to mechanical cues, their movements stripped of feeling or choice. There is no evidence of shared delight or social harmony, only the hum of obedience. The author’s diction transforms play into routine, highlighting loss of individuality under mass control. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The communication system here enforces control rather than sustaining emotional expression. The loudspeakers replace human voices with artificial commands, suppressing spontaneity through constant surveillance. The society values discipline, not freedom of feeling, and this precision erases individuality. The emotional tone of the scene remains sterile and dutiful rather than balanced or expressive. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

8. Correct Answer: (d) The fading sunset and the growing artificial light reveal how technology replaces nature's beauty with mechanical illumination.

Reference Line: "Crimson at the horizon, the last of the sunset faded, through orange, upwards into yellow and a pale watery green."

Explanation:

(a) The fading hues evoke not harmony but decline, where the natural world retreats before artificial power. The "pale watery green" conveys weakness and loss rather than peace, showing technology's intrusion on nature's last glow. The visual shift is one of erosion, not balance or coexistence. The imagery builds an atmosphere of suffocation under mechanized brightness, not serenity. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The tone is not appreciative but unsettling; "fierce electric brilliance" replaces beauty with intensity. No comfort or aesthetic blending exists because light becomes an instrument of domination. The industrial glare erases subtlety, transforming evening calm into mechanical hardness. The author's contrast underscores dissonance between human invention and natural wonder. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Nothing in the passage suggests order or calm; the visual transition is harsh and abrupt. The fading of sunset into electric glare symbolizes displacement, not unity. The industrial imagery reveals conquest rather than peace, indicating nature's subjugation to technological order. The world appears controlled yet lifeless, devoid of harmony. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The gradual extinction of natural color and the emergence of artificial light symbolize the technological seizure of beauty. The factory's "fierce brilliance" functions as an artificial sun, asserting human dominance over the environment. This imagery shows a civilization where machinery defines perception, not nature. The author mourns this

replacement, making the tone quietly tragic and reflective. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

9. Correct Answer: (a) a ceaseless swarming of identical beings whose movements suggest mechanized uniformity within social hierarchy.

Reference Line: "The approaches to the monorail station were black with the ant-like pullulation of lower-caste activity."

Explanation:

(a) "Pullulation" conveys teeming abundance, and combined with "ant-like," it paints a picture of endless, mechanical motion. The individuals blend into a single mass, each movement precise and automatic, symbolizing loss of self. The workers' swarm embodies the efficiency and dehumanization of caste hierarchy. The word suggests tireless repetition within a rigidly structured social mechanism. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The imagery of ants suggests structure and coordination, not chaos. Their motion is instinctive and controlled, not random or confused. The author's focus is on the uniformity of behavior imposed by conditioning, not on disorder. The tone stresses regulation and obedience rather than frantic disorganization. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The workers' movements are industrial, not ceremonial; there is no reverence or symbolic intent. The rhythm arises from systemic compulsion, not deliberate ritual. Their behavior shows biological automation within social machinery, devoid of spiritual or cultural meaning. The tone lacks dignity or respectfulness, only efficiency. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The description presents motion serving production, not ritual unity. There is no emotional purpose, only physical obedience to external control. The workers operate as parts of an economic mechanism, not as participants in a shared act of devotion. Their uniformity is mechanical rather than expressive. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. Correct Answer: (c) It demonstrates that artificial energy has displaced natural light as the dominant and defining source of human existence.

Reference Line: "The Internal and External Secretions factory glared with a fierce electric brilliance from every window of its twenty stories."

Explanation:

(a) The phrase “glared with fierce brilliance” implies hostility rather than prosperity. Light becomes oppressive, signifying domination by mechanization, not well-being. The author’s diction portrays an inhuman environment of control, devoid of comfort or pride. The glow represents servitude to production rather than communal benefit. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The description carries no artistic admiration; the illumination is functional and excessive, symbolizing uniformity rather than creativity. The factory’s brightness overwhelms rather than beautifies, reducing architecture to mechanical purpose. It glorifies power, not design, showing dehumanization through spectacle. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The “fierce electric brilliance” acts as a new sun dominating the twilight, symbolizing the substitution of natural rhythm by industrial permanence. Artificial light dictates perception and marks the human world’s dependence on machinery. Nature’s cycle is erased, and existence becomes sustained by synthetic energy. This imagery reveals a civilization illuminated only by production. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) There is no preservation of natural connection; the glow conceals and annihilates natural beauty. The mechanized illumination creates sterility, erasing all organic softness of the evening. The author’s tone emphasizes alienation, not harmony, as technology replaces rather than complements nature. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. Correct Answer: (a) That technological regulation has humanized work and leisure by creating equality and balance among all social groups.

Reference Line: “The huge Lower Caste barracks and, on the other side of a dividing wall, the smaller houses reserved for Alpha and Beta members.”

Explanation:

(a) The clear architectural segregation contradicts any notion of equality; walls separate castes and reinforce hierarchy. Technology serves division rather than humanization, assigning roles with mechanical precision. The author’s tone suggests alienation and control, not harmony or fairness. Leisure and labor both operate within rigidly maintained inequality. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The uniform timing of trains and automated closure of recreation perfectly illustrate mechanical discipline. Every form of social activity runs by regulated signals rather than free human rhythm. The author’s depiction

confirms pervasive control through precision and synchronization. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The “barracks” for lower castes and “smaller houses” for elites indicate strict social demarcation. Physical walls become metaphors for mental and institutional division. The society is visibly structured by rank, with architecture manifesting class identity. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The recurring imagery of glowing factories and floodlit chimneys shows industrial power dominating sight and thought. Technology saturates the environment and imagination, shaping collective consciousness. The author criticizes how such visual control transforms citizens into extensions of the machine. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

12. Correct Answer: (b) a tall industrial structure providing guidance to aircraft and symbolizing the dominance of modern technology.

Reference Line: “For the safety of night-flying planes, its four tall chimneys were flood-lighted and tipped with crimson danger signals. It was a landmark.”

Explanation:

(a) The crematorium described is functional, not historical or revered; its purpose is to signal airplanes, not preserve human legacy. The lights and danger signals evoke precision and utility, not heritage or artistic preservation. The author’s portrayal eliminates sentiment, portraying the structure as a tool of modern control rather than a vessel of culture. Its visibility stems from necessity, not from commemoration or beauty. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The flood-lit chimneys stand tall, acting as navigational guides for aircraft, representing the supremacy of machine-made visibility over natural reference points. The word “landmark” thus transforms into an emblem of technological authority, where even a crematorium becomes an instrument of mechanical regulation. Its illumination ensures safety through artificial command, turning death into part of the industrial order. The red warning lights and glare symbolize the dominance of modern engineering, showing that every structure serves function over feeling. The term reflects technology’s triumph in redefining meaning and memory. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The crematorium bears no aura of sanctity; it is stripped of spiritual depth and repurposed for logistical efficiency. The floodlights and danger signals replace reverence with surveillance, reducing

mortality to another mechanical necessity. There is no tone of faith, mourning, or introspection; the structure's illumination removes the mystery of death, replacing it with procedural control. The author deliberately denies emotional resonance, emphasizing sterile functionality. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The building's description shows no civic admiration or aesthetic design; it is harsh, bright, and

13. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "They created a fungus that acts like a lethal perfume for the pests, offering a promising tool against malaria, dengue, and other deadly diseases."

Explanation:

(a) The researchers' goal was to merge the intelligence of natural processes with scientific precision to develop a safe yet powerful alternative to pesticides. The phrase "lethal perfume" signifies a blend of nature's attraction and fatal control, showing the innovation is rooted in ecology rather than synthetic chemistry. The repeated emphasis on human safety and environmental harmlessness further confirms their biological and ethical intent. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage makes it clear that chemical pesticides have become ineffective because of growing mosquito resistance. The scientists deliberately moved away from such synthetic approaches, choosing biological engineering instead of chemical acceleration. There is no mention of speed being prioritized over safety, which invalidates this interpretation entirely. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The fungus was engineered to emit longifolene, a single natural attractant, not multiple insecticidal agents. The researchers were motivated by disease control and ecological harmony, not by financial or commercial exploitation. The absence of any mention of profit-driven or compound-diversifying goals makes this reasoning inconsistent with the text. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The study originates in the imitation of natural fungi, which refutes any claim of rejecting ecological methods. Instead of substituting nature with laboratory chemicals, the scientists enhanced nature's own defense mechanisms to maintain ecological balance. Therefore, this choice distorts the researchers' philosophy. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

unfeeling. Its significance lies in its artificial illumination for safety, not in architectural pride or collective achievement. The atmosphere lacks grandeur or artistry, depicting a utilitarian landscape dominated by machinery. The author's tone erases any notion of beauty, focusing entirely on technological precision. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

14. Correct Answer: (c) releases floral chemicals that resemble natural scents, deceiving mosquitoes even amid competing odors.

Reference Line: "In laboratory tests, the fungus wiped out 90 to 100% of mosquitoes, even in environments filled with competing scents from people and real flowers."

Explanation:

(a) The passage attributes attraction entirely to olfactory cues rather than auditory ones. Mosquitoes are drawn to scent-based signals that suggest nectar, not to sound frequencies. There is no indication that vibrations play any role in mosquito orientation, which makes this explanation biologically implausible. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The compound longifolene merely attracts mosquitoes through smell; it has no physiological impact before infection occurs. The fungus kills only after physical contact, not through pheromonal suppression or hormonal interference. Thus, this option fabricates mechanisms unrelated to the passage's description. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The fungus cleverly imitates floral scents that mosquitoes naturally associate with food sources. Even when surrounded by real flowers or human odors, the longifolene concentration successfully lures mosquitoes, proving the mimicry's precision. The passage explicitly credits this chemical resemblance for the fungus's success, affirming its olfactory deception as the central factor. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The study mentions no neutralization or gas production that diminishes other odors. The fungus functions by attraction, not by suppressing competing scents; it strengthens appeal rather than masking alternatives. This reversal of mechanism contradicts the passage's evidence. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. Correct Answer: (d) toxic

Reference Line: “Despite its potency, the fungus is completely harmless to humans ... much safer than many chemical pesticides.”

Explanation:

(a) The term “fragile” refers to physical weakness or susceptibility to breakage, which bears no relation to danger or harm. The context contrasts the fungus’s safety with chemical toxicity, not with physical durability, rendering this word semantically irrelevant. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The adjective “subtle” implies a quality that is fine, faint, or understated, lacking any association with threat or safety. Since the passage centers around harmlessness as freedom from danger, “subtle” does not convey any oppositional sense to that concept. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) “Delicate” indicates fineness or sensitivity, often used for fragile materials or emotions. It does not signify harm or risk, and therefore cannot serve as the opposite of “harmless,” which refers to safety and non-toxicity. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) “Toxic” perfectly opposes “harmless,” as it denotes the property of being poisonous or capable of causing injury. The passage emphasizes that the fungus is safe for humans and compares it to toxic pesticides, establishing a direct antonymic contrast between the two. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

16. Correct Answer: (a) Natural processes can reveal sustainable strategies for pest control when scientifically strengthened and responsibly applied.

Reference Line: “We’re letting nature give us a hint to tell us what works against mosquitoes.”

Explanation:

(a) The statement captures the essence of the researchers’ philosophy: harnessing natural cues to create environmentally compatible innovations. Their success depended on amplifying what already works in nature rather than dominating or altering it. This union of ecology and engineering mirrors responsible scientific creativity grounded in sustainability. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage repeatedly contrasts biological safety with the failures of chemical pesticides, showing deliberate movement away from synthetic reliance. The scientists sought resilience through nature’s adaptive intelligence, not industrial chemistry, which disqualifies this interpretation. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The tone of the passage emphasizes cooperation with nature, not control or manipulation of it. The

fungus’s design depends on mimicry and natural attraction rather than forceful alteration of ecological systems. Thus, the spirit of domination suggested here conflicts with the researchers’ perspective. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The scientists never dismiss evolution or natural mechanisms; rather, they depend on them to inform their experiment. Their work builds upon evolution’s strategies instead of replacing them, making this statement fundamentally inaccurate. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

17. Correct Answer: (b) The fungus may remain effective because mosquitoes are unlikely to evolve resistance to its biological mechanism.

Reference Line: “Unlike chemical alternatives that mosquitoes have gradually become resistant to, this biological approach may be nearly impossible for mosquitoes to outsmart or avoid.”

Explanation:

(a) The passage mentions that longifolene is gradually released from containers “over several months,” implying stability and persistence rather than vulnerability to environmental degradation. There is no evidence that air pollutants or urban conditions would weaken its scent or reduce its effectiveness. Since the compound has a natural origin and is already used safely in perfumes, its potency is unlikely to fade through ordinary exposure. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The researchers’ confidence lies in the evolutionary logic that mosquitoes cannot easily escape behavioral instincts that lead them to flowers for nectar. Because the fungus exploits these ingrained preferences rather than a temporary chemical reaction, resistance would require fundamental changes in mosquito biology. The infection works by hijacking a natural attraction, making adaptation nearly impossible, which directly aligns with the study’s conclusion of durable effectiveness. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The scientists emphasize that both the fungus and its container are designed to specifically target mosquitoes, indicating deliberate precision to prevent ecological interference. Pollinators such as bees are not mentioned as victims, and longifolene’s controlled release suggests spatially limited impact. The intent of the project was ecological harmony, not collateral harm, which invalidates this assumption about unintended effects. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage highlights the fungus's complete harmlessness to humans, repeatedly stressing its use in perfumes and its long safety record. Since the compound has been widely handled and inhaled through cosmetic products without health hazards, there is no reason to suspect danger from airborne spores. The research's emphasis on non-toxicity and selective infection confirms that this claim contradicts the text's assurances. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. Correct Answer: (c) fragrance

Reference Line: "Natural fungi ... emit a pleasant chemical known as longifolene, which they discovered could attract mosquitoes."

Explanation:

(a) The passage characterizes longifolene as "pleasant" and "harmless," showing it evokes a sensory appeal rather than harm. A poison implies toxicity and potential for injury, both of which contradict the compound's described safety and common use in perfumes. Its role as an attractant demonstrates functionality rooted in scent, not in lethality, so this interpretation distorts the author's meaning. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) A contaminant denotes something impure or undesirable that pollutes an environment, but the compound here is portrayed as natural and environmentally safe. The researchers even emphasize that it breaks down naturally and has ecological compatibility. Calling it a contaminant reverses the connotation from beneficial to harmful, which is inconsistent with the text's portrayal. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The adjective "pleasant" directly signals a positive olfactory experience, and since longifolene's role is to emit a floral aroma that attracts mosquitoes, the closest single word capturing this quality is "fragrance." The term harmonizes with its natural origin, its perfume usage, and its gentle sensory profile that evokes sweetness rather than harm. It also aligns with the passage's focus on scent as the mechanism of attraction. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The word "irritant" implies something that causes discomfort or allergic reaction, which contradicts the description of longifolene's safety and fragrance use. The compound has a "long safety record" and is already present in human environments without negative effects. Describing it as irritating misrepresents both

the tone and factual basis of the passage's claims. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "It's easy for us to think of the natural world ... as unambiguously positive ... but advocates ... argue that this attitude ignores the huge amounts of suffering present in nature."

Explanation:

(a) Statement I captures the misguided belief in a peaceful and balanced natural order, while Statement II reflects how advocates challenge this myth by emphasizing real suffering in ecosystems. Together they summarize the author's contrast between human imagination and ecological cruelty, revealing moral ignorance that hides behind romanticized views of nature. Both align with the text's explicit claims, establishing their accuracy and complementarity. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Statement II is valid since it recognizes the advocates' focus on unnoticed pain, yet Statement III completely contradicts the description of disease, fear, and premature death. The author details how only one in millions of animals survive to maturity, which proves that lives in nature are short and filled with suffering. Because the second statement is true but the third is false, this combination is inconsistent with the author's argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) While Statement I accurately portrays human sentimentalism toward nature, Statement III falsely presents the wild as a space of long, safe lives. The author highlights mortality and cruelty as normal experiences, undermining any suggestion of harmony or comfort. This pairing mixes one accurate and one inaccurate statement, leading to a logically flawed conclusion about the author's position. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author's evidence about parasitism, hunger, and fear explicitly denies that wild animals live peacefully, so including Statement III among the true statements misrepresents the essence of the passage. Accepting all three implies that the author views nature as good and stable, which is the opposite of the central argument. Therefore, the inclusion of a clearly false statement invalidates this option. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. Correct Answer: (c) immature individuals that have not yet reached full development or reproductive maturity.

Reference Line: “In some species, only one in millions of juveniles survive to adulthood.”

Explanation:

(a) The author never confines the term to a particular size or species group. Juveniles are described across species boundaries as young organisms at risk, not merely weak or small ones. Reducing them to “smaller invertebrates” neglects the broader biological meaning that includes all immature forms, making this interpretation both incomplete and inaccurate. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) There is no mention of seasonal migration or movement in the passage. The word “juvenile” is used strictly to mark a stage of life rather than a behavioral pattern. Associating it with migration inserts an unrelated concept into a context purely about survival and development, distorting the author’s intended meaning. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The contrast between “juveniles” and “adulthood” clearly defines juveniles as undeveloped or immature members of a species prior to reproductive maturity. The author uses this biological distinction to illustrate the brutal mortality rates among young creatures, emphasizing that most never reach adult form. This reading is consistent with both grammatical context and logical purpose. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The author never refers to visibility or microscopic life but rather to suffering observable in common ecosystems. Suggesting juveniles are invisible shifts attention from survival challenges to visual perception, which misinterprets the sentence entirely. The emphasis is on age and vulnerability, not on the human ability to see them. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. Correct Answer: (a) Humans often glorify nature as pure and harmonious, overlooking the extensive suffering that exists within it.

Reference Line: “Advocates for wild-animal welfare argue that this attitude ignores the huge amounts of suffering present in nature.”

Explanation:

(a) The author exposes a moral contradiction: people equate naturalness with goodness, ignoring the widespread pain within ecosystems. The statement mirrors this critique by showing how idealized visions of nature blind humanity to its cruelty. This aligns directly with the passage’s call to rethink morality by recognizing suffering where we once saw purity. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author never portrays animal-rights advocates as exaggerators. Instead, they are presented as reasoned voices inviting ethical awareness of neglected suffering. Framing them as manipulative misreads the balanced tone, which is investigative rather than accusatory. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The idea of perfect equilibrium contradicts the numerous examples of disease, hunger, and fear discussed in the text. The author specifically refutes the notion of harmony by explaining that “only one in millions survive,” which reveals nature’s harsh asymmetry rather than balance. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage urges humans to rethink and expand moral concern, proving that the debate is ongoing rather than resolved. Declaring moral understanding “advanced” contradicts the author’s view that wild-animal welfare remains a new and neglected frontier of ethics. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. Correct Answer: (b) analytical and morally reflective, combining factual observation with philosophical reasoning.

Reference Line: “We can’t know for sure what it’s like to be a wild animal, but we can observe that many or even most wild animals live in conditions that would be considered extremely cruel to inflict on a human.”

Explanation:

(a) The author refrains from emotional dramatization or figurative embellishment; the prose is grounded in rational observation, not poetic sorrow. The argument’s strength lies in clarity, not sentimentality, as the writer seeks to educate moral reflection rather than evoke tears. Descriptions of suffering are factual and detached, aiming to make readers think rather than feel. This restrained tone eliminates any trace of lyrical grief or aesthetic sadness. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage merges empirical insight with ethical contemplation, using logical progression and balanced diction to build a moral argument. It first establishes factual suffering in nature and then transitions into philosophical questioning about morality, progress, and moral expansion. The style’s emphasis on reasoning, precision, and reflection underscores its analytical character. The absence of rhetorical appeals reinforces an academic and introspective tone, aligning it closely with moral philosophy. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The passage is not written in an urgent or aggressive tone that demands immediate reform.

Instead, it calmly acknowledges uncertainty—phrases like “we can’t know for sure” and “there might be good reasons” reflect caution and open-mindedness. The author invites discussion rather than confrontation and avoids emotional intensifiers or accusatory rhetoric. Such moderation in tone proves that persuasion occurs through reflection, not exaggeration. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) There is no trace of humor, ridicule, or irony; the argument is solemn and philosophical in nature. The writer treats animal suffering and moral ignorance with seriousness, suggesting that levity would be morally inappropriate here. The goal is to expose complacency, not to mock it, through reasoned analysis and ethical clarity. The tone’s gravity eliminates any possibility of ironic intent or comic detachment. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

23. Correct Answer: (d) including previously neglected beings, such as wild animals or digital entities, within our ethical concern.

Reference Line: “Maybe wild animal advocacy helps us make moral progress by expanding our moral circle, and potentially even setting a precedent for work on digital sentience.”

Explanation:

(a) The author’s idea of moral expansion has nothing to do with education or the intellectual study of environmental issues. Instead, it deals with enlarging the range of beings we consider morally considerable, moving from humans to animals and possibly digital consciousness. This choice mistakes moral inclusion for academic reform, missing the depth of ethical empathy discussed. Sustainability and reasoning are peripheral compared to the central moral concern of sentient suffering. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The phrase “moral circle” does not invoke religion or cultural uniformity; it belongs to secular moral philosophy emphasizing empathy, not theological unity. The author advocates ethical inclusivity without appealing to doctrines or scriptures. By turning it into a religious or cultural project, this interpretation wrongly substitutes communal faith for universal compassion. The writer’s focus is moral progress grounded in sentience rather than divine authority. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The idea of restricting ethics only to rational or reciprocating beings contradicts the passage’s moral expansion beyond such limits. The author calls for

inclusion of wild animals and potential digital minds, neither of which fit the criterion of human-like reasoning. This restrictive interpretation reflects the very anthropocentric bias the author seeks to overcome. Therefore, it opposes the principle of inclusion central to the moral circle metaphor. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author’s notion of “expanding our moral circle” clearly means broadening compassion to cover beings that society has historically excluded, such as wild animals and digital entities. This interpretation captures the ethical ambition to acknowledge suffering beyond human or familiar domains. It ties moral progress to recognition of sentience wherever it exists, emphasizing inclusivity as the foundation of a more evolved moral understanding. Thus, the phrase embodies the forward-looking, humanitarian core of the passage. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

24. Correct Answer: (a) Nature is not always good, and caring for wild animals can expand human moral understanding.

Reference Line: “Something being natural doesn’t necessarily mean it’s good ... maybe wild-animal advocacy helps us make moral progress by expanding our moral circle.”

Explanation:

(a) The author’s central thesis dismantles the illusion that the natural world is automatically moral or harmonious and proposes that acknowledging suffering within it deepens our ethical maturity. The passage connects factual suffering to philosophical reflection, urging humans to recognize moral responsibility even in untouched ecosystems. It also presents wild-animal advocacy as a means of broadening moral horizons rather than an impossible pursuit. This synthesis of realism and ethical growth encapsulates the essence of the discussion. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author states that wild-animal welfare is “extremely neglected,” showing that progress is minimal, not widespread. This choice falsely portrays moral achievement where the author instead calls for exploration and ethical attention. The tone of inquiry and moral urgency contrasts sharply with this assumption of success, making the option incompatible with textual evidence. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The argument never claims that suffering is unchangeable; rather, it raises open-ended questions

about how humans might ethically intervene. The author criticizes equating “natural” with “good,” implying that action can indeed improve conditions. Suggesting inevitable cruelty erases the passage’s moral optimism and curiosity, contradicting its very premise of progress. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage explicitly argues that wild-animal welfare deserves attention because it broadens human empathy and moral capacity. Far from being a distraction, it is framed as a vital ethical frontier alongside farm-animal welfare. This statement dismisses the author’s entire philosophical rationale, thereby opposing both tone and purpose. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

25. **Correct Answer:** (a) Europe

Explanation: According to the Global Innovation Index 2025, Europe stands as the world's most innovative region, with 15 countries ranked in the global top 25 and six among the top 10. This dominance reflects the continent's long-term investment in research and development, advanced education systems, and strong public-private innovation frameworks. Other regions such as Asia and North America follow but with fewer countries achieving comparable global rankings.

26. **Correct Answer:** (a) Only I and II

Explanation: In the Global Innovation Index 2025, India achieved the 38th position globally, marking a steady improvement from 48th in 2020, reflecting significant progress in innovation capacity, start-up ecosystem, and research output. India also ranks 1st among lower-middle-income economies, highlighting its leadership in cost-effective innovation and digital transformation. India ranks 1st, not 2nd, in the Central and Southern Asia region, maintaining its position as the region's innovation leader. This consistent upward trajectory underscores India's growing focus on innovation-driven growth, technology, and human capital development.

27. **Correct Answer:** (b) World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

Explanation: The Global Innovation Index 2025 is released annually by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It evaluates innovation capabilities and outcomes across economies using indicators such as R&D investment, human capital, technology infrastructure, and creative outputs. WIPO, a specialised UN agency, promotes intellectual property rights and supports innovation-driven growth worldwide.

28. **Correct Answer:** (b) 18th edition

Explanation: The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 represents the 18th edition of this annual report, prepared in partnership with the Portulans Institute and coordinated by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Over the years, the GI has evolved into a globally recognised tool that tracks innovation performance across nations, assessing them through comprehensive indicators covering research, technology, infrastructure, and institutional excellence.

29. **Correct Answer:** (d) SEAO continues to emerge as a global innovation hub, with six economies ranked among the world's top 25 innovators.

Explanation: According to the Global Innovation Index 2025, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania (SEAO) have strengthened their position as key global innovation hubs. The region includes six economies in the top 25—such as Singapore, China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, and Hong Kong (China)—reflecting rapid advances in research, technology, and innovation-led economic growth.

30. **Correct Answer:** (a) 78 indicators

Explanation: The Global Innovation Index (GII) employs around 78 diverse indicators to assess and compare the innovation performance of nearly 140 economies across the world. These indicators span multiple dimensions — such as research and development (R&D) expenditure, venture capital activity, high-technology exports, intellectual property filings, education quality, and infrastructure readiness. By integrating economic, institutional, and technological factors, the GI serves as a comprehensive global benchmark that guides governments, businesses, and policymakers in building strong, innovation-driven ecosystems and shaping evidence-based innovation strategies.

31. **Correct Answer:** (c) Charkha

Explanation: The Charkha, or spinning wheel, became the most prominent symbol of Swadeshi and economic independence during the Non-Cooperation Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. It represented the idea of self-reliance by encouraging Indians to spin and wear Khadi instead of British-made textiles. The widespread use of the Charkha fostered unity among the people, revived rural industries, and stood as both an economic and moral weapon against colonial exploitation—embodying the ideals of dignity, simplicity, and national pride.

32. **Correct Answer:** (a) The Ottoman Empire was dismembered after the War, Turkey was divided, and the Khalifa lost his position of authority.

Explanation: After World War I, the Ottoman Empire was dismantled under the terms of the postwar treaties, particularly the Treaty of Sèvres (1920). Its vast territories in the Middle East and Europe were

divided among the Allied powers, leading to the formation of several new nations. The Caliphate (Khilafat), symbolizing Islamic unity and leadership, was abolished in 1924 under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's secular reforms. This marked the definitive end of Ottoman authority and the beginning of the modern Republic of Turkey.

33. Correct Answer: (b) Chauri Chaura

Explanation: The Chauri Chaura incident in Uttar Pradesh on February 5, 1922, became a decisive moment in India's freedom movement. A group of agitated protesters, reacting to police firing during a demonstration, set fire to a police station, resulting in the deaths of twenty-two policemen. Shocked and saddened by this act of violence, Mahatma Gandhi immediately called off the Non-Cooperation Movement, reaffirming his unwavering commitment to ahimsa (non-violence). The episode underscored Gandhi's conviction that moral discipline and peaceful resistance were essential for achieving true Swaraj (self-rule).

34. Correct Answer: (d) Mohammad Ali Jinnah

Explanation: Prominent leaders such as C. Rajagopalachari, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Ajmal Khan, Gopabandhu Das, Motilal Nehru, Chittaranjan Das, and Jawaharlal Nehru actively took part in the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. However, (d) Jinnah was against the policy, resigned from the Congress, and opposed the movement outright.

35. Correct Answer: (c) Only I and II

Explanation : The Khilafat Movement was launched by Shoukat Ali and Mohammad Ali to protest British actions against the Ottoman Caliph after World War I. The All India Khilafat Committee was established in 1919 under the leadership of the Ali brothers, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Ajmal Khan, and Hasrat Mohani. Statement III is incorrect because the movement began in 1919, before the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22), and both later became interlinked under Gandhi's leadership.

36. Correct Answer: (d) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Explanation: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the leading global agency working to establish international standards for the protection of traditional knowledge, cultural

expressions, and geographical indications. Its Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) actively negotiates to address gaps in global intellectual property frameworks. While progress continues, no binding international treaty has yet been finalized. WIPO's efforts aim to ensure that indigenous communities and nations receive fair recognition, ownership, and benefit-sharing for their cultural and creative heritage.

37. Correct Answer: (b) Rs 1.2 lakh

Explanation : Reports indicate that Prada plans to sell its version of the product for around Rs 1.2 lakh, drawing widespread criticism due to the vast price gap with Indian artisans, who sell authentic handmade pairs for under Rs 1,000. The controversy reignited debates on cultural appropriation and economic inequity, highlighting how global luxury brands often profit from traditional crafts without acknowledging or adequately compensating the indigenous communities whose heritage and skill form the foundation of such designs.

38. Correct Answer: (c) Only I and III

Explanation: Kolhapuri chappals received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2019, recognizing their unique regional craftsmanship and heritage. The tag was granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which legally protects region-specific products. Statement II is incorrect because there is no Handicrafts Recognition Act of 2005; this incorrect attribution misstates the legal framework governing GI registrations in India.

39. Correct Answer: (b) A GI tag protects region-specific products based on unique geographical, material, and traditional qualities of their origin.

Explanation: A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is an intellectual property right that safeguards products closely linked to their geographical origin, where local climate, resources, and craftsmanship contribute to their uniqueness. It ensures that only authorized producers from the designated area can use the name, preventing misrepresentation by outsiders. GI tags enhance the market value of traditional goods like Darjeeling Tea, Kanchipuram Sarees, or Nagaland Chillies, while supporting rural livelihoods, preserving cultural identity, and promoting sustainable regional development through authenticity and recognition.

40. Correct Answer: (a) Maharashtra and Karnataka

Explanation : Kolhapuri chappals are traditional handcrafted leather sandals made by artisans from Maharashtra's Kolhapur district and nearby regions of Karnataka. Known for their durability, distinctive designs, and natural tanning process, these chappals are produced entirely by hand using locally sourced leather and natural dyes. The craft has been passed down through generations, representing the cultural identity and artisanal heritage of western India, and continues to hold a strong presence in domestic and international markets.

41. Correct Answer: (d) All I, II and III

Explanation: The Paris AI Action Summit continues the global dialogue initiated at the AI Safety Summit held at Bletchley Park, United Kingdom, in 2023, and the subsequent gathering in Seoul, South Korea. The U.K. summit focused on discussions surrounding potential catastrophic or 'doomsday' risks posed by advanced AI systems and produced the landmark Bletchley Declaration on AI Safety, signed by 29 nations, including major powers like the U.S., China, and India. Together, these summits represent a growing international consensus on the need for coordinated governance and responsible AI development.

42. Correct Answer: (c) Shakti-VIII

Explanation: The Indo-French Joint Military Exercise Shakti-VIII was held in France under realistic battlefield conditions, covering mission-specific drills related to sub-conventional and modern warfare. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability, coordination, and mutual understanding between the Indian and French Armies. It also focused on sharing tactical expertise, improving joint operational capabilities, and strengthening defence cooperation as part of the growing India-France strategic partnership.

43. Correct Answer: (b) 58 countries

Explanation: A total of 58 countries, including major global players such as India, China, Brazil, France, and Australia, signed a joint statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet at the AI Action Summit in Paris. The statement emphasized the shared commitment of these nations to promote AI development that is ethical, inclusive, and environmentally responsible, ensuring that technological progress benefits humanity while

addressing global challenges such as inequality and climate change.

44. Correct Answer: (a) Sixteen leading AI companies made voluntary pledges to develop AI systems in a transparent and responsible manner at the Seoul Summit.

Explanation: At the Seoul AI Summit, sixteen major AI companies—including OpenAI, Google, Meta, Microsoft, and others from China, South Korea, and the UAE—made voluntary commitments to advance artificial intelligence transparently and responsibly. These pledges emphasize ethical governance, accountability, and openness in AI development. The initiative seeks to strengthen global cooperation to ensure innovation in frontier AI aligns with human values, safety standards, and international trust frameworks.

45. Correct Answer: (a) Google

Explanation: Google has announced a massive \$15 billion investment over the next five years to establish an AI data centre in Andhra Pradesh, making it the company's largest investment in India so far. The project is being developed in partnership with the Adani Group and Airtel, focusing on building robust AI infrastructure, including a new international subsea gateway. This initiative will enhance India's digital capacity, strengthen data connectivity, and contribute to advancing AI-driven innovation and cloud technologies across the region.

46. Correct Answer: (c) Sarvam AI

Explanation: Sarvam AI, a Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence firm, has collaborated with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to make Aadhaar services smarter and more secure using generative AI tools. In April 2025, it also received approval to develop India's Sovereign LLM Ecosystem, an open-source language model framework to strengthen public service delivery, improve governance transparency, and build digital trust. This partnership marks a major step in India's goal to advance AI-driven innovation in citizen services through indigenous technology.

47. Correct Answer: (b) Only II and III

Explanation: UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme has facilitated the establishment of four regional registers and encouraged the formation of

National “Memory of the World” Committees in over 100 countries to safeguard and promote access to documentary heritage. Launched in 1992, the programme’s focus extends beyond preservation to include enhancing accessibility and awareness of global documentary heritage.

48. Correct Answer: (b) 14 inscriptions

Explanation: UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register now includes 14 inscriptions from India, representing the nation’s extraordinary documentary and archival legacy. These inscriptions cover a wide range of materials—ancient manuscripts, historical documents, maps, and rare archival records—that reflect India’s civilizational depth and cultural continuity. The inclusion of Indian heritage in this global register reinforces the country’s commitment to preserving knowledge systems, linguistic diversity, and historical narratives for future generations while promoting global recognition of its documentary treasures.

49. Correct Answer: (d) Two submissions

Explanation: Under UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme, a maximum of two submissions from any single country can be inscribed in the Register in a given year. This rule ensures balanced global representation and diversity in the selection process. Since 1997, the Register has been updated biennially, with 2017 marking the year of the highest number of new additions since its inception. The two-entry limit per country helps maintain equitable recognition of documentary heritage from all regions of the world.

50. Correct Answer: (c) UNESCO added 74 heritage collections, bringing the total number of entries recorded to 570 worldwide.

Explanation: According to UNESCO’s latest update, 74 new documentary heritage collections were added to the Memory of the World Register, increasing the total to 570 entries. This inclusion highlights UNESCO’s continued efforts to safeguard and promote access to the world’s documentary heritage, ensuring that significant historical records are preserved for future generations across diverse regions and cultures.

51. Correct Answer: (b) Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

Explanation: The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), Pune, serves as the custodian of the rare manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata’s Natyashastra recognized by UNESCO under its Memory of the World Register. Founded in 1917, BORI is one of India’s oldest centers of Indological research and manuscript preservation. It houses thousands of palm-leaf and paper manuscripts covering Sanskrit, Prakrit, and other classical languages. The inclusion of these manuscripts in UNESCO’s register highlights their global significance in documenting India’s intellectual, philosophical, and artistic heritage, as well as BORI’s vital role in safeguarding this legacy through scientific conservation and scholarly archiving.

52. Correct Answer: (a) Sage Bharata

Explanation: The Natyashastra is traditionally attributed to Sage Bharata, who is regarded as the father of Indian dramaturgy and performance theory. Comprising around 36,000 verses, this ancient Sanskrit text provides a comprehensive framework for natya (drama), abhinaya (acting), rasa (aesthetic emotion), bhava (feeling), and sangita (music). UNESCO’s recognition highlights its universal significance as one of the earliest and most detailed works on theatre and performing traditions in the world.

Section – C : Legal Reasoning

53. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Reference Line: “The surety’s liability is, by default, coextensive with that of the principal debtor (Section 128), unless the contract limits it; thus, absent a contrary term, the surety answers for principal, interest, and costs to the same extent as the debtor.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While it is true that a surety’s promise is secondary in nature and that guarantees should be construed strictly, this principle of strict construction does not permit courts to arbitrarily truncate the scope of liability where the contracting parties themselves have used no limiting or restrictive words. Section 128 establishes a clear default rule that the surety’s liability is coextensive with the principal debtor’s liability, and this default rule continues to govern the relationship absent any contrary stipulation or express limitation in the guarantee contract itself.

Option (b) Correct: The statutory framework under Section 128 unambiguously establishes that a surety’s liability mirrors that of the principal debtor in its entirety, encompassing principal amount, contractual interest, and litigation costs, unless the guarantee contract itself contains specific language that narrows or limits this coextensive liability. Since Meera’s guarantee contained no such contractual cap, limitation clause, or restrictive language of any kind, she remains liable for the full decretal amount to the same extent as Rajat under the default coextensive liability rule.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option attempts to artificially split liability between different categories of monetary obligations principal versus interest and costs but such a division finds absolutely no support or foundation in the language or structure of Section 128. The provision expressly aligns and equates the surety’s total exposure with the debtor’s whole and entire liability, making no distinction between types of sums owed. There is no legal basis for treating interest and costs differently from the principal amount in determining the surety’s obligations.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option fundamentally misunderstands the nature of coextensive liability established under the guarantee of contract framework. The Bank is under no legal obligation whatsoever to first exhaust every possible remedy against the principal debtor Rajat before proceeding to

enforce the guarantee against the surety. Coextensive liability expressly permits and authorizes the creditor to sue the surety immediately upon the occurrence of default, unless the specific guarantee contract itself contains language that expressly postpones or delays such recourse to the surety.

54. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Reference Line: “A continuing guarantee (Section 129) extends to a series of transactions and endures until revoked for the future: by notice (Section 130), by the surety’s death as to future dealings (Section 131), or by variance in the underlying contract without the surety’s consent (Section 133), which discharges the surety for subsequent transactions.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The concept of “implied consent” to material contractual changes cannot simply be invented or presumed by courts without any factual foundation showing actual knowledge and agreement. Section 133 specifically treats any variance or modification in the underlying contract terms made without the surety’s express consent as an event that automatically discharges the surety from liability for all subsequent transactions that occur after such unauthorized variance. The silence of a surety in the face of undisclosed changes cannot be construed as implied consent to commercially significant alterations.

Option (b) Incorrect: While it is true that a continuing guarantee generally remains operative for future transactions until formally revoked, this principle is not absolute and does not operate irrespective of all circumstances. A continuing guarantee is not rendered irrevocable or immune in the face of material unilateral alterations made by the creditor and debtor without the surety’s knowledge or assent. Statutory discharge under Section 133 automatically follows when the core terms and conditions of the underlying contract are materially varied without obtaining the surety’s consent to such changes.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option grossly overstates the consequences of default and incorrectly suggests that any default event immediately and automatically discharges the entire guarantee in its entirety, releasing the surety from all past obligations as well as future ones. In reality, when discharge occurs due to variance

under Section 133, earlier liabilities that arose and crystallized under the original, unvaried terms typically remain enforceable against the surety. The statutory discharge operates prospectively for subsequent transactions occurring after the variance, not retroactively to extinguish past liabilities already within the old contractual terms.

Option (d) Correct: The referenced statutory rule in Section 133 precisely and directly covers this exact factual situation presented in the question. When there is a material variance or modification in the terms of the underlying contract such as enlargement of credit limits and extension of payment terms made without obtaining the surety's prior consent, the law treats this as automatically discharging and releasing the surety from liability for all subsequent transactions that occur under the continuing guarantee after such unauthorized variance, while preserving liability for earlier transactions.

55. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "the surety is entitled to the benefit of all securities existing when suretyship was undertaken, whether known or unknown; loss or release of such securities without the surety's consent discharges the surety pro tanto (Section 141)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The statutory passage expressly and unambiguously grants the surety a legal entitlement to claim the benefit of all securities, collateral, and charges that existed at the time when the suretyship was originally undertaken, regardless of whether the surety had actual knowledge of such securities or remained unaware of their existence. When such securities are lost, released, or impaired through the creditor's negligence or deliberate action without obtaining the surety's prior consent, the law provides that the surety shall be discharged proportionally that is, pro tanto to the extent of the value represented by such lost or released security.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option fundamentally mischaracterizes the relationship between collateral security management and surety liability by suggesting that collateral treatment is entirely irrelevant to the surety's obligations. In reality, the creditor's handling and preservation of collateral is absolutely central and material to determining the surety's exposure under the guarantee. Section 141 explicitly and directly ties the extent of the surety's liability to the creditor's duty to preserve and maintain all securities that were

available at the inception and commencement of the suretyship arrangement, making collateral management highly relevant.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option dramatically overstates the legal consequences of creditor impairment of securities by suggesting that any creditor lapse whatsoever completely annihilates and extinguishes the entire guarantee, leaving absolutely no residual claim against the surety. The reality is quite different: the statutory discharge provided under Section 141 is carefully calibrated to be proportional rather than total in nature. Only the specific value of the lost or released security operates to reduce the surety's liability on a pro tanto basis, unless there exist other independent and separate discharging grounds that might affect the entire guarantee.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option completely inverts and reverses the statutory scheme by suggesting that the surety must somehow bear the commercial risks and consequences arising from the creditor's own impairment or mishandling of collateral securities. Such an interpretation is fundamentally contrary to Section 141's protective framework. The creditor's impairment, negligence, or release of securities cannot and does not operate to enlarge or increase the surety's original obligation; rather, it operates in precisely the opposite direction to reduce the surety's liability on a proportional, pro tanto basis to the extent of the security value lost.

56. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "Discharge may occur by creditor-debtor release (Section 134), composition/time/not to sue agreements (Section 135) unless the surety assents, mere forbearance being insufficient to discharge (Section 137)"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option fundamentally conflates and confuses two entirely distinct legal concepts by erroneously equating any mere delay or forbearance in initiating suit with the formal, legally binding act of "giving time" to the debtor through a contractual agreement. Section 137 makes abundantly clear and explicit that mere forbearance that is, simply choosing to wait before suing or temporarily refraining from enforcement action does not constitute giving time in the legal sense and therefore does not operate to discharge the surety from his secondary obligations and promises under the guarantee contract.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option incorrectly assumes and presumes that preliminary negotiations or ongoing discussions aimed at potential restructure of debt obligations always and automatically imply the existence of a binding, enforceable promise or contractual commitment to grant additional time to the debtor. However, negotiations alone, absent the conclusion and execution of a definitive and binding agreement, simply do not amount to or constitute a Section 135 "time" contract that would trigger discharge of the surety. No automatic discharge can follow merely from preliminary talks, discussions, or negotiations that have not yet crystallized into concluded agreements.

Option (c) Correct: The cited statutory language draws and establishes a precise and critical distinction between different types of creditor conduct and their respective legal consequences. Binding, enforceable agreements to give time, enter into compositions, or contract not to sue do operate to discharge the surety unless the surety has expressly assented to such arrangements. However, mere forbearance simply choosing to delay filing suit or temporarily holding back from enforcement while sending reminders is expressly stated to be insufficient to trigger any discharge of the surety's continuing liability under the guarantee contract.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option invents and introduces an entirely fictitious legal requirement that has absolutely no basis or foundation in the relevant statutory provisions of Sections 135 through 137. There exists no prerequisite or mandatory condition requiring the creditor to first liquidate, realize, or exhaust available collateral securities as a precondition to initiating suit against the surety for recovery. The manufactured defense articulated in this option suggesting that waiting to sue alone somehow unlawfully enlarges the surety's business risk and automatically terminates the guarantee finds no support whatsoever in the applicable legal framework.

57. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Reference Line: "disclosure of material facts affecting the surety's risk (Section 143) and absence of misrepresentation (Section 142)"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While commercial parties generally have duties to investigate and conduct due diligence, the statutory framework explicitly imposes

specific affirmative duties upon creditors regarding the disclosure of material facts when soliciting guarantees from sureties. The doctrine of caveat emptor does not apply in its pure form where the creditor has made specific assurances or representations that induced the surety to sign. Creditor statements, particularly regarding material matters like the debtor's prior default history, cannot be casually dismissed as mere "sales talk" and can indeed invalidate an otherwise commercial promise when they constitute actionable misrepresentations.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option erroneously imports the heightened criminal standard of proof "beyond reasonable doubt" into what is fundamentally a civil contractual matter governed by civil evidentiary standards and burdens of proof. In civil matters involving misrepresentation and non-disclosure in the context of suretyship contracts, the ordinary civil standard of proof on a balance of probabilities applies. Misrepresentation of material facts and material non-disclosure by themselves suffice to vitiate and avoid suretyship arrangements under the statutory framework, without any requirement to establish fraud to the demanding criminal standard of proof.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option artificially and incorrectly introduces a requirement of collusion or joint deceit between the debtor and creditor as a necessary precondition to avoiding the guarantee based on misrepresentation. However, collusion between the parties is simply unnecessary under the statutory scheme. The creditor's own independent misrepresentation or deliberate concealment of material facts known to the creditor can, by itself, suffice to vitiate and render unenforceable the guarantee contract against the surety, entirely irrespective of whether the debtor had any knowledge, participation, or role in such misstatements or omissions.

Option (d) Correct: The statutory passage explicitly identifies and makes disclosure of material facts affecting the surety's risk assessment and the absence of misrepresentation essential prerequisites and foundational requirements for the formation and enforceability of valid suretyship contracts under Sections 142 and 143. When these essential requirements are breached whether through affirmative misrepresentation of existing facts or through material non-disclosure of information within the creditor's knowledge such breach renders the guarantee contract inoperative, unenforceable, and

voidable at the instance of the prejudiced surety who relied upon the misstatements or suffered from the concealment.

58. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "Section 144 recognises conditions precedent to suretyship (e.g., joining of co-sureties): if unmet, the guarantee is inoperative."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Section 144 expressly recognizes and gives full legal effect to conditions precedent that parties may incorporate into suretyship arrangements, including specifically the condition requiring the joining or signature of named co-sureties within a specified timeframe. Such conditions precedent function as gateway requirements that must be fully satisfied before any liability can legally attach to the conditional surety. When such an expressly stated condition precedent remains unmet as where a named co-surety never signs as required the guarantee simply never becomes operative or enforceable, and no liability attaches to the conditional surety regardless of subsequent events.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests that the creditor's performance of its obligations under the underlying contract such as delivering goods to the buyer can somehow substitute for, replace, or cure the non-fulfillment of an express condition precedent requiring a co-surety's signature. Performance by the creditor and satisfaction of conditions precedent are entirely separate and independent legal requirements. Delivery of goods cannot retroactively or retrospectively create, manufacture, or perfect the missing assent and signature from the named co-surety whose joinder was made an explicit precondition to the guarantee's effectiveness and operation.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option fundamentally misconstrues and mischaracterizes the legal nature and effect of a condition precedent by treating it merely as a contribution term or apportionment clause that affects only the quantum or proportion of liability among multiple sureties. However, Section 144 recognizes conditions precedent as threshold gateway requirements to the very existence and operation of liability itself, not as mere divisible apportionment provisions. When the condition joining of a named co-surety fails to be satisfied, the consequence is that the guarantee never becomes operative at all, rather than simply creating a different contribution ratio among sureties.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option attempts to invoke the surety's status as a company director and her fiduciary position to somehow override, supersede, or abolish explicitly agreed contractual conditions precedent in the guarantee instrument. However, director status and fiduciary obligations to the company do not operate to eliminate or nullify conditions that the parties have expressly negotiated and incorporated into their contractual arrangements. The enforceability and operability of the guarantee instrument necessarily and properly hinges upon the satisfaction of the agreed precedent event the co-surety's joinder regardless of the surety's corporate role or fiduciary status within the company structure.

59. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Assault refers to the wrongful apprehension of fear in the mind of another person without actual physical contact."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option fundamentally misunderstands the distinct nature of assault as a separate and independent tort from battery. Contact or physical touching is completely unnecessary for the tort of assault to be established; rather, assault specifically protects the distinct legal interest against reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful or offensive contact, not merely against completed force or actual battery. Denying liability on the basis of absence of contact essentially collapses and conflates assault entirely into battery, which fundamentally misstates the well-established doctrine and eliminates assault's independent protective function in tort law.

Option (b) Correct: The stated legal principle fits this factual situation squarely and precisely: when a realistic gun-pointing gesture objectively and reasonably induces genuine fear of imminent violence in the mind of a reasonable person standing in the victim's position, the tort of assault is complete and actionable even if the weapon happens to be unloaded, incapable of causing harm, or is merely a theatrical prop, and even though no actual physical touching or contact occurs. Classic common law authority consistently recognizes and establishes this fundamental rule governing assault liability.

Option (c) Incorrect: The tort of assault may be committed and established through overt acts, threatening gestures, or menacing conduct that creates reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful contact in the victim's mind; it is absolutely not confined or

restricted solely to threatening words or explicit verbal menaces directed at the victim. Silent yet objectively menacing conduct such as pointing what appears to be a loaded firearm at someone from close range suffices completely to constitute actionable assault when such conduct reasonably causes fear of imminent violence, regardless of absence of accompanying verbal threats.

Option (d) Incorrect: The theatrical or rehearsal context of the conduct does not automatically create strict liability or guarantee that assault will be found in every instance; rather, the proper legal test remains whether a reasonable person standing in the plaintiff's position would experience genuine apprehension of imminent harmful contact in the specific moment and circumstances presented. Liability is not automatic for any and all rehearsal activities conducted in public spaces; the determination depends entirely on whether reasonable fear was objectively induced by the defendant's conduct toward the particular plaintiff under all the circumstances.

60. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "Mere obstruction, however, does not constitute battery, as held in *Innes v. Wylie*."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The tort of battery fundamentally and necessarily requires intentional, unlawful physical touching or contact with another person's body; merely equating deliberate obstruction of a person's chosen path with "force per se" inappropriately erases and eliminates the essential contact element that defines and distinguishes battery from other torts. This expansive interpretation directly contradicts the clearly stated legal principle that expressly excludes mere obstruction from the scope of battery liability, as such obstruction involves no actual physical touching or application of force to the plaintiff's person whatsoever.

Option (b) Incorrect: The creation of apprehension of imminent force or harmful contact properly falls within the distinct domain of the separate tort of assault, not battery; without actual physical contact or touching occurring between the defendant and plaintiff, the specific tort of battery simply is not and cannot be made out on the facts presented. Moreover, in this particular scenario, reasonable apprehension of collision or contact is not even plausibly shown, since the security officer remained stationary and immobile, making no threatening movements toward the plaintiff,

and multiple alternative routes remained available for passage.

Option (c) Incorrect: The tort of false imprisonment necessarily requires proof of total and complete restraint of the plaintiff's liberty of movement in all directions; the clear presence of multiple unobstructed exits, alternative doorways, and available side space around the security officer definitively negates any element of complete confinement or total restraint of movement. Therefore, attempting to re-characterize this obstruction claim as false imprisonment necessarily fails on the essential element of total restraint, making this alternative theory of liability equally unavailable to the plaintiff as a basis for recovery in this case.

Option (d) Correct: The cited reference line from the established precedent of *Innes v. Wylie* is absolutely decisive and controlling on these facts: an unmoving human barrier or stationary person who engages in no physical touch or contact does not constitute the tort of battery under any circumstances, especially and particularly when other reasonable avenues, alternative routes, and unobstructed pathways exist and remain available to permit the plaintiff to pass freely without any interference or complete restraint of movement in all directions.

61. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "The use of force against a trespasser is justified, as in *Pratap Daji v. B.B. & C.I. Rly.*, where ejecting a ticketless passenger was not battery."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The established legal principle clearly recognizes and establishes a qualified privilege for property owners, controllers, and common carriers: the use of reasonable and proportionate force to remove a trespasser who has no legal right to remain on the premises defeats and negates the element of unlawfulness that is essential and necessary for establishing battery liability. The specific facts presented demonstrate only minimal, controlled, non-violent physical contact used to guide the ticketless passenger off the train, which falls well within the scope of justified and privileged force under the circumstances.

Option (b) Incorrect: While consent is generally required for lawful touching, treating all non-consensual physical contact as automatically unlawful battery inappropriately ignores and eliminates well-

established legal privileges and defenses that apply where property controllers, possessors, and common carriers exercise their recognized rights. Legal privileges for the use of reasonable force exist independently of consent in certain defined situations, such as removing trespassers, and these privileges provide complete justification that defeats battery claims even when the touching was not consented to by the person being removed.

Option (c) Incorrect: The tort of battery absolutely does not require serious harm, substantial injury, or visible damage to be actionable in civil proceedings; rather, battery requires only intentional unlawful touching of another person, regardless of the degree of harm caused or whether any injury results. However, in this particular case, the physical touching involved is not unlawful at all because it is specifically privileged and justified by the railway's right to remove trespassers using reasonable force; the defense succeeds not because "no harm was done" but because the touching was legally justified and privileged.

Option (d) Incorrect: Established tort law does not mandate or require police intermediation, intervention, or escort for all ejections of trespassers from private property or common carriers; insisting on such a blanket requirement as a precondition to any physical removal would effectively and completely extinguish the long-recognized privilege of property possessors and carriers to use reasonable force themselves. The law expressly permits controllers of property to exercise reasonable self-help through measured force to protect their possessory rights and enforce lawful rules without first seeking police assistance in every instance.

62. **Correct Answer:** (c)

Reference Line: "confinement with guards outside amounted to false imprisonment despite the plaintiff's ignorance."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Following more recent and progressive judicial authority such as the *Meering* decision, actual awareness or subjective knowledge of the restraint is not treated as a strict or essential element of the tort of false imprisonment in all circumstances. A deliberately imposed hidden cordon, barrier, or restraint created through human guards can still constitute total and complete restraint of liberty, thereby making the detention actionable as false imprisonment despite the plaintiff's complete

ignorance or lack of awareness of the confinement at the time it was occurring.

Option (b) Incorrect: The fact that a door remains technically unlocked is entirely immaterial and irrelevant where human barriers, stationed guards, or other means render exit practically impossible or effectively prevented; physical locks, bolted doors, and mechanical keys are not the only recognized method of creating restraint for purposes of false imprisonment. Total restraint can be accomplished and established through human agents who prevent passage just as effectively as through locked doors or physical barriers, making the unlocked status of the door completely beside the point in determining liability.

Option (c) Correct: The specifically cited reference line from relevant case law is directly on point and controlling for this factual situation: guard-enforced confinement, where security personnel are stationed with instructions to prevent exit, amounts to actionable false imprisonment even if and when the detainee did not realize, know about, or become aware of the restraint at the time it was actually occurring. The intentional creation of total restraint through human barriers is sufficient to establish the tort regardless of the plaintiff's contemporaneous knowledge or subjective awareness.

Option (d) Incorrect: Total restraint of liberty may properly arise from either physical acts or verbal commands and threats; quiet human barriers, silently stationed guards with instructions to prevent passage, or physical blocking can create complete and total restraint without any accompanying verbal threats, explicit words of compulsion, or spoken commands being necessary. The tort focuses on the objective fact of total restraint of the plaintiff's liberty of movement, not on the particular means verbal versus physical by which that complete restraint is accomplished or communicated.

63. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Reference Line: "Consent negates trespass, as in *Robinson v. Balmain New Ferry Co.*, where refusal to repay entry fees did not constitute detention."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: When the plaintiff voluntarily accepted and consented to the clearly posted conditions upon entry into the premises, conditioning subsequent exit on payment of the stated fee is not coercive restraint but rather legitimate enforcement of contractually agreed terms that bounded and defined

the conditional nature of access from the outset. Treating such agreed and disclosed terms as unlawful coercion inappropriately re-writes and transforms contractually bounded and conditional access arrangements into a tort of detention, despite the plaintiff's initial voluntary consent and acceptance of the posted conditions.

Option (b) Correct: The specifically cited rule from the leading precedent of *Robinson v. Balmain New Ferry Co.* directly applies and controls this situation: where entry onto premises is expressly conditional and clearly posted as such, and the patron voluntarily consents to and accepts those stated conditions, the subsequent enforcement of the agreed condition is not false imprisonment merely because the patron later changes their mind and refuses to comply with the payment term they initially accepted when entering the premises under those disclosed conditional terms.

Option (c) Incorrect: A patron's unilateral subjective wish or decision to leave the premises at a later time does not retroactively erase, invalidate, or nullify the clearly posted conditions of entry and exit that the patron voluntarily accepted and agreed to when initially entering the property. Insisting on mandatory police involvement or intervention for every disagreement over exit payment terms would severely distort fundamental property rights, eliminate the enforceability of conditional access arrangements, and undermine basic consent doctrine that permits property owners to impose reasonable conditions on entry to their premises.

Option (d) Incorrect: Tort liability for false imprisonment does not hinge on, depend upon, or turn on whether the property operator offers a refund, monetary compensation, or opportunity to unwind the transaction after the patron's entry; conversely, the absence of any refund offer does not somehow transform previously agreed and validly accepted conditional access terms into unlawful confinement. The determinative factor is the plaintiff's initial voluntary consent to the posted conditions, not subsequent offers or refusals regarding refunds, which are irrelevant to whether the original detention was lawful or unlawful.

64. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Lawful arrest made on reasonable grounds does not amount to false imprisonment."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Applying outcome-based tests that look to whether charges were ultimately filed is fundamentally wrong in principle and misstates the proper legal analysis; the legality and lawfulness of an arrest necessarily turns on whether reasonable grounds existed to support the arrest at the specific time it was made, not on whether criminal charges later ensue, proceed to trial, or result in conviction. The fact that a suspect is subsequently released without prosecution does not retroactively render an initially lawful arrest made on reasonable grounds into false imprisonment.

Option (b) Correct: The cited reference line is controlling and dispositive: when reasonable grounds exist to support and justify a lawful arrest at the time police take the suspect into custody, no tort of false imprisonment lies or can be established merely because the suspect is later released without charges being filed or prosecution being initiated. The existence of reasonable suspicion and grounds at the moment of arrest provides complete justification and defeats any claim of unlawful detention, regardless of the ultimate outcome or disposition of the investigation.

Option (c) Incorrect: Criminal procedure law expressly permits and authorizes warrantless arrests to be made on reasonable suspicion of involvement in criminal activity in specifically defined circumstances and for certain categories of offenses; a blanket requirement that police must always secure a judicial warrant before restraining any person suspected of any offense fundamentally misstates and misrepresents the actual scope of arrest powers conferred on law enforcement. Warrantless arrests based on reasonable grounds are lawful and do not constitute false imprisonment when proper justification exists.

Option (d) Incorrect: There is no absolute, blanket tort immunity that shields the State or public authorities from all false imprisonment claims simply by virtue of their governmental status; rather, liability properly depends on whether the specific restraint was lawful or unlawful based on whether reasonable grounds existed, not on a generic "good faith" defense that automatically trumps the essential elements of the tort. Public authorities can be held liable for false imprisonment when arrests are made without reasonable grounds, even if officers subjectively believed they were acting properly.

65. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: “Eligible categories include women, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, industrial workmen, persons in custody, victims of disasters or human trafficking, disabled persons, and individuals with income below ₹1 lakh (₹1.25 lakh for Supreme Court cases).”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option fundamentally mischaracterizes the legal aid eligibility framework by asserting that income considerations universally control and gate-keep every single application without exception. The statutory passage and scheme explicitly list and enumerate multiple categorical eligibilities including women, children, disabled persons, SC/ST members, and others in addition to and completely independent of the income-based class of beneficiaries. Treating income as a universal and absolute gatekeeping threshold directly contradicts the deliberately inclusive and multi-faceted eligibility scheme established by the Legal Services Authorities Act and constitutional access-to-justice policies under Article 39A.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests that women alone enjoy exemption from income limits while simultaneously imposing an additional requirement that disabled persons must provide further proof of indigence or financial hardship to justify and qualify for free legal representation in court proceedings. However, the authoritative text and statutory framework does not impose any such indigence add-on, additional financial burden, or supplementary proof requirement specifically for disability-based eligibility. Both women and disabled persons appear and are recognized as completely independent categorical classes or status-based categories for obtaining legal-aid access, without any income verification overlay or additional financial demonstration requirements.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option impermissibly and artificially limits the scope of categorical exemptions from income thresholds to only persons in custody and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, thereby severely truncating and cutting down the much broader list of enumerated vulnerable classes specifically identified and protected by statute, scheme rules, and constitutional policy. The legal aid eligibility policy framework deliberately and intentionally extends categorical access to a considerably broader and more comprehensive vulnerable population list that includes women, children, disabled persons,

industrial workmen, disaster victims, trafficking survivors, and other marginalized groups beyond just custody and SC/ST status.

Option (d) Correct: The specifically quoted reference line from the authoritative source material clearly and unambiguously recognizes parallel, alternative, and independent routes to legal aid eligibility both status-based categorical qualifications such as being a woman or disabled person, and a separate monetary income threshold for general applicants set at below ₹1 lakh annually (or ₹1.25 lakh for Supreme Court matters). Therefore, Neelam plainly qualifies for free legal aid through her status as both a woman and a disabled person, despite her annual income of ₹1.6 lakh crossing and exceeding the income ceiling that would otherwise apply to non-categorical general applicants seeking legal assistance.

66. **Correct Answer:** (c)

Reference Line: “Lok Adalats, functioning as Alternative Dispute Resolution forums under the 1987 Act, resolve disputes amicably at pre-litigation or pending stages. Their awards hold the same status as civil court decrees and are final and binding.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The governing statute expressly and deliberately elevates Lok Adalat outcomes and awards to the full legal status of civil court decrees, conferring upon them complete finality and binding effect regardless of their consensual or negotiated origin and character. Conducting merits re-appraisal and factual review by a first appellate civil court would be fundamentally inconsistent with and directly contrary to the statutorily conferred finality that Parliament has expressly attached to Lok Adalat awards. The fact that awards reflect compromised figures reached through facilitated negotiation rather than adversarial adjudication does not diminish or reduce their decree-like legal effect, enforceability, and immunity from ordinary appellate challenge.

Option (b) Incorrect: A Lok Adalat is fundamentally not structured as or intended to function as a merits-adjudicating tribunal whose factual findings and legal determinations are subject to appellate or tribunal-style review for errors of fact or law. Rather, Lok Adalat awards are grounded in and derive their legitimacy from the voluntary consent and mutual agreement of the disputing parties, and these awards receive statutory decree-equivalence and finality by parliamentary command, not tribunal-style

reviewability. Treating Lok Adalat awards as tribunal decisions requiring or permitting factual error review fundamentally misconstrues their consensual nature, constitutional role, and the statutory framework governing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Option (c) Correct: The authoritative passage from the governing statute expressly and unambiguously grants Lok Adalat awards the identical legal status as civil court decrees, making them final and binding without any provision for or possibility of filing a standard civil first appeal challenging their correctness, adequacy, or fairness. This statutory conferral of decree status and finality operates to completely foreclose and bar the filing of any regular civil appellate challenge, making the appellant's attempt to "set aside" the award as erroneous on merits wholly not maintainable. The registry's concerns about maintainability are entirely well-founded and legally correct under the statutory scheme.

Option (d) Incorrect: There is no statutory provision, legal mechanism, or procedural rule that provides for or mandates the automatic conversion of a barred or non-maintainable civil appeal against a Lok Adalat award into a writ petition by default operation. Extraordinary constitutional jurisdiction through writ remedies under Articles 226 or 32 is entirely discretionary in nature, available only in exceptional circumstances, and is certainly not intended to function as a built-in or automatic substitute avenue for barred ordinary appeals. Converting every blocked appeal into writ review would fundamentally subvert and defeat the statutory finality Parliament deliberately conferred on Lok Adalat awards to promote alternative dispute resolution and reduce litigation.

67. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "In *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar* (1979), the Supreme Court declared free legal aid and speedy trial as part of Article 21."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While it is doctrinally true that Directive Principles of State Policy contained in Part IV of the Constitution are formally classified as non-justiciable and do not by themselves create directly enforceable legal rights in courts, the Supreme Court has explicitly and deliberately constitutionalized the right to free legal aid by embedding it within the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. This constitutional transformation and

elevation means that legal aid can indeed ground enforceable relief and remedies in courts without requiring the petitioner to prove any separate statutory breach or violation, as the right now flows directly from an enforceable fundamental right rather than remaining merely an aspirational directive.

Option (b) Correct: The specifically quoted landmark holding in *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar* unambiguously declared and embedded free legal aid and the right to speedy trial as integral, inseparable components of the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21, thereby making these rights fully enforceable in courts through constitutional remedies. This judicial pronouncement allows Babu to successfully obtain meaningful relief and redress for the State's failure to ensure legal assistance at the earliest remand stage, even before any actual trial prejudice can be quantified, demonstrated, or proven, because the denial itself constitutes a violation of his constitutionally protected fundamental right to life and liberty with procedural fairness.

Option (c) Incorrect: The constitutional right to free legal aid at the earliest stages of criminal proceedings does not hinge upon, depend on, or require the accused to subsequently prove actual prejudice to the trial outcome or demonstrate that lack of early representation led to a wrongful conviction. Rather, the deprivation of legal assistance at the very outset at first appearance, remand hearing, or initial custody stage itself directly contravenes and violates Article 21's comprehensive fair-procedure guarantee and due process content, making relief available regardless of whether the petitioner can quantify downstream trial prejudice or point to specific adverse consequences that flowed from the initial denial.

Option (d) Incorrect: Fiscal constraints, budgetary limitations, or resource scarcity in particular periods cannot operate to suspend, eliminate, or temporarily switch off the State's fundamental constitutional obligations to protect and effectuate citizens' fundamental rights, including the Article 21 right to legal aid. The duty to secure and provide meaningful legal representation for indigent accused persons at the earliest stage is a core constitutional obligation that cannot be made contingent upon, subordinated to, or defeated by prevailing budgetary shortfalls, DLSA fund availability, or resource allocation challenges. Fundamental rights remain constant obligations regardless of the State's financial circumstances or administrative convenience.

68. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: “Khatri v. State of Bihar (1981) directed judges to inform accused persons of this right.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The governing passage and authoritative Supreme Court precedent expressly impose a clear, affirmative, and proactive judicial duty on trial judges to inform unrepresented accused persons of their constitutional and statutory right to obtain free legal aid, rather than adopting a passive or reactive stance. A purely passive approach that places the entire onus and burden on the accused to independently discover and explicitly request legal representation if desired would be fundamentally inconsistent with and directly contrary to the Court’s protective directive designed to secure effective representation for indigent and vulnerable accused persons who may be unaware of available entitlements, rights, and assistance programs.

Option (b) Incorrect: The judicial obligation to inform accused persons about legal aid rights and ensure access to counsel is not artificially confined to, limited to, or triggered only at the specific procedural stage of charge framing, after which the court supposedly cannot or should not interfere with counsel choices or the accused’s lack of representation. Rather, this duty is properly understood as a continuing, ongoing safeguard that operates and remains active throughout the criminal proceedings whenever and at whatever stage the lack of legal counsel for an indigent accused becomes apparent or emerges, ensuring fair trial protection at every critical juncture from initial appearance through final disposition.

Option (c) Incorrect: The Supreme Court’s directive establishing the judicial duty to inform accused persons of legal aid rights is absolutely not age-limited, juvenile-specific, or confined only to minor defendants, with adult accused persons being somehow presumed to independently understand courtroom entitlements, procedural rights, and available assistance programs without any judicial prompting or information. On the contrary, adult indigent accused persons particularly those who are illiterate, unsophisticated in legal matters, or from marginalized backgrounds are squarely and centrally within the protective ambit and intended beneficiaries of the judicial intimation requirement designed to effectuate Article 21 and Article 39A’s access-to-justice guarantees.

Option (d) Correct: The specifically cited landmark precedent *Khatri v. State of Bihar* unambiguously establishes and mandates a clear, affirmative obligation on trial judges to proactively inform unrepresented accused persons of their constitutional and statutory right to obtain free legal aid and assistance from legal services authorities. Failure to discharge this judicial duty and provide such information undermines and impairs fundamental fair-trial guarantees embedded in Article 21, compromises the accused’s ability to effectively defend against criminal charges, and conflicts with the constitutional mandate under Article 39A to ensure equal access to justice for economically disadvantaged persons facing the coercive power of the criminal justice system.

69. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: “Citizens may apply for free legal aid in person, in writing, or online through NALSA’s portal.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While digital filing systems and online portals may legitimately improve administrative efficiency, reduce paperwork, and enhance transparency in legal aid delivery, imposing digital exclusivity as the sole permissible mode of application cannot override or eliminate the expressly permitted, statutorily authorized multiple modes of application that citizens are entitled to use. A digital-only gate or pipeline directly contradicts and unlawfully restricts the deliberately inclusive, multi-channel access framework envisaged by the statutory scheme, which intentionally provides alternative pathways to accommodate diverse populations with varying levels of digital literacy, internet connectivity, and technological access across India’s heterogeneous society.

Option (b) Correct: The authoritative passage from the governing framework explicitly and clearly enumerates three equally valid and permitted routes for citizens to apply for free legal aid: in person through physical walk-in applications, in writing through postal or courier submission, or online through NALSA’s dedicated web portal. Excluding or refusing to accept physical and written applications on the pretext of administrative efficiency or staff shortages unlawfully and unconstitutionally restricts and impairs access to constitutional access-to-justice initiatives and legal services programs, particularly disadvantaging elderly persons, rural populations, digitally illiterate citizens,

and others lacking internet connectivity or technological familiarity.

Option (c) Incorrect: Offering token assistance through limited weekly kiosks or periodic physical filing windows does not cure, remedy, or legitimize an otherwise fundamentally exclusionary and unlawful digital-only rule that contravenes the express statutory multi-modal framework. The legal entitlement that citizens possess is not to a narrow, restricted weekly window or occasional accommodation but rather to continuous access through multiple concurrent modes in-person, written, and online at all times during regular business hours. Limiting physical access to a single day weekly or providing minimal kiosk support does not satisfy the statutory requirement to maintain all three application avenues simultaneously and equally.

Option (d) Incorrect: The authoritative text and statutory framework does not create, establish, or contemplate any group-specific, category-based, or demographic-specific exceptions where certain vulnerable classes like women and SC/ST members receive multi-modal application privileges while other categories or general citizens must mandatorily adapt to portal-based digital intake for caseload management efficiency. Rather, all citizens regardless of gender, caste, disability status, or other categorical classifications share exactly the same tri-modal application avenues and entitlements, and no hierarchy of access modes exists based on applicant demographics or vulnerability categories under the inclusive constitutional and statutory framework.

70. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Reference Line: “The decree is the authoritative legal order, while the certificate serves as an official summary for documentation purposes.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: A divorce certificate issued by a marriage registrar or court registry is fundamentally a ministerial record or administrative document that memorializes the fact of dissolution, not the adjudicatory instrument that legally determines and decides the substantive rights, obligations, and entitlements of the parties. The authoritative passage clearly and explicitly differentiates the administrative certificate from the judicial decree, with only the latter containing the court's actual substantive determinations, findings of fact, legal conclusions, and

dispositive orders regarding contested matters such as property division, custody arrangements, maintenance obligations, and other ancillary relief, which bind the parties and third parties dealing with them.

Option (b) Incorrect: An affidavit executed by one or both parties, regardless of how solemnly sworn or notarized, simply cannot elevate, transform, or upgrade an administrative divorce certificate to the superior legal status of a judicial decree with its attendant dispositive authority over contested rights and obligations. The judicial judgment or decree, not unilateral or even bilateral party statements contained in affidavits, carries the exclusive dispositive legal authority over substantive family-law entitlements, property rights, custody arrangements, and support obligations because it represents the court's adjudication after notice, hearing, evidence, and legal determination rather than merely the parties' own characterizations or assertions.

Option (c) Incorrect: Police no-objection certificates, clearance letters, or similar law-enforcement documents have absolutely no role whatsoever in adjudicating, determining, or resolving family-law entitlements such as property division, custody rights, maintenance obligations, or other ancillary relief in matrimonial proceedings. The authoritative passage assigns the adjudicatory function the actual legal determination of contested rights and obligations arising from marital dissolution solely and exclusively to the decree embodying the Family Court's reasoned decision after proper adversarial or consensual proceedings, findings of fact, application of law, and formal pronouncement, not to any administrative or police documentation that may exist in the parties' files.

Option (d) Correct: The cited text is completely explicit and unambiguous on this critical distinction: the decree represents the authoritative legal order issued by the Family Court that actually adjudicates all contested issues, determines substantive rights and obligations, and legally binds the parties and third parties with respect to property, custody, support, and all other ancillary matters; meanwhile, the certificate merely serves as an official administrative summary or ministerial record memorializing the fact of marital dissolution for documentation purposes, third-party verification, file maintenance, and routine administrative uses such as updating civil status records with various governmental and private institutions.

71. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Once signed and sealed by the judge, the decree legally dissolves the marriage; without it, the parties remain married in the eyes of the law, even if separated."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Private documents such as notarised memoranda of understanding or community-level attestations and panchayat endorsements, regardless of how formally they may be executed or witnessed, simply do not possess the legal force or capacity to effect marital dissolution under Indian family law. The authoritative passage consistently and unambiguously centres the entire concept of legal dissolution exclusively on the issuance of a formal judicial decree by a competent court, not on community approvals, local endorsements, or any form of informal settlement arrangements between spouses, however detailed or well-documented they may be through notarization or witness signatures.

Option (b) Correct: The cited text establishes with absolute clarity that only a judge-signed and court-sealed decree issued by a competent Family Court possesses the legal authority and capacity to dissolve a marriage under Indian matrimonial law; in the complete absence of such a formal judicial decree, the parties necessarily and inevitably remain legally married in the eyes of the law, notwithstanding any period of physical separation they may have undergone, any private arrangements or settlements they may have executed regarding property or finances, or any public announcements or social media declarations they may have made about the purported end of their marital relationship.

Option (c) Incorrect: A private settlement agreement, memorandum of understanding, or any form of divorce certificate issued by administrative authorities cannot legally substitute for or replace the fundamentally adjudicatory character and dispositive legal force of a formal judicial decree issued by a Family Court after proper proceedings. Treating these diverse documents as functionally interchangeable or legally equivalent directly contradicts and undermines the passage's clear decree-centric rule that exclusively assigns the power of legal marital dissolution to judicial pronouncements rather than to private contracts, administrative records, or unilateral party declarations of intent to terminate the marriage relationship.

Option (d) Incorrect: A mere printout, screenshot, or digital display of case information obtained from the eCourts online portal is absolutely not the constitutive legal act or instrument that accomplishes marital dissolution under family law. The authoritative passage specifically and deliberately emphasizes the critical importance of the decree's formal issuance through proper judicial proceedings and its authentication through the court's official seal and judge's signature; simply viewing divorce-related data, case status, or order information online through a web portal does not itself terminate or alter marital status or create legal capacity to remarry, as these are consequences that flow exclusively from the formal decree.

72. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "Some decrees can be viewed or downloaded online via the eCourts portal, though official use generally requires a certified copy."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While digital access to case records and judicial orders through online portals like eCourts represents significant progress in transparency and public access to court information, the authoritative passage deliberately and explicitly draws a critical distinction between mere online viewing or downloading of case information for general reference purposes and official reliance or formal use for sensitive status changes, legal proceedings, or institutional compliance requirements. A downloaded printout or PDF file lacking proper court certification and authentication does not universally satisfy all formal proof needs, particularly for personnel files, financial institution records, governmental status updates, and other contexts where sealed judicial copies bearing official certification remain the established documentary standard.

Option (b) Incorrect: A marriage registrar's letter, administrative correspondence, or ministerial communication, regardless of its official character or source, is not and cannot be treated as equivalent to the adjudicatory decree itself or to a properly certified judicial extract bearing the court's seal and clerk's attestation. Administrative notes, registrar communications, or ministerial letters simply cannot replace or substitute for court-sealed proof where institutional policies, regulatory requirements, legal practice standards, or evidentiary rules properly demand authenticated judicial documentation

demonstrating that proper proceedings occurred, a competent court adjudicated the matter, and a formal decree was issued following due process and legal determination of rights.

Option (c) Correct: The cited text from the passage explicitly and unambiguously states that although online access to case information, order viewing, and PDF downloading is increasingly possible and available through digital platforms such as the eCourts portal for public transparency and convenience, official reliance or formal use for sensitive purposes such as employment records, financial institution compliance, governmental status changes, immigration applications, or legal proceedings generally and typically requires a properly certified copy bearing the court's official seal and clerk's certification of authenticity. This documentary standard aligns precisely with the HR department's and bank's compliance practices described in the scenario, which properly insist on sealed judicial copies rather than informal web downloads.

Option (d) Incorrect: Lawyer undertakings, professional assurances, attorney certifications, or representative statements regarding the existence, content, or effect of judicial orders, regardless of the lawyer's reputation, standing, or good faith, simply cannot substitute for or replace actual judicial certification and authentication of court documents through the proper institutional mechanisms of court seals and clerk attestations. The authoritative passage specifically emphasizes the critical importance of documentary formality, authentication, and institutional certification for official records, legal proceedings, and sensitive status changes, not merely representative assurances, professional undertakings, or attorney statements that a particular order exists or contains particular terms, however reliable such professionals may generally be.

73. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Reference Line: "A divorce decree can be challenged through an appeal if obtained through fraud, coercion, procedural error, or lack of jurisdiction. The aggrieved party must file an appeal within 30–90 days..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The authoritative passage affirmatively and explicitly recognizes that appellate challenges are indeed available against divorce decrees under specified circumstances and within prescribed

timeframes; artificially limiting an aggrieved party solely to review proceedings before the same trial court that issued the contested decree would directly contradict the passage's clear statement of an appellate avenue for challenging decrees obtained through fraud, coercion, procedural error, or jurisdictional defects. Review before the issuing court and appellate reconsideration by a higher court serve distinct functions in the judicial hierarchy, and the passage specifically contemplates the latter remedy for the enumerated defects rather than confining all post-decree challenges to internal review.

Option (b) Incorrect: The appellate challenge described in the scenario and contemplated by the passage is fundamentally civil in nature, arising from alleged procedural irregularities, consent fabrication, and service defects in a matrimonial dissolution proceeding, and the passage's enumerated grounds for appeal fraud, coercion, procedural error, and jurisdictional defects are explicitly and quintessentially civil bases for seeking appellate reconsideration of family-law judgments. Criminal culpability, prosecution, or conviction is absolutely not required as a prerequisite to mounting a civil appeal challenging a divorce decree; treating criminality as a necessary condition would improperly exclude the vast majority of legitimate appellate challenges based on procedural irregularities, jurisdictional defects, or other civil grounds that do not involve criminal conduct.

Option (c) Incorrect: The authoritative text explicitly lists and enumerates multiple distinct grounds beyond mere lack of jurisdiction that can properly support an appellate challenge to a divorce decree, specifically including fraud in obtaining the decree, coercion of a party's consent or participation, and procedural error in the conduct of the trial court proceedings leading to judgment. Artificially treating jurisdiction as the exclusive or only permissible basis for appellate review would improperly and dramatically narrow the recognized scope of appellate scrutiny, excluding legitimate challenges based on trial court procedural errors, fabricated consent, fraudulent misrepresentations, service defects, or coerced participation all of which the passage expressly and explicitly recognizes as valid grounds for appellate intervention.

Option (d) Correct: The specific appeal described in the scenario alleging faulty service, fabricated consent signatures, and procedural lapses during trial court proceedings conducted while the party was abroad and

unrepresented fits squarely and precisely within the enumerated grounds that the passage specifies for challenging divorce decrees through the appellate process: fraud, coercion, procedural error, or lack of jurisdiction. Additionally, the 95-day elapsed period since the decree falls within the 30-to-90-day window that the passage explicitly prescribes for filing such appellate challenges, meaning both the substantive grounds (fraud and procedural error) and the temporal timing (within the prescribed window) align with and satisfy the passage's stated requirements for maintaining an appeal.

74. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "A typical divorce decree includes case details, the declaration of divorce, rulings on property division, child custody, spousal support, name change permissions, the effective date, and the judge's signature and court seal."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The authoritative passage provides an explicit and comprehensive enumeration of the typical contents included in a divorce decree: case identification details and party information; the formal declaration of marital dissolution; substantive rulings and determinations on property division and asset distribution; detailed orders regarding child custody arrangements and visitation schedules; provisions for spousal support or maintenance obligations; permissions for name changes if requested; specification of the effective date when dissolution becomes final; and critically, the judge's personal signature and the court's official seal authenticating the document. This complete decree, bearing all required signatures and seals, constitutes the operative instrument enabling enforcement of its terms and facilitating administrative updates at registries, financial institutions, and governmental agencies.

Option (b) Incorrect: The divorce certificate, as repeatedly emphasized throughout the passage, serves merely as an administrative summary or ministerial record that memorializes the bare fact that marital dissolution has occurred and provides a date of dissolution for civil status records; it does not embody, contain, or communicate the granular substantive rulings, detailed determinations, specific allocations, and enforceable orders that governmental agencies, financial institutions, property registries, and custody enforcement authorities actually need for implementing asset mutations, updating ownership

records, establishing custody schedules, computing support obligations, and performing other administrative actions that depend upon knowing the decree's specific substantive terms rather than merely knowing that dissolution occurred at some point.

Option (c) Incorrect: A private memorandum of understanding or settlement agreement between the parties, even when formally notarized and witnessed, fundamentally lacks the adjudicatory legal force, judicial authority, and enforcement machinery that only a court decree possesses under the civil procedure framework. It is specifically the judicial decree not the underlying private agreement that gives the parties' settlement terms their full legal effect, judicial enforceability, contempt-enforcement backing, execution authority, and binding force upon third parties such as registries, financial institutions, and governmental agencies. These authorities and institutions properly rely upon the decree itself when implementing changes to property records, custody arrangements, and other legal relationships because only the decree, not private contracts, carries dispositive judicial authority.

Option (d) Incorrect: Court notices of hearing, scheduling orders, or procedural directions issued during the pendency of matrimonial proceedings merely schedule future court appearances, set deadlines for pleadings or discovery, or manage the procedural progression of the case toward final judgment; they are absolutely not judgments, adjudications, or dispositive determinations of the parties' substantive rights and obligations. Using such interlocutory procedural notices as dispositive proof for asset mutation, custody enforcement, support calculations, or other substantive purposes would completely ignore and bypass the decree's critical formal and substantive content its actual adjudication of rights, its binding determinations, its enforceable orders, and its authentication through judicial signature and court seal.

75. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "Protection is automatic upon creation, with registration serving as proof."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Treating registration as a constitutive requirement that creates or generates copyright protection fundamentally contradicts the passage's clear articulation of the statutory framework under Indian copyright law. The statute protects

original literary, artistic, musical, and other creative expression automatically from the moment of creation without requiring any prior filing, application, or registration with the Copyright Office. Registration serves an important function as evidentiary proof of authorship, date of creation, and publication details, particularly in litigation contexts, but it absolutely does not create, generate, or constitute the underlying copyright itself, which exists independently from the moment original expression is fixed in tangible form. Option (b) Incorrect: The authoritative passage explicitly and unambiguously anchors copyright protection to the moment of creation of the original work, not to the subsequent act of first publication, public circulation, dissemination to the press, or commercial release. While publication may carry significance for certain evidentiary purposes, limitation period calculations, or notice requirements under specific provisions of the Copyright Act, it is definitively not the genesis, origin, or moment of birth of the copyright itself. Protection vests immediately when the author creates the original work and fixes it in some tangible medium, whether that work is subsequently published, circulated, kept private, or never released to the public at all. Option (c) Correct: The cited text from the passage is completely explicit and unambiguous on this fundamental principle of copyright law: automatic protection attaches immediately upon creation of the original work without any requirement of registration, filing, notice, or other formality as a precondition to enforceability; registration with the Copyright Office serves as valuable evidentiary aid and creates beneficial presumptions regarding authorship and dates in litigation. Therefore, Meera possesses enforceable copyright from the moment she created her original photo-essay and may immediately sue for injunction and damages based on unauthorized use, while optionally and strategically pursuing registration simultaneously to bolster evidentiary proof and strengthen her case. Option (d) Incorrect: Cease-and-desist notices or formal warning letters can certainly be useful strategic and practical tools for putting infringers on notice of claims, establishing knowledge of infringement, demonstrating attempts at informal resolution, and creating evidence of willfulness for enhanced damages, but copyright itself and the legal rights it confers absolutely do not spring into existence or crystallize only upon sending such notice. Unauthorized use of protected copyrighted material is

legally actionable as infringement from the moment it occurs, regardless of whether the copyright owner has sent any prior warning, demand letter, takedown notice, or other communication to the infringing party before initiating legal proceedings.

76. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Ownership under Section 17 rests with the author unless exceptions apply, such as employer-created or commissioned works."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option overstates the requirement for express contractual assignment language and incorrectly suggests that employers can never qualify for first ownership in the absence of explicit IP assignment clauses in employment contracts. The authoritative passage clearly and explicitly recognizes statutory exceptions to the general author-as-owner rule where employer-created works meaning works created by employees in the course of their employment vest first ownership directly in the employer by operation of law under Section 17. While an express IP assignment clause certainly helps clarify ownership, avoid disputes, and provide additional contractual certainty, the statutory exception exists and operates automatically even without such explicit contractual language, subject to proof of employment relationship and work scope.

Option (b) Correct: This option accurately captures and reflects the dual exception structure that the passage articulates regarding first ownership departures from the baseline author-as-owner rule: employer-created works those produced by employees during the course of their employment generally vest first ownership directly in the employer by statutory operation under Section 17's exceptions; meanwhile, commissioned works created by independent contractors or consultants under specific commissioned arrangements can start ownership either with the commissioner who paid for the work or with the creator who produced it, depending on the specific contractual terms, agreements, and circumstances, meaning that absent an express written transfer or assignment, the commissioned contributor may well retain first ownership of their creative contribution.

Option (c) Incorrect: The suggestion that first ownership always follows or tracks the party contributing "the most substantial creative input" regardless of employment status or commissioning

relationships is not the legal test or analytical framework that the passage articulates or that Section 17 establishes. Rather, the authoritative passage speaks in clear categorical terms about employment and commission exceptions as specific, defined departures from the general rule, not in comparative or qualitative terms about measuring, weighing, or assessing the relative creativity, artistic merit, or substantive contribution of different parties. The statutory framework creates categorical rules based on the nature of the relationship and work circumstances, not a sliding scale based on comparative creative input assessment.

Option (d) Incorrect: The assertion that joint ownership automatically applies and operates as the default presumption across all collaborative or multi-party creative scenarios regardless of employment or commissioning relationships fundamentally misstates the ownership framework the passage describes. Joint ownership is a specific doctrine that applies under particular circumstances where multiple authors contribute inseparable or interdependent creative expression with shared intent, but it is not a universal default that overrides all other ownership rules. Employment and commissioning contexts represent recognized statutory departures from the foundational "author as first owner" rule under Section 17, creating distinct ownership allocations that do not default to equal-shares joint ownership but rather vest ownership according to the specific statutory exceptions for these relationships.

77. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Exceptions under Section 52 allow fair dealing for research, education, criticism, and reporting."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option improperly and artificially confines the scope of fair dealing exclusively to printed handouts that are physically distributed in traditional classroom settings, suggesting that digital excerpts uploaded to online learning platforms or distributed through electronic means fall entirely outside the exception's protective scope. However, the authoritative passage does not impose any such medium-specific limitation, restriction, or distinction between print and digital formats in articulating the fair dealing principle. The legal analysis under fair dealing properly concerns the purpose of the use, the nature and extent of what was taken, and the fairness

of the dealing in context, not the particular medium, format, or technology of reproduction employed to facilitate the educational use.

Option (b) Correct: The cited text from Section 52 expressly and explicitly lists both education and research among the recognized purposes that may qualify for fair dealing protection, alongside criticism and reporting, creating a protective ambit for certain limited instructional uses. A brief, low-resolution extract from copyrighted material uploaded to a password-protected learning management system with access strictly limited to enrolled students for a specific one-week class module, used in conjunction with original lecture notes and for purposes of classroom discussion and assessment, potentially falls within that statutorily recognized protective scope of fair dealing for educational purposes, subject to case-specific fairness analysis considering amount taken, effect on market, and pedagogical necessity.

Option (c) Incorrect: While criticism by reviewers certainly constitutes one recognized head or category of fair dealing protection, the authoritative passage separately and additionally includes education as a distinct and independent basis for invoking the fair dealing exception, making clear that the statutory framework does not impose a universal pay-to-teach requirement or mandate paid collective licensing arrangements for every small educational extract in every circumstance. This option incorrectly treats criticism as the exclusive qualifying purpose while denying the independent status that education holds within the Section 52 exception framework. Fair dealing analysis examines whether the specific educational use is fair in its particular context, purpose, extent, and effect, not whether a license was purchased.

Option (d) Incorrect: Fair dealing is an inherently contextual, fact-sensitive doctrine that requires careful examination of the nature and amount of the work used, the purpose and character of the use, and the effect on the copyright owner's market, meaning that uploading an entire textbook for an entire academic term even behind a password-protected login restricted to enrolled students would very likely exceed the boundaries of fairness regardless of access restrictions. The authoritative passage certainly does not bless or approve whole-work uploads or sanction making complete copyrighted works available digitally for extended periods simply because technical access controls limit the audience to registered students. Fair dealing typically contemplates limited excerpts for

specific pedagogical purposes, not wholesale reproduction of entire works.

78. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Copyright generally lasts for the author's lifetime plus 60 years, with variations for films, sound recordings, and government works."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests that copyright protection terminates and expires upon first publication and that works older than fifty years automatically enter the public domain as a universal rule regardless of other factors. However, the authoritative passage explicitly ties copyright duration to the author's lifetime plus sixty years, not to years elapsed since initial publication date or first commercial release. While publication date may carry significance for certain evidentiary purposes, limitation calculations, or specific categories like anonymous works or government publications under particular provisions, it does not establish or fix the basic term of protection for ordinary literary works authored by identified individuals under the general duration rule articulated in the passage.

Option (b) Correct: The passage clearly articulates the general rule that copyright protection lasts and endures for the author's entire lifetime plus sixty years following death, with certain variations and exceptions for specific categories such as cinematographic films, sound recordings, photographs, government works, and works of international organizations. With the novelist's death occurring in 1960, straightforward application of the general life-plus-sixty-years rule strongly suggests that copyright protection expired and the work entered the public domain after that sixty-year post-mortem period elapsed, which would have occurred around 2020, subject to standard term-calculation nuances, transition provisions, and potential complexities regarding publication dates, posthumous works, or amendments to the Copyright Act over the intervening decades.

Option (c) Incorrect: The suggestion that copyright protection endures indefinitely, perpetually, or without time limitation for canonical, celebrated, or culturally significant literary works directly contradicts the fundamental principle of limited-term protection that underlies copyright law's constitutional and policy foundations. Fame, literary merit, cultural significance, canonical status, or critical acclaim of a particular

novel, poem, or other work does not extend, prolong, or alter the finite statutory term of protection that the Copyright Act establishes. The authoritative passage explicitly recognizes time-bound protection after which works enter the public domain and become freely available for reproduction, adaptation, and cultural reuse regardless of their artistic significance, ensuring that copyright serves its purpose of balancing creator incentives with public access.

Option (d) Incorrect: Public domain status flows and results automatically and by operation of law from the expiration of the statutory term of copyright protection once the life-plus-sixty-years period or other applicable duration concludes; absolutely no court declaration, judicial order, administrative determination, or litigation is required to "release" a work, pronounce it in the public domain, or authorize its free use once the statutory duration ends. Copyright terms are matters of legislative calculation and automatic legal operation, not matters requiring individual judicial adjudication for each work. Once protection expires by statutory operation, works become freely available for any use without permission or payment, and anyone may rely on expired copyright without seeking court confirmation or approval.

79. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "It is an incorporeal property granting a bundle of rights reproduction, communication, adaptation, and translation and operates as a negative right allowing the owner to prevent unauthorised use."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option fundamentally mischaracterizes copyright as purely a claim to monetary royalties or payment obligations while suggesting that non-literal uses like translation, adaptation, or derivative works somehow cannot be restrained, enjoined, or prevented absent precise verbatim copying or character-for-character reproduction. However, the authoritative passage squarely and explicitly lists translation and adaptation within the protected bundle of exclusive rights that copyright confers upon owners, making absolutely clear that the right holder possesses legal authority to restrain, prevent, and enjoin such unauthorized uses even when no literal, verbatim copying has occurred. Copyright protection extends beyond mere reproduction to encompass the full range of derivative

and transformative exploitations enumerated in the statutory bundle of rights.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of copyright's nature by suggesting it protects only physical copies, tangible objects, or material embodiments while asserting that intangible expression somehow cannot ground legal action against non-identical outputs or derivative works. In reality, copyright explicitly protects intangible creative expression as a form of incorporeal or intellectual property, not merely physical objects or material copies. The entire conceptual foundation of copyright law rests on protecting the underlying creative expression the ideas as expressed, the arrangement, the authorial choices, the original elements which exists independently of any particular physical embodiment and which can be infringed through various forms of unauthorized exploitation beyond mere reproduction of identical physical copies.

Option (c) Correct: This articulation precisely tracks and mirrors the passage's explicit language verbatim: copyright comprises and consists of a bundle of distinct exclusive rights including reproduction of the work, public communication or performance, adaptation and derivative use, and translation into other languages or media, and this bundle of rights operates fundamentally as a negative right meaning the owner's primary entitlement is the legal authority and power to prevent, restrain, or block unauthorized use, exploitation, or dealings by others rather than merely an affirmative right to personally exploit. This negative character means copyright owners may enjoin the startup's unauthorized auto-generated translations and lightly adapted versions despite absence of verbatim copying, because translation and adaptation fall squarely within the protected bundle.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option artificially and incorrectly carves out or separates communication and adaptation from the copyright bundle by asserting they fall exclusively under media-regulatory statutes, broadcasting regulations, or telecommunications law rather than within copyright's protective scope. However, the authoritative passage you studied expressly and unambiguously includes both communication and adaptation within the enumerated bundle of exclusive rights that copyright itself confers and protects, making them integral components of copyright protection rather than matters governed exclusively by separate regulatory frameworks. While broadcasting and media regulations may impose additional obligations or create overlapping rights in

certain contexts, the fundamental right to control communication and adaptation of copyrighted works resides within copyright law itself as articulated in the passage.

80. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Reference Line: "The petition argues that mere release does not rectify the wrong and seeks monetary compensation for both pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses, and rehabilitation, citing the Law Commission of India's 277th Report on Wrongful Prosecution (2018) which recommended a statutory scheme for compensation."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option fundamentally mischaracterizes the remedial framework by suggesting that discharge from custody and physical release automatically and completely cures all legal, economic, psychological, and social consequences flowing from wrongful incarceration, making monetary claims inappropriate or unnecessary once liberty has been physically restored through acquittal. However, the authoritative passage explicitly and unambiguously rejects this reductionist approach, recognizing that mere release from prison does not and cannot repair, remedy, or compensate for the profound multi-dimensional injury that flows from years of wrongful imprisonment, including lost income, shattered families, psychological trauma, social stigma, and destroyed life opportunities that persist long after the prison gates open.

Option (b) Correct: The cited text from the passage directly and explicitly states that "mere release does not rectify the wrong" suffered during wrongful incarceration and specifically contemplates and endorses seeking monetary compensation for both pecuniary losses such as lost wages and earning capacity and non-pecuniary losses such as mental trauma and reputational harm, plus comprehensive rehabilitation assistance to help the wrongfully convicted person rebuild their shattered life and reintegrate into society. This formulation precisely matches Harish's prayer for relief, which details income loss, trauma, family displacement, stigma, and the need for rehabilitation support, and finds strong support in the Law Commission's 277th Report recommendations for a structured statutory compensation scheme.

Option (c) Incorrect: Artificially limiting available relief to narrow reimbursement for legal costs, attorney fees, and court expenses fundamentally misreads and

dramatically understates the remedial horizon and compensatory scope that the passage articulates and envisions for victims of wrongful prosecution and incarceration. The authoritative text explicitly embraces and contemplates much broader heads of compensable loss extending well beyond mere litigation expenses, specifically including intangible psychological harm, emotional suffering, reputational injury, social stigma, and dignitary harms that cannot be captured in receipts or invoices but nonetheless represent profound violations of constitutional rights and human dignity that warrant recognition and monetary redress in public law remedies.

Option (d) Incorrect: Suggesting that a bare declaration of innocence or judicial pronouncement clearing the petitioner's name constitutes sufficient relief fundamentally fails to provide material redress, tangible compensation, or practical assistance for the devastating real-world consequences of years spent wrongfully imprisoned. Furthermore, the question of whether prosecution authorities subjectively believed the original charges were arguable or maintained good faith in pursuing the case is not the proper legal test or analytical framework for determining compensability; rather, the critical inquiry properly focuses on whether fundamental rights were violated during investigation, prosecution, and incarceration, and what consequences flowed from those violations requiring remedy and redress.

81. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "By issuing notice and seeking assistance of the AG/SG, the Court signals its readiness to frame guiding principles or directions for compensation in such cases."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Frequent listings, rapid scheduling, or short adjournment periods between hearing dates are primarily administrative and case-management measures designed to expedite disposition, maintain momentum, and prevent unnecessary delays in resolving pending matters; they do not by themselves signify or demonstrate doctrinal intent to craft broader normative principles or issue systemic directions. The authoritative passage specifically and explicitly ties the Court's intention to frame guiding principles not to mere scheduling frequency or listing patterns, but rather to the substantive procedural step of issuing formal notice to

affected parties and specifically seeking the assistance of the Attorney General or Solicitor General as top law officers representing governmental interests.

Option (b) Incorrect: The authoritative passage does not establish or suggest any connection between transferring cases to High Courts for disposal and the Supreme Court's intention to articulate uniform guidelines, compensation frameworks, or systemic directions applicable across jurisdictions in a federal system. The specific institutional indicator that the passage identifies and highlights as demonstrating readiness to craft guiding principles is not decentralization of adjudication through transfers, but rather the Supreme Court's deliberate request for assistance from the highest law officers of the Union the Attorney General or Solicitor General whose participation signals the constitutional and policy significance the Court attaches to framing norms in the consolidated matters.

Option (c) Correct: This formulation is taken verbatim and directly from the authoritative text of the passage: the Supreme Court's decision to issue formal notice to affected States and parties, combined with its specific request seeking the assistance and participation of the Attorney General or Solicitor General as the Union's senior-most legal representatives, constitutes a clear and unmistakable procedural signal of the Court's readiness, willingness, and intention to frame guiding legal principles, articulate compensatory standards, or issue systemic directions for addressing compensation claims in wrongful incarceration cases, rather than simply disposing of individual petitions on their isolated facts without broader normative pronouncements.

Option (d) Incorrect: While fixing outer timelines, scheduling deadlines, or establishing time-bound procedures for filing counter-affidavits and written submissions certainly helps manage case progress, maintain procedural discipline, and ensure orderly adjudication, such scheduling orders and timeline directions do not, by themselves and standing alone, evidence or demonstrate the Court's substantive intention to frame doctrinal remedies, articulate constitutional norms, or issue systemic directions with precedential effect. The passage specifically identifies the combination of notice issuance and AG/SG assistance as the meaningful institutional signal of norm-framing intent, not mere timeline management or procedural scheduling.

82. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "In Goud's petition, it is contended that his fundamental rights under Article 21 life and personal liberty were violated on account of illegal arrest, a fabricated investigation, wrongful conviction on heinous charges under IPC and the POCSO Act."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The Reason is fundamentally false because Article 21 protects both life AND personal liberty, not life alone. Since the Reason is false, both statements cannot be true, and a false reason cannot explain a true assertion. This option is doubly wrong.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option incorrectly treats Reason (R) as true when it is demonstrably false. Article 21's protection extends explicitly to both life and personal liberty, not life alone as the Reason claims. The reference line from the passage confirms Article 21 protects "life and personal liberty," directly contradicting Reason (R)'s limitation.

Option (c) Correct: Assertion (A) is unquestionably true based on the passage illegal arrest, fabricated investigation, and wrongful conviction constitute Article 21 violations. However, Reason (R) is false because it incorrectly restricts Article 21's protection to life only, when the Constitution and the reference line explicitly protect both life and personal liberty, making wrongful conviction clearly within Article 21's ambit.

Option (d) Incorrect: The Assertion is clearly true as established by the passage's reference to Goud's petition alleging Article 21 violations through illegal arrest, fabricated investigation, and wrongful conviction. The Reason is false for misstating Article 21's scope. Therefore, this option inverts the correct truth values of both statements.

83. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "According to the Court's judgment, his conviction was based on a 'flawed and tainted investigation.'"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The authoritative passage employs precisely this explicit phrasing and exact characterization to describe and capture the nature of the investigative defect that formed the foundation of Nihal's wrongful conviction: that "his conviction was based on a 'flawed and tainted investigation'" marked by suppression of exculpatory forensic evidence, fabrication of witness statements, and systematic

chain-of-custody failures. This specific characterization as "flawed and tainted" rather than merely erroneous or negligent strongly supports and substantiates a compensation plea by establishing that the conviction resulted not from innocent mistakes or reasonable investigative misjudgments but from fundamentally compromised investigative processes that violated constitutional safeguards and due process requirements.

Option (b) Incorrect: This characterization as a "routine error at trial" completely disconnects and separates the acquittal from investigative quality, prosecutorial conduct, and pre-trial investigative defects, suggesting that the wrongful conviction resulted merely from generic trial-stage mistakes unrelated to how evidence was gathered, preserved, or presented. However, the authoritative text explicitly and directly ties the acquittal and compensation claim to systemic investigative taint and prosecutorial misconduct during the investigation phase, not to routine trial errors, evidentiary rulings, or courtroom mistakes, making this characterization fundamentally inconsistent with the passage's account of how and why the conviction was ultimately overturned on appeal.

Option (c) Incorrect: This characterization suggesting that the conviction was upheld in substance with only the sentence being questioned or modified directly contradicts the fundamental premise of the compensation claim and the passage's entire narrative, which centers on complete acquittal following appellate recognition of investigative defects, not on conviction affirmance with sentence reduction. The passage describes a case where wrongful conviction was overturned entirely based on flawed investigation, making damages legally and factually available; treating the conviction as substantially intact with only sentencing concerns would eliminate any basis whatsoever for wrongful incarceration compensation as a matter of law and fact.

Option (d) Incorrect: Suggesting that the conviction was vacated solely on technical procedural limitation grounds such as statute of limitations, jurisdictional defects, or other purely procedural bars, with investigative integrity never being a factor or consideration in the appellate court's analysis and decision, fundamentally mischaracterizes the basis for acquittal as presented in the passage. The authoritative narrative explicitly and centrally turns on substantive investigative failure suppressed exculpatory evidence, fabricated statements, chain-of-custody violations as

the reason for overturning the conviction, not on procedural technicalities, temporal bars, or formal defects unrelated to the investigation's integrity or the evidence's reliability.

84. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "The Supreme Court's involvement raises key questions: whether the State is liable in law to compensate for wrongful conviction and incarceration, how large the compensation should be, and how to ensure accountability of investigation and prosecution agencies."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While disciplinary rules, professional standards, training protocols, and accountability mechanisms for prosecutors and investigators certainly represent important institutional reforms that could improve future investigation quality and reduce wrongful conviction errors going forward, such prospective systemic improvements are not the threshold legal question that the passage identifies as squarely implicated and requiring resolution. The core question the text highlights concerns backward-looking State liability and compensation for past violations that have already occurred, not forward-looking disciplinary or training reforms, making this option focused on the wrong temporal dimension and remedial approach for the immediate threshold issue.

Option (b) Incorrect: The question of whether individual police officers, investigators, or prosecutors may be personally sued for tort damages in parallel civil proceedings alongside or in addition to constitutional writ remedies against the State raises important questions about individual accountability, qualified immunity, and dual remedies, but it is not the core threshold question of State liability that the passage frames as the foundational issue. The

authoritative text specifically frames State responsibility in public law and constitutional terms under Article 21 rather than focusing on individual officer tort liability, personal damage suits, or parallel civil remedies, making personal liability a secondary or collateral issue rather than the primary threshold question.

Option (c) Incorrect: Questions about compensation structure whether awards should take the form of structured annuities with periodic payments or lump-sum amounts, and what indices such as years in custody, severity of charges, or lost earning capacity should guide quantum calculation certainly represent important implementation details that must be addressed in crafting a workable compensation framework. However, these quantum structure and calculation methodology questions are subsidiary to and dependent upon resolving the prior threshold question that the passage identifies: whether State liability exists in the first place and what the overall appropriate measure or scale of compensation should be, which must be answered before addressing payment structure.

Option (d) Correct: This formulation precisely and completely reproduces the passage's articulation of the core threshold inquiry that the Supreme Court's involvement necessarily raises and must address: whether the State bears legal liability and responsibility in law to compensate victims for wrongful conviction and incarceration resulting from investigative defects and prosecutorial failures; what the appropriate quantum, scale, or magnitude of such compensation should be to adequately address pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses; and how to ensure meaningful accountability of investigation and prosecution agencies to prevent future violations. This comprehensive framing exactly matches the fundamental dispute between Harish and the State regarding compensability.

Section – D : Logical Reasoning

85. Correct Answer: (a) The format of legal documentation often prioritises tradition over efficiency in judicial proceedings.

Reference Line: “By the time it lands on the judge’s desk, it looks less like a legal aid and more like a family heirloom.”

Explanation:

(a) This option interprets the metaphor of the “family heirloom” as a criticism of how the compendium, rather than being a practical tool for advocacy, has become ceremonial or ornamental in function. The passage humorously suggests that the compendium, once designed for ease of reference, is now bloated with unnecessary material. This implies a legal culture that clings to habitual over-preparation and elaborate documentation as a matter of form, even when it no longer serves its original purpose. This idea supports the notion that procedural traditions are upheld at the expense of courtroom efficiency. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option goes beyond the text by speculating about how judges behave in response to compendiums, a topic the author never addresses. The author does not claim that judges disregard or ignore the compendiums, only that the documents are overstuffed and comically oversized. While it is possible that judges find such documents cumbersome, the passage does not offer any commentary on judicial reception or use of them. Therefore, this choice is based on an unsupported inference about courtroom dynamics. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This choice suggests that lawyers intentionally include excessive material to confuse or distract, but the author’s tone does not accuse any party of malice or deception. Rather, the tone is satirical and critical of a broader legal culture that tolerates inefficiency. There is no evidence that compendiums are used strategically to mislead or conceal weak arguments. The humor lies in their absurdity and excess, not in manipulation. As this option introduces a deliberate motive not implied by the passage, it misrepresents the author’s critique. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While the author does reflect on the nature of legal culture, this option introduces a conceptual argument not present in the passage. The criticism is focused on the physical and functional absurdity of the compendium, not on the role of precedent or how it might stifle innovation. The reliance on precedent as a legal norm is not questioned in this context, nor is it

described as a hindrance to new approaches. Thus, this answer shifts the focus from the compendium’s form and purpose to a broader jurisprudential debate that the author does not initiate. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (b) Institutional advertising increasingly shapes student perception of academic credibility.

Reference Line: “...full page ads of universities nobody has ever seen in a ranking list. Most of them are No. 1 in categories no one asked for, certified by committees no one has heard of.”

Explanation:

(a) While this option touches on the integrity of law school rankings, it does not strengthen the author’s key concern about how advertising replaces substance in public discourse around education. The author is not critiquing the technical flaws in ranking systems but is instead mocking the use of fabricated accolades and marketing claims that create the illusion of quality. Therefore, although rankings may be methodologically weak, this issue is tangential to the author’s satirical attack on advertising gimmicks used to artificially enhance institutional image. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This choice supports the author’s central claim that law schools are increasingly relying on marketing strategies to shape their reputation. The passage mocks full-page ads that promote unverifiable accolades and meaningless distinctions, suggesting that perception, not performance, is what drives credibility in legal academia. If advertising indeed influences how students assess academic merit, this would validate the author’s critique that law schools substitute branding for genuine achievement. It directly reinforces the satirical example provided in the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option introduces a claim about systemic failure in regulation, which may be plausible in real-world discussions, but it does not support the author’s specific argument. The passage does not reference government oversight, accreditation bodies, or regulatory frameworks. The critique is centered around institutional behavior, particularly the absurdity of marketing strategies, not regulatory collapse. Introducing this element shifts the focus to an area the author does not explore or imply. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This choice raises a financial concern about students choosing institutions based on affordability, which may be an important factor in educational access, but it does not support the author's criticism. The passage does not explore student decision-making processes; it critiques the misleading ways in which institutions present themselves. The concern is not about why students choose colleges but how those colleges manipulate perception. Therefore, this option introduces a dimension unrelated to the author's argument. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (d) Examiners assess legal aptitude by evaluating memorised knowledge over applied reasoning.

Reference Line: "For years, students are made to mug up section after section as if law were a list of ingredients, not the recipe."

Explanation:

(a) While this option illustrates an instance of rote learning, it describes only a surface-level feature of legal education without addressing the evaluative mechanism that sustains it. Memorising provisions is problematic only to the extent that it is rewarded academically, and this option does not make that connection. As a result, it falls short of reinforcing the author's systemic critique of the pedagogical approach. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option focuses on a side effect of the current system, namely that academic performance can be achieved without true understanding. While this outcome supports the author's general dissatisfaction with the system, it does not explain why rote learning persists. The author's argument would be better supported by evidence of institutional practices that promote this behaviour, which this option does not provide. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This is a plausible observation, and it partially aligns with the author's concern that interpretation is taught too late. However, the emphasis here is on course structure, not on the assessment method, which is more central to why rote learning becomes dominant. The author's satire suggests that the system rewards memorisation, not just that interpretation is marginalised. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option goes to the heart of the issue by pointing out that if examinations reward memorisation rather than reasoning, then rote learning becomes a logical and perhaps even necessary response by

students. It directly supports the author's analogy of law being treated like a list of "ingredients" rather than a "recipe," and explains the systemic reinforcement of that flawed educational model. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (a) Interns are granted limited authority but are entrusted with high-stakes responsibilities.

Reference Line: "Their place in court is always the back row, a kind of unpaid balcony seat to the theatre of law."

Explanation:

(a) The author paints a vivid picture of interns as marginalised figures—positioned at the "back row," handling menial tasks, and treated as symbolic presences rather than active participants. Nowhere in the passage is there any suggestion that they are given substantive responsibilities, let alone high-stakes ones. In fact, the opposite is emphasized: their contributions are invisible and their learning passive. Therefore, this claim flatly contradicts the passage and must be false. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option accurately reflects the author's portrayal. Interns are described as an "invisible bloodstream," a metaphor that emphasizes their peripheral, unnoticed presence within the system. They are not portrayed as meaningful contributors to court deliberations or strategy, but as invisible support units whose value is more symbolic than professional. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author's use of spatial metaphor—"back row"—is not just literal but also symbolic of interns' place in the legal hierarchy. Their physical exclusion mirrors their professional marginalisation, reinforcing the point that they are denied proximity to the centres of power or learning in court. This aligns with the author's argument about how interns are socially positioned. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage refers to interns "sprinting to the copy shop" and balancing "dignity with desperation," clearly implying that they are burdened with routine, behind-the-scenes tasks. This depiction confirms that their duties are logistical and largely unrecognised. These are not glamorous or impactful roles but are crucial in an administrative sense. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (c) Resume-building activities are shaped more by perceived expectations than by educational outcomes.

Reference Line: "Mandatory NGO internship, always there. Whether the NGO is alive, dead, or just filing RTI applications from a Gmail account, nobody can say."

Explanation:

(a) This option assumes that students are engaging in conscious exaggeration or deceit, which the author does not argue. His tone critiques the structure that pressures students into performative behaviours, rather than accusing them of dishonesty. The problem lies in the performative expectations created by institutions, not the individual ethics of students. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option shifts the focus to employer preferences, which is not addressed in the passage. The author is critiquing the academic and professional training ecosystem, not how hiring panels make decisions. Even if this were true, it does not underpin the author's argument about why CV-building has become symbolic and hollow. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This assumption explains why students continue to include empty internships and token activities on their CVs. If students are responding to perceived external expectations—be it from colleges, recruiters, or peers—rather than pursuing meaningful educational experiences, then the author's claim that CV-building is "staged" and "tragicomic" makes sense. This unstated belief provides the logical foundation for the author's critique. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option makes an observation about symbolic value, but it doesn't qualify as a necessary assumption. The author's argument is not built on a comparison between authentic and standardised experiences, but rather on the motivation behind students' choices. While the passage may imply standardisation, it does not rely on the symbolic devaluation of genuine experience to make its case. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (b) Legal culture encourages a reliance on symbolic performance rather than substantive engagement.

Reference Line: "Somewhere between the 47th and 93rd page, you realise this is not advocacy, this is archaeology with a stapler!"

Explanation:

(a) The passage does not discuss institutional prestige at all, nor does it present it as something undervalued. The critique is not about which institutions are better regarded but about the rituals, performances, and superficiality embedded in legal academia and

practice. Hence, this option introduces a red herring that distracts from the author's real concern. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This choice accurately reflects the central theme running through the passage. The author critiques everything from bloated compendiums to fake internships to rote memorisation as examples of a profession that is more concerned with appearances than understanding. His tone implies that law, as practiced and taught, has become a theatre of performative rituals lacking meaningful engagement. This option best captures that critique. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) There is no mention in the passage of regulation or bureaucratic interference in academic innovation. The author is not concerned with government intervention or lack of freedom but with how the legal culture itself perpetuates hollow practices. This introduces an idea unrelated to the central critique, making it an off-topic distractor. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While students are part of the system, the author does not blame them or suggest that reform should come from their side. Instead, he describes them as caught in a structure that demands superficial performances for professional survival. The passage critiques institutions and systems, not the reformative responsibility of students. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (b) Mental peace in a space depends less on what is removed and more on how thoughtfully things are placed.

Reference Line: "Japanese minimalism doesn't chase emptiness; it embraces presence."

Explanation:

(a) This option introduces a contrast between aesthetics and personal effort but misrepresents the author's tone and intention. The passage does not characterize homes as demanding or draining environments. Instead, it presents the home as a gentle and reciprocal space that supports the individual. The notion that a home makes demands on its people contradicts the core idea that the home can be nurturing when its space is thoughtfully designed. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option best captures the author's main argument that peace and emotional clarity in a home are not achieved simply by reducing material possessions. Rather, they emerge from intentionality in how items are arranged and how space is experienced. The author repeatedly emphasizes mindfulness, ritual,

and care in the relationship between people and their environment. This view aligns with the central message about presence, not absence. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option distorts the author's perspective by implying that cultural design serves to hide chaos, which is not suggested anywhere in the text. The author reveres Japanese design for its transparency, simplicity, and ability to cultivate calm. He presents Japanese interiors as environments that invite mindfulness and emotional rest, not as facades concealing inner disorder. Framing design as deceptive directly opposes the tone of admiration that permeates the passage. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While the author critiques unconscious and hectic lifestyles, the issue is not urgency or lack of visual symmetry. The passage does not suggest that home organization fails due to hasty implementation or lack of aesthetic coordination. Instead, the emphasis is on the absence of intention and emotional awareness. The passage is more concerned with internal alignment than external design logic. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (b) Promoting public seminars that help people explore how space affects emotions and daily routines.

Reference Line: "It's a dialogue between you and the space that holds you."

Explanation:

(a) This policy relies on a reductionist understanding of minimalism by interpreting it purely as a process of elimination. The author, however, consistently resists equating minimalism with material scarcity or decluttering alone. His focus is on cultivating an emotional relationship with space and finding peace through mindful arrangement rather than through forced reduction. A program encouraging people to discard possessions would therefore misrepresent the reflective tone and gentle mindfulness that the author advocates. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage repeatedly frames the home as an active participant in one's emotional life, describing the relationship between human beings and their environment as reciprocal and nurturing. Public seminars aimed at exploring this emotional-spatial dialogue would embody the author's call for mindfulness, awareness, and intentional living. Such an initiative would not impose rigid minimalism but encourage understanding and introspection about how

space influences well-being. It perfectly matches the passage's suggestion that calm arises from conscious interaction with surroundings. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Regulating household aesthetics or imposing uniform decor standards runs counter to the author's message of individual mindfulness. The author's description of Japanese minimalism celebrates the internal spirit of simplicity rather than enforcing it through law or structural uniformity. He treats minimalism as a personal philosophy, not a civic obligation, so a government-imposed regulation would strip the practice of its voluntary and emotional essence. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Although the passage mentions low furniture and multipurpose items, it does so only to illustrate adaptability and flow within a space. It does not portray industrial or technological efficiency as the root of minimalist peace. A state subsidy for furniture companies would commodify the idea of simplicity, transforming a reflective practice into a consumer-driven industry. Such a measure would therefore undermine the sincerity and quiet mindfulness that the author associates with Japanese minimalism. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (a) Minimalist homes are often perceived as cold and cause anxiety due to their overly restrained design.

Reference Line: "Even the smallest spaces feel open, organised, and calming in Japanese homes."

Explanation:

(a) The author's central premise is that minimalist Japanese interiors create a soothing psychological effect through intention and calm. If research revealed that these spaces instead evoke discomfort or anxiety because of their restraint, it would directly contradict the author's assertion that they produce openness and emotional clarity. This evidence would dismantle the claimed link between spatial simplicity and inner peace, undermining the emotional foundation of his argument. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This statement concerns the historical origins of Japanese architectural principles rather than their psychological outcomes. Even if minimalism arose due to geography or tradition rather than intention, it would not necessarily negate the author's claim that such spaces have emotional benefits. The passage deals with current emotional resonance, not historical causation. Therefore, the relevance of this statement to

the author's argument is minimal. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage's focus lies in emotional clarity and mindful living rather than cognitive fatigue or mental performance. A study claiming that object variety reduces fatigue deals with intellectual stimulation, not emotional grounding. These are separate psychological dimensions, and therefore such evidence would not weaken the claim about the emotional peace generated by minimalist living. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While this statement challenges the motivation behind adopting minimalism, it does not undermine the result. Even if minimalism is driven by economic necessity rather than philosophy, the outcomes—spatial openness and calm—may still be valid. The author's claim is experiential, not motivational. Therefore, this information does not threaten the logical foundation of his argument. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (a) A room with few objects can still provide comfort if its arrangement supports emotional well-being.

Reference Line: "Empty space isn't a lack of decoration; it's a conscious pause... it invites your mind to rest."

Explanation:

(a) The author repeatedly links the quality of emotional experience to intention rather than material abundance. He treats the quiet space between objects as essential to creating mental calm and comfort. Therefore, if his reasoning holds true, one must accept that a room can remain comforting and alive even when sparsely furnished, provided its arrangement carries thoughtful intention. This principle forms the logical base of the author's idea of mindful design. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option converts a conditional truth into a universal rule by asserting that fewer decorations always ensure clarity. The author never advances an absolute claim. Instead, he stresses that minimalism works only when accompanied by emotional presence and awareness. Removing objects without thought may yield sterility, not serenity. The overgeneralisation makes this statement inconsistent with the passage's tone. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option incorrectly equates minimalism with necessity. The author mentions small homes only to illustrate how intention and flow can make them feel open and calm. He does not argue that minimalist layouts are a structural requirement. Emotional

spaciousness arises from mindfulness, not from geometry or reduced furniture. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author frames tidiness as an act of love and care, not as a psychological trait that defines emotional superiority. Linking cleanliness to groundedness introduces a moral hierarchy absent in the text. Emotional stability, in the author's philosophy, comes from sensitivity to one's surroundings, not from rigid maintenance. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (c) Creating fixed routines for placing key items like chargers, glasses, and wallets each day.

Reference Line: "Start with three items you use daily: give each one a proper, designated spot."

Explanation:

(a) This action reflects a decluttering checklist mentality rather than the emotional mindfulness promoted by the author. The goal of weekly sorting and elimination reflects efficiency and order but lacks the deeper relational awareness that defines Japanese minimalism. The author values gentle consistency and care, not constant purging of possessions. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) While arranging items by colour or symmetry might appeal aesthetically, it misunderstands the author's focus on purpose and emotional comfort. The author never defines beauty through pattern or visual uniformity; he locates it in meaning and stillness. A symmetrical layout is a stylistic preference, not a spiritual or mindful practice. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This habit embodies the author's concept of emotional attentiveness in everyday actions. Establishing consistent, intentional places for daily-use objects cultivates a quiet relationship with one's space and reduces unnecessary friction in routine life. It reflects the passage's message that mindfulness arises through repeated small gestures that create harmony between environment and mind. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Labelling and uniform storage containers introduce an industrial notion of order inconsistent with the warmth of the passage. Such mechanical systems prioritise control over sensitivity, while the author champions human engagement with space through simple, intuitive habits. His minimalism is relational, not procedural. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (a) Being emotionally mindful while cleaning can change small acts into moments of quiet awareness.

Reference Line: "Next time you wipe a counter or fold a towel, slow down. Turn it into a mindful pause."

Explanation:

(a) The author elevates ordinary acts like cleaning into opportunities for mindfulness and emotional presence. He compares such acts to watering a plant—done not from necessity but from affection. The passage implies that awareness transforms even mundane routines into meditative, restorative practices that align one's emotions with the environment. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Although clutter is discussed, the author never identifies it as the chief source of distress. His focus lies on inner stillness achieved through attention rather than on external disorder. Declaring clutter as the "greatest source" overstates the argument and imposes a judgmental framework inconsistent with his tone of gentleness and acceptance. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author never proposes replicating Japanese architecture as a universal solution. He treats Japanese minimalism as a philosophical model that can inspire mindful living across contexts, not as an architectural formula. Copying structures cannot replicate cultural meaning or personal intention. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not link emotional balance to discipline or resilience. Cleaning is framed as care, not as moral strength or productivity. Associating mindfulness with discipline converts a reflective practice into a self-improvement regimen, distorting the author's compassionate tone. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (b) Several Indian provinces exposed to identical land settlements displayed similar stagnation without targeted neglect.

Reference Line: "The decline... was neither accidental nor inevitable but engineered through deliberate policy choices..."

Explanation:

(a) This option introduces the idea that there were attempts to invest in Bihar, which appears to contradict the author's claim of total neglect. However, the author's argument centers on systemic and strategic underdevelopment, not isolated investments. If

anything, sporadic efforts that yielded little progress could be viewed as ineffective implementation rather than evidence refuting deliberate neglect. The author might still argue that these attempts were superficial or poorly designed. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option presents a structural critique of the author's claim by showing that similar policies produced similar outcomes in regions not singled out for deliberate exploitation. If stagnation occurred in multiple provinces under the same economic frameworks, then Bihar's decline might be attributed to larger systemic failures rather than targeted engineering. This weakens the idea of intentional neglect unique to Bihar and suggests a more generalized policy flaw. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option introduces demographic and agricultural challenges as alternative causes for underdevelopment. While these could have contributed to slow growth, they do not directly challenge the author's core argument that colonial decisions were motivated by revenue extraction rather than development. The author might concede these difficulties existed but argue they were exacerbated—not caused—by colonial policy. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Although indigenous resistance may have influenced the success of certain reforms, it shifts the responsibility away from the colonial state and toward the colonized population. The author's main claim is that colonial underdevelopment was a top-down, policy-driven strategy, so local elite resistance would not necessarily undermine that. Moreover, the author portrays zamindars as complicit in extraction, not as reform-blockers. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (d) Bihar's fertile lands yielded agricultural surpluses, yet its local population remained economically marginalised.

Reference Line: "The wealth generated from Bihar's fertile plains was not reinvested... while the region that produced the wealth remained starved of capital and opportunity."

Explanation:

(a) This option expresses a historical irony, not a paradox in the logical sense. The transformation from a centre of enlightenment to a site of exploitation shows a stark reversal, but it does not involve two seemingly

contradictory realities coexisting at the same time. It is a narrative of decline rather than a paradox in structure or outcome. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer. (b) This example highlights moral hypocrisy within colonial institutions but does not present an internal contradiction. A legal system enforcing unjust outcomes is unjust by design in a colonial context, so its role in upholding exploitation aligns with the author's framework rather than contradicting it. There's no paradox because the system was functioning according to colonial objectives. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) While this situation reflects economic injustice, it still follows a consistent logic within an exploitative colonial system. The fact that exports benefitted external powers while impoverishing producers is troubling, but it does not contain a contradiction. The suffering of farmers and the enrichment of foreign markets both serve the same imperial agenda, making it unjust but not paradoxical. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This is the most compelling paradox because it juxtaposes abundance and deprivation in a single space and time. Bihar was agriculturally rich, producing surplus wealth, yet its people remained impoverished due to the systematic outflow of capital. This contradiction—between resource productivity and human marginalisation—is central to the author's critique of colonial economics. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

99. Correct Answer: (a) Correspondences between British officials reveal long-term plans to suppress local industries and discourage capital accumulation in Bihar.

Reference Line: "The decline... was neither accidental nor inevitable but engineered through deliberate policy choices that prioritised metropolitan interests over local development."

Explanation:

(a) This option offers strong documentary support for the author's argument by providing intentionality behind British actions. If internal communications demonstrate that British officials actively designed policies to prevent Bihar's development, it directly supports the claim that underdevelopment was structured, deliberate, and rooted in planning rather than negligence or coincidence. The presence of written intent confirms that the exploitation was not incidental but systemic. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this might seem to validate the broader claim of colonial neglect, it actually weakens the author's argument that Bihar's exploitation was specifically engineered. If similar patterns of decline occurred elsewhere without unique targeting, it suggests a more general administrative failure rather than an intentional campaign against Bihar. The author focuses on Bihar's particular historical trajectory, which this option undermines. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option challenges the author's narrative by suggesting local elites were actively investing in Bihar's progress. If zamindars were improving land and education, the idea that wealth was entirely extracted without reinvestment becomes weaker. This would suggest that the issue may not have been structural policy design alone, but perhaps other factors like administrative inefficiency. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option provides data suggesting Bihar was economically productive, but it does not prove that underdevelopment was intentionally engineered. It supports the idea of exploitation but not necessarily its structural planning. The author's key claim is about deliberate policy design, not just about where money was extracted from. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (b) Post-independence India took effective steps to reverse the exploitative systems left behind by colonial administrators.

Reference Line: "This pattern, unfortunately, did not end with Independence in 1947."

Explanation:

(a) This statement aligns precisely with the author's detailed critique of the zamindari system. The passage emphasizes how zamindars, empowered by the British under the Permanent Settlement, were tasked only with collecting revenue and had no responsibility to improve schools, hospitals, or roads. This directly supports the author's claim that colonial systems created economic stagnation by design. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This statement runs counter to the author's core argument, especially the line which notes that the structural pattern of underdevelopment persisted even after 1947. The author's use of "unfortunately" in that line underscores a sense of disappointment or critique about independent India's failure to break from colonial frameworks. As such, the author would likely reject the idea that post-independence reforms were

effective in undoing past harm. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The author makes multiple references to how colonial policies led to the de-industrialisation of Bihar, particularly through the destruction of its artisan and craft economies. The case of imported British goods displacing indigenous industries is provided as a central example. Therefore, this statement reinforces rather than contradicts the author's position. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author's argument rests heavily on the interaction between economic decisions (such as forced cultivation and taxation) and the institutional mechanisms (like courts and police) that enforced those decisions. He draws upon Rodney's framework of "under development by design," which encompasses both domains. Thus, the author would likely agree with this holistic analytical lens. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (d) Colonial policies benefited Bihar in the long run by integrating it into global markets and formal economic systems.

Reference Line: "...while the region that produced the wealth remained starved of capital and opportunity."

Explanation:

(a) Although this argument may appear morally objectionable, it is logically consistent within a colonial framework. If an empire justifies the exploitation of colonies as necessary for its growth, the reasoning is aligned with imperial priorities. The author critiques this value system, but he does not highlight a contradiction in the logic itself. Rather, he focuses on the cost to the colonised, not the rationale of the coloniser. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This reasoning attempts to explain Bihar's decline as inevitable due to internal limitations, but the author goes to great lengths to argue the opposite. He clearly asserts that underdevelopment was engineered through deliberate policy rather than dictated by geography or demography. While this explanation is incorrect in the author's view, it is not logically flawed—just based on a different assumption. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The claim that the Permanent Settlement was intended to provide revenue stability may be plausible from an administrative standpoint. However, the author's critique lies in how the design of the system encouraged extraction without reinvestment. That does not make the initial reasoning behind the policy

structurally illogical, only harmful in its consequences. Thus, the reasoning is flawed ethically but not in terms of internal logic. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option presents the most flawed reasoning because it converts systemic harm into a claimed long-term benefit, which the author repeatedly disproves. The author argues that Bihar was left depleted, its industries dismantled, and its people impoverished, showing no signs of integration benefiting the local economy. To suggest the policies were helpful because they linked Bihar to the global economy is a clear case of rationalising harm by ignoring actual outcomes, which is exactly the kind of fallacy the author seeks to expose. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (a) Bihar's decline resulted from a colonial system that extracted wealth without investing back, a pattern that later continued.

Reference Line: "This pattern, unfortunately, did not end with Independence in 1947."

Explanation:

(a) This option captures the essence of the author's argument by linking both colonial and post-colonial underdevelopment. The passage stresses that Bihar's economic stagnation was not accidental but designed through a policy framework of extraction without reinvestment. The author also notes that this dynamic persisted beyond colonial rule, making this summary comprehensive and aligned with the full thrust of the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option inaccurately implies that the colonial damage was unintended. The author argues quite the opposite—that colonial underdevelopment was systemic and strategic. Referring to intermediary landowners (zamindars) is valid, but describing their impact as unintentional contradicts the assertion that British policies were deliberately exploitative. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

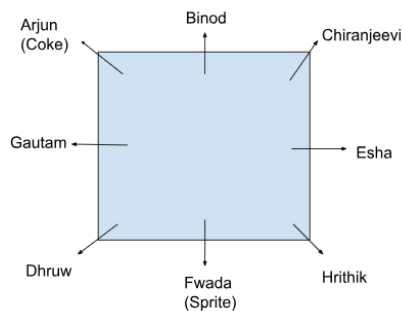
(c) This option misrepresents the author's focus by shifting it toward post-independence cultural erosion. The passage does reference Bihar's rich heritage, but only to contrast its historic significance with colonial decline. The main thrust is economic and structural, not cultural, and certainly not focused on post-1947 cultural policy. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option wrongly suggests that the British implemented corrective reforms. The passage portrays British rule as consistently extractive and explicitly

states that the same patterns continued even after independence. There is no mention of reform efforts that mitigated colonial harm, making this option factually and conceptually misaligned. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

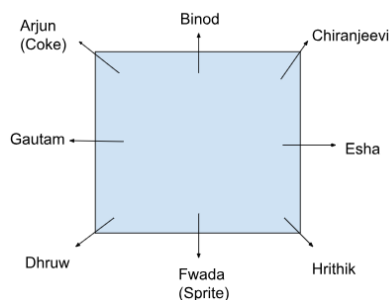
103. Correct Answer: (a) Arjun

Explanation:



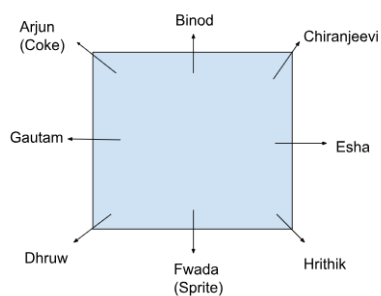
104. Correct Answer: (d) Esha

Explanation:



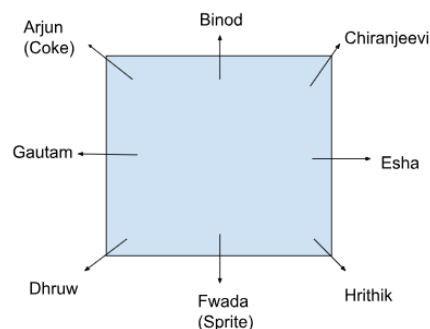
105. Correct Answer: (b) Fourth to the right

Explanation:



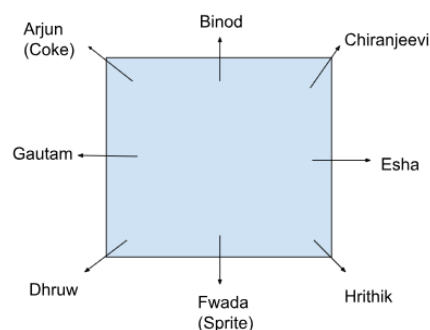
106. Correct Answer: (b) Two

Explanation:



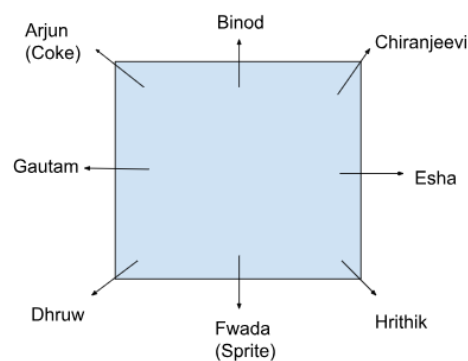
107. Correct Answer: (a) Arjun

Explanation:



108. Correct Answer: (c) Dhruw

Explanation:



Section – E : Quantitative Aptitude

109. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Explanation:

Total cost = $30 \times 80 + 20 \times 60 + 10 \times 50 = ₹4,100$;

total litres = 60.

Average cost = $4,100 \div 60 = ₹68.33$.

110. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Explanation:

Cost/L of A = $(3 \times 80 + 2 \times 60) / 5 = ₹72$

Selling price $\Rightarrow SP_A = 1.2 \times 72 = ₹86.40$.

Cost/L of B = $(2 \times 80 + 60 + 50) / 4 = ₹67.50$

Selling price $\Rightarrow SP_B = 1.2 \times 67.5 = ₹81.00$.

Average SP = $(86.4 \times 40 + 81 \times 20) / 60 = ₹84.60$.

111. **Correct Answer:** (a)

Explanation:

Initial avg = $4,100 / 60 = ₹68.33$.

New avg = $(4,100 + 1,000) / (60 + 10) = 5,100 / 70 = ₹72.86$.

Increase = $72.86 - 68.33 = ₹4.52$ (approx).

112. **Correct Answer:** (c)

Explanation:

Avg mango cost = $(30 \times 80 + 10 \times 100) / 40 = ₹85$.

Blend A cost/L = $(3 \times 85 + 2 \times 60) / 5 = (255 + 120) / 5 = ₹75$.

SP = $1.2 \times 75 = ₹90.00$.

113. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Explanation:

After replenishment: $SP_A = ₹90$;

Cost/L of B = $(2 \times 85 + 60 + 50) / 4 = ₹70$

$SP_B = 70 \times 1.2 = ₹84$.

Discounted $SP_B = 84 \times 0.95 = ₹79.80$.

Average realised SP = $(90 \times 30 + 79.8 \times 10) / 40 = (2,700 + 798) / 40 = ₹87.45$.

114. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Explanation:

Blend A contains mango and orange juice in a 3:2 ratio.

Average cost = $(3 \times 80 + 2 \times 60) / 5 = (240 + 120) / 5 = ₹72$ per litre.

115. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Explanation:

$A = P(1 + r/100)^n$

$= 15,000 \times (1.12)^2$

$= 15,000 \times 1.2544 = ₹18,816$.

116. **Correct Answer:** (a)

Explanation:

$SI = (P \times r \times t) / 100$

$= 20,000 \times 0.10 \times 3$

$= ₹6,000$.

117. **Correct Answer:** (d)

Explanation:

Half-year rate = $8\% / 2 = 4\%$; periods = $2 \times 2 = 4$.

$A = 10,000 \times (1.04)^4$

$= 10,000 \times 1.16985856 = ₹11,698.5856$.

Interest = $11,698.5856 - 10,000 = ₹1,698.5856 \approx ₹1,698.59$.

118. **Correct Answer:** (c)

Explanation:

Year 1 SI on 20,000 = $20,000 \times 0.10 = ₹2,000$.

Year 2 SI on 12,000 = $12,000 \times 0.10 = ₹1,200$.

Total interest (2 years) = $2,000 + 1,200 = ₹3,200$.

119. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Explanation:

Loan amount after 2 years = $15,000 \times (1.12)^2 = ₹18,816$

\rightarrow interest = $18,816 - 15,000 = ₹3,816$.

Deposit interest = $5,000 \times 0.10 \times 1 = ₹500$.

Net outflow = $3,816 - 500 = ₹3,316$.

120. **Correct Answer:** (b)

Explanation:

From previous question, CI interest over 2 years = ₹1,698.5856.

For SI: Interest = $P \times r \times t$

$\Rightarrow r = 1,698.5856 \div (10,000 \times 2) = 0.08492856 \approx 8.49\% \text{ p.a.}$