

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST

(CLAT) 2026 Mock 202605:

ANSWER KEY AND SOLUTION



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

Section - A : English Comprehension

1. Correct Answer: (b) To experience life with a sense of balance and harmony

Reference Line: "The ultimate purpose of philosophy is not to logically define life but to help us experience it with greater balance and harmony."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option elevates conceptual reasoning as the end of philosophy, yet the passage critiques an obsession with precise conceptual definitions by contrasting it with way-seeking that values lived experience. The author implies that truth claims framed by conceptual systems are partial and risk ignoring the felt texture of life. Emphasis on definition re-centers the very approach the passage problematizes. The result is an approach that privileges abstraction over attunement. That runs counter to the stated purpose of cultivating balance and harmony. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage unambiguously assigns philosophy the task of enabling a life experienced with balance and harmony, making experiential attunement the point rather than a byproduct. This aligns with both Confucian cultivation and Daoist flow, integrating moral comportment with a sensitivity to natural rhythms. The author's wording treats harmony as an outcome of right relation, not of argumentative victory. It reframes philosophy as practice rather than as conceptual architecture. The telos is a way of living rather than a system of propositions. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Refining logic functions as a tool in certain traditions, yet the text insists that language and formality have limits when confronting the fullness of experience. Logic may aid inquiry, but it does not suffice to reach the author's stated aim of harmony. The critique is not anti-reason but anti-reduction, resisting the notion that reasoning exhausts what matters. Treating refinement of logic as the purpose confuses instrument for end. It narrows the field to what is articulable. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Establishing clear moral language is characteristic of codified ethics, but the passage emphasizes ritual and cultivation as living practices and stresses the limitation of language. Clarity of terms helps coordination, yet the author's horizon is a re-attunement to the way that exceeds verbal capture.

Moral vocabulary can guide, but it cannot substitute for embodied balance. Treating language as decisive overlooks the author's focus on experience. It places expression above enactment. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. Correct Answer: (a) It confines understanding within abstract and analytical boundaries

Reference Line: "Rather than obsessively trying to articulate the precise conceptual definitions of how things are, Chinese philosophies... place more emphasis on the value of experience."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author frames Western truth-seeking as an emphasis on precision and conceptual definition, which tends to bracket the unruly textures of practice. This does not indict analysis as useless, but signals that overreliance narrows what counts as understanding. The contrast with way-seeking exposes a gap between naming reality and moving well within it. Conceptual boundaries stabilize discourse but can eclipse lived harmony. The author points to this limitation when commending experiential balance. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Uniting moral and cosmic principles is attributed to the dual manifestation of dao across Confucian and Daoist frames, not to Western lineages described here. The passage explicitly reserves the language of cosmic unfolding for Daoist metaphysics and moral way for Confucian practice. To attribute that union to Western truth-seeking in this context misreads the contrast. The author's aim is differentiation, not fusion. The claim therefore overstates commonality where the text marks divergence. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage turns on the disanalogy between truth-seeking and way-seeking, making sameness of aim untenable. Western inquiry seeks definitional clarity, whereas Daoist practice privileges flowing responsiveness. The author's wording accentuates difference in method and outcome. Equating them erases the motivation for the comparison. The option conflates approaches that the passage keeps distinct. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Nothing indicates rejection of precision in the Western case; rather, precision is its signature strength

and constraint. The author does not recommend a swing to sentimentality but an expansion toward experience and attunement. Emotional contemplation as a substitute for rigor is never proposed. The critique targets sufficiency, not the presence, of analysis. This portrayal distorts the author's careful contrast. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

3. Correct Answer: (d) Acting naturally in accordance with the universal flow

Reference Line: "The recommended approach is wu wei, roughly meaning 'effortless action'... letting the universe naturally unfold through our actions."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Emotional suppression pursues control through denial, which contradicts the notion of ease and spontaneity emphasized in the passage. The text never valorizes stifling feeling; it commends sensitivity to currents that include affective signals. The goal is not a polished exterior but congruence with the way. Suppression risks new forms of strain that wu wei seeks to release. It adds tension where the passage seeks ease. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Imposed moral control assumes outcomes are secured by willful exertion, but wu wei de-emphasizes forcing situations. The passage treats control as a frequent source of trouble, both individually and institutionally. Effort in wu wei is not absent; it is light because it suits the situation. Moral salience emerges from fit rather than from compulsion. This option reverses that logic. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Avoidance of decision suggests passivity, whereas wu wei keeps responsive agency intact while quieting antagonistic strain. The practice encourages choosing in step with circumstances, not retreating from choice. Inaction as neglect ignores the fine-grained responsiveness the text commends. Flow requires presence, not withdrawal. The option mistakes ease for apathy. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Wu wei is characterized as effortless action where doing issues from attunement rather than compulsion, allowing conduct to harmonize with the larger unfolding. The image of flowing like water frames decisions as responsive, economical, and aptly timed. The agent does not abdicate action but sheds friction introduced by egoistic insistence. The text treats this as a cultivated stance rather than a technique. It is practice that aligns effort with rhythm. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

4. Correct Answer: (a) Language alone cannot capture the fullness of lived reality

Reference Line: "Chinese philosophies... recognise the limitations of language, and tend to place more emphasis on the value of experience."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage affirms the limits of language and places weight on experience, signaling that words illuminate but do not exhaust meaning. This is consistent with calling dao ineffable and advising alignment through practice. The text points to the gap between description and attunement. It urges cultivation that exceeds what propositions can secure. The stance commends lived negotiation over exhaustive definition. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Self-cultivation appears in the Confucian register, yet the author nowhere says analytical reasoning is essential to achieve it. The emphasis is on ritualized practice and virtue rather than on formal argument. Analysis may assist, but the text treats it as auxiliary, not constitutive. Elevating reasoning to necessity overstates its role. It narrows cultivation to discourse rather than formation. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Institutions are cited as potential disruptors that unsettle natural rhythms by imposing rigid structures. The critique shows how collective forms can generate friction that the dao-oriented posture tries to reduce. The author's imagery of obstruction highlights a mismatch between pacing and design. Treating institutions as guarantors of rhythm ignores this tension. The option contradicts the stated caution. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The text associates attempts at control with struggling against the current, producing unnecessary difficulty. Social harmony here is framed as an outcome of yielding to patterns rather than coercing them. Control may stabilize appearances while deepening friction. The author's counsel of ease and noticing frictions resists this stance. It prefers re-attunement to mastery. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. Correct Answer: (c) Inexpressible

Reference Line: "For Daoists, meanwhile, dao... represents the deeper, ineffable totality of cosmic processes."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) “Tangible” refers to something that can be physically perceived or grasped, which contrasts the Dao’s ineffable nature that lies beyond sensory apprehension. The Dao’s existence is not object-like but relational and unfolding, meaning that calling it tangible reduces its vastness to material confines. The author’s argument stresses subtlety, not palpability. This choice would limit the concept’s metaphysical depth and misrepresent the passage’s intended sense. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) “Evident” implies clarity or obviousness, whereas the Dao is portrayed as subtle, mysterious, and elusive, accessible through balance rather than observation. If it were evident, philosophical seeking through harmony would be unnecessary. The Dao’s presence is pervasive but not plainly visible; its influence must be sensed rather than seen. Describing it as evident strips away its profound, hidden aspect and distorts the intended meaning. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The word “ineffable” conveys something that eludes linguistic expression, capturing the Dao’s quality of being beyond verbal articulation. The author emphasizes that the Dao transcends human systems of definition and description, showing that reality’s deepest aspects can be experienced but not fully expressed. The choice of this term aligns with the idea that the Dao is accessed through attunement, not explanation. It fits the philosophical focus on experiential understanding rather than linguistic mastery. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) “Definable” means capable of precise conceptual explanation, the very pursuit the author critiques as inadequate for understanding life’s totality. The Dao defies definition because it cannot be circumscribed within words or intellectual limits. Attempting to define it would confine what the text insists remains infinite and self-unfolding. The passage’s focus on experiential harmony instead of analytical certainty makes this option incompatible. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

6. Correct Answer: (a) Wisdom lies in yielding to natural rhythm instead of resisting it

Reference Line: “Ease and tranquility await us when we notice the friction... Becoming re-attuned to dao means flowing like water.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The closing movement commends noticing friction and easing compulsion, culminating in the metaphor of water that shapes without strain. This frames wisdom as alignment rather than domination, and underscores wu wei as a cultivated stance. The guidance is practical, aiming at transformation in conduct. The conclusion binds moral tone with cosmological fit. It centers re-attunement as the path. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage presents control as a source of unnecessary difficulty that scrapes against the grain of things. Attempting to control feelings, productivity, and institutions is cited as a paradigm of friction. The orientation of the text encourages softening grip rather than tightening it. Control appears as an anxious response to contingency. That posture counters the recommended ease. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Precise definitions are treated as limited tools that cannot bear the full weight of living well. The author does not deny their utility but resists treating them as ultimate. The shift from truth-seeking to way-seeking reframes success criteria. It prizes fitting action over perfected terminology. The conclusion depends on practice, not on definition. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Imposed order is depicted as disruption when it overrides the rhythms the passage wants us to sense. Institutions are mentioned as frequently misaligned with natural pacing. The suggested alternative is not disorder but a tuned structure that follows flow. Imposition remains the problem rather than the cure. The option inverts cause and remedy. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

7. Correct Answer: (b) express uncomfortable realities through creative and socially relevant humor

Reference Line: “He often touches on serious issues as well... because I felt it had to be talked about.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct. The author implies that the comedian’s task is not merely to amuse but to illuminate uncomfortable truths through humor. Comedy becomes a means of initiating social reflection by transforming serious issues into accessible narratives. This view recognizes the social responsibility inherent in artistic expression. The inclusion of topics like domestic violence demonstrates a moral impulse to confront rather than conceal difficult subjects. Through

this, humor becomes a thoughtful instrument of awareness.

(b) Incorrect. The author never endorses avoidance of controversy as a desirable strategy. Instead, the passage celebrates engagement with difficult issues even at the risk of discomfort. The suggestion to “avoid provoking audiences” contradicts the spirit of bold commentary that defines meaningful satire. The comedian’s purpose, as shown, lies in provoking awareness rather than pacifying sentiment. Such avoidance would render the art shallow and inconsequential.

(c) Incorrect. The passage asserts that comedy and society are intertwined, each influencing the other. To treat humor as detached from politics or culture would misrepresent its essence as a mirror of collective experience. The author’s argument about politics shaping everyday life reinforces that detachment is unrealistic. By engaging with civic and social themes, comedy sustains its relevance and critical edge. Thus, this option misinterprets the depth of the passage.

(d) Incorrect. The idea that comedians should rely on public sentiment undermines the independence of artistic thought. The passage portrays comedians as reflective individuals who critique social patterns, not as entertainers tailoring their content for approval. To construct “harmless narratives” for popularity strips comedy of its courage and integrity. True humor, as depicted here, thrives on risk and insight rather than compliance with audience comfort.

8. Correct Answer: (a) They suppress artistic freedom yet compel performers to express ideas more inventively.

Reference Line: “Laws may make religion and politics sensitive territory, but... there are innovative ways to say what you want to say.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct. The author perceives restrictions as challenges that stimulate artistic ingenuity rather than end it. Although censorship limits expression, it also encourages subtlety and sophistication in communication. This nuanced interpretation values adaptability as a hallmark of resilience. By acknowledging “innovative ways,” the passage suggests that humor evolves rather than collapses under pressure. The constraint becomes an occasion for deeper creativity rather than silence.

(b) Incorrect. The author’s argument opposes the notion of total suppression. Even within the framework

of restriction, comedians continue to explore controversial topics. The line “humor still finds its way through” conveys continuity, not extinction. Claiming that performers are entirely prevented ignores this underlying optimism. This option thus overstates the effect of legal or cultural barriers.

(c) Incorrect. The passage attributes no merit to impartiality in art; rather, it celebrates conviction and awareness. Emotional engagement strengthens humor’s authenticity and connection to human experience. To discourage it would reduce satire to sterile commentary. The author treats comedy as an expressive, not mechanical, act. Hence, this interpretation contradicts the spirit of creative passion that sustains humor.

(d) Incorrect. Although the author acknowledges the existence of boundaries, he highlights their transformative potential rather than their stifling impact. Dialogue is preserved through innovation, ensuring continued exchange of ideas. The statement that opportunities diminish misreads the tone of perseverance in the passage. The author’s perspective affirms that comedy adapts its voice even under constraint.

9. Correct Answer: (d) conspicuous

Reference Line: “Why there are potholes on the road and why there is no beef on your plate... those are just the most blatant examples.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Incorrect. “Speculative” refers to something uncertain or based on conjecture, which contradicts the clear, observable nature of the examples given. The passage deals with realities that are tangible, not hypothetical. Using “speculative” would weaken the force of the statement by suggesting doubt. The tone of the passage reflects assurance rather than uncertainty. Hence, this option fails contextually.

(b) Incorrect. “Intricate” implies complexity or elaboration, neither of which fit the sense of “blatant.” The author’s examples are straightforward and unambiguous. The term “intricate” would suggest difficulty in understanding, which is the opposite of the intended emphasis on visibility. The examples are simple illustrations, not complex phenomena. Therefore, this synonym is contextually inaccurate.

(c) Incorrect. “Subdued” means soft or restrained, the antonym of “blatant.” The examples mentioned are striking, not quiet or understated. This word reverses the meaning and tone of the statement, which

highlights exaggeration and prominence. The author's usage intends to underscore political transparency, not concealment. Thus, this option completely distorts the context.

(d) Correct. "Blatant" means obvious or glaring, and the context suggests examples that are impossible to overlook. The word emphasizes the clarity and visibility of social and political influences in daily life. "Conspicuous" matches this sense of being noticeable and apparent. It conveys that the examples are plain to observe without subtle interpretation. Thus, it aligns most closely with the intended meaning.

10. Correct Answer: (b) Humor provokes reflection by blending honesty with discretion and creative responsibility.

Reference Line: "For comedians like him, it's about striking a balance—being honest without being reckless."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Incorrect. The author never advocates withdrawal from controversial areas. Instead, he presents comedy as an evolving form of social dialogue. Avoiding sensitive discussions would make humor trivial and disengaged from reality. The passage portrays engagement, not avoidance, as a sign of maturity. Hence, this statement contradicts the central argument.

(b) Correct. The author emphasizes that effective humor lies in balance—truthful yet measured. It must challenge ideas while maintaining awareness of sensitivity. The notion of creative responsibility aligns with the idea of art as both expressive and conscientious. Humor's strength comes from provoking thought without endangering dialogue. This interpretation fully captures the author's reflective tone.

(c) Incorrect. The passage rejects submission to authority as it stifles independent expression. Humor's vitality comes from its ability to critique, not comply. To suggest adaptation to authority misconstrues the word "balance" as obedience. The author's portrayal of satire points toward courage tempered with wisdom. Therefore, this option misrepresents the intended nuance.

(d) Incorrect. The author appreciates humor that dares to challenge prevailing attitudes. Far from losing significance, such comedy retains purpose through boldness. The passage shows that questioning norms

enriches artistic integrity. To claim otherwise reduces humor to mere entertainment without social insight. The strength of satire lies in its ability to unsettle constructively.

11. Correct Answer: (a) faced the harsh consequences of criticism from authorities and audiences

Reference Line: "Comedians and satirists have long borne the brunt of both the state and the easily offended."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct. "Bore the brunt" conveys the idea of enduring the heaviest impact of hostility. The passage acknowledges the vulnerability of artists confronting authority or sensitive audiences. This interpretation captures the risk inherent in performing social critique. Comedians face backlash because their humor challenges comfort zones. The phrase underscores endurance in the face of adversity.

(b) Incorrect. The expression indicates suffering, not benefit. Audience reactions often result in conflict rather than reward. The passage's tone of challenge contradicts the idea of advantage or gain. Comedians do not profit from offense; they endure it. Hence, this option distorts the emotional context.

(c) Incorrect. The phrase implies exposure to consequences, not avoidance. The author portrays comedians as bold participants rather than cautious observers. Maintaining safety would contradict the notion of "bearing" something burdensome. This interpretation weakens the intensity of the phrase and undermines the theme of resilience.

(d) Incorrect. The passage does not suggest exploitation of outrage for success. It portrays comedians as enduring criticism, not manipulating it. Using backlash for recognition contradicts the tone of vulnerability. Their role is reflective, not opportunistic. This reading fails to align with the moral complexity of the passage.

12. Correct Answer: (c) Legal and cultural sensitivities have permanently silenced politically aware comedians.

Reference Line: "Despite tighter restrictions... humor still finds its way through."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct statement. The author asserts that creativity endures even under constraint. The use of

“innovative ways” shows that humor adapts through wit and subtlety. Censorship may impose limits, but it cannot extinguish artistic impulse. This idea portrays resilience as a defining quality of satire. The continuation of humor reflects defiance, not defeat.

(b) Correct statement. Comedy is depicted as a vehicle for discussing challenging social truths. By addressing domestic violence and civic neglect, it brings visibility to silenced topics. The accessibility of laughter helps communicate difficult messages. The passage views humor as both social commentary and emotional release. Thus, it affirms the social function of comedy.

(c) Incorrect statement (and correct answer). The author denies the idea of permanent silence by emphasizing adaptability. “Humor still finds its way through” conveys persistence despite repression. This option misreads the tone of perseverance and exaggerates the extent of suppression. The comedian’s success represents survival, not surrender. Therefore, it stands

as the only inaccurate claim.

(d) Correct statement. The assertion that politics pervades every aspect of life supports this view. The author insists that all human activity, including humor, carries political dimensions. By revealing such influences, comedy becomes both reflective and critical. This demonstrates the interconnectedness of art and governance. It remains consistent with the author’s analytical stance.

13. Correct Answer: (a) abrupt revolutions destroy inherited institutions that preserve moral and social harmony

Reference Line: “Burke was thoroughly opposed to the French Revolution and unequivocally denounced it in Parliament in London in a speech in February 1790.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct: Burke believed that revolutions rupture the continuity of moral and political wisdom embedded in institutions over generations. To him, long-standing customs represented the moral conscience of a society, refined through experience and duty. He argued that destroying these structures replaced prudence with passion and undermined the collective sense of justice. The French Revolution, in his view, was not an act of liberation but a collapse of civilization into chaos. He thus regarded revolutionary destruction as the erosion of social virtue and cultural memory.

(b) Incorrect: Burke saw revolutions as the undoing of moral discipline rather than its reinforcement. He

maintained that unrestrained liberty leads to moral decay because it discards the stabilizing influence of custom, religion, and hierarchy. To him, moral strength depended on deference to order, not on rebellious enthusiasm. The notion that upheaval could strengthen discipline contradicted his fundamental distrust of mass fervor and revolutionary passion.

(c) Incorrect: Burke valued reform when it was deliberate, measured, and rooted in respect for historical wisdom. He opposed sudden, abstract theories of change, not cautious evolution. By condemning the violent destruction of France’s monarchy, he defended the continuity of inherited institutions as the safest path to improvement. His objection lay in reckless innovation that scorned the gradual refinement of human experience.

(d) Incorrect: Burke regarded revolutions as agents of disintegration, not as guarantors of continuity. He saw them as uprooting tradition and creating regimes built on unstable ideology. He believed that continuity in governance arose from gradual adaptation, not from abrupt restructuring. Hence, revolutions in his perspective severed the chain of history and replaced legitimacy with anarchy.

14. Correct Answer: (a) he opposed disruptive transformations that endangered the continuity of established order

Reference Line: “Consistently with his conservative inclination, Burke was against the upheaval caused by the new British rule in India, and also against the upheaval occurring in France.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct: Burke’s philosophy was built upon reverence for inherited systems that evolve slowly over time. His criticism of British policies in India and revolutionary actions in France shared the same foundation: opposition to abrupt and violent disruptions of social equilibrium. He believed both colonial and revolutionary upheavals replaced organic order with arbitrary power. His notion of political morality demanded continuity, restraint, and respect for custom as the true safeguards of civilization.

(b) Incorrect: Burke rejected the assumption that radical reforms were enlightened or progressive. He regarded them as conceited experiments detached from historical and moral foundations. To him, radicalism was intellectual arrogance masquerading as progress. He insisted that wisdom resided in

experience rather than theory and that enlightenment without discipline degenerated into moral blindness.

(c) Incorrect: Burke did not see revolutions as restoring equilibrium; he thought they destroyed the very balance they claimed to protect. In his eyes, revolutions were acts of self-destruction disguised as reform. He believed that a decaying empire could only be renewed through prudence and justice, not by violent reconstruction or idealistic enthusiasm.

(d) Incorrect: Burke never endorsed revolutionary energy as a force for civic renewal. He feared that political passion divorced from restraint led to tyranny under the guise of liberty. For him, civic virtue arose from moral humility and obedience to tradition. Revolutionary impulses, by contrast, replaced reason with pride and dismantled the ethical order of society.

15. Correct Answer: (b) harmoniously connected by principle

Reference Line: "...they fit together perfectly well in terms of Burke's own principles and cohere nicely."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Incorrect: Although Burke's views were logically consistent, the author's phrase implies more than logic; it conveys an aesthetic and moral harmony among his ideas. Logical consistency may exist without moral unity, but Burke's thought combined reasoning with ethical coherence. His positions across different contexts reflected one moral temperament, not merely analytical agreement.

(b) Correct: "Coherently" indicates that Burke's varied positions—his criticism of the French Revolution, British rule in India, and support for the American cause—were interconnected through one guiding principle. His conservative outlook prized continuity, moral order, and opposition to destructive upheaval. The author uses the phrase to emphasize that these positions formed a unified and principled system rather than an inconsistent collection of opinions.

(c) Incorrect: While "inner rationale" suggests underlying logic, it does not capture the moral or philosophical integration conveyed by the phrase. The author implies a moral coherence that transcends pure rationality. Burke's thought was governed not only by reasoning but also by a sense of ethical order and cultural reverence that bound his ideas together.

(d) Incorrect: The phrase "compatible without conflict" understates the deliberate unity within Burke's thinking. His political philosophy did not merely avoid

contradiction; it formed an actively consistent worldview grounded in prudence and stability. The term "cohere nicely" implies active reinforcement among his ideas, a deeper harmony beyond mere compatibility.

16. Correct Answer: (a) his judgments reflected contextual reasoning rather than adherence to fixed ideology

Reference Line: "It is, I think, a mistake to try to interpret the different decisions that a person takes... in terms of just one classificatory idea—in this case conservatism."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct: The author argues that Burke's philosophy cannot be reduced to one rigid ideological category because his reasoning was sensitive to context. He evaluated each issue based on moral and historical circumstances, not pre-set doctrine. His conservatism was a temperament of prudence, not a fixed formula. Hence, his varied positions on America, France, and India reflected consistency of principle rather than inconsistency of ideology. The author uses this to critique modern oversimplifications of political thought.

(b) Incorrect: Burke's reasoning was neither opportunistic nor contradictory; it was rooted in a coherent moral structure. The author makes clear that apparent variation in his views arose from differing contexts, not from inconsistency. He remained committed to justice, continuity, and moral restraint across all his positions. Labeling him as politically erratic overlooks the intellectual discipline underlying his judgments.

(c) Incorrect: There is no indication that Burke harbored sympathy for revolutionary ideals. On the contrary, his opposition to violent upheaval in France reveals his deep distrust of radical transformation. He admired liberty only when tempered by moral order and legal continuity. The suggestion of hidden revolutionary leanings misreads the text's portrayal of Burke as a defender of measured change.

(d) Incorrect: The passage shows alignment, not divergence, between his moral philosophy and his writings on empire. His criticism of British policies in India was consistent with his commitment to justice and the preservation of legitimate authority. Far from being inconsistent, his critique of empire applied his same principles of moral accountability and restraint.

17. Correct Answer: (d) Interpretive

Reference Line: "There is, however, no conflict in this with Burke's radical position on India... since Burke was lamenting the destruction of the old Indian social order."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Incorrect: Although the author employs analysis, the passage extends beyond mere examination to construct a coherent interpretation of Burke's thought. Analytical writing dissects details, whereas this passage synthesizes them into a unified philosophical understanding. The author's purpose is to explain the consistency of Burke's reasoning, not just to describe its structure.

(b) Incorrect: The passage is not purely explanatory in tone; it does not simply present facts or describe events. Expository writing lacks the interpretive nuance present here. The author moves from description to inference, showing how Burke's ideas about India, France, and America form an integrated whole.

(c) Incorrect: The passage does not render moral or aesthetic judgments on Burke; instead, it explains his reasoning. Evaluative writing involves approval or disapproval, which is absent here. The author's tone remains objective and focused on reconciling seemingly contradictory stances through intellectual analysis.

(d) Correct: The tone is interpretive because the author actively connects Burke's political positions into a coherent pattern of thought. The passage reinterprets historical opinions to show their deeper philosophical unity. The author seeks to uncover the internal logic within Burke's apparent contradictions, making the approach analytical yet interpretive in intent and method.

18. Correct Answer: (a) Burke's conservatism made him resist changes that threatened the stability of social tradition

Reference Line: "Burke was lamenting, among other things, the destruction of the old Indian social order and functioning society."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Correct: Burke's opposition to disruption, whether in India or France, demonstrates his devotion to preserving traditional order and moral stability. His conservatism was not resistance to all change but to

reckless alteration that endangered social cohesion. He believed tradition embodied the accumulated wisdom of generations, serving as the moral anchor of society. Hence, he saw radical change as a betrayal of civilization's continuity.

(b) Incorrect: Burke's support for the American cause and his sympathy for Indians were rooted in distinct moral contexts, not in one ideological motive. In America, he opposed tyranny; in India, he defended cultural continuity. The author stresses that attempting to impose a single ideological explanation distorts the complexity of Burke's reasoning.

(c) Incorrect: The passage explicitly notes that there was no contradiction between his position on India and his stance on France. Both arose from the same conservative disposition that valued order and moral restraint. He resisted both revolutionary and imperial disruption for similar philosophical reasons.

(d) Incorrect: Burke's support for America was not a blanket endorsement of revolution but a contextual defense of justice and self-governance. He opposed arbitrary power, not authority itself. The author clarifies that his sympathy for the American cause does not align him with revolutionary ideology but with moral principle and prudence.

19. Correct Answer: (c) A theoretical expansion that deepens awareness of biological variety.

Reference Line: "Trinomialism... offers not only scientific clarity and variety, but an enriched view of the living world and our relationship with it."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage does not warn that trinomialism weakens interpretation; it insists that adding subspecies clarifies rather than confuses, since clarity here means fidelity to observed variation; by arguing for enrichment, the author rejects the claim of diminished understanding; the examples of wolves, sparrows, and anoles demonstrate added resolution rather than noise; the movement is toward better fit between concepts and living forms; thus the premise of reduction is misplaced; hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The biblical frame appears as a rhetorical stage to dramatize scale, not as a proposal to fuse doctrinal systems with taxonomy; the narrative of Noah functions as contrast to modern catalogues and counts, highlighting the gulf between pre-scientific assumptions and contemporary practice; no method of reconciliation is offered or endorsed; the emphasis

remains on empirical classification and its payoffs; therefore the reading of theological adaptation misfires; hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author frames trinomialism as a lens that uncovers fine-grained patterns within life, allowing scientists and lay readers to perceive structure where coarse categories blur distinctions; it cultivates a richer sense of what counts as meaningful difference and why those differences matter for knowledge and care; it corrects a cultural habit of treating species as sufficient and invites attention to variation within; it supplies conceptual tools that refine description and test hypotheses about lineage and adaptation; it therefore enlarges understanding rather than narrowing it; hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Calling trinomialism conventional contradicts the author's portrayal of it as a corrective to conventional reliance on species; far from limiting curiosity, it spurs new questions about distribution, conservation priority, and evolutionary processes; the tone praises its capacity to widen inquiry and sharpen attention; the concluding claim about enriching our relationship with nature confirms expansion, not restriction; this inversion of emphasis cannot stand; hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. Correct Answer: (b) Appreciative of its efficiency but concerned about its structure.

Reference Line: "Species are, for want of a better term, easy."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Nothing in the passage portrays species as useless; the critique is not that the category fails altogether but that it encourages complacency about variation; by treating species as a baseline that must be supplemented, the author avoids sweeping denunciations; his rhetoric recruits the category for a broader project rather than discarding it; the historical persistence is explained by convenience, not condemned as error; hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author concedes that species serve as a practical anchor for thought and communication, which explains their cultural grip, yet he immediately marks the cost of that ease, namely the flattening of intra-species diversity that matters for science and stewardship; this mix of recognition and worry signals a tempered view rather than rejection; it sets the stage for arguing that subspecies restore texture to our maps

of life; the stance is reformist rather than revolutionary; hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The discussion is not neutral, since it presses a thesis in favor of trinomial detail and urges a change in how we think about protection and recognition; neutrality would avoid evaluative language, but the text speaks of enrichment and clarity; the line about ease functions as a critique of overreliance; the argumentative trajectory shows commitment; thus neutrality is inconsistent with the author's purpose; hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author never opposes refinement; he advocates it by emphasizing that subspecies can sharpen analysis and policy; admiration for clarity is qualified by concern that clarity purchased through simplification can obscure real differences; the call is to go beyond the basic scaffold, not to defend it as final; opposing refinement would contradict the praise of trinomialism; hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. Correct Answer: (a) Noah underestimated life's diversity.

Reference Line: "If Noah had accessed a modern taxonomic catalogue, he might have found himself with a cargo of up to 30,000 varieties of mammal, bird and reptile."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The counterfactual highlights a gulf between ancient assumptions and modern enumeration, showing that what seemed manageable becomes immense once subspecies are counted; the expansion to tens of thousands of varieties displays how earlier frames missed granularity; the humor about frantic calculations underscores the cognitive shortfall rather than bad faith; the implication is that diversity outstrips the narrative's categories; the phrase thus marks underestimation, not refusal; hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Nothing suggests foresight of trinomial practice; the sentence structure relies on hypothetical access to a present catalogue, which underscores absence rather than anticipation; the rhetorical function is to contrast eras, not to ascribe prediction; the narrative device uses temporal irony to teach scale; therefore the reading of anticipation misreads the setup; hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Avoidance would imply a choice against complexity, but the passage presents a limitation of conceptual

tools rather than a decision; the quantification arises from methods unavailable to the narrative subject; the author's tone seeks to explain, not to fault; the focus is on what counting adds, not on what someone refused to count; thus avoidance is the wrong characterization; hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Rejection would entail a stance against plurality, yet the text frames the issue as scope rather than opposition; the Noah device illustrates an inherited frame, not a polemic against variation; the subsequent enumeration of wolves, sparrows, and anoles shows that multiplicity is real and substantial once methods catch up; no rejection is stated or implied; hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. Correct Answer: (d) Simplified classification conceals the complexity of living organisms.

Reference Line: "Both scientifically and in broader society, we are tied to the species as the bedrock unit of the animal kingdom."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage never grants priority to religious taxonomies; the biblical material serves as narrative contrast and as a thought experiment about scale; accuracy is not attributed to that system, and the tone remains playful when counting Ark passengers; importing accuracy claims from theology misreads the author's framework; the argument depends on empirical classification, not doctrine; hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) If species and subspecies had equal weight for inquiry, the appeal for trinomial attention would lose force; the author's case insists that subspecies add information that species-level labels cannot capture; equal weight would erase the very enrichment he celebrates; the examples of inflated counts across wolves and anoles illustrate the added resolution; the premise contradicts text and logic; hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Extinction discourse is mentioned to show our habit of speaking at the species level, not to ground analysis in spiritual frames; the blue whale and giant panda appear as cultural icons, not as the basis for a spiritual method; the author seeks to diversify our focus to subspecies worthy of protection; tying the claim to spiritual interpretation mistakes purpose and scope; hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Calling species the bedrock of thought shows why attention stalls at an easy level and why subspecies matter for restoring nuance; this diagnosis implies that

a coarser lens hides detail that affects conservation, measurement, and theory; by foregrounding cultural habit, the author prepares the argument that enrichment comes from loosening that tie; the evidence thus supports the claim that finer categories reveal what coarse ones mask; the reasoning is consistent with his closing endorsement; hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

23. Correct Answer: (a) Metaphor

Reference Line: "...brushing an anole from his sleeve, [he might have wondered] what is the point of all these subspecies?"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The image compresses the idea of overwhelming variety into a concrete gesture, turning abundance into a physical nuisance that captures the cognitive overload of counting subspecies; it is not a literal report about contact with reptiles but a crafted comparison that conveys scale and pressure; the gesture invites readers to feel the swarm of distinctions that classification reveals; it therefore operates as figurative language that sharpens sense; the mapping from gesture to concept marks a metaphor; hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Irony would require a contrast between stated meaning and intended meaning, yet the line aims to visualize abundance rather than to undercut a claim; the playfulness does not invert the argument but reinforces it by dramatizing excess; without a reversal of sense or outcome, irony is not the best fit; the passage maintains a consistent thesis about enrichment through detail; the device works to illustrate, not to subvert; hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Symbolism would assign the anole a stable emblematic value beyond abundance, such as moral corruption or divine intervention, which the passage does not suggest; the focus is operational, using the creature to stage the pressure of numbers; lacking a layered code of meanings, the reading as symbol stretches the function; the author's craft is vivid but not emblematic here; therefore symbolism overstates the device; hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Satire targets folly through ridicule, usually with social correction in view; the line teases the logistical absurdities that would follow from maximal counting, but it does not ridicule a social group or propose reform through mockery; the tone is wry rather than scathing; the instrument serves explanation rather

than censure; thus satire is the wrong category; hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

24. Correct Answer: (b) Subspecies classification provides clarity and enriches our view of biodiversity. Reference Line: "There are various subspecies that deserve to be better known and protected."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The narrative of Noah functions as a literary frame to set up a contrast with modern counting; the author does not ascribe deep biological insight to ancient belief but uses it as a foil for contemporary precision; the argumentative core resides in the scientific case for recognizing subspecies; elevating ancient depth would divert from this thesis; the summary must capture enrichment, not nostalgia; hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage moves from cultural habits of species talk to the scientific and ethical gains of acknowledging subspecies, culminating in claims about clarity and an enriched relationship with nature; the conservation aside about deserving protection signals practical

stakes; by mapping examples across taxa, the author shows how trinomial lenses recalibrate understanding; this throughline captures the heart of the text; hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Nowhere does the author charge taxonomy with eroding symbolic unity; instead he leverages the creation story to dramatize numbers and to motivate a shift in focus; the point is not conflict between narratives but the value of finer categorization; inserting a claim about undermining symbols mischaracterizes tone and purpose; the thesis is constructive rather than oppositional; hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage treats ancient schemes as limited by context, not as superior models; the hypothetical cargo counts show how modern catalogues outpace earlier intuitions; superiority would require evidence of sensitivity to subspecies, which the text denies by design; therefore the claim reverses the author's comparison; the argument promotes modern refinement, not deference to the past; hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

Section - B : Current Affairs including General Knowledge

25. **Correct Answer:** (c) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was passed by Parliament in 2023 and came into effect in July 2024.

Explanation: The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), enacted in 2023, replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860, marking a major transformation in India's criminal justice system. It came into effect in July 2024, introducing modern legal definitions, technology-based offences, and a stronger victim-centric approach. The BNS aligns with India's goal of ensuring speedier justice, digital integration in policing, and reduction of procedural delays, reflecting a shift from punitive colonial law toward a more reformatory and accountable legal framework.

26. **Correct Answer:** (c) Karnataka

Explanation: In 2023, Karnataka reported 21,889 cybercrime cases, the highest in India for that year. The state recorded a steady rise in such cases over the previous years, with 8,136 cases in 2021 and 12,556 cases in 2022, reflecting increasing digital penetration as well as enhanced reporting and enforcement mechanisms. This trend highlights Karnataka's prominence as a major technology hub while underscoring the need for strong cyber-security frameworks and public awareness.

27. **Correct Answer:** (b) 72 countries

Explanation: A total of 72 countries signed the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime during the historic signing ceremony in Hanoi, hosted by Viet Nam in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2024 after five years of negotiations, the treaty marks the first universal framework for investigating and prosecuting cyber offences globally, including ransomware, financial fraud, and online abuse.

28. **Correct Answer:** (b) Only II and III

Explanation: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was created on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee, the National Police Commission (1977–1981), and the MHA's Task Force (1985). It was later entrusted with implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) in 2009, aimed at modernizing and digitizing India's crime data and interlinking police stations nationwide. Statement I is incorrect because the NCRB was formally

established in 1986, not 1987, to function as a central repository linking crimes and offenders.

29. **Correct Answer:** (b) CyTrain

Explanation: The 'CyTrain' portal is a dedicated Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform developed under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C). It provides online courses with certification for police officers, judicial officers, and prosecutors, focusing on cybercrime investigation, forensics, and prosecution. The initiative aims to build national capacity in digital forensics and strengthen cyber law enforcement through standardized, technology-enabled training programmes.

30. **Correct Answer:** (d) Bengaluru

Explanation: According to the 2023 NCRB data, Bengaluru reported the highest number of cybercrime cases among India's 19 metropolitan cities, contributing approximately 51.92% of the total. This dominance reflects Bengaluru's vast digital ecosystem, high internet penetration, and the growing sophistication of online frauds in financial, social-media, and data-theft domains. The city's figures underscore the need for enhanced cyber-policing capacity and public digital safety awareness.

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

Explanation: Tata Advanced Systems, the defence arm of the Tata Group, has inaugurated India's first overseas defence manufacturing unit in Berrechid, Morocco, marking a historic milestone for Indian defence exports. The facility will produce the Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, a versatile vehicle suited for varied terrain and operational needs, showcasing India's growing defence industrial capability and export potential. Since the facility is located in Africa, not Europe, making it India's first defence production plant on the African continent.

32. **Correct Answer:** (d) Three

Explanation: Morocco shares three land borders — one with Algeria to the east and another with the disputed territory of Western Sahara to the south, while Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish enclaves in the north, also touch its borders indirectly. Despite Western Sahara being claimed by Morocco, the region remains largely autonomous, with limited Moroccan administrative control. Morocco's strategic location between the

Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea makes it a critical link between Europe and Africa.

33. Correct Answer: (c) Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)

Explanation: India launched the Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME), a six-day joint naval exercise involving nine African nations. The exercise seeks to strengthen interoperability, promote joint operational readiness, and deepen maritime security collaboration across the Indian Ocean Region. AIKEYME highlights India's growing strategic engagement with African maritime forces, aligning with its vision for a free, open, and cooperative Indo-Pacific.

34. Correct Answer: (d) United States

Explanation: India and the United States signed a 10-year defence cooperation framework agreement during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Defence Secretary Peter Hegseth. The agreement was finalized on the sidelines of the ASEAN Defence Summit and aims to deepen strategic collaboration across defence technology, logistics, and military interoperability, marking a major milestone in the bilateral security partnership.

35. Correct Answer: (c) Fourth

Explanation: India ranks fourth in the Global Firepower Index 2025, achieving a PowerIndex score of 0.1184, which reflects its growing defence capabilities and global strategic standing. With a record ₹6.81 lakh crore (\$75 billion) allocation to the Ministry of Defence—the largest share in the Union Budget 2025—India continues to modernize its forces, strengthen deterrence, and expand technological self-reliance under initiatives like Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence production.

36. Correct Answer: (a) Red Cross

Explanation: The Red Cross, established by Henry Dunant, remains one of the most celebrated humanitarian organizations in history. It has received the Nobel Peace Prize three times — in 1917, 1944, and 1963 — recognizing its vital role in providing aid and relief during wars and natural disasters. Henry Dunant himself shared the first-ever Peace Prize in 1901 with Frédéric Passy, marking the beginning of a legacy

centered on compassion, neutrality, and the protection of human life.

37. Correct Answer: (c) The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Explanation: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry each year. In 2025, it recognized John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis for their groundbreaking discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in electrical circuits. This work has major implications for quantum computing and superconducting technologies. Unlike other Nobel institutions — such as the Swedish Academy (Literature) or the Norwegian Nobel Committee (Peace) — the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences focuses on scientific excellence in the natural sciences.

38. Correct Answer: (c) In 2025, every Nobel Prize carried a reward of 11 million Swedish kroner, with the Peace Prize presented in Norway.

Explanation: In 2025, the Nobel Foundation set the monetary value of each Nobel Prize at 11 million Swedish kroner (approximately \$1.2 million). While most prizes — such as Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Economics — are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, the Nobel Peace Prize continues to be presented in Oslo, Norway, following Alfred Nobel's will. This distinction underscores the Nobel Foundation's enduring cross-national legacy and its commitment to recognizing excellence across diverse disciplines.

39. Correct Answer: (d) Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi

Explanation: The 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was conferred upon Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi for their pioneering work in the creation of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs). These materials are highly porous crystalline structures that combine metal ions with organic linkers, allowing for efficient gas storage, catalysis, and molecular separation. Their discovery has revolutionized materials science, offering transformative applications in energy storage, carbon capture, and environmental sustainability.

40. Correct Answer: (a) Only I and II

Explanation: Alfred Nobel, a Swedish chemist and engineer, invented dynamite and later decided to

dedicate his wealth to establishing the Nobel Prizes to honor those who contributed most to humanity in various fields. His 1895 will lay the foundation for prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace. The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, officially known as the “Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel,” was not part of Nobel’s original will. It was introduced much later in 1968 by Sweden’s central bank, Sveriges Riksbank, to commemorate the bank’s 300th anniversary.

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

Explanation: The government simplified the GST structure to two main slabs — 5% and 18% as part of its ongoing rationalization efforts. Essential household goods such as soaps, toothpaste, and Indian breads were moved to the 5% or Nil category, making them more affordable for consumers. Statement II is incorrect, as these items were not moved to the higher 28% slab but rather taxed at reduced rates to ease household expenses and promote consumption.

42. Correct Answer: (d) 40%

Explanation: Products such as tobacco, pan masala, aerated beverages, and luxury goods are taxed at the highest GST rate of 40%, classifying them as sin and luxury items. This elevated rate serves two major purposes — it discourages the use of harmful or non-essential products and simultaneously generates significant tax revenue to fund public health and welfare programs. The high-tax approach aligns with India’s progressive taxation philosophy, aiming to promote healthier lifestyles while supporting equitable fiscal growth.

43. Correct Answer: (c) 2017

Explanation: Implemented in 2017, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) consolidated numerous indirect taxes under a single, nationwide tax regime. It aimed to streamline the taxation process, lower transaction costs, and eliminate cascading taxes that increased the price of goods. By promoting ease of doing business, ensuring free movement of goods across states, and enhancing fiscal transparency, GST became a cornerstone in India’s journey toward economic integration and modernization.

44. Correct Answer: (c) 101st Constitutional Amendment Act

Explanation: The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 laid the legal foundation for introducing the

Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Although the idea of GST was first proposed in 2000, it took over a decade of intergovernmental discussions and consensus building for its realization. This amendment empowered both the Union and State governments to levy and collect GST, thereby creating a unified national market. It also led to the formation of the GST Council, which determines tax rates, exemptions, and policies—ensuring cooperative federalism in India’s taxation framework.

45. Correct Answer: (b) Bio-pesticides and natural menthol now attract a 5 percent GST rate.

Explanation: Under the revised GST reforms, the government reduced the rate on bio-pesticides and natural menthol from 12 percent to 5 percent to encourage eco-friendly and cost-efficient agriculture. Similar reductions apply to tractors, tires, harvesters, threshers, sprinklers, and drip irrigation systems, all placed in the 5 percent slab. These measures help lower input costs, correct the inverted duty structure on fertilizer components, and promote self-reliance and sustainability in farming, supporting India’s goal of Atmanirbhar Krishi (self-reliant agriculture).

46. Correct Answer: (a) Article 279A

Explanation: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is established under Article 279A of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. As per Article 279A(1), the President must constitute the Council within 60 days of the article’s commencement. The Council comprises the Union Finance Minister as Chairperson, the Union Minister of State for Finance or Revenue, and the Finance or Taxation Ministers of all States. It plays a pivotal role in recommending GST rates, exemptions, threshold limits, and model laws, ensuring fiscal harmony and cooperative federalism across India’s taxation framework.

47. Correct Answer: (c) Towards Understanding India’s Position in Global Maritime History

Explanation: The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024) focused on the theme “Towards Understanding India’s Position in Global Maritime History.” The event aimed to highlight India’s ancient maritime traditions, trade links, and cultural exchanges across the Indian Ocean region. It brought together historians, archaeologists, and maritime experts to recontextualize India’s pivotal role in shaping global seafaring networks and heritage, reinforcing the nation’s deep-rooted maritime identity.

48. Correct Answer: (b) Sagarmala Programme

Explanation: The Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, is a flagship initiative aimed at modernizing India's ports, enhancing coastal connectivity, and promoting sustainable economic growth through efficient maritime logistics. It forms a central pillar of both Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, focusing on reducing logistics costs, expanding coastal and inland waterway transport, and promoting port-led industrialization. The program embodies India's vision of transforming into a global maritime power through innovation-driven, eco-friendly coastal development.

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

Explanation: All three statements are correct. The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Lothal (Gujarat), one of the major urban centers of the Harappan civilization dating to 2600 BCE. Archaeological findings from the site include the oldest manmade dockyard, providing evidence of advanced maritime trade and engineering skills in ancient India. The NMHC aims to showcase this enduring maritime legacy through an interactive museum and heritage complex.

50. Correct Answer: (a) Kandla Port

Explanation: Kandla Port, also known as Deendayal Port, achieved a major milestone by inaugurating India's first megawatt-scale indigenous green

hydrogen facility. This initiative marks a significant step toward clean energy transition and port decarbonisation. The project supports India's broader National Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming to enhance self-reliance in renewable energy and promote sustainable port operations across the nation's maritime sector.

51. Correct Answer: (d) 38th

Explanation: In the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023, India achieved its best-ever ranking of 38th out of 139 countries, marking a major improvement from its 44th position in 2018 and 54th in 2014. The LPI assesses countries on trade logistics efficiency, infrastructure, shipment reliability, and customs processes. India's rise reflects the success of initiatives like PM Gati Shakti, Sagarmala, and Bharatmala, which collectively aim to enhance supply chain efficiency, multimodal connectivity, and global competitiveness in logistics.

52. Correct Answer: (b) India's maritime prowess spans a 7,500 km coastline with 13 major ports across all domains.

Explanation: Modern India's maritime capability is defined by its 7,500 km-long coastline and 13 major ports, which together form the backbone of its trade, logistics, and naval strategy. This vast maritime infrastructure enhances India's connectivity across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), supporting commerce, blue economy growth, and maritime security initiatives that project India as a key global seafaring power.

53. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "Courts may grant restitutionary relief under Section 33 of the Specific Relief Act, 1877, requiring restoration of benefits when an instrument is cancelled or enforcement is successfully resisted; this is discretionary and limited to the extent the minor or their estate has benefited."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Universal refund undermines the statute's intention of ensuring remedies are limited and conditional. The law is clear that only traceable benefits, not all payments, qualify for restitution, so blanket rules do not apply. Applying a mandatory refund would ignore the nuances of the minor's legal incapacity, overturning policy protections meant to prevent indirect enforcement of void contracts.

Option (b) Incorrect: The right to restitution is not triggered simply by a successful plea of minority; it requires careful assessment of actual enrichment to the estate. It would be unfair and legally unsound for the remedy to follow every cancellation, as it may allow minors to be indirectly bound by contracts meant to be void and would open the door to circumventing the statutory protection.

Option (c) Incorrect: The purpose of contract law regarding minors is to avoid imposing direct, personal liability under any circumstances. The estate must be the source of restitution if and only if it receives economic advantage; mere spending or consumption does not translate into liability. The law recognizes this shield and prevents creditors from reaching the minor's personal assets outside actual estate enrichment.

Option (d) Correct: Judicial power to grant restitution in cases involving minors is never absolute; the benefit must genuinely exist and be connected to the minor's estate, rather than being consumed personally or lost. Courts must analyze the facts to prevent unwarranted enrichment but avoid penalizing minors or breaching statutory protections. If the benefit cannot be traced, relief may be withheld entirely, emphasizing the tailored and cautious approach mandated by law. This limitation is consistent with the purpose of Section 33, discouraging routine recovery and safeguarding the unique interests of minors while maintaining fairness for the other party.

54. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "There is no estoppel against a minor; the minor may plead minority even if they misrepresented age."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The seller's diligence or lack thereof in checking age is irrelevant; the law's shield for minors is unaffected by others' care or investigation. Even if the seller acted reasonably or made efforts to verify age, Sahil's right to plead minority after misrepresentation is not conditional. The law's goal is to make minor's immunity universal and simple, so exceptions based on the seller's actions are not permitted under statutory regime.

Option (b) Incorrect: The dealership's reliance on misrepresentation cannot give rise to estoppel against a minor; contract law explicitly disallows this, prioritizing the protection of youth. Any rule enabling estoppel would place unreasonable burdens on minors and undermine the policy foundation of competence requirements, eroding statutory safeguards designed to favor minors over the interests of adult contracting parties.

Option (c) Correct: Contract law in India gives primacy to minor status over misrepresentation, even if it appears unjust to the other party. Sahil's ability to plead minority stands regardless of his conduct, meaning contractual liability cannot attach just because he lied; the void status of the agreement persists. This strong protection reflects deep public policy rationale, ensuring minors are immune from contractual results regardless of the circumstances, preserving the absolute shield. The dealership's reliance, while unfortunate, does not pierce this legal protection, allowing Sahil to walk free of any contractual consequence due to his age.

Option (d) Incorrect: No amount of misrepresentation or false statements can convert a void contract into a binding obligation; the principle prevents exceptions in cases of dishonesty, avoiding confusion or uncertainty for all parties. Even if Sahil's conduct was intentionally deceptive, legal incapacity remains paramount according to statutory interpretation. The law preserves predictability, ensuring minors cannot be forced into contracts under any circumstances, no matter how compelling.

55. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "A minor is not competent to contract or give consideration; hence Section 64 (voidable contracts) and Section 65 (agreements discovered void or contracts that become void) do not apply."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The law is categoric, minors lack capacity to contract, rendering such agreements void from inception and exempting them from restitution under Section 65. Leela's status shields her regardless of whether she enjoyed any benefit, keeping her immune from all contractual claims. This statutory regime is strict and intends to avoid indirect enforcement through claims of restitution, ensuring every loan or benefit extended in reliance on a minor's promise is at the lender's risk. Only special statutory exceptions regarding necessities exist, which do not alter the strict rule here.

Option (b) Incorrect: Imposing a repayment obligation even of principal would contradict the law's intent and let creditors benefit from void minor contracts, violating statutory language. The law's bar is total, no partial obligations emerge from alleged enrichment, ensuring all possible loopholes are closed. Justice in such cases is premised not on fairness but on legal incapacity, prioritizing the welfare and protection of minors over equitable arguments.

Option (c) Incorrect: Interest cannot be recovered because the contract is void ab initio; neither executed performance nor reasonable benefit justifies partial enforcement. The intent of the legislation is clear, shield minors entirely from these kinds of liabilities and avoid piecemeal recovery strategies that could erode protections. This strict interpretation ensures clarity and security in contractual dealings, serving as a deterrent to lenders.

Option (d) Incorrect: The law does not allow restitution of principal or interest when minors are involved, even if they appear to be benefited or if the contract is performed. Full enforcement would rebalance statutory protections to favor creditors and expose minors to substantial risk, fundamentally undermining the public policy of incapacity rules created to guard young people from exploitation and imprudent financial dealings.

56. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "A person usually unsound may contract during lucid intervals, while one usually sound

cannot contract during periods of unsoundness (e.g., delirium or drunkenness)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This view erroneously applies general incapacity without regard for momentary competence. Mental health fluctuations mean capacity should be assessed proximate to the acting time. Automatically voiding contracts ignores the legal principle of lucid interval capacity and may lead to injustice.

Option (b) Correct: The law narrowly construes capacity by focusing on the individual's mental condition at the precise time the contract was executed. Contracts made during lucid intervals, when persons fully comprehend and rationally evaluate agreements, are valid. This respects autonomy and prevents undue blanket invalidations based on historical or fluctuating mental health conditions. Therefore, Dinesh's contract during a lucid interval is enforceable.

Option (c) Incorrect: Guardian approval is not a formal legal necessity for contracts made during lucid intervals. Courts evaluate personal capacity, not the presence of guardianship, and require evidence of actual understanding at contracting.

Option (d) Incorrect: This misrepresents legal doctrine, which distinguishes between constant and intermittent mental soundness. Contracts made during lucid intervals are legally binding, contradicting the suggestion that they are always void.

57. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "A marriage agreement is considered beneficial: the minor may enforce it against the other party, though it cannot be enforced against the minor."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Marriage contracts enjoy special legal status as contracts beneficial to minors. This provision protects the minor's interests in enforcing matrimonial promises against adults, reflecting social values recognizing marriage's unique position compared to ordinary contracts. Sneha's right to enforce is valid, whereas Rohan is bound by the contract despite Sneha's minority at execution.

Option (b) Incorrect: While minors generally cannot enter binding contracts, marriage agreements are expressly excepted because of their personal and social benefit, challenging the general voidness of minor contracts.

Option (c) Incorrect: Post-majority ratification is unnecessary in marriage agreements; enforceability arises by virtue of the contract's beneficial nature, making additional confirmation redundant.

Option (d) Incorrect: Contracts for essential goods differ from marriage agreements legally; marital agreements are uniquely protected and enforceable irrespective of the essential goods doctrine.

58. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "Ratification after majority does not validate a void minor's agreement; only a fresh promise supported by fresh consideration can bind the former minor, and a mere confirmatory bond without consideration is ineffective."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Mere acknowledgment of a prior contract does not meet the legal requirement for ratification. Confirmatory notes without new consideration are ineffective, preventing automatic enforcement based on old agreements.

Option (b) Incorrect: Essential service exceptions do not dispense with the requirement of fresh consideration for ratification; legal binding relies on formal elements, independent of contract necessity.

Option (c) Incorrect: Partial payment post-majority alone does not constitute sufficient fresh consideration or ratification; binding contracts require specific new promises supported by consideration beyond simple performance.

Option (d) Correct: The legal principle demands a new promise with fresh consideration for any former minor to be bound post-majority. Without fresh consideration, confirmatory notes lack the essential element to convert void prior agreements into enforceable contracts, thus protecting former minors from retrospective liabilities.

59. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "inconsistent post-constitutional laws as void from inception and incapable of revival"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Post-constitutional laws that violate fundamental rights cannot claim temporary validity based on legislative purpose or pending appeals. The constitutional invalidity operates immediately upon the finding of inconsistency, leaving no room for provisional enforcement despite economic or administrative convenience arguments.

Option (b) Incorrect: Unlike pre-constitutional laws where past acts may survive, post-constitutional laws are treated distinctly. When a post-constitutional law is found inconsistent with fundamental rights, its void-from-inception character means it never had legal existence to validate any action, whether past or prospective, under its purported authority.

Option (c) Correct: Post-constitutional laws inconsistent with fundamental rights are treated as nullities from the moment of enactment. They possess no dormancy period and cannot be revived under any circumstances, distinguishing them fundamentally from pre-constitutional laws that may lie eclipsed and later revive when impediments are removed.

Option (d) Incorrect: The doctrine of eclipse applies exclusively to pre-constitutional laws, allowing them to lie dormant and potentially revive. Post-constitutional laws receive harsher treatment: they are void ab initio and incapable of any revival mechanism, regardless of subsequent constitutional amendments or changing circumstances.

60. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "a pre-constitutional law that conflicts with fundamental rights is not dead but lies dormant or 'eclipsed' and can revive if the constitutional impediment is removed"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Pre-constitutional laws are not judged void from their original enactment dates based on subsequently crystallized constitutional standards. The doctrine specifically recognizes that such laws had legitimate existence before the Constitution and only become inoperative prospectively from 1950, not retrospectively from their inception.

Option (b) Correct: Pre-constitutional laws inconsistent with fundamental rights do not die but enter a state of dormancy or eclipse from 26 January 1950. They cannot authorize actions during the eclipse period, but retain potential for full revival if the constitutional barrier is later removed through legitimate amendment, exactly as occurred with the 2024 modification.

Option (c) Incorrect: Pre-constitutional laws do not enjoy blanket immunity from fundamental rights scrutiny. They become inoperative to the extent of inconsistency from 1950 onward, though they are not destroyed and may lie dormant, distinguishing temporary inoperability from continued validity throughout all periods.

Option (d) Incorrect: The eclipse doctrine specifically preserves the possibility of revival for pre-constitutional laws, unlike post-constitutional laws which are void ab initio. When the constitutional impediment is removed, the dormant law springs back to life and regains full operational force without requiring fresh legislative enactment.

61. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "Under the doctrine of severability, a court strikes down only the unconstitutional portion of a statute while allowing the remainder to survive and operate"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Courts are not bound by legislative packaging when constitutional violations exist. The doctrine of severability specifically empowers judicial excision of unconstitutional portions without requiring wholesale validation of flawed provisions merely because the legislature conceived them as part of an integrated scheme.

Option (b) Incorrect: Constitutional adjudication does not operate on an all-or-nothing basis when portions of a statute can function independently. Severability recognizes that striking down one section need not invalidate the entire enactment if the remaining provisions can stand alone and serve legitimate purposes without the unconstitutional component.

Option (c) Correct: The severability doctrine instructs courts to surgically remove only the constitutionally defective portion while preserving the remainder's operation. Since twenty-four sections address legitimate security coordination without depending on warrantless search powers, they can survive and operate as valid law after Section 19's excision.

Option (d) Incorrect: Courts cannot place unconstitutional provisions in abeyance or create transitional arrangements for legislative repair. The judicial function is to declare the constitutional position immediately; an unconstitutional provision must be struck down upon finding, not held in suspended animation pending parliamentary action.

62. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "fundamental rights are inviolable and cannot be waived by any individual, so no one may contract out of the protections contained in Part III"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Contract law principles of informed consent do not extend to fundamental rights, which occupy a higher constitutional plane. The inviolability of Part III protections means they cannot be bargained away through private agreements, regardless of the parties' sophistication or the negotiation's arms-length character.

Option (b) Incorrect: While fundamental rights do protect individuals, their constitutional character means they cannot be treated as alienable personal property subject to cost-benefit trade-offs. The prohibition on waiver operates regardless of the individual's subjective preferences or the commercial reasonableness of the proposed exchange.

Option (c) Incorrect: The doctrine does not distinguish between procedural and substantive fundamental rights for waiver purposes. All protections contained in Part III are inviolable and non-waivable; creating categories of waivable procedural rights would undermine the blanket prohibition on contracting out of constitutional protections.

Option (d) Correct: Constitutional protections in Part III are inviolable and cannot be waived, bargained, or contracted away by any individual under any circumstances. This principle prevents citizens from surrendering constitutional safeguards through settlement agreements, consent decrees, or any other form of private arrangement, regardless of apparent benefits.

63. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "'law' broadly to include ordinances, orders, by-laws, rules, regulations, notifications, customs and usages with the force of law"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The broad definition encompasses customs and usages when they carry the force of law. The State notification transformed the Council's customary resolutions from mere social practices into binding legal instruments enforceable by district magistrates, bringing them squarely within Article 13's scope for fundamental rights challenges.

Option (b) Incorrect: Not every rule affecting rights automatically becomes constitutional law. The critical element is whether the instrument carries the force of law through State recognition, enforcement mechanisms, or legally binding character. Private decisions without State backing remain outside Article 13's reach regardless of their practical impact on rights.

Option (c) Incorrect: The constitutional definition of law is not confined to formal legislative enactments but extends broadly to various instruments and practices. Customary practices do not escape scrutiny merely by being characterized as social norms when they acquire binding legal force through State recognition or enforcement mechanisms.

Option (d) Incorrect: Article 13's expansive definition specifically includes orders, by-laws, and customs with legal force, not just parliamentary or state legislation. Village-level decisions can constitute law when they operate with binding authority and State enforcement backing, as the 1998 notification established here.

64. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "The doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* ('the thing speaks for itself') permits an inference of negligence where the accident is of a kind that ordinarily does not occur without negligence, the instrumentality was under the defendant's control, and the plaintiff did not contribute; it shifts the evidential burden to the defendant to rebut the inference."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Both statements are true since a retained surgical instrument is a classic instance where negligence is presumed. The assertion mirrors the legal presumption, and the reason correctly explains that the presumption arises when the cause was under the defendant's control and the plaintiff was not at fault, shifting the evidential burden.

Option (b) Incorrect: While both sentences are factually accurate, the reason directly explains the assertion by outlining the same qualifying conditions of control and absence of contribution; hence this option wrongly separates them.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reason accurately conveys the foundational conditions for the inference of negligence and cannot be treated as false.

Option (d) Incorrect: The assertion accurately states the operation of the principle in surgical negligence; therefore, treating it as false is inconsistent with the law.

65. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "the omission to do something a reasonable person would do, or doing something a prudent person would not do"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Negligence requires proof that conduct fell below the standard expected of a reasonable person in similar circumstances, not merely that an error occurred resulting in harm. Adverse outcomes alone do not establish breach; the focus must be on whether the defendant's actions or omissions departed from what a prudent professional would have done.

Option (b) Correct: The standard examines whether the defendant omitted what a reasonable person would do or did what a prudent person would not do. Expert evidence establishes that 95% of specialists would have proceeded identically under the same emergency circumstances, meaning Dr. Kapoor's conduct aligned with what prudent neurosurgeons would do.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reasonable person standard is applied holistically to the entire course of conduct in context, not mechanically to isolated time factors. Working extended hours in a surgical emergency with no alternative specialist does not automatically constitute doing something a prudent person would not do when professional norms and necessity support the decision.

Option (d) Incorrect: Compliance with institutional protocols provides evidence of reasonable care but does not conclusively establish it. The test remains whether the defendant's conduct matched what a reasonable prudent person would have done or avoided; organizational rules inform but do not supplant that objective standard of care.

66. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "a duty of care must exist, assessed by foreseeability of harm, a relationship of proximity, and whether it is fair, just, and reasonable to impose liability"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Actual knowledge of specific dangers is not required for duty to arise; foreseeability is assessed objectively based on what a reasonable person should anticipate. The three-part test asks whether harm was foreseeable as a general matter, whether sufficient proximity exists, and whether liability is just, none of which requires the defendant's subjective awareness.

Option (b) Incorrect: Duty of care does not arise automatically from injury on premises; it must be established through the three-part assessment. Landlords are not subject to strict liability for all structural defects; duty depends on foreseeability,

proximity, and policy considerations rather than automatic imposition upon any premises-related harm. Option (c) Incorrect: A commercial lease does not eliminate landlord duties regarding latent structural defects beyond tenant control. The three-part test considers the nature of the relationship; landlords retain responsibility for structural integrity even when other obligations transfer because tenants cannot reasonably inspect or repair foundational elements.

Option (d) Correct: The duty assessment examines foreseeability of harm from structural defects, the proximate landlord-tenant relationship, and whether imposing liability is fair, just, and reasonable. All three elements favor finding a duty: collapses from deteriorating support beams are foreseeable, landlord-tenant proximity is recognized, and holding landlords responsible for structural safety serves justice.

67. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "Remoteness limits recovery to losses of a reasonably foreseeable type; if the kind of damage was foreseeable, liability follows even if its precise manner or extent was not"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: An intervening event does not automatically break the chain of causation if the general type of harm remained foreseeable. Remoteness analysis focuses on whether the kind of damage was within reasonable contemplation, not whether every step in the causal sequence was predictable; unusual triggering mechanisms do not render foreseeable harm too remote.

Option (b) Incorrect: The remoteness test does not require foreseeability of the exact sequence of events or precise mechanism of harm. As long as the general kind or type of damage was within reasonable contemplation, liability attaches even when the particular manner, extent, or chain of causation was unexpected or unusual.

Option (c) Correct: Remoteness confines recovery to losses of a reasonably foreseeable type, and liability follows when the kind of damage was foreseeable even if its precise manner or extent was not anticipated. Fire and explosion from improperly stored flammable chemicals represent exactly the foreseeable type of harm; the lightning trigger's unusualness does not defeat recovery.

Option (d) Incorrect: Safety code violations do not create automatic liability for all consequential

damages; the remoteness limitation still applies. Recovery depends on whether the type of loss was reasonably foreseeable as a consequence of the breach, not on the mere fact that a regulatory violation occurred as part of the causal chain.

68. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "An Act of God (vis major) bars liability where extraordinary natural forces cause the harm and human foresight and care could not reasonably guard against it"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Property owners are not subject to absolute liability for all damage their structures cause; negligence requires proof of breach of duty. When extraordinary natural forces produce harm that reasonable foresight and precaution could not prevent, the Act of God defense bars liability despite damage originating from the defendant's property.

Option (b) Correct: The Act of God defense operates where extraordinary natural forces cause harm and human foresight and care could not reasonably guard against it. A Category 5 cyclone unprecedented in 150 years, exceeding all prior observations and the storm ratings for which reasonable precautions were taken, constitutes such extraordinary force beyond reasonable prevention.

Option (c) Incorrect: Operating in an area with known risks does not eliminate the Act of God defense when truly extraordinary events exceed reasonable foreseeability and prevention. Assumption of ordinary cyclone risk does not mean assuming liability for unprecedented natural forces that human foresight and care could not reasonably guard against, regardless of location choice.

Option (d) Incorrect: While the resort's precautions are relevant, the Act of God defense does not rest solely on proving all possible precautions were taken. The key inquiry is whether extraordinary natural forces caused harm that human foresight and care could not reasonably guard against; reasonable precautions against foreseeable events do not preclude the defense when unprecedented forces intervene.

69. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "An inevitable accident defence succeeds where, despite the exercise of ordinary care, caution, and skill, the incident was physically unavoidable"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The inevitable accident defense succeeds when, despite the exercise of ordinary care, caution, and skill, the incident was physically unavoidable. Expert testimony established that even perfect reflexes at reduced speed could not have prevented the collision given the 1.5-second window, and Ramesh had exercised ordinary care throughout, rendering the accident unavoidable.

Option (b) Incorrect: While heightened care is expected in areas with children, negligence still requires proof that the defendant failed to exercise reasonable care. The inevitable accident defense recognizes that some incidents remain physically unavoidable despite ordinary care, caution, and skill; automatic liability for all child collisions would eliminate this defense improperly.

Option (c) Incorrect: Proof of injury does not automatically establish that more could have been done; the inevitable accident defense applies when the incident was physically unavoidable despite ordinary care. Expert evidence showed that even lower speeds would not have prevented the collision given reaction-time physics, negating the argument that additional precautions would have succeeded.

Option (d) Incorrect: Compliance with speed limits and vehicle maintenance supports but does not conclusively establish fulfillment of duty or the inevitable accident defense. The defense requires showing that despite ordinary care, caution, and skill, the incident was physically unavoidable; it is the unavoidability despite care, not mere compliance with rules, that grounds the defense.

70. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "the intention must pre-exist the crime, whether by prearrangement or a meeting of minds formed on the spur of the moment, and it cannot be presumed unless a necessary inference from the circumstances."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Earlier expressions of general anger do not constitute the prearrangement required for common intention; such statements reflect similar sentiment rather than a shared plan to commit a specific crime. The doctrine requires either a deliberate plan or an immediate convergence of minds at the crime scene, not retrospective construction from unrelated prior conversations.

Option (b) Correct: Common intention can crystallize either through advance planning or through an immediate meeting of minds formed on the spur of the moment at the crime scene. When Vikram witnessed the ongoing attack and immediately joined with full knowledge and purposeful participation, a shared intention to cause Suresh's death emerged instantaneously, satisfying the pre-existence requirement even without prior arrangement.

Option (c) Incorrect: While common intention cannot be presumed from mere similar emotions, it can be inferred as a necessary conclusion from the circumstances when one accused joins an ongoing attack with full awareness and active participation. The doctrine does not require advance planning when the facts compel the inference that minds met spontaneously during commission of the crime.

Option (d) Incorrect: Spontaneous participation does not preclude common intention; the doctrine explicitly recognizes that a meeting of minds can form on the spur of the moment. When Vikram rushed to the scene, understood the situation, and actively joined the assault, his conduct permits the necessary inference of shared intention despite the absence of prior concert or arrangement.

71. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "where common intention is established, liability attaches even without proof of an individual overt act, whereas participation without common intention does not attract Section 34."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Essential contribution to a criminal plan does not automatically satisfy Section 34's requirements when divorced from actual participation at the scene. The provision's vicarious liability mechanism requires that accused persons be involved in the commission; roles performed remotely, regardless of their importance to the overall scheme, do not meet the participation threshold that the doctrine demands.

Option (b) Incorrect: The distinction between preparatory acts and execution is not the determining factor under Section 34. The critical issue is whether common intention is established and whether there was participation; even preparatory roles can attract Section 34 if performed at the scene, but remote activities, whether preparatory or supportive, lack the participatory element essential for liability under this provision.

Option (c) Incorrect: Section 34 does not dispense with the requirement of participation merely because common intention exists among conspirators. The provision operates as a rule of evidence that renders each liable as if he alone committed the act, but this vicarious liability requires actual involvement; the doctrine does not extend to remote supporters who lack the requisite participation element.

Option (d) Correct: While common intention can render each accused liable even without proof of a specific individual overt act, this benefit applies only when participation is established. Ashok and Dinesh, despite sharing the common intention to rob, did not participate at the scene; their remote activities do not constitute the participation that Section 34 requires for attaching liability without individual overt acts.

72. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "The conspiracy doctrine in Section 120A criminalizes agreement between two or more persons to do an illegal act or a legal act by illegal means, requiring an overt act only when the agreement is not to commit an offence, and it is immaterial whether the illegal act is the ultimate or incidental objective."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The conspiracy doctrine specifically criminalizes an agreement between persons to do an illegal act or achieve a legal objective through illegal means. Discussions that remain at the exploratory stage, consider multiple legal alternatives, and never coalesce into a definite understanding to pursue illegality do not constitute the meeting of minds that forms the core of conspiracy liability under Section 120A.

Option (b) Incorrect: Repeated meetings and discussions do not automatically transform into criminal conspiracy; the essence of the offence is an actual agreement to pursue an illegal objective or lawful objective through illegal means. Exploratory conversations, brainstorming sessions, or even extended negotiations about a lawful goal do not satisfy the agreement element that the doctrine criminalizes, regardless of meeting frequency or duration.

Option (c) Incorrect: Dark humor, speculation, or casual mention of illegal possibilities during broader discussions does not establish the firm agreement that conspiracy requires. The doctrine demands a meeting of minds on a specific illegal course, not merely that

illegality was mentioned, joked about, or contemplated as one of several options never seriously adopted or agreed upon between the parties.

Option (d) Incorrect: The requirement of an overt act applies only when the agreement itself is not to commit an offence but to achieve a legal end through illegal means. When the agreement is to commit an offence, conspiracy is complete upon the agreement itself without any overt act; however, the fundamental problem here is the absence of any agreement at all, not the absence of an overt act.

73. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "The furtherance requirement specifies that the criminal act must be done in prosecution of the shared intention"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Section 149 does not impose automatic constructive guilt on all assembly members for every act committed by any member during the assembly's existence. The provision requires that the offence be committed in prosecution of the common object or be one members knew was likely; mere temporal coincidence of membership and offence does not satisfy the furtherance element essential to liability.

Option (b) Incorrect: A common object of peaceful protest does not make members responsible for acts that fundamentally contradict and deviate from that object. The furtherance principle requires that the criminal act advance or prosecute the shared purpose; actions that are antithetical to the assembly's stated and demonstrated objective, even if committed by a member during the event, fall outside the scope of collective liability.

Option (c) Correct: The furtherance requirement mandates that the criminal act must be done in prosecution of the shared intention or common object of the assembly. Priya's sudden, impulsive arson, committed without discussion, contrary to the planned peaceful protest, and immediately opposed by other members, was not in prosecution of the group's objective of submitting a memorandum, breaking the essential nexus for liability.

Option (d) Incorrect: While knowledge of likelihood is an alternative basis for Section 149 liability, the primary issue here is whether the act was done in prosecution of the common object. Even if members lacked specific knowledge that arson was likely, this lack is not the decisive factor when the act so clearly

departed from the shared peaceful objective that it cannot be characterized as prosecuting that shared intention.

74. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "Knowledge here denotes a high degree of probability inferable from the assembly's nature, arms, or behavior."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Both statements are true because Ravi's presence in a group carrying dangerous weapons and engaging in destruction reasonably implies awareness of a likely offence. The reason correctly explains that such knowledge arises from inference based on the group's composition and behavior, meeting the liability threshold under Section 149.

Option (b) Incorrect: While both statements are true, the reason directly explains the assertion by clarifying how knowledge can be inferred from surrounding facts, not independent of it.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reason is a correct legal proposition and cannot be deemed false; the assertion too is supported by those principles.

Option (d) Incorrect: The assertion aligns with the legal standard since Ravi's liability arises from inferable knowledge, making it untrue to treat it as false.

75. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "Section 52(1)(a)(ii) expressly covers criticism or review while Section 52(1)(a)(iii) covers the reporting of current events and current affairs, including public lectures."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Reporting requires objective and factual narration of events without alteration or interpretation. While humour can accompany news, satire fundamentally alters meaning and provides subjective commentary. Categorizing such expression as "reporting" ignores the distinction between dissemination and evaluation. Factual reporting conveys events neutrally, whereas satire reshapes content to critique. Thus, it cannot be treated as a factual account of current events under the reporting clause.

Option (b) Incorrect: Rejecting satire as a valid form of critique would narrow the concept of review and hinder expressive diversity. Courts recognize that

commentary may take many creative forms, including parody and exaggeration, when aimed at analysis. The protection depends on purpose and transformation, not tone or style. Denying satire protection undermines the public's right to scrutinize governance through contemporary means of expression. Therefore, it cannot be excluded from fair dealing merely for its humorous style.

Option (c) Incorrect: Accreditation governs rights of access to legislative premises or live feeds, not the legality of commentary based on public broadcasts. Once footage is available publicly, citizens may use extracts for criticism consistent with statutory exceptions. Restricting such commentary to accredited media would create monopolies over political evaluation. The fair dealing defence applies to any lawful critic, irrespective of media status or licensing credentials.

Option (d) Correct: The show's essence lies in political critique and public accountability, which aligns directly with the statutory allowance for criticism or review. Its use of humour does not diminish its analytical nature; satire functions as a legitimate form of commentary under expressive freedom. By focusing on the content of speeches and exposing contradictions, it serves a transformative and evaluative purpose. The law protects reinterpretation of public statements when done for democratic scrutiny, even if comedic in tone. The key factor is the critical transformation of footage rather than mere replication or entertainment.

76. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "The purpose-specific limitation principle requires that any claimed fair dealing fit one of the enumerated purposes, and unlike the United States' fair use, the Indian approach does not extend beyond those purposes."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Merely labelling a work as "educational" cannot expand statutory boundaries. The educational clause applies to structured learning contexts, not general commentary. Public benefit alone is insufficient without fitting within the listed purposes. The YouTuber's celebration of trends serves promotional rather than instructional ends. Expanding interpretation on moral grounds would distort statutory intent and erode predictability.

Option (b) Incorrect: The law does not recognize commercial revenue thresholds as determinants of fairness. Even minor monetization cannot legitimize

acts outside enumerated categories. Purpose and character of the use, not profitability, define legality. If an act exceeds permitted purposes, no amount of financial modesty can cure the defect. Indian law prioritizes the specific purpose test over economic proportionality.

Option (c) Incorrect: Quantitative considerations matter only when purpose already qualifies as fair dealing. Since the content fails the purpose requirement, duration or percentage of copying is irrelevant. Even brief excerpts may infringe if used for non-enumerated objectives. The doctrine's emphasis is qualitative, focusing on purpose before amount. Hence, the YouTuber's extensive use of footage is automatically infringing, regardless of scale.

Option (d) Correct: The Indian copyright system limits fair dealing strictly to specified heads like criticism, review, or reporting, rejecting open-ended flexibility. The YouTuber's work does not fit within those enumerated purposes, making the defence unavailable. Public interest, creativity, or cultural benefit cannot override legislative specificity. The law's rigidity aims to preserve certainty by preventing courts from creating ad hoc exemptions. Therefore, the act constitutes infringement even if presented as educational.

77. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "In *Super Cassettes Industries Ltd v. Chintamani Rao* (2011), broadcasting entire songs or substantial portions under a news label exceeded fair dealing, emphasizing that such use must be incidental."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Non-commercial motives or civic intent cannot validate an act that clearly substitutes the original work. The doctrine focuses on the necessity and proportionality of the use, not its revenue structure. Even a non-profit broadcast can harm market value by replacing legitimate consumption. Moral justification cannot erase the statutory infringement arising from complete reproduction.

Option (b) Incorrect: While not all entertainment content requires licensing, entire works reproduced outside incidental context certainly do. The defence applies to limited, essential references integrated into a news narrative. Treating all music as per se licensable ignores the statutory nuance of purpose and necessity. The infringement stems from deliberate overuse, not from inherent musicality.

Option (c) Correct: The channel's deliberate replay of complete songs transforms news coverage into entertainment and negates incidental purpose. Incidental use protects unavoidable or secondary inclusion of copyrighted content, not full reproductions used for audience appeal. When the copied work becomes central to the segment, the use becomes substitutionary. This undermines the journalistic aim and directly competes with the original owner's rights.

Option (d) Incorrect: Simply classifying a programme as "news" does not automatically qualify every element of its content as fair dealing. Only materials integral to understanding the event are protected. Full songs are independent works unrelated to factual reporting. Automatic exemption would convert the defence into a loophole for unlicensed performances under the guise of journalism.

78. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "The *de minimis non curat lex* principle excuses trivial, fleeting, and non-exploitative uses, but brevity alone is not dispositive if the essence is taken."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The law does not endorse rigid temporal thresholds like "ten seconds" as conclusive proof of triviality. Substantiality is a matter of context and perception, not stopwatch precision. A few seconds of a distinctive melody can convey the work's character fully. Blind adherence to duration would defeat the purpose of nuanced judicial assessment of significance.

Option (b) Correct: The qualitative significance of the copied portion outweighs its brevity when it conveys the creative core of the composition. The doctrine protects only negligible reproductions that add no expressive or market value. Repetition of a recognizable motif signals exploitation, not accident. Courts assess whether the extract carries independent identity and audience recognition. Even minimal use can infringe if it captures the heart of the work.

Option (c) Incorrect: Incidental ambience can mitigate but not automatically exempt a use from scrutiny. The broadcaster's editorial control and intent remain key factors. If the production deliberately amplified or retained identifiable music, triviality fails. The law weighs human discretion against the spontaneity of capture to decide whether the inclusion was unavoidable.

Option (d) Incorrect: Commerciality influences damages but not the existence of infringement. Even

nonprofit or accidental broadcasts can still reproduce protected material unlawfully. Automatic liability for all commercial uses would destroy balance and ignore fairness-based exceptions. The proper inquiry remains contextual, whether use was exploitative or merely incidental and negligible.

79. (d) The use is fair only if the reviewer obtained prior written consent from the original network before critique.

Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: "In *TV Today Network Ltd. v. Newsland Media Pvt. Ltd.*, the Delhi High Court accepted the use of very short clips for critique that did not substitute the broadcast, and observed the difficulty of calling such extracts substantial when aimed at commentary."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The reviewer's intent is transformative, using minimal footage to critique media style and ethics without replacing the original broadcast. Such analytical commentary fosters public discussion and meets the statutory purpose of review. The brevity and altered context ensure there is no market harm or substitution. The act strengthens accountability while staying within permissible criticism under fair dealing.

Option (b) Incorrect: The fairness of critique does not depend on tone or seriousness but on purpose and proportionality. Parody and humour are legitimate tools of public commentary. Mocking presentation techniques falls within evaluative discourse, not defamation or infringement. Restricting such forms would limit expressive diversity in democratic dialogue.

Option (c) Incorrect: The statute explicitly allows partial reproduction for commentary and review. A complete ban would render the exception meaningless and hinder transparency. Transformative use distinguishes commentary from duplication, especially when new meaning and public insight are added. It ensures creators cannot suppress fair criticism of their own work.

Option (d) Incorrect: Fair dealing functions as a statutory right independent of prior consent. Requiring permission from the criticized entity would defeat the very rationale of critical independence. The law guarantees the freedom to engage, analyze, and comment upon existing media without control by its

originator. Consent is unnecessary where statutory protection applies.

80. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "The Polluter Pays Principle is a doctrine that requires those who produce pollution to bear the costs of managing it so as to prevent damage to human health or the environment."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Regulatory payments are general administrative measures and not substitutes for reparative justice. Fees or cesses do not correspond to specific harm caused and cannot discharge the duty to restore polluted resources. The principle separates fiscal compliance from moral and legal accountability. Allowing statutory dues to serve as a shield would make pollution financially affordable and defeat deterrence altogether.

Option (b) Incorrect: Liability under the doctrine is absolute and independent of intent, meaning that negligence or deliberation need not be proven. Pollution is treated as a consequence of industrial activity, not moral fault. Demanding proof of intent would collapse the preventive objective and transform environmental justice into a conventional tort inquiry. The burden rests on polluters to show adequate preventive systems, not on victims to prove malice.

Option (c) Incorrect: Civil and environmental responsibilities operate on a different plane from criminal guilt. Courts have recognized that compensation and restoration can be ordered regardless of conviction. Waiting for penal adjudication would render environmental enforcement ineffective, as time delays allow ecological damage to worsen irreversibly. Liability is restorative and proactive rather than retributive.

Option (d) Correct: The rule obliges the polluter to bear full financial responsibility for all harm caused, including victim compensation and environmental restoration. Paying compliance fees cannot extinguish liability for actual damage, since the doctrine internalizes all ecological and social costs into the polluter's obligation. It ensures that pollution is never subsidized by society and that enterprises factor environmental management into their economic activities. The intent is not merely punitive but corrective, mandating rehabilitation of the ecosystem and human health.

81. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Line: “The doctrine imposes three restrictions on the State: the property must be available for use by the general public for public purposes, it must not be sold even for fair cash equivalent, and it must be maintained for specific uses such as navigation, recreation, or fishery.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The doctrine prohibits alienation of natural resources that are held in trust for the public, regardless of compensation or good intent. The State acts as a custodian, not a commercial proprietor, and must ensure perpetual availability of such spaces for public use. Selling, leasing, or restricting access, even for ecological purposes, destroys their public character. The fiduciary duty requires preservation in kind, not substitution with money or alternate projects.

Option (b) Incorrect: The doctrine cannot be satisfied by economic equivalence, as monetary returns cannot replicate public access or collective enjoyment of common heritage. Once exclusion is created, the fiduciary relationship between the State and its citizens is broken. Public trust rests on continuity of use, not offsetting gains elsewhere. Allowing substitution would convert ecological stewardship into an asset-management exercise.

Option (c) Incorrect: The harm lies not merely in economic displacement but in deprivation of communal rights in perpetuity. Compensating affected groups cannot legitimize alienation of public property. The doctrine binds the State to preserve the resource itself for common benefit, making restoration of access, not monetary restitution, the central obligation. Thus, no amount of alternative livelihood can replace the lost trust.

Option (d) Incorrect: While tourism contributes to public welfare, converting open beaches into exclusive enclaves defeats the very essence of collective access. The doctrine distinguishes between shared enjoyment and privatized use, emphasizing continuity of public rights. Framing profit-oriented tourism as “public purpose” ignores its exclusionary effect and weakens the State’s role as trustee of environmental commons.

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

Reference Line: “The Supreme Court of India has interpreted it as imposing absolute liability that extends to compensating victims and to the costs of restoring environmental degradation.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Introducing a fault element contradicts the established framework of absolute liability. The doctrine was crafted precisely to overcome evidentiary barriers faced by victims. Negligence, intent, or foreseeability are irrelevant when damage flows directly from inherently risky operations. The standard imposes automatic responsibility commensurate with the magnitude of risk undertaken.

Option (b) Correct: The rule imposes complete and unconditional responsibility on hazardous enterprises for any harm resulting from their operations. Even unforeseen natural causes do not dilute liability since the risk stems from inherently dangerous activity. Compensation covers both personal injury and ecological restoration to ensure full remediation. The objective is deterrence and social accountability for industrial hazards.

Option (c) Incorrect: Insurance provides financial security to the operator but cannot limit the scope of restitution owed to the community and environment. Liability extends beyond contractual arrangements, encompassing moral and statutory obligations. To restrict compensation to policy limits would convert accountability into an insurable commodity, eroding preventive discipline.

Option (d) Incorrect: Ecological restoration forms an integral aspect of justice under the doctrine. The court’s intent is not merely to redress human victims but to rehabilitate the natural systems sustaining life. Restricting compensation to personal injury fragments the holistic purpose of environmental redress, which views damage as collective and interdependent.

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

Reference Line: “The essential ingredients of the Precautionary Principle require State Governments and statutory authorities to anticipate, prevent, and attack causes of environmental degradation, and to avoid postponing preventive measures because of scientific uncertainty.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The precautionary mandate requires preventive restraint whenever credible risk of irreversible harm arises, even without scientific certainty. Regulators must prioritize ecosystem safety and anticipate potential damage before it manifests. Postponement contradicts the duty to act on early

warning signals. Acting preventively ensures both ecological balance and long-term sustainability.

Option (b) Incorrect: Development urgency cannot override precautionary responsibilities; the absence of conclusive proof does not equate to absence of risk. Proceeding with incomplete evidence turns the environment into a testing ground. The principle demands that uncertainty weigh in favor of protection, not expansion. Balancing energy needs must follow ecological due diligence.

Option (c) Incorrect: Conditional or partial approvals still allow harm to begin before impact verification. Once coral systems or marine habitats are disturbed, restoration becomes nearly impossible. Preventive restraint ensures that irreversible ecological loss is not traded for speculative progress. Policy prudence dictates suspension, not experimentation.

Option (d) Incorrect: International consensus is persuasive but not prerequisite for national precaution. Each State authority bears an immediate duty to evaluate local risks. Deferring regulation until global alignment delays urgent protection and diminishes sovereign environmental accountability. National law already embeds the obligation to act independently of global timing.

84. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Line: "The preventive action and rectification-at-source principles recognized in a regional treaty require that environmental harm be forestalled and repaired at its origin, while the polluter bears the cost."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Public subsidies invert environmental justice by transferring the burden of private negligence to taxpayers. Pollution control is a duty of the actor creating risk, not the community enduring it. Funding from public sources encourages complacency and undermines the cost-bearing mechanism central to deterrence and rectification.

Option (b) Incorrect: Waiting for complete quantification of damage allows environmental degradation to continue unchecked. Preventive governance demands simultaneous data collection and corrective action. Delayed response multiplies both economic cost and ecological harm, contradicting the treaty's call for immediate source-based intervention.

Option (c) Correct: The rule directs immediate rectification at the point where harm originates, ensuring that mitigation targets the source rather than symptoms. Assigning cost to the polluter enforces accountability and deters recurring breaches. Preventing leakage at origin is more effective than endless downstream treatment. The approach integrates prevention with fairness and economic efficiency.

Option (d) Incorrect: Collective downstream treatment disperses responsibility and perpetuates harm by ignoring root causes. It converts targeted rectification into a shared social expense, diluting both deterrence and prevention. Addressing consequences rather than causes conflicts with the principle's proactive design. Prevention is more sustainable than compensatory repair.

85. Correct Answer: (b) Traditional frameworks are inadequate to counter the hybrid nature of present-day maritime vulnerabilities.

Reference Line: "Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific can no longer be viewed through the 'narrow prism of strategic containment'."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option suggests that strengthening internal naval capabilities is more important than reforming how maritime threats are conceptualized. However, the Navy Chief's speech calls for a shift in thinking—moving from platform-centric strategies to purpose-centric ones. He stresses that current challenges are compounded and hybrid, requiring conceptual innovation, not just hardware buildup. Therefore, placing domestic enhancement over doctrinal change misunderstands the nature of the argument. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option accurately captures the heart of the Navy Chief's argument. He critiques older strategic frameworks that separate economic, political, and security concerns, calling them narrow and outdated. He instead promotes a "dynaxic" view—emphasizing fluid, complex, and overlapping threats. The need to rethink doctrines in light of piracy, illegal fishing, technological vulnerabilities, and supply chain fragility shows how traditional approaches are no longer sufficient. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option incorrectly asserts that commercial and technological aspects are of secondary importance to military concerns. However, the passage explicitly discusses how disruptions in trade, AI, autonomous systems, and cyber intrusions are central to maritime security today. Far from being secondary, these domains are now primary theaters of maritime instability. Therefore, this option reflects a rigid mindset that the passage warns against. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage rejects narrow or bilateral security frameworks and encourages a collective, region-wide response. It describes threats that transcend borders and require multilateral cooperation. The term "cartographic silos" is used critically to show how nation-centric approaches are inadequate. Suggesting bilateral deterrent strategies implies a limited geopolitical response that contradicts the holistic, integrated framework being proposed. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (c) Maritime affairs are increasingly being shaped by the same ambiguities and fragmentation seen in broader global dynamics.

Reference Line: "The maritime domain mirrors the wider disorder of our times."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option implies that maritime instability is driven primarily by a rejection of globalisation, particularly its economic dimensions. However, the passage does not link maritime disorder exclusively to globalisation fatigue or economic policy failures. Instead, the author references a broader disorder—covering politics, crime, and technology. While economic disruption is one layer, this explanation narrows the scope too much. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option focuses on transnational political instability as the root cause of maritime unpredictability. Although the author acknowledges cross-border challenges, he attributes maritime disorder to a more complex web—including technological vulnerabilities, illegal activities, and commercial disruptions. Political arrangements are a part of the puzzle, not the sole cause, making this explanation incomplete. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option best reflects the author's intended implication. The phrase "mirrors the wider disorder" suggests that what's happening at sea is symptomatic of a broader, multi-dimensional global breakdown—politically, technologically, economically, and socially. Maritime spaces now exhibit the same chaotic patterns seen across the world, making this a well-aligned inference. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Although the passage critiques outdated thinking, such as platform-centrism and narrow deterrence models, it does not specifically root these in Cold War doctrines. The reference to "legacy norms" and territorial thinking may sound accurate, but the author's critique is more about strategic rigidity than historical military frameworks. This makes the choice speculative and misaligned. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (a) Short-term fluctuations in maritime trade volumes tend to self-correct without requiring military intervention.

Reference Line: "...reflecting 'not just slowed commerce, but strategic fragility'."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option undercuts the author's central claim that commercial disruptions are not merely economic but are indicators of underlying strategic instability. If such disruptions tend to resolve themselves without any escalated security response, it implies that they are temporary and not reflective of systemic fragility. This undermines the narrative that commercial strain reveals strategic weakness, challenging the seriousness with which such disruptions are interpreted. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option shifts the cause of shipping delays to inland logistics rather than chokepoints like the Red Sea. While this may weaken the extent of maritime fragility, it doesn't fully negate the argument that when chokepoints are disrupted, they still cause ripple effects. It provides a partial challenge but does not weaken the core assumption about maritime routes being strategically sensitive. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option refers to long-term resilience in shipping markets, suggesting optimism despite conflicts. However, the author's argument is focused on current disruptions and their strategic implications, not distant forecasts. Future projections of growth do not erase the present vulnerabilities described, especially when threats are immediate and recurring. Thus, it offers a time-shifted counterpoint rather than a substantial rebuttal. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) A stable insurance market may indicate investor confidence, but this does not necessarily prove that strategic vulnerabilities are absent. Insurance markets often lag behind real-time threat assessments and may price in risks differently. This stability does not eliminate the actual fragility discussed by the author, especially regarding food prices and freight rates. Therefore, it presents a limited economic angle, not a strategic one. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (b) Naval preparedness must be dictated primarily by platforms that can dominate adversaries in conventional warfare.

Reference Line: "Enhancing capability, therefore, demands a shift from platform-centric to purpose-centric thinking."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option supports the view that modern maritime law enforcement must adapt to irregular and

cross-border challenges. The author stresses how threats like illegal fishing, human smuggling, and arms trafficking blur the lines between crime and conflict. The passage calls for solutions that go beyond rigid jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, this is in line with the author's position and not a statement he would disagree with. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option reflects a traditional, hardware-heavy view of naval strength where dominance is measured by platforms like warships or submarines. The author explicitly critiques this mindset, arguing that naval strategy should be purpose-centric, context-sensitive, and responsive to hybrid threats. Emphasizing conventional force platforms contradicts the holistic, adaptive approach advocated in the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option supports an expanded view of maritime strategy that includes humanitarian efforts and environmental responsibility. The author promotes "holistic maritime security," integrating non-military functions into naval operations. Including humanitarian and environmental roles in naval strategy is consistent with the author's call to move beyond conventional deterrence. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author endorses collective regional action and criticizes competitive, siloed responses. He explicitly mentions that solutions must transcend cartographic silos and jurisdictional rigidity. Framing the need for cooperative adaptation as opposed to rivalry is exactly what the Navy Chief recommends, particularly through MAHASAGAR and interoperability goals. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (a) Strengthening naval diplomacy by offering logistical assistance and maintenance facilities to strategic partners.

Reference Line: "...enabling friends and partners to strengthen their maritime presence with indigenous design, affordable technologies, and sustainable support systems."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This course of action aligns closely with the Navy Chief's emphasis on regional cooperation, sustainable capacity-building, and India's intention to share indigenous capabilities under the MAHASAGAR framework. By offering logistics and maintenance, India would help smaller or like-minded navies boost their operational presence. This approach reflects both

the spirit of shared growth and India's desire to act as a maritime partner, not a hegemon. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While strengthening deterrence is a valid defence objective, this approach promotes a platform-centric, adversary-focused doctrine. It contradicts the purpose-centric and cooperative vision under MAHASAGAR. The author calls for flexibility, interoperability, and collective advancement, not solely the accumulation of offensive capabilities. This course of action leans toward a strategic containment mindset, which the passage critiques. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Restricting the export of indigenous platforms would isolate India's defence ecosystem rather than extend cooperative engagement. The author clearly promotes sharing design, technology, and support systems with regional partners to build collective strength. This protectionist stance goes against the MAHASAGAR spirit of "mutual and holistic advancement." It reflects suspicion and strategic isolation rather than openness. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author advocates for "context-specific" strategies and explicitly rejects one-size-fits-all frameworks. Proposing rigid, uniform maritime doctrines enforced multilaterally ignores the passage's emphasis on regional diversity and operational flexibility. Such a globalized legal framework may also entrench jurisdictional conflicts, which the Navy Chief sees as counterproductive. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (a) Interoperability among navies will likely determine the success of regional responses to hybrid maritime threats.

Reference Line: "...interoperability that allows navies to operate as one in moments that matter."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This conclusion is supported by the passage's emphasis on regional collaboration, especially through the development of shared doctrines, adaptable training, and integrated operational capabilities. The author argues that hybrid threats—those that mix crime, conflict, and competition—require coordinated, real-time action. Interoperability is presented not as a preference but a necessity to respond effectively to these dynamic maritime threats. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author critiques nation-centric approaches and warns against rigid jurisdictional boundaries, referring to them as "cartographic silos." He argues that modern threats transcend borders and thus require joint, transnational strategies. This conclusion reverts to a sovereignty-based model that the author clearly distances himself from in the passage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage discusses how maritime disruption affects freight rates, insurance premiums, and food prices. These are significant economic effects, which are not portrayed as minor or negligible. In fact, the author uses them as evidence of strategic vulnerability. This conclusion incorrectly diminishes the economic stakes that the author deliberately emphasizes. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Nowhere does the author suggest that technological equality is required for partnership. On the contrary, he promotes sharing affordable technologies and building capacity using indigenous resources. This conclusion imposes a condition (parity) that the author explicitly avoids, focusing instead on sustainable and inclusive technological cooperation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (c) The persistence of violence signals that cultural traditions alone cannot ensure national unity or peace.

Reference Line: "From the teachings of non-violence to the moral triumph of Mahatma Gandhi's freedom movement, India's identity has been shaped by restraint, tolerance, and dialogue over bloodshed. Yet, within this same land, the Naxalite movement continues to pursue its goals through the barrel of a gun."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The option suggests that the presence of Naxal violence has actively undermined India's moral consistency. While the author acknowledges a contradiction between India's peaceful legacy and current internal strife, he does not go so far as to say that India's morality has been compromised. Rather than portraying the contradiction as a failure of national character, the author seems to be lamenting a moral deviation that should prompt introspection. The tone is one of concern rather than judgment. He seeks to highlight dissonance, not necessarily moral collapse. Therefore, this choice draws a stronger conclusion than

what can reasonably be inferred. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option asserts that founding principles have minimal relevance in shaping current realities in violent regions. However, the author's entire rhetorical strategy involves using India's founding ideals—such as Gandhian non-violence and civil morality—as a lens to critique contemporary violence. This shows that those ideals are not irrelevant but serve as enduring standards against which present failures are measured. To claim they have "minimal influence" misreads the passage's framing entirely. In fact, their influence is what makes the internal contradiction so troubling to the author. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This is the most logically sound inference from the passage's central contrast. The author presents India as a nation grounded in peace, compassion, and moral restraint, only to highlight the unsettling persistence of insurgent violence in the same geography. The implication here is that while India's traditions are noble, they are insufficient by themselves to ensure national harmony in the face of ideological extremism. The text leads us to conclude that enduring peace requires more than cultural memory—it demands state action, public engagement, and systemic safeguards. This inference captures both the symbolic and strategic dimension of the author's concern. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option introduces religious diversity as a variable influencing ideological extremism. However, the author never attributes Naxalite violence to religious differences or pluralism. The insurgency is framed as an ideological and political movement rather than one rooted in religious conflict. Moreover, terms such as "Hinduism," "Buddhism," "Jainism," and "Sikhism" are invoked only to highlight India's historical commitment to peace, not to suggest these religions have led to unrest. This option therefore draws from a premise not discussed or supported anywhere in the passage. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (c) Studying the degree of local trust in governance structures in forest-dense districts with varying income levels.

Reference Line: "In the Indian context, research published in the Economic and Political Weekly finds that even forest cover, a proxy for state inaccessibility, correlates more strongly with Maoist activity than economic backwardness."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option proposes evaluating ideological outreach efforts, which could shed light on the success of state narrative-building or counter-radicalization campaigns. However, it doesn't precisely test the author's core claim: that poverty is not the main driver of Naxalism. Comparing ideological programs assumes that ideology is already an influencing factor, but it does not measure whether poverty levels correlate with the presence or absence of insurgency. Moreover, ideological outreach could succeed or fail based on cultural, logistical, or political reasons that are unrelated to poverty. Therefore, while this comparison may offer insights into the ideological aspect of conflict, it is not the most effective tool to test the poverty causation hypothesis, which is the central concern. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Tracking unemployment data over time would show economic trends but would not conclusively test the relationship between economic hardship and insurgency. Even if unemployment increases in insurgent-affected regions, we would still need to know whether that economic hardship is the cause or consequence of violence. The author explicitly critiques the tendency to assume a simple link between poverty and rebellion. Without controlling for variables like state presence, ideological activity, or geography, the data collected from such tracking would remain inconclusive. The mere presence of economic deprivation is not sufficient to challenge or validate the author's claim. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option precisely aligns with the passage's reasoning and the claim it seeks to evaluate. The author argues that state inaccessibility, rather than poverty, is a stronger predictor of Maoist violence, with forest cover used as a proxy for inaccessibility. Testing levels of trust in governance within forested areas, and controlling for income disparities, would allow a researcher to assess whether insurgency correlates more with weak state engagement than with poverty. This study design directly engages with the author's central claim and would provide empirical insight into whether regions with high poverty but strong governance remain peaceful, or vice versa. That's what makes this the best evaluation strategy. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) At first glance, this option seems promising because it targets poverty-stricken tribal populations and examines the impact of livelihood schemes. However, it only evaluates whether specific welfare initiatives can

diminish support for extremism, not whether poverty was the cause of that extremism in the first place. The author's argument is about causality, not intervention outcomes. Even if livelihood schemes reduce extremism, that could suggest people are responsive to state care, but it wouldn't prove poverty was the core issue. This option focuses on policy effectiveness, not on testing the poverty explanation the author rejects. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (d) Communities exposed to Naxalite violence report prolonged delays in implementation of infrastructure projects.

Reference Line: "Each act of destruction resets development, worsens unemployment, and locks regions into cycles of stagnation."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option points to one sector—education—and describes a real and harmful effect: the exodus of professionals due to attacks on schools. However, the passage focuses on developmental progress in a broader sense, encompassing economic infrastructure like roads, telecom, transportation, and public utilities. While disrupting education can certainly hinder long-term human capital development, the author's argument centers on how Naxalites repeatedly attack infrastructure meant to improve livelihoods, not just schooling. This option supports the argument tangentially but lacks the full weight to confirm systemic developmental sabotage. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Healthcare disruption and migration patterns are plausible consequences of insecurity, but they fall into the realm of secondary effects and are not the primary focus of the author's criticism. The passage emphasizes deliberate acts of destruction—such as bombing railway lines or telecom towers—that create visible, intentional barriers to development. In contrast, healthcare service disruption could result from logistical issues, staffing shortages, or even unrelated bureaucratic failure. Similarly, rural migration might be motivated by a range of push factors. This option introduces plausible consequences but not strong support for the claim that Naxalism actively undermines development. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option brings up agricultural losses, but attributes them to land disputes and forced evacuations. The problem here is that the source of

disruption is not clearly linked to Naxalite activity. Land disputes could arise from tribal conflicts, resource extraction controversies, or state resettlement programs. Forced evacuations may be caused by military operations as much as insurgents. Without clarifying that these effects stem specifically from Naxalite actions, the evidence remains ambiguous. The author's argument requires explicit evidence of intentional developmental sabotage, not generalized rural hardship. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is fully aligned with the author's core argument that the Naxalite movement destroys infrastructure intended to improve lives—such as roads, communication towers, and railways—and thus causes delays in regional development. Reporting that infrastructure projects are consistently delayed in violence-prone areas strengthens the author's claim that violence does not merely result from poverty, but actively perpetuates it by sabotaging solutions. This evidence highlights a cause-and-effect relationship between insurgent violence and halted progress, affirming the author's thesis that Naxalism traps communities in economic stagnation. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (a) The intensity of insurgency directly reflects the level of material deprivation in a given region.

Reference Line: "...other states with comparable or even worse poverty levels have remained largely immune."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is a precise expression of the view that the author is arguing against. The author's central critique is that the mainstream narrative—that poverty causes insurgency—is both overly simplistic and factually unsupported. He highlights that many regions with equal or worse levels of poverty do not suffer from Naxalite violence, undermining any attempt to frame material deprivation as the primary cause. Therefore, if one claims that insurgency intensity mirrors poverty levels, that would necessarily contradict the evidence and reasoning in the passage. The author explicitly rejects this position, making this statement incompatible with his framework. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This statement is not asserted by the author but it is plausible within his argument. The passage notes a dramatic decline in attacks on infrastructure—from

365 to 25 incidents—and attributes this partially to “the growing realisation among locals that violence sabotages their own progress.” If local populations are beginning to reject the ideology and methods of Naxalites, it is entirely reasonable to suggest that reduced community support may be one of the reasons behind the decrease in violence. It is speculative but still logically consistent with the passage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This statement fits neatly within the author's analytical model. The passage states that forest cover—used as a stand-in for physical inaccessibility—is strongly correlated with the presence of Naxalite insurgency. In other words, the less access the state has to a region (due to terrain or other factors), the more room there is for ideological insurgents to operate. The author's argument rests on the notion that governance gaps, not just poverty, create conditions where violence can thrive. Therefore, this statement is affirmed, not contradicted, by the passage. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option introduces the idea that insurgent groups may change tactics over time while holding on to their original goals. Although the author does not explicitly discuss tactical evolution, he does mention that violent attacks on infrastructure have significantly declined over time. This shift suggests that Naxalite strategy may have evolved in response to state pressure or changing public perception. The idea that a movement could retain its ideology but adjust its approach is entirely plausible within the passage's framework. Thus, the statement cannot be deemed false. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (b) Effective governance is more likely to deter insurgency than targeted financial assistance alone.

Reference Line: “If deprivation alone were the cause, why would Naxalites routinely destroy schools, railway tracks, and telecom towers — the very infrastructure meant to lift people out of poverty?”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option introduces the idea that Naxalism is rooted in a sense of historical injustice, such as colonial dispossession or tribal exploitation. While this could be a possible alternative explanation for insurgency, the author never raises or implies this angle. His focus is squarely on contemporary factors: ideology, geography, and state capacity. Introducing historical injustice adds a layer of reasoning that does not appear in the passage

and is thus not part of the author's logic or implicit belief structure. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option captures the central shift in the author's reasoning. He argues that poverty is an insufficient cause of insurgency, and that Naxalites target development efforts, which shows they are ideologically motivated. If we accept this argument, we must also believe that simply offering financial or material relief (such as poverty-alleviation schemes) is not enough. The unstated assumption is that the presence of a capable, legitimate, and accessible state does more to prevent insurgency than money or economic schemes alone. Without this assumption, the author's critique of the poverty narrative would lose coherence. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option presents a generic sociological claim: inequality does not always lead to violence. While this may be true, it is far too broad and vague to serve as the specific hidden assumption the author's argument relies on. His reasoning depends on the relative strength of state capacity versus economic deprivation in predicting violence, not on the general behavior of inequality. Therefore, this is a valid idea but not the necessary one that sustains his conclusion. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option contradicts the author's perspective. He argues that Naxalites attack infrastructure designed to meet economic needs—implying that satisfying those demands does not necessarily lead to cooperation. The assumption behind this option supports the poverty explanation that the author is trying to reject. If people only cooperate when their economic demands are met, then material deprivation would explain violence, which the author denies. Thus, this cannot be his implicit belief. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (c) Expanding armed counterinsurgency measures as the principal strategy against extremist groups.

Reference Line: “India cannot afford an internal insurgency that drains its moral and material strength... the costs of maintaining peace multiply — not just in financial terms, but in human confidence and national cohesion.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author repeatedly frames Naxalism as a political and moral crisis rooted in governance gaps and ideological alienation. Strengthening grassroots

democratic institutions would likely increase political inclusion, accountability, and citizen engagement—especially for marginalized groups in insurgency-prone areas. These are the very populations the state has historically failed to reach. By expanding representation and responsiveness, such institutions could provide a non-violent, legitimate outlet for grievances. This aligns with the author’s belief that social cohesion and moral legitimacy must accompany security. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage explicitly mentions the destruction of infrastructure like schools, telecom towers, and railway tracks by Naxalites. This implies that developing physical infrastructure is not just about economics but also about state presence and long-term stability. However, the author also emphasizes that ideology plays a powerful role in sustaining insurgency. Therefore, a policy that combines infrastructure development with ideological counter-narratives reflects the dual-pronged approach that the author implicitly recommends: build physically and engage intellectually. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This is the most inconsistent with the author’s philosophy. While the author acknowledges the role of state operations in reducing violence (as evidenced by the drop in infrastructure attacks), he does not advocate for military or police force as the principal solution. His focus is on understanding and addressing what sustains the movement—ideology, governance failure, state inaccessibility—not merely suppressing its symptoms. A policy that places armed counterinsurgency at the center ignores the deeper causes the author is urging policymakers to confront. It risks repeating the flawed "law and order first" approach the author subtly critiques. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage highlights forest cover as a proxy for state inaccessibility and correlates it with higher Maoist activity. This strongly implies that physical presence of governance structures—administrators, civil servants, development officers—is crucial in stabilizing such regions. Training and deploying effective personnel to hard-to-reach zones would directly address one of the main issues the author identifies. It would also increase the responsiveness of the state and offer locals a functional, accountable government in place of insurgent authority. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (a) The familiarity of certain flavors discourages curiosity about more complex varieties of tea.

Reference Line: “The most annoying thing for a lifelong Darjeeling tea drinker is the assumption... that the beverage must be... a viscous, sweet, milky... concoction...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author laments the widespread assumption that tea must be milky, sweet, and strong, highlighting a cultural norm that limits the exploration of more delicate and nuanced teas like Darjeeling. This suggests that the entrenched habit of drinking chai in a particular way has created a resistance—whether conscious or unconscious—to trying or appreciating lighter, complex varieties. The choice of words like “assumption” and “annoying” underscores the idea that habitual taste limits tea literacy. The passage frames this as a cultural limitation, not merely a personal preference. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage does not claim that cultural identity plays a larger role than environment in determining tea preference. In fact, the author focuses more on the environmental uniqueness of Darjeeling (such as elevation and sunlight) and criticizes the lack of awareness about it. While culture might shape consumption habits, the passage doesn’t weigh it against environmental impact in the way this option suggests. This option introduces a false hierarchy between two variables that are not directly compared by the author. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage notes that the British preferred strong, dark tea, but it does not explicitly trace the average Indian’s preference for milky chai to colonial tastes. While the historical reference offers background, the author doesn’t argue that current Indian preferences stem from British practices. Instead, the author emphasizes ignorance and assumption over historical influence. Therefore, this option infers causality where the passage only provides contrast. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Nowhere does the author suggest that cost or convenience play a decisive role in tea preferences. The passage critiques the lack of attention to flavor complexity, aroma, and variety—not affordability or access. If anything, the concern is about taste being shaped by cultural expectations rather than economic factors. By introducing economic reasoning absent

from the passage, this option shifts the focus away from the author's thematic concern with awareness and appreciation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (a) A nation that produces exquisite tea fails to instill an appreciation of it among its own population.

Reference Line: "Most Indians have little idea of the variety and complexity of tea, the hot beverage that so captivated the British..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option captures the essence of the paradox: India is one of the world's foremost producers of high-quality tea (including the globally prized Darjeeling variety), yet the general population lacks awareness or appreciation of its finer aspects. It is counterintuitive that a country so heavily invested in tea production does not foster a tea culture rooted in connoisseurship or diversity. The contradiction lies in the expectation that production and knowledge should go hand-in-hand, but in India's case, they appear oddly disconnected. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Although the presence of foreign coffee chains in India could be seen as ironic, this point is not discussed or even hinted at in the passage. The author makes no reference to coffee culture or urban consumer trends. Therefore, this option introduces an unrelated scenario that cannot logically reflect the paradox emphasized by the author. Its inclusion of global branding and beverage rivalry is out of scope for the passage's argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author criticizes the ignorance of tea distinctions among hospitality professionals, but this is not a paradox—it is a flaw or failure in professional training. A paradox involves a contradiction between what is expected and what actually occurs. While disappointing, a lack of training among luxury service providers does not rise to the level of contradiction required in a paradox question. This is better suited to a flaw or course-of-action question. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While this statement may be true and supported by the passage's lament about the lack of awareness, it does not express a contradiction. The mere fact that people drink tea regularly but are unaware of its complexity is a problem, but not necessarily paradoxical unless tied to some conflicting expectation. Without the juxtaposition between high production

and low appreciation, the element of contradiction is missing. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. Correct Answer: (a) Farms in Sikkim at similar elevations have produced teas indistinguishable from those grown in Darjeeling.

Reference Line: "The only place in India in which those stolen tea saplings could reproduce the ethereal aroma and delicate flavour... was in Darjeeling."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author's assertion that only Darjeeling can reproduce the fine qualities of Chinese tea rests entirely on the uniqueness of its environmental conditions—its altitude, air, and light. If, however, Sikkim (a neighboring region with similar elevation and climate) can yield tea with identical aroma and flavor, then Darjeeling's exclusivity is immediately challenged. This means that environmental factors unique to Darjeeling are not as decisive as the author claims. The evidence would thus undermine the central pillar of the argument by showing that the same outcome can occur elsewhere. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This statement concerns export labeling and market practices, not the intrinsic qualities of the tea itself. Even if Darjeeling tea exports are mixed with leaves from nearby regions, that reflects a commercial compromise, not a challenge to the author's environmental argument. The issue here is authenticity in branding, not the uniqueness of the terroir or conditions. Therefore, this statement does not weaken the claim about Darjeeling's environmental exclusivity. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Although this option suggests that other plantations have tried to imitate Darjeeling's cultivation methods with favorable results, it stops short of stating that the resulting tea is indistinguishable in quality. Good results might mean profitability or high yield rather than equivalence in flavor and aroma. Without proof that the quality is comparable, the author's argument remains largely intact. This makes the option a partial challenge, but not a decisive one. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This statement shifts the focus from where tea is grown to how it is processed. If taste were mostly influenced by drying rather than growing conditions, it could seem to weaken the author's argument, but the author's emphasis is on geographical uniqueness, not processing technique. Moreover, the statement reflects

an opinion from “experts” rather than empirical evidence, which weakens its argumentative weight. Thus, it does not substantially refute the author’s environmental claim. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (a) The author extrapolates a single incident into a broad claim about industry-wide ignorance of tea.

Reference Line: “Yet today, most high-end hospitality professionals in India would be able to reel off the difference between a Malbec wine and a Merlot.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author recounts a single interaction where a hotel staff member failed to identify or describe an oolong tea, and then uses that experience to criticize the broader hospitality industry in India. This is a textbook example of hasty generalization, a logical flaw where a limited observation is unfairly used to make a sweeping claim. While the author’s frustration may be valid, the conclusion that “most high-end hospitality professionals” lack tea knowledge is not logically supported by one isolated incident. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option misrepresents the author’s argument. The passage does not claim that tea knowledge is essential to judging the overall quality of hospitality service. The author’s focus is narrowly on the cultural and professional neglect of tea in a country where it should be celebrated. The author is not evaluating general competence or customer service skills, making this a misattribution of the argument’s scope. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) While it’s true that the author compares wine and tea knowledge, this is done to illustrate inconsistency in professional emphasis—not to argue that one causes the other. The passage contrasts how hospitality staff can easily distinguish between wine types but struggle with tea. The comparison is illustrative, not causal. Therefore, the absence of a causal link is not a logical flaw in this context. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Although the author does not provide formal evidence of training deficiencies, the lack of institutional data does not, by itself, constitute a logical flaw. The core issue lies in how the author generalizes from anecdote to an industry-wide criticism, not whether formal curricula were examined. Absence of supporting data may weaken an argument, but it is not

the specific fallacy present here. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (a) Hospitality courses should include training in regional Indian teas as part of beverage education.

Reference Line: “Yet today, most high-end hospitality professionals in India would be able to reel off the difference between a Malbec wine and a Merlot.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author explicitly criticizes the hospitality sector’s lack of knowledge about tea, especially when compared to their fluency in wine varieties. A well-aligned course of action would be to integrate Indian tea education—including information about regional distinctions like Darjeeling and Nilgiri—into professional hospitality training. This would improve the quality of service and also enhance awareness and appreciation of India’s tea heritage. The solution is both targeted and practical, addressing the specific issue raised in the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this option might seem to support artisanal quality, the author is not focused on how tea is produced or marketed but on how it is perceived and understood, especially by those in professional service roles. Promoting artisanal cultivation might improve tea quality, but it does little to resolve the issue of ignorance or underappreciation. This is a production-side solution to a consumption-side problem. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Encouraging households to experiment with specialty teas may have some merit, but the author’s concern lies primarily with the hospitality industry’s lack of awareness, not with household consumption practices. Changing domestic habits would require a much broader cultural shift and may not be as efficient or focused as addressing the professional training gap. This makes it an indirect and less impactful policy response. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Regulating exports to ensure domestic availability of fine teas assumes that lack of access is the issue. However, the author does not claim that Indians can’t find good tea; rather, he argues they don’t recognize or appreciate its quality when they do encounter it. This option misdiagnoses the problem, treating it as one of distribution rather than cultural literacy or education. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (a) A particular grape variety produces a sharper wine only when grown at higher altitudes with lower humidity and thinner air.

Reference Line: "Like in Yunnan, the slopes of Darjeeling's Singalila range are steep, the air is cool and sharp, and even the sunlight at that altitude is different."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option mirrors the logical form of the author's argument: that the same biological input (tea plant or grape) yields a different sensory output (flavor or aroma) depending on unique environmental conditions such as altitude and climate. Just as the author claims that Darjeeling's distinctive air, light, and elevation contribute to its unmatched tea quality, this option proposes that wine made from the same grape becomes sharper in certain climates. Both arguments rest on the idea that natural surroundings critically shape the final product, even when the starting materials are the same. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

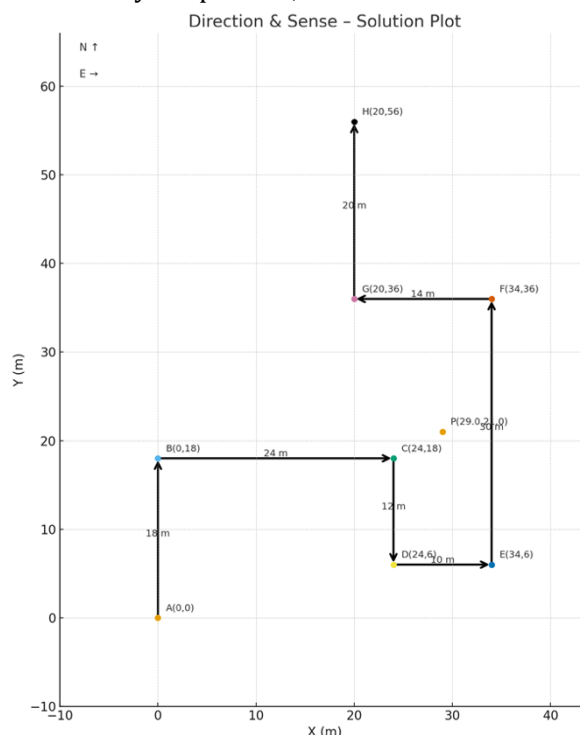
(b) Although this option touches on sensory aesthetics (color schemes in paintings), it attributes variation to cultural tradition, not environmental conditions. The author's argument is rooted in physical geography—altitude, sunlight, climate—not artistic heritage or inherited technique. This disrupts the logical structure because the cause-effect chain is fundamentally different. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option discusses how external weather conditions affect perception, not production. The perfume remains the same in both cases; it is only our experience of it that changes due to ambient temperature. In contrast, the author argues that Darjeeling's environment affects the tea during its creation, not just how it is later consumed. The reasoning here shifts from production-based variation to contextual perception, breaking the logical parallel. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option introduces a psychological variable—solitude—that influences creative output. While it shows how context can shape results, the reasoning is internal and human-centered. The original argument focuses on how external, non-human natural conditions affect a non-human agricultural product. There is no element in this scenario that corresponds to the environmental-terror logic of the tea argument. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

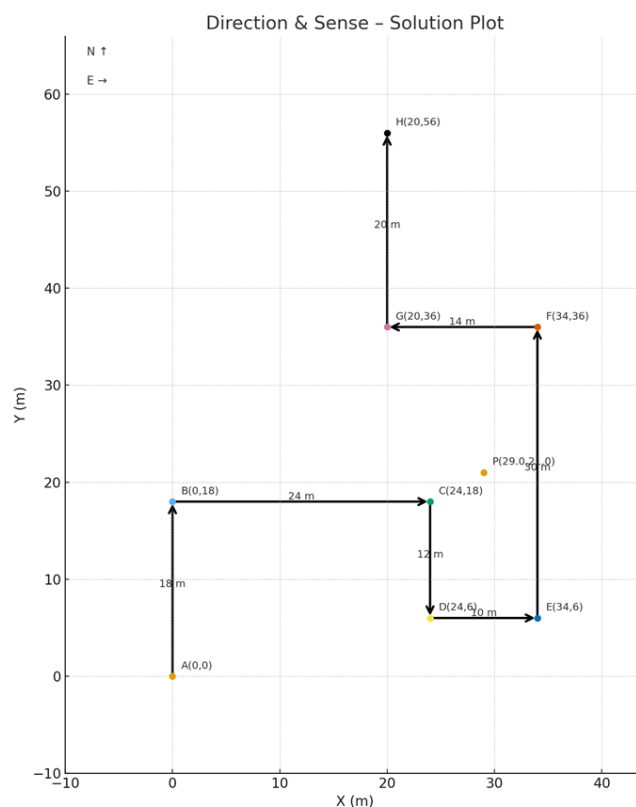
103. Correct answer: (a)

Explanation: A is at (0,0) and H is at (20,56). Since both x and y are positive, H lies to the Northeast of A.



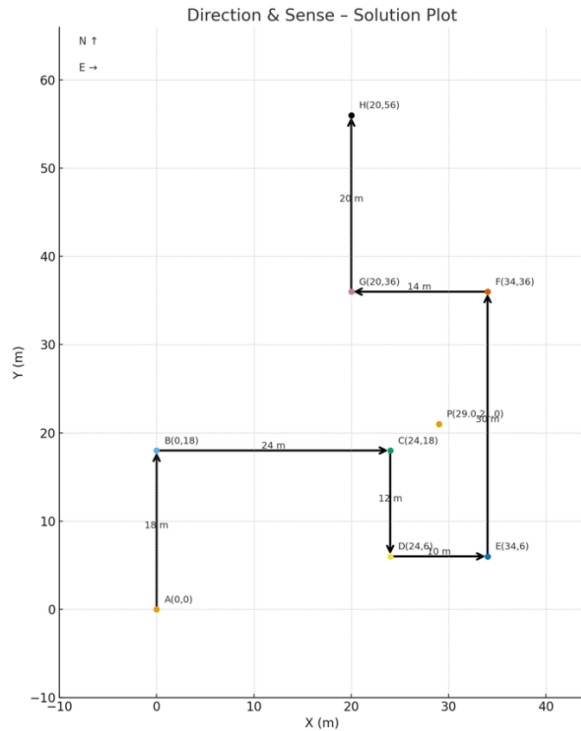
104. Correct answer: (b)

Explanation: Northward segments are $A \rightarrow B = 18$ m, $E \rightarrow F = 30$ m, and $G \rightarrow H = 20$ m. Total = $18 + 30 + 20 = 68$ m.



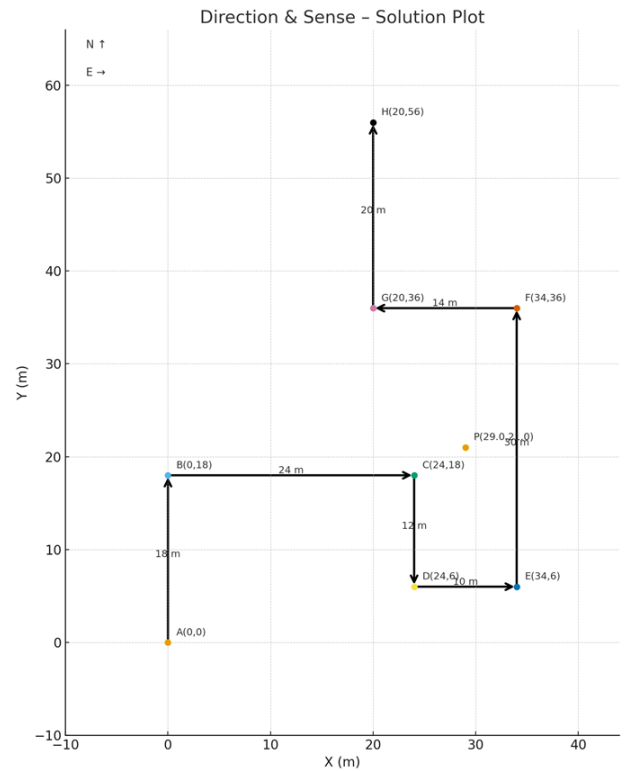
105. **Correct answer:** (d)

Explanation: B is at (0,18) and E is at (34,6). The vector $B \rightarrow E$ is (34, -12), placing E to the Southeast of B.



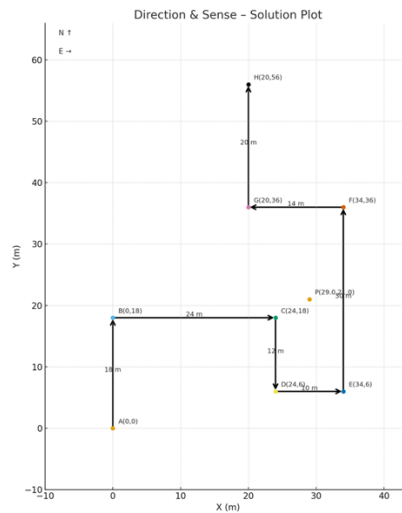
106. **Correct answer:** (a)

Explanation: A is at (0,0) and G is at (20,36). Distance $= \sqrt{(20^2 + 36^2)} = \sqrt{1696} = 4\sqrt{106}$ m.



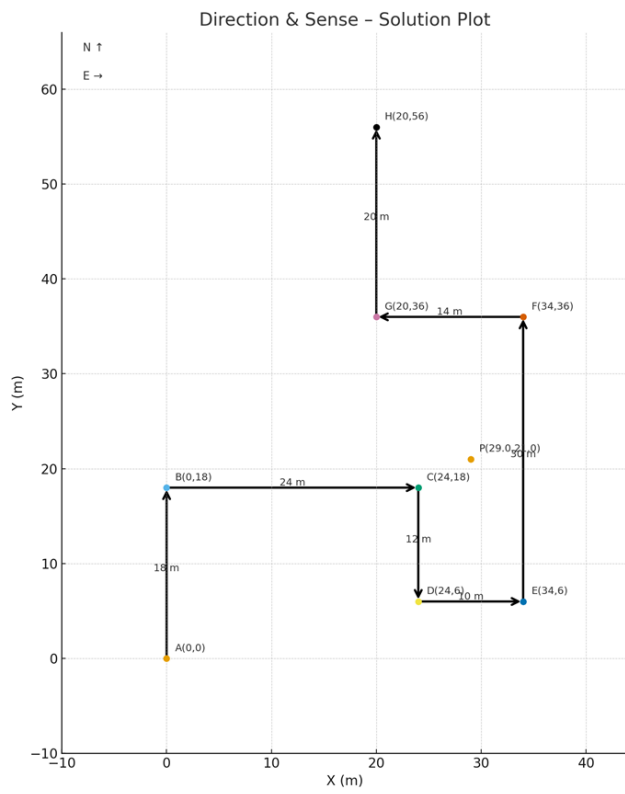
107. **Correct answer:** (a)

Explanation: D is (24,6) and F is (34,36); midpoint P is $((24+34)/2, (6+36)/2) = (29,21)$. C is (24,18). Vector $C \rightarrow P = (5,3)$, hence P is Northeast of C.



108. **Correct answer:** (c)

Explanation: Sum of all segment lengths $= 18 + 24 + 12 + 10 + 30 + 14 + 20 = 128$ m.



Section - E : Quantitative Aptitude

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

School	Boys	Girls	Total
A	450	270	720
B	324	216	540
C	280	200	480
D	300	300	600
E	360	300	660

d Required total = $270 + 216 + 200 + 300 + 300 = 1286$.

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

School	Boys	Girls	Total
A	450	270	720
B	324	216	540
C	280	200	480
D	300	300	600
E	360	300	660

c Required ratio = $(270 + 300) : (280 + 300) = 57 : 58$.

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

School	Boys	Girls	Total
A	450	270	720
B	324	216	540
C	280	200	480
D	300	300	600
E	360	300	660

b School B had the second lowest number of students.
Hence, required difference = $324 - 216 = 108$.

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

School	Boys	Girls	Total
A	450	270	720
B	324	216	540
C	280	200	480
D	300	300	600
E	360	300	660

a Required amount = $75 \times (600 + 660) = \text{Rs.}94,500$.

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

School	Boys	Girls	Total
A	450	270	720
B	324	216	540
C	280	200	480
D	300	300	600
E	360	300	660

c If the total number of students is not a multiple of 45, then there will be vacant seats in a bus.

We know that $45 = 9 \times 5$.

Among the total number of students from these 5 schools only 720 and 540 are divisible by 9 as well as 5. Hence, there will be vacant seats in buses transporting students of schools C, D, and E.

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

School	Boys	Girls	Total
A	450	270	720
B	324	216	540
C	280	200	480
D	300	300	600
E	360	300	660

$$\text{Required number of teachers} = \frac{720 + 480}{24} = 50.$$

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

Explanation:

Meera = $1,80,000 \times 3 \text{ months} + 2,40,000 \times 9 \text{ months} = 27,00,000$

Kabir = $1,20,000 \times 6 + 90,000 \times 4 = 10,80,000$

Zoya = $90,000 \times 6 + 1,35,000 \times 6 = 13,50,000$

Arjun = $2,00,000 \times 7 = 14,00,000$

Ratio = $27,00,000 : 10,80,000 : 13,50,000 : 14,00,000$
 $= 270 : 108 : 135 : 140$

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

Explanation:

Meera's salary = $\text{₹}5,000 \times 9 = \text{₹}45,000$

Post-salary profit = $\text{₹}4,20,000 - \text{₹}45,000 = \text{₹}3,75,000$

Donation = $5\% \times \text{₹}3,75,000 = \text{₹}18,750$

Distributable profit = $\text{₹}3,75,000 - \text{₹}18,750 = \text{₹}3,56,250$

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

Explanation:

Total money-months = $27,00,000 + 10,80,000 + 13,50,000 + 14,00,000 = 65,30,000$
 Arjun's fraction = $14,00,000 \div 65,30,000$
 Share = $₹3,56,250 \times (14,00,000 \div 65,30,000) \approx ₹76,378.25$
 Rounded to nearest rupee = ₹76,378

118. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Kabir's fraction = $10,80,000 \div 65,30,000$
 Fee charged to Kabir = $₹6,000 \times (10,80,000 \div 65,30,000) \approx ₹992.34$
 Rounded to nearest rupee = ₹992

119. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Zoya's profit share before fee = $₹3,56,250 \times (13,50,000 \div 65,30,000) \approx ₹73,650.46$
 Her fee part = $₹6,000 \times (13,50,000 \div 65,30,000) \approx ₹1,240.43$
 Final take-home = $₹73,650.46 - ₹1,240.43 = ₹72,410$ (rounded)

120. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

New salary = $₹5,000 \times 10 = ₹50,000$
 Post-salary profit = $₹4,20,000 - ₹50,000 = ₹3,70,000$
 Donation = $5\% \times ₹3,70,000 = ₹18,500$
 New distributable pool = $₹3,70,000 - ₹18,500 = ₹3,51,500$
 Meera's share (before fee) = $₹3,51,500 \times (27,00,000 \div 65,30,000) \approx ₹1,45,336.91$
 Her fee part = $₹6,000 \times (27,00,000 \div 65,30,000) \approx ₹2,480.86$
 Final take-home = $₹50,000 + ₹1,45,336.91 - ₹2,480.86 = ₹1,92,856$ (rounded)