

**COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST
(CLAT) 2026 Mock 202606:
ANSWER KEY AND SOLUTION**



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

Section - A : English Comprehension

1. Correct Answer: (d) People assess settlement offers based on how risks are framed rather than on the actual numerical probability of success

Reference Line: "You are in the top left of the fourfold pattern... Am I willing to take even a small chance of getting nothing at all?"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) There is no indication in the passage that litigants are motivated by public image or legal prestige when making settlement choices. The plaintiff's thought process revolves around internal emotional conflict, not external reputation or credibility. The author focuses on cognitive biases and emotional impulses as primary influences. The concern is about the risk of loss and regret, not about public perception. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage directly refutes this idea, as it shows that even when lawyers provide strong statistical advice (like a 95% chance of success), clients still struggle with emotional reactions such as fear of loss and regret. The emphasis is on how people frame and react to risk emotionally, even when the odds are clearly in their favour. Rational calculation is present, but emotional framing dominates the decision-making. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) There is no evidence in the passage that either party uses delay tactics or financial exhaustion as a reason to reject settlement. The defendant's resistance is described as arising from emotional discomfort at a sure loss and hope for a favourable verdict, not from manipulative intent. The motivation discussed is psychological, not strategic or adversarial in the financial sense. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This is consistent with the central theme of the passage, which uses the fourfold pattern to show how emotional framing affects perception of risk. Even when the plaintiff has a 95% chance of success, the fear of losing everything pushes them toward a certain but smaller gain. Risk framing, not pure calculation, dominates decision-making. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Correct Answer: (b) The plaintiff's emotions compel them to secure a large but guaranteed payout instead of pursuing absolute victory

Reference Line: "Even 90% of the claim is a great deal of money, and I can walk away with it now."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage does not suggest that moral pressure or ethical considerations influence the plaintiff's choice. Instead, the fear of walking away with nothing drives their hesitation. The author makes no mention of wanting to avoid litigation on moral grounds; the concern is the possibility of regret after an unexpected loss. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The plaintiff is portrayed as risk-averse, emotionally influenced by fear of regret and disappointment. Even though success is highly likely, the potential of receiving nothing overrides the desire for complete victory. This emotional response to uncertainty makes the guaranteed 90% settlement appear safer and more attractive. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The plaintiff is confident that the trial will end in their favour and thus refuses to settle for less than full compensation

This is contrary to the author's analysis. The plaintiff does not reject the offer; rather, they seriously consider accepting it despite high confidence. The fear of losing influences them more than the confidence of winning. This shows the dominance of caution over assertive ambition in decision-making. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) No indication is given that the plaintiff views the offer as dishonest or tactical. The passage does not suggest that the plaintiff seeks to expose the defendant or punish them. Their deliberation is driven purely by emotional calculus related to risk and regret, not a desire for courtroom justice. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

3. Correct Answer: (c) distasteful

Reference Line: "The sure loss is repugnant and the possibility of winning in court is highly attractive."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This word implies uncertainty or guesswork, which is not appropriate in context. The term "repugnant" is used to describe a sure loss that is definite and emotionally painful, not uncertain or unpredictable. Using "speculative" would weaken the emotional

intensity that the original word conveys. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) While “conspicuous” means clearly visible or noticeable, it does not express the emotional discomfort suggested by “repugnant.” The defendant finds the loss emotionally intolerable, not just noticeable or apparent. This word fails to capture the depth of resistance or aversion indicated in the original usage. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This word closely captures the emotional tone of “repugnant.” It conveys the defendant’s unwillingness to accept a settlement that feels as bad as losing completely. The strong aversion to a sure loss, which feels intolerable or disagreeable, is effectively expressed through this synonym. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This word denotes a lack of concern or interest, which is the opposite of what “repugnant” conveys. The defendant is emotionally invested and actively resistant to accepting the settlement. “Indifferent” would imply passivity or emotional neutrality, which contradicts the emotional reaction described. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. Correct Answer: (a) The proposed settlement feels nearly as painful as losing the case outright, making the gamble worth taking

Reference Line: “The settlement... is almost as painful as the worst outcome... and there is still hope of prevailing in court.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage makes it clear that the defendant perceives the settlement amount as emotionally equivalent to full defeat, and since there remains some hope of winning in court, the emotional burden of accepting a sure loss becomes unbearable. The psychological framing makes the gamble more appealing than surrendering to an outcome that already feels like a loss. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage does not mention any conscious legal strategy on the part of the defendant. The motivation to continue litigation is not described as a tactic to pressure the plaintiff but as an emotional reaction to the unattractiveness of a sure loss. The defendant’s actions are driven by emotional aversion, not calculated legal maneuvering. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Nowhere does the author suggest that the defendant is acting to vindicate their honesty or secure

moral recognition. The defendant’s dilemma is presented purely in terms of emotional discomfort with loss and a lingering hope of prevailing—not any desire to be proven right or wrong. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) There is no mention of any procedural defect, inconsistency, or invalidity in the settlement offer. The offer’s legitimacy is not questioned by the defendant. Instead, the emotional perception of the offer’s harshness is the primary reason for resistance. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. Correct Answer: (b) Trials are uncertain, and strong cases may fail before a jury

Reference Line: “You never really know the outcome until the jury comes in.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option suggests that the author is referring to the limits of legal preparation, but the focus of the quoted line is not on preparation or procedural caution. The statement is a philosophical reflection on the unpredictability of jury behavior, rather than an acknowledgment of professional limitations. The author implies that even the most diligent legal strategy cannot guarantee an expected verdict, emphasizing uncertainty in judgment rather than procedural inevitability. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option captures the essence of the lawyer’s warning: trials are inherently unpredictable because jurors bring subjective interpretations, biases, and emotions into their deliberations. The quote implies that outcomes depend on human judgment, which cannot be fully anticipated even with overwhelming evidence. The statement reflects the fragile boundary between confidence and uncertainty in legal proceedings, where probabilities do not always translate into results. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This interpretation narrows the quote to emotional influence, but the author’s point is broader. The statement does not isolate emotion as the deciding factor; rather, it underscores the complex, human nature of the judicial process itself. The unpredictability arises from countless variables—interpretation of law, empathy, perception of credibility—not just emotional appeal. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option wrongly assumes that the unpredictability stems from juries being swayed by a

lawyer's personality or performance. The line does not suggest manipulation or bias based on persuasion; instead, it conveys the inevitable uncertainty tied to the collective reasoning of jurors. The unpredictability lies in the jury's independent assessment of truth, not in their vulnerability to charisma. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

6. Correct Answer: (d) The role of lawyers is to neutralise client emotion and ensure purely rational settlement outcomes

Reference Line: "Two emotions are evoked... the attraction of a sure gain and the fear of intense disappointment and regret..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage discusses how the defendant, despite understanding that the trial is not going well, still finds the offered settlement almost as painful as the worst possible outcome and clings to the hope of winning in court. This illustrates that emotional framing, not rational assessment, drives the defendant's decision to resist settlement. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author explains that even with a 95% chance of winning, the plaintiff fears intense regret and disappointment if they reject a settlement and eventually lose. This emotional risk aversion makes even a 90% settlement appear attractive and acceptable. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author explicitly presents emotional states as central to litigation decisions, noting how fear of loss and hope of success influence both plaintiffs and defendants. The fourfold pattern maps how these emotions affect behaviour depending on whether the party faces a potential gain or loss. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Nowhere does the author suggest that lawyers can or should eliminate emotional influence from the client's decision-making. In fact, the plaintiff's lawyer, despite offering a 95% probability of success, still warns that the outcome is uncertain. This acknowledges that emotion will persist regardless of professional advice. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

7. Correct Answer: (c) how rural technology can complement traditional farming by reducing unnecessary manual effort

Reference Line: "We decided to try some new technology to help us save time, and it is working really well."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author never implies that environmental concerns are sacrificed. On the contrary, the collars support environmentally guided grazing under a habitat restoration scheme. Efficiency and conservation are shown to coexist, not conflict. The author's tone is appreciative, not critical. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author still manually checks on the cows and uses visual cues to locate them after reviewing the app. Technology supports but does not replace human interaction or awareness. The farmer's physical presence and observation remain central. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The collars allow the farmer to avoid aimless searching and focus directly on where the animals are. This integration of digital tools into a demanding manual routine is celebrated as a success. The technology acts as an aid, enhancing efficiency and conserving energy. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) There is no sense of weakened ability. The author states that without the collar, finding the cows would have been very difficult, not that he lacks skill. The tool amplifies effectiveness but does not diminish personal expertise. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

8. Correct Answer: (b) optimistic

Reference Line: "Invisible fencing could be a gamechanger for habitat restoration... although I have not tried this yet."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author never suggests disbelief or scorn toward modern innovations. He acknowledges the success of GPS collars and expresses enthusiasm for testing virtual fencing in the near future. His words like "gamechanger" and his openness to experimenting contradict any skeptical stance. The description shows hope and curiosity rather than doubt. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage reflects a forward-looking and balanced attitude where the author values both practicality and potential of technology. His remarks about virtual fencing improving habitat restoration reveal faith in its long-term ecological benefits. The

author combines experience with anticipation, showing genuine confidence that such innovations can sustain farming. This constructive and hopeful tone best aligns with optimism. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Nowhere does the author express fear or discomfort about technological replacement. On the contrary, he reinforces human indispensability by stating that AI can never check animal health like a farmer. His comfort with using devices proves assurance rather than anxiety. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author's discussion is thoughtful and emotionally engaged, revealing curiosity about how technology improves daily work. His attention to practical results and environmental outcomes indicates strong involvement. Such appreciation and engagement disqualify indifference, which would mean a detached or emotionless attitude. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

9. Correct Answer: (a) reaffirm the irreplaceable role of human intuition and observation in animal welfare management

Reference Line: "I don't think artificial intelligence will ever be able to check the health of animals without a farmer..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author argues that while devices can track movement or alert for anomalies, they cannot detect subtle signs of health deterioration the way a farmer can. This reflects a belief in the enduring necessity of human judgment and personal engagement. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author expresses the exact opposite view. He doubts that AI will ever replace the farmer in health-related tasks, even while praising location-tracking features. The contrast shows a belief in limits to machine intelligence. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author never mentions financial or maintenance burdens. His focus is entirely on function and utility, with no negative commentary on expense or complexity. The tone is practical, not critical. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) No such ethical issues are discussed. The author's focus remains on day-to-day farming logistics and animal welfare, without raising any privacy or surveillance considerations. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. Correct Answer: (d) The flexible arrangement allows him to integrate modern solutions into a routine otherwise constrained by time

Reference Line: "I am lucky that my employer, the National Trust, allows me to work flexible hours..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author has already adopted GPS collars and plans to test virtual fencing during TB testing. His job does not block innovation but is accommodated through flexible hours. He embraces new methods within his routine. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author actively engages with an environmental scheme involving deferred grazing and virtual fencing. His attention to ecological goals is evident and unaffected by job constraints, thanks to flexibility. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) While the reduced daylight complicates tasks, the author continues farming without relying on external help. He adapts using digital tools and flexible work hours, not outside labour. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author states that his flexible job with the National Trust lets him manage both his farm and technology. This balance enables him to be efficient and environmentally conscious. Innovation fits into his limited schedule because of this flexibility. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

11. Correct Answer: (b) innovation

Reference Line: "We decided to try some new technology to help us save time, and it is working really well."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author does adapt to seasonal constraints, but adaptation alone does not capture his broader idea of transforming farm life through modern tools. His focus is not on mere survival or adjustment, but on improving efficiency through change. Adaptation is part of his journey, not its defining theme. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage celebrates the creative integration of new methods such as GPS collars and virtual fencing within traditional routines. The author treats farming as a dynamic process of experimentation and progress that merges technology with care. His tone reflects renewal, problem-solving, and forward-thinking, all of

which embody innovation. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Observation is essential in his daily routine, especially in checking animal health, yet it is presented as a continuing responsibility rather than the central idea. The emphasis lies on how technology enhances—not replaces—his observational skill. Therefore, observation is vital but not the defining essence. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Cooperation suggests joint effort among people or between institutions, but the author's description centers on his personal initiative and use of devices rather than communal farming. While he values flexibility from his employer, the passage is not about social cooperation but individual innovation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

12. Correct Answer: (a) It illustrates that technological adoption enables farmers to uphold both ecological duty and personal efficiency

Reference Line: "The cattle are grazing in tall grass as part of an environmental scheme... Invisible fencing could be a gamechanger for habitat restoration."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author highlights how devices such as GPS collars and virtual fencing allow him to save time while sustaining environmental programs. His approach merges innovation with stewardship, proving that digital assistance can strengthen responsibility rather than replace it. The passage celebrates this harmony between efficiency and ecological awareness, showing that modernity and morality can coexist within rural practice. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author never claims that innovation has detached farmers from the natural world. Instead, he remains deeply involved—checking animals personally and working within restoration schemes. The tools support, not erode, his ethical connection to land and livestock. Suggesting alienation misreads his engaged and appreciative tone toward technological progress. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Although the passage notes winter challenges, it never indicates incompatibility between tradition and sustainability. The farmer adapts through flexible work hours and smart devices, proving that dedication endures despite climate hardship. This option wrongly interprets necessity as impossibility, contradicting the author's practical optimism. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author explicitly rejects the idea that machinery weakens human instinct, asserting that AI cannot replace a farmer's judgment in assessing animal health. His awareness and sensitivity remain essential despite using modern aids. Portraying technology as diminishing perception misrepresents the author's balanced admiration for both intuition and invention. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. Correct Answer: (c) Acknowledging and managing minor stressors can prevent them from accumulating into greater distress.

Reference Line: "Even if a particular stressor seems insignificant... annoying experiences can have a cumulative effect."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author never advocates ignoring or dismissing small irritations; instead, he emphasizes understanding and addressing them to prevent emotional buildup. Ignoring these experiences allows unresolved stress to accumulate and ultimately erupt uncontrollably. True resilience arises from mindful recognition, not avoidance of discomfort. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage challenges this very notion by explaining that even seemingly minor irritations can collectively erode emotional stability. Concentrating only on "big issues" blinds one to the psychological damage caused by routine frustrations. The author stresses that emotional wellbeing depends on attention to both major and minor stressors. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author clearly conveys that small irritants, like "drops filling a bucket," can eventually overflow into emotional outbursts. His primary message promotes proactive self-awareness to prevent that escalation. Through psychological insight, he encourages balance between acceptance and control. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Suppression is contrasted with "radical acceptance," which the author defines as recognizing reality without resistance. Emotional control is achieved through understanding, not denial. Suppression breeds tension and deepens frustration rather than building discipline. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

14. Correct Answer: (b) It allows individuals to acknowledge reality without resistance, reducing unnecessary emotional strain.

Reference Line: "Insisting that a frustrating experience shouldn't have happened doesn't change that it did happen... That's why you need radical acceptance."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Radical acceptance does not mean emotional detachment or indifference; it involves acknowledgment of what has already occurred. Ignoring emotions creates more resistance and internal strain, contradicting the principle of acceptance. The author values awareness, not denial of emotion. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author defines radical acceptance as recognizing that denial of what happened only multiplies distress. Accepting events as they are breaks the cycle of internal conflict, promoting psychological relief. This acceptance creates calm without surrendering to helplessness. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Radical acceptance applies to present experiences, not reinterpreting past events. The passage discusses confronting the "locked door" of current frustration, not revisiting memories. Rational reinterpretation belongs to reflection, not acceptance. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author stresses that even small stressors affect wellbeing cumulatively. Acceptance is a form of engagement, not dismissal. It invites awareness of emotions without rejection or judgment. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. Correct Answer: (a) the gradual and imperceptible accumulation of stress that eventually overwhelms emotional balance

Reference Line: "Like drops filling a bucket, they can eventually spill over until you're suddenly snapping at someone, or tearing up."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) the gradual and imperceptible accumulation of stress that eventually overwhelms emotional balance
This metaphor encapsulates how seemingly harmless frustrations gather over time to create sudden emotional overflow. Each minor incident contributes incrementally until the individual reacts disproportionately. The image captures inevitability and accumulation of emotional tension. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) the frequent renewal of motivation and optimism through minor but positive experiences

The phrase conveys escalation of irritation, not renewal of positivity. The "spill over" outcome symbolizes breaking point, not motivation. It marks depletion rather than reinforcement of emotional strength. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) the steady dissipation of energy when one focuses excessively on insignificant matters

The metaphor depicts build-up, not loss. It describes emotional saturation from cumulative irritation, not energy drain from obsession. The stress results from addition, not dissipation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) the conscious effort to replace large frustrations with smaller, more manageable concerns

There is no deliberate effort involved; the metaphor represents unconscious accumulation. The focus is on spontaneous reactions caused by overflow, not substitution of problems. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

16. Correct Answer: (d) empathetic but cautionary, acknowledging its naturalness while warning against impulsive reactions

Reference Line: "As natural as it is, automatically doing what a momentary emotion pushes you to do can sometimes take you further away from being the kind of person you want to be."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author views unrestrained expression as impulsive and counterproductive. Although he acknowledges emotional naturalness, he warns that automatic reactions may conflict with personal values. The tone encourages self-regulation, not uninhibited expression. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) There is no moral condemnation in the author's tone. He treats emotion-driven behaviour as normal human response rather than character flaw. His discussion is psychological and compassionate, not judgmental. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author is personally engaged, giving relatable examples such as irritation in a queue. He directly connects emotion to identity and behaviour, showing emotional insight, not analytical detachment. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author accepts emotional impulses as natural yet reminds readers that unexamined reactions can contradict one's ideals. He combines empathy with

practical wisdom, urging mindfulness over instinctive reaction. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

17. Correct Answer: (a) peak

Reference Line: "Emotions are like waves that rise, crest and gently fade away..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The term "crest" in the context of waves typically refers to the highest point in their cycle. The passage compares emotions to waves that build up, reach a peak, and then subside, implying a natural rhythm. "Peak" captures this meaning of culmination or emotional intensity before it fades. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) "Origin" refers to the starting point or beginning of an emotion or event. The phrase "crest" clearly comes after "rise" and before "fade," indicating it is not the beginning but a middle point of highest intensity. Therefore, this word misrepresents the sequential and metaphorical meaning intended in the sentence. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) "Surge" suggests a sudden or rapid increase, often lacking the structured or predictable build-up implied by "crest." While related to emotional intensity, it doesn't reflect the calm and rhythmic progression the author describes. A "crest" is part of a natural cycle, not a sharp escalation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) A "ripple" implies a small, often subtle disturbance in a surface or situation. It lacks the connotation of intensity or height that "crest" conveys. The wave metaphor emphasizes the peak of emotional experience, which "ripple" fails to capture adequately. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. Correct Answer: (b) Emotional awareness and acceptance together create healthier and more intentional responses.

Reference Line: "Emotions are like waves that rise, crest and gently fade away... when you give them the space to do so."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author explicitly discourages suppressing emotions and instead promotes acknowledging them as natural occurrences. Suppression is equated with denial or resistance, which leads to greater emotional strain. Rather than blocking feelings, the emphasis is on

allowing them space to fade naturally. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Throughout the passage, the author supports radical acceptance and emotional awareness as tools for managing reactions. He likens emotions to waves that fade when given space and warns that acting on momentary feelings may lead to regrettable behaviour. The goal is to align response with intention through self-awareness. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The author does not promote passive tolerance but encourages mindful strategies to handle stress. He discusses tools like radical acceptance and emphasizes choosing responses aligned with one's values. The message is empowerment through understanding, not helplessness or resignation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage never dismisses emotions in favour of logic. Rather, it presents emotions as valid and manageable through awareness, not as obstacles to rational thought. The author values emotions as part of human identity, requiring space and thoughtful engagement. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. Correct Answer: (a) The novel's layered form resists the superficial classifications encouraged by online literary trends.

Reference Line: "In an age of books that cavort for attention on social media... Flashlight is a rare novel."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author contrasts shallow, attention-seeking books with Flashlight, which stands apart through its refusal to fit neat categories. This shows that the novel's richness cannot be confined by quick social media taxonomies. The focus is on the novel's complexity rather than its marketability, signaling the author's admiration. The term "rare novel" underscores its uniqueness amid the noise of mass trends. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author never implies that the novel's appeal lies in political alignment or its response to ideological pressures. The text values form and multiplicity over any explicit political conformity. This interpretation mistakes thematic depth for ideological activism, which the author does not emphasize. The praise is literary, not political. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author emphasizes the opposite of moral clarity or singular genre identity, portraying Flashlight

as unclassifiable and fluid. To call it loyal to one genre misreads the core argument about its resistance to labels. The appreciation lies in its ambiguity, not in clear moral structure. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The novel is described as challenging and layered, not simple or crafted for ease of reading. The author celebrates its structural difficulty rather than accessibility. Associating it with reader-friendly storytelling undermines the critical tone of admiration. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. Correct Answer: (c) Rhythmic flow that conveys a sense of harmony and cultural belonging.

Reference Line: "He attends a school that bestows upon him a new name — Hiroshi — a name he loves for its phonetic cadence."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The line reflects joy and comfort, not fragmentation or confusion, making this interpretation inconsistent with the tone. The term "uneven tone" implies instability, while the passage conveys balance and appreciation. Serk's naming shows reconciliation, not internal conflict. The choice thus fails to align with context. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The naming process is not portrayed as violent or suppressive but as a moment of endearment and discovery. The word "cadence" celebrates beauty, not oppression. Interpreting it as harshness distorts the gentle and harmonious mood. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The word "cadence" refers to rhythm or flow, and Serk's affection for the sound of his Japanese name shows an emotional resonance with its tone. It reflects a moment of acceptance and pleasure in linguistic identity. The author suggests that Serk finds belonging through the musicality of the new name. The emphasis is on auditory beauty and emotional connection. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) "Monotonous repetition" negates the variety implied in rhythm and music, which the word "cadence" conveys. Serk's pleasure in the sound shows individuality, not uniformity. The author's tone is warm and reflective, not mechanical or dull. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. Correct Answer: (a) Her youth ends abruptly under trauma that forces premature emotional evolution.

Reference Line: "Childhoods are truncated by traumas that must be dealt with, and coming-of-age is a jolt rather than a joyous unfurling."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The phrase "truncated by traumas" implies an abrupt interruption of innocence, transforming growth into a forced confrontation with pain. Louisa's coming-of-age is not gentle but sudden and disorienting. The description of a "jolt" reinforces the involuntary nature of her maturation. It suggests emotional survival rather than natural progression. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The word "serenely" contradicts the tension and emotional upheaval captured in the phrase "a jolt." The author presents Louisa's experience as unsettling, not peaceful or meditative. Her maturity arises from crisis, not composure. This interpretation ignores the psychological violence implied in the scene. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author distances the novel from the optimism of traditional bildungsroman stories by rejecting joyous unfolding. The tone is somber, underscoring pain and forced maturity. Louisa's childhood lacks the hope that defines conventional growth narratives. This makes the option inconsistent with the author's argument. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage frames Louisa's childhood within trauma and parental loss, not imaginative liberation. Her experiences are bound to memory, fear, and emotional rupture. There is no suggestion of creative or cultural emancipation. The focus remains on suffering rather than freedom. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. Correct Answer: (a) It reveals an identity molded by circumstance and language rather than fixed inheritance.

Reference Line: "He attends a school that bestows upon him a new name — Hiroshi — a name he loves for its phonetic cadence."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Serk's affection for his Japanese name illustrates fluidity in identity shaped by linguistic and cultural experiences. He adapts rather than clings to fixed roots, showing comfort in transformation. The author uses this to highlight identity as evolving rather than predetermined. His story symbolizes adaptability and hybridity. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage does not portray Serk as rejecting cultural belonging; he embraces multiplicity rather than renouncing identity. The emotional tone is gentle, not fractured. This reading misrepresents the author's appreciation of fluidity. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) There is no evidence of nostalgia or desire to reclaim ancestral purity; the emphasis lies on acceptance of new contexts. The term "purity" contradicts the theme of cultural blending that defines Serk's journey. The tone celebrates movement, not restoration. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The text never presents Serk as detached or emotionally distant. His relationships and memories indicate sensitivity and continuity. The focus is on naming and belonging, not on ambition or alienation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

23. Correct Answer: (d) Austere

Reference Line: "It could be a political thriller, but it is also an extravagant tale of migrants, spanning decades..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) "Lavish" parallels extravagance in meaning, both denoting abundance or excess, not restraint. The similarity makes it unsuitable as an antonym. The passage associates extravagance with expansiveness, not moderation. Thus, this option mirrors rather than opposes it. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) "Grandiose" shares the same tonal excess and self-importance linked to extravagance, lacking contrast. Both suggest flourish and overabundance of style. The words belong to the same semantic field, eliminating antonymic potential. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) "Ornamental" also implies decorative richness, aligning with rather than opposing extravagance. The passage's context of elaborate storytelling contradicts this as an opposite term. The word fails to capture the

austerity that contrasts excess. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) "Extravagant" connotes elaboration and opulence, whereas "austere" implies restraint, simplicity, and minimalism. The contrast captures the essence of the antonymic relationship. The author's description of abundance makes austerity its logical opposite. The choice reflects a shift from richness to sparseness in tone. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

24. Correct Answer: (a) It fuses migration, memory, and trauma into a narrative that eludes all fixed literary categories.

Reference Line: "It could be a political thriller, but it is also an extravagant tale of migrants... one might be tempted to call it a bildungsroman, but it isn't."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author highlights the novel's rejection of genre rigidity, weaving migration and trauma into a fluid narrative. The phrase "slips through taxonomies" encapsulates this essence. The text emphasizes thematic integration over structural conformity. It celebrates form as a reflection of emotional multiplicity. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The novel is not framed around moral or emotional clarity but complexity and ambiguity. The narrative avoids neat resolution or ethical finality. Its structure challenges closure rather than ensuring it. Thus, this option misrepresents the author's stance. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The depiction of migration is intertwined with pain and displacement, not harmony or celebration. The tone reflects melancholy rather than nostalgia or reconciliation. The author admires its realism, not idealism. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The socialist reference to Serk's parents serves only as background and not ideological critique. The novel's scope is personal, not political propaganda. The author never aligns the text with condemnation of ideology. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

Section - B : Current Affairs including General Knowledge

25. Correct Answer: (d) Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council
Explanation: The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) was created as a semi-autonomous body in 1988 following an agreement between the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) and the West Bengal government. It functioned for 23 years, managing local governance and development in the Darjeeling Hills, before being replaced by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) in 2012 to provide enhanced administrative powers.

26. Correct Answer: (a) Only I and II
Explanation: Subhas Ghising, leader of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), coined the term Gorkhaland to denote a separate state covering the Darjeeling Hills, Dooars, and Terai regions. Statement III is incorrect since the term was not introduced by the West Bengal government but by Ghising himself, marking the beginning of an assertive agitation for regional autonomy and identity.

27. Correct Answer: (b) 11 Gurkha sub-communities
Explanation: In the meeting chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, the delegation that included Mr. Raju Bista reiterated the long-pending demand to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to 11 Gurkha sub-communities. This move aims to ensure equitable representation, cultural preservation, and access to constitutional benefits for historically underrepresented groups within the Gorkha community.

28. Correct Answer: (d) Article 3
Explanation: Article 3 of the Indian Constitution provides the legal framework for the reorganisation of States, allowing Parliament to form new States, alter boundaries, change names, or modify areas of existing States. However, while Parliament may reduce the area of a State, it cannot convert a State into a Union Territory, as this would undermine India's federal structure. This principle underlines the constitutional obligation to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

29. Correct Answer: (c) The Gurkhas trace their roots to the Malla dynasty era in the hill kingdom of Gurkha.
Explanation: Historical evidence shows that the Gurkhas originated during the Malla dynasty era from the small hill kingdom of Gurkha, located northwest of

Kathmandu. It was from this region that King Prithvi Narayan Shah launched the unification of Nepal in 1742, establishing the Gurkhas' enduring martial identity. Their valor later earned them recognition under British service, but their true origins predate colonial influence, rooted in the native hill polities of Nepal.

30. Correct Answer: (b) World Food Day 2025 adopted the theme "Hand in Hand for Better Food and a Better Future."

Explanation:
The World Food Day 2025 celebrations were organized around the theme "Hand in Hand for Better Food and a Better Future," highlighting the importance of collaboration in building sustainable and inclusive food systems. The event saw participation from the Government of India, UN agencies, Rome-based agencies (RBAs), development partners, and farmers, underscoring the need for collective action toward food security and agricultural resilience. The theme reinforces the global commitment to ensuring access to nutritious food while fostering climate-smart farming and sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

31. Correct Answer: (b) Norman Borlaug
Explanation: Norman Borlaug, often known as the Father of the Green Revolution, developed high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of wheat at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). His innovations revolutionized agricultural productivity, particularly in Asia and Latin America, preventing widespread famine. For his monumental contributions to global food security, Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

32. Correct Answer: (d) National Food Security Act
Explanation: The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 aims to ensure food and nutritional security by legally entitling 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Covering around 81 crore beneficiaries, including 16 crore women, the Act emphasizes inclusivity and women's empowerment through equitable access to essential nutrition under Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories.

33. Correct Answer: (a) Five years

Explanation: The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), initially launched to mitigate the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, has been extended by the Central Government for an additional five years starting January 1, 2024. This extension ensures continued distribution of free food grains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries, reinforcing India's commitment to food security and welfare for the economically vulnerable.

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

Explanation: All three statements are correct. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized UN agency dedicated to defeating hunger and improving nutrition and food security. It has 195 members (194 countries plus the European Union) and operates in over 130 countries globally. FAO works to promote sustainable agriculture, enhance rural livelihoods, and build resilient food systems through international cooperation and policy support.

35. Correct Answer: (c) One Country One Priority Product

Explanation: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR) jointly organized the international webinar 'Development of Millets in India' on 18 April 2024 under the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative. This FAO initiative encourages member nations to focus on promoting key agricultural products with high nutritional and economic value. The event witnessed participation from over 70 delegates worldwide, reinforcing India's role in advancing millet cultivation and global food security.

36. Correct Answer: (c) Gandhara

Explanation: Gandhara was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas that flourished around the sixth century BCE. It occupied the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent, extending into areas of present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan. Owing to its strategic location, Gandhara became a major center of trade and cultural exchange between India, Central Asia, and Persia. The other Mahajanapadas—Avanti, Kosala, and Vatsa—were situated in central and northern India, making option (c) the correct answer.

37. Correct Answer: (c) The Afghan Pashtuns see the TTP as kin, reflecting shared identity and anger over Tribal Agency abolition.

Explanation: The passage explains that Pakistani Pathans perceive the abolition of the Tribal Agencies as an insult to their traditional way of life by the Punjab-dominated Pakistani establishment. This resentment, combined with ethnic solidarity among Pashtuns on both sides of the border, has made the Afghan Pashtuns view the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as their kin. The underlying conflict, therefore, stems from ethnic unity and historical grievances rather than reconciliation or acceptance, making option (c) correct. Options (a), (b), and (d) contradict the passage's central idea of discontent and alienation.

38. Correct Answer: (a) India

Explanation: Afghanistan, being land-locked, depends on neighboring countries for access to seaports and trade routes. Its primary transit corridors are through Pakistan (via Karachi and Gwadar ports), Iran (through Chabahar port), and the Central Asian Republics (such as Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan). India, however, does not share a direct land border with Afghanistan, and therefore cannot serve as a transit route. Trade with India occurs indirectly via Iran's Chabahar Port, making option (a) the correct answer.

39. Correct Answer: (d) Operation Devi Shakti

Explanation: India launched Operation Devi Shakti in August 2021 to safely evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners following the Taliban's swift takeover of Kabul. The operation involved multiple IAF and Air India flights coordinating under high-risk conditions. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar revealed the operation's name on August 24 while announcing the arrival of 78 evacuees in Delhi. The other operations—Sankat Mochan, Rahat, and Ganga—were conducted in different countries and crises, not in Afghanistan, making option (d) correct.

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

Explanation: The Durand Line, approximately 2,640 km long, was drawn in 1893 during the reign of Amir Abdur Rahman Khan, then ruler of Afghanistan. The agreement, named after Sir Mortimer Durand, created a political boundary that divided the Pashtun tribal belt between Afghanistan and British India, leaving many ethnic Pashtuns separated across both sides. Sir Mortimer Durand was not the Viceroy of India but the Foreign Secretary of British India at the time. The Viceroy then was Lord Lansdowne, under whose authority the agreement was negotiated.

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

Explanation: The first tranche loan has been raised from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000, and the second tranche loan from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000. However, the third tranche remains unchanged at ₹50,000. The enhancement of the first two tranches aims to provide greater financial flexibility to small borrowers while maintaining repayment discipline through a phased lending structure. I prefer this response

42. Correct Answer: (c) 2020

Explanation: The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme was launched in June 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic to provide financial assistance to street vendors who suffered income losses due to lockdowns and business disruptions. The scheme offers collateral-free working capital loans to help vendors restart their businesses and promotes digital inclusion through UPI-linked payments. It has since evolved into a major livelihood support mechanism under the government's mission for AtmaNirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), fostering financial empowerment and urban micro-entrepreneurship.

43. Correct Answer: (b) SVANidhi se Samridhhi

Explanation: The 'SVANidhi se Samridhhi' component of the PM SVANidhi Scheme focuses on expanding welfare coverage for street vendors and their families. Strengthened through monthly Lok Kalyan Melas, it adopts a saturation-based approach to link beneficiaries with various Central Government welfare schemes such as housing, health insurance, pension, and skill development. This initiative represents the government's effort to move beyond financial aid and ensure comprehensive socio-economic inclusion for informal sector workers.

44. Correct Answer: (a) Department of Financial Services

Explanation: The implementation of the PM SVANidhi Scheme is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS). While MoHUA oversees the overall policy and coordination, DFS ensures the operational facilitation of loans and credit cards through banks, microfinance institutions, and other lending agencies. This partnership enables efficient last-mile delivery of financial support to street vendors, fostering entrepreneurship, livelihood

security, and greater integration of the informal economy into the formal financial system.

45. Correct Answer: (d) Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

Explanation: The PM SVANidhi Scheme received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2023) under the Innovation (Central Level) category, acknowledging its contribution to financial inclusion, livelihood promotion, and digital empowerment of street vendors. Additionally, it was honored with the Silver Award for Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation (2022) for its innovative use of technology to streamline loan distribution and beneficiary monitoring. Together, these awards recognize the scheme's pioneering impact in advancing digital governance and inclusive urban livelihoods.

46. Correct Answer: (d) ₹1,600

Explanation: To encourage digital adoption among street vendors, the PM SVANidhi Scheme offers cashback incentives of up to ₹1,600 for conducting retail and wholesale transactions through digital platforms. This incentive promotes financial literacy and inclusion, encouraging vendors to use digital payment systems for everyday business. The initiative not only enhances transaction transparency but also builds vendors' digital credit profiles, helping them access future financial opportunities with ease.

47. Correct Answer: (a) The NEC was established in 1971 and inaugurated in Shillong in 1972 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Explanation: The North Eastern Council (NEC) was founded in 1971 under the North Eastern Council Act and formally inaugurated in Shillong in 1972 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The council was envisioned as a regional advisory and planning body to accelerate the economic and social progress of India's North Eastern Region (NER). Over time, it has evolved into a vital institution promoting infrastructure, connectivity, and policy coordination across the eight northeastern states, reinforcing the vision of balanced regional development under India's Act East Policy.

48. Correct Answer: (b) North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme

Explanation: In his remarks, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its initiatives supporting the North Eastern States under

the PM DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East) and NESIDS (North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme). While acknowledging these efforts, he highlighted that the allocations—₹561 crore under PM DevINE and ₹276.69 crore under NESIDS (ROADS)—were insufficient for major developmental projects, urging enhancement of funding to support impactful, regionally inclusive growth in infrastructure and connectivity across the Northeast.

49. Correct Answer: (a) Bangladesh

Explanation: The Indian state of Tripura shares an 856 km-long international border with Bangladesh, making it one of the longest and most active cross-border zones in the northeast. Owing to its proximity and open terrain, Tripura maintains enhanced border security to prevent illegal trade, infiltration, and smuggling. The strategic location also facilitates cross-border connectivity and economic cooperation under India's Act East Policy, reinforcing friendly ties and regional integration with Bangladesh.

50. Correct Answer: (b) All Tripura Tiger Force

Explanation: The All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), along with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), signed a peace accord with the Central and Tripura Governments in New Delhi, marking a major step toward ending decades of insurgency in the state. The agreement led to the surrender of 328 armed cadres and paved the way for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. This initiative is part of

India's broader northeast peace framework, focusing on dialogue, development, and disarmament to ensure long-term stability and inclusive growth in the region.

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

Explanation: The PM-DevINE scheme (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East) enhances the NEC's strategic importance in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for inclusive growth in the North Eastern Region (NER). The NER, often celebrated as 'Ashta Lakshmi', represents eight states known for their diversity, cultural wealth, and economic promise. However, statement III is incorrect because the NEC functions under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and complements, rather than operates separately from, other central initiatives and schemes for the Northeast.

52. Correct Answer: (c) North Eastern Electrical Power Corporation

Explanation: The North Eastern Electrical Power Corporation (NEEPCO) was established under the North Eastern Council (NEC) to utilize the vast hydropower potential of the region. By developing major power projects and strengthening transmission infrastructure, NEEPCO has been a key driver of energy security and economic growth in the northeast. Alongside achievements such as the construction of 11,500 km of roads and modernization of airports, NEC's legacy through NEEPCO underscores its long-term vision for sustainable development and regional connectivity.

Section - C : Legal Reasoning

53. Correct Answer: (c) The company is absolutely liable as Indian law does not require proof of escape.

Reference Line: "Unlike Rylands, no proof of 'escape' is necessary—the duty protects workers within the premises and persons outside—and the classification of 'non-natural use' is irrelevant."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) Incorrect: This statement applies the traditional Rylands v. Fletcher requirement of escape, which was a necessary element under English common law. However, Indian jurisprudence has explicitly moved beyond this limitation in cases involving hazardous industrial activities, recognizing that workers within the premises deserve equal protection from dangerous operations.

Option (b) Incorrect: The doctrine of absolute liability in India eliminates the need to prove fault or negligence. The enterprise engaged in hazardous activity owes an absolute duty to ensure no harm occurs, whether to workers or the public. Requiring proof of negligence would undermine the strict accountability framework established for enterprises profiting from inherently dangerous operations.

Option (c) Correct: Indian law, as established in M.C. Mehta v. Union of India, imposes absolute liability on enterprises conducting hazardous activities without requiring proof of escape from the premises. The duty extends to all persons affected by the dangerous activity, including employees working within the factory, thus ensuring comprehensive protection against industrial hazards.

Option (d) Incorrect: The lawfulness of the industrial activity does not immunize the enterprise from liability when harm occurs. The principle of absolute liability recognizes that enterprises voluntarily undertaking hazardous operations must bear responsibility for all resulting harm as part of their social obligation, regardless of whether the activity itself is legally permitted and economically beneficial.

54. Correct Answer: (b) No, because the farmer's default in controlling his animal caused the harm directly.

Reference Line: "These include the plaintiff's own default (for example, a trespassing animal that eats poisonous foliage within the defendant's boundary)."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While electricity is indeed a dangerous thing that can attract strict liability, the principle is not absolute when recognized defences apply. The passage explicitly identifies situations where the defendant's responsibility is fairly displaced, and this includes cases where the plaintiff's own conduct or failure creates the harm, as illustrated by the trespassing animal example.

Option (b) Correct: The plaintiff's own default constitutes a historically recognized excuse that displaces strict liability. The farmer's failure to control his animal, which then trespassed onto the company's property and encountered the dangerous thing within its boundary, mirrors the specific example provided in the passage where a trespassing animal suffers harm from dangerous material lawfully kept within the defendant's premises.

Option (c) Incorrect: Although high-voltage electricity may constitute non-natural use under Rylands v. Fletcher, the existence of strict liability does not eliminate recognized defences. The farmer's own default—allowing his animal to trespass and breach safety barriers—constitutes a valid defence that fairly shifts responsibility away from the company despite the dangerous nature of the accumulated thing.

Option (d) Incorrect: The defence does not rest on reasonable care or adequacy of precautions, which would be relevant in ordinary negligence. The applicable defence is the plaintiff's own default, which focuses on the causative contribution of the plaintiff's conduct rather than the reasonableness of the defendant's safety measures or warnings.

55. Correct Answer: (d) Statements i and iii

Reference Line: "Secondly, there must be an escape, meaning movement of the dangerous thing, or its harmful agency, from the defendant's occupation and control into another's domain" and "Unlike Rylands, no proof of 'escape' is necessary—the duty protects workers within the premises and persons outside."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While statement i correctly describes the Rylands v. Fletcher requirement, statement ii is false because it misrepresents Indian absolute liability doctrine. Indian law explicitly removed the escape requirement, extending protection to workers within premises, not limiting liability to

situations where hazardous substances physically exit the factory boundary.

Option (b) Incorrect: Both statements are false under Indian law. Statement ii incorrectly suggests that physical exit from premises is required, contradicting the express removal of the escape requirement in Indian jurisprudence. Statement iv wrongly implies fault-based liability, whereas Indian absolute liability eliminates the need for proving negligence, imposing strict accountability on hazardous enterprises regardless of fault.

Option (c) Incorrect: Statement iii is correct, but statement iv is false. Indian absolute liability doctrine does not require workers to prove fault; the enterprise owes an absolute duty to ensure no harm occurs. The rationale is that enterprises profiting from dangerous activities are best placed to prevent hazards and should bear costs without regard to fault, ensuring maximum safety standards.

Option (d) Correct: Statement i accurately describes the traditional Rylands v. Fletcher position requiring escape from the defendant's control as a necessary element. Statement iii correctly reflects Indian law's expansion of protection, ensuring that workers within the hazardous enterprise's premises receive the same protection as external persons, thereby eliminating the geographic limitation inherent in the escape requirement.

56. Correct Answer: (d) No, because unprecedented rainfall constitutes an Act of God excusing liability.

Reference Line: "an Act of God (vis major) where extraordinary, irresistible natural forces overwhelm reasonable precautions (such as unprecedented rainfall bursting embankments)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While the accumulation of water might technically create conditions for strict liability, this analysis ignores the specific factual context of unprecedented rainfall causing the overflow. The passage establishes that even when the elements of strict liability exist, recognized defences can fairly displace responsibility, and Act of God is explicitly mentioned as applying to situations involving unprecedented rainfall.

Option (b) Incorrect: The consent or common benefit defence applies when the activity is undertaken for and accepted by both parties who share in it—here, Priya and Kavita share the benefit, not Amit. Community

benefit alone does not excuse liability to third parties who did not consent to or participate in the activity. This defence would protect Priya and Kavita from claims against each other, not from Amit's claim.

Option (c) Incorrect: This statement incorrectly suggests absolute liability for any water escape, ignoring the framework of recognized defences. Strict liability under Rylands v. Fletcher is not absolute; the passage explicitly notes that historically recognised excuses reflect situations where the defendant's responsibility is fairly displaced, and Act of God is one such excuse.

Option (d) Correct: Unprecedented heavy rainfall that overwhelms the capacity of a properly designed and maintained rainwater harvesting system constitutes vis major—an extraordinary, irresistible natural force. The passage specifically cites unprecedented rainfall as an example of Act of God that excuses liability even when dangerous accumulation and escape have occurred, because the natural force was beyond reasonable human control.

57. Correct Answer: (b) No, because the criminal act was an unforeseeable act of a third party.

Reference Line: "an unforeseeable act of a third party that the defendant could not reasonably prevent."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While storing certain flammable materials might create conditions for strict liability if they escape, this does not mean liability is absolute or unavoidable. The passage recognizes defences where the defendant's responsibility is fairly displaced, including situations where an unforeseeable third-party intervention causes the escape, particularly when sophisticated criminal methods are employed that the defendant could not reasonably prevent.

Option (b) Correct: A sophisticated burglary using advanced techniques constitutes an unforeseeable act of a third party that Vikram could not reasonably prevent. The passage explicitly recognizes this as a defence that fairly displaces the defendant's responsibility. The criminal intervention was the direct cause of the varnish escape, breaking the chain of responsibility that would otherwise attach to Vikram for storing the materials.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option conflates two issues: whether the use is non-natural and whether liability follows. Even if a home-based carpentry workshop constitutes non-natural use (which is questionable

given that modest home-based trades serve community needs), the existence of non-natural use does not eliminate recognized defences. The unforeseeable criminal act remains a valid excuse regardless of the classification of use.

Option (d) Incorrect: The defence does not rest on whether Vikram exercised reasonable care—that would be a negligence standard. The applicable defence is the unforeseeable act of a third party. While his reasonable security measures are relevant context, the key is that sophisticated criminal methods rendered the burglary unforeseeable and unpreventable, not that he satisfied a duty of care.

58. Correct Answer: (a) (A)(i)

Reference Line: "These include the plaintiff's own default (for example, a trespassing animal that eats poisonous foliage within the defendant's boundary)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The plaintiff's own default is a historically recognized excuse that fairly displaces the defendant's responsibility under strict liability principles. When Rajesh failed to control his rooster, which then trespassed onto Sharma's property and consumed dangerous substances within Sharma's lawful boundary, this constituted the plaintiff's own default. The passage explicitly provides the parallel example of a trespassing animal eating poisonous foliage within the defendant's boundary, demonstrating that strict liability does not attach when the harm results from the plaintiff's failure to exercise proper control over his own property or animals.

Option (b) Incorrect: This reasoning fundamentally misunderstands the nature of strict liability under *Rylands v. Fletcher*, which is not absolute. The passage explicitly states that "strict liability is not absolute; historically recognised excuses reflect situations where the defendant's responsibility is fairly displaced." The plaintiff's own default is one such recognized excuse. Strict liability requires certain conditions to be met and can be defeated by established defences, making this reasoning legally incorrect.

Option (c) Incorrect: While pisciculture might arguably be characterized as agricultural use, this reasoning fails to address the core legal issue. The classification of use as natural or non-natural is only one element required for strict liability. Even if the lake constituted non-natural use, the more direct and applicable defence is the plaintiff's own default. Additionally, large artificial lakes for commercial pisciculture could well be

considered non-natural use as they add abnormal danger beyond ordinary farming, making this reasoning both circuitous and potentially factually incorrect.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this reasoning reaches the correct conclusion that Sharma is not liable, it misstates the legal basis. The issue is not about whether the defendant has a "duty to safeguard trespassing animals"—this frames the question in negligence terms requiring a duty of care. The correct framework is strict liability with recognized defences. The plaintiff's own default is the established excuse, not the absence of a duty. This reasoning confuses fault-based liability with strict liability principles and their defences.

59. Correct Answer: (a) No, because he acted under good-faith mistake of fact regarding his legal obligation.

Reference Line: "Sections 76 and 79 excuse acts done in good-faith factual misapprehension of being bound or justified by law; by contrast, mistake of law is never excused. Section 76 concerns a supposed legal obligation to act."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) Correct: Arjun's mistake was about a fact—whether the order was genuine—not about the law governing his duties. He correctly understood the legal rule that security guards must obey lawful orders; he was merely mistaken about whether this particular order was lawful due to its forged nature. Section 76 specifically protects acts done in good-faith factual misapprehension of being bound by law. Since the document appeared authentic in all respects and he had no reason to doubt it, his good faith is established, bringing his restraint of Meera within the defence.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option mischaracterizes Arjun's mistake as one of law rather than fact. He did not misunderstand his legal powers or the scope of his authority; he correctly knew that genuine official orders must be obeyed. His error concerned the factual question of whether the order was authentic. Mistake of law—misunderstanding legal rules themselves—is never excused under the Code. This distinction between *ignorantia facti* (which excuses) and *ignorantia juris* (which does not excuse) is fundamental to the defence under Sections 76 and 79.

Option (c) Incorrect: This statement incorrectly suggests that mistakes about order authenticity can never excuse wrongful acts, effectively nullifying Section 76's protection. The law specifically recognizes

that good-faith factual mistakes regarding legal obligations provide a complete defence. When an order appears genuine in all respects and the actor has no reason to doubt its authenticity, the mistake regarding its true nature is precisely the type of factual misapprehension that Section 76 was designed to excuse, provided good faith is established.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option acknowledges the good faith requirement, it incorrectly interprets good faith to impose an affirmative duty of verification in all circumstances. Good faith means honest and reasonable belief, not absolute certainty obtained through independent investigation. When an order bears all hallmarks of authenticity—official letterhead, proper signatures, and formatting—requiring further verification would impose an impossible standard. Section 76 protects reasonable reliance on apparently genuine documents, not only acts preceded by exhaustive authentication procedures.

60. Correct Answer: (a) No, because he knew the nature of his act and that it would cause harm.

Reference Line: "Section 84 on unsoundness of mind applies only if, at the time of the act, the person was incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that it was wrong or contrary to law, assessed from surrounding circumstances."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Section 84 requires complete incapacity to know either the nature of the act or that it was wrong or contrary to law. Rajesh knew he was striking his brother with a bat (nature of the act) and understood it would hurt him (wrongfulness). Impaired judgment, reduced impulse control, or inability to assess full consequences do not satisfy Section 84's stringent threshold of incapacity. The defence is narrowly construed to cover only those who are so severely impaired that they cannot comprehend what they are doing or that it is wrong, not those whose self-control is merely diminished.

Option (b) Incorrect: While this reasoning reaches the correct conclusion, it relies on an irrelevant factor. Section 84's applicability is assessed based on the person's mental state at the time of the act, not on whether the condition resulted from voluntary conduct like medication non-compliance. Even if Rajesh's condition was self-induced by failing to take medication, the defence would still apply if he met the incapacity requirement. The reason he cannot claim

the defence is not his prior voluntary conduct but his actual capacity to know the nature and wrongfulness of the act at the relevant moment.

Option (c) Incorrect: Significant impairment of judgment and impulse control, while relevant to sentencing or mitigation, does not meet Section 84's requirement of incapacity to know. The provision uses the word "incapable," which denotes complete inability, not merely diminished capacity or impairment. A person who knows they are hitting someone with a bat and that it will cause harm demonstrates sufficient knowledge of both the nature and wrongfulness of the act. The defence is designed for those who lack fundamental comprehension, not those who comprehend but cannot control themselves.

Option (d) Incorrect: Merely having a diagnosed mental disorder, even a severe one like bipolar disorder, does not automatically qualify a person for Section 84's protection. The provision requires proof of incapacity to know the nature of the act or its wrongfulness at the specific time the act was committed. Many persons with mental disorders retain the capacity to understand their actions and distinguish right from wrong. The relevant inquiry is functional—what the person was capable of knowing at the material time—not diagnostic or classificatory.

61. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because the sedative was administered without knowledge and caused incapacity to know the act's nature.

Reference Line: "Sections 85 and 86 differentiate involuntary from voluntary intoxication: involuntary intoxication exonerates where the intoxicant was administered without knowledge or against the will and the actor could not know the act's nature or wrongness, while voluntary intoxication imputes to the actor the knowledge he would have had if sober."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) Incorrect: This reasoning incorrectly suggests that any combination of voluntary and involuntary intoxicants defeats the defence. The law requires identification of which intoxicant caused the incapacity to know the act's nature. Medical evidence clearly establishes that the sedative, not the moderate alcohol consumption, caused the severe confusion and hallucinations that rendered Kavita incapable of knowing she was pushing a real person rather than defending against an imagined attacker. The involuntary intoxication defence focuses on whether an involuntarily administered substance

caused the requisite incapacity, not on whether any voluntary intoxicant was also present.

Option (b) Incorrect: This creates an absolute bar to the involuntary intoxication defence that does not exist in law. Sections 85 and 86 distinguish between voluntary and involuntary intoxication based on how the intoxicant was administered and its effects, not on whether the person had consumed anything else voluntarily. Such an interpretation would render Section 85 practically meaningless in most social settings where people may have consumed moderate amounts of alcohol before being involuntarily drugged. The defence remains available when an involuntary intoxicant causes the incapacity, regardless of prior voluntary consumption.

Option (c) Correct: Section 85 requires two elements: the intoxicant was administered without knowledge or against the will, and it rendered the person incapable of knowing the act's nature or wrongness. Both elements are satisfied—the sedative was secretly added to Kavita's drink (involuntary administration) and medical evidence establishes it caused severe confusion and hallucinations at levels that prevented her from knowing she was pushing a real person. The prior voluntary alcohol consumption is legally irrelevant because the specific incapacity that prevented her from knowing the act's nature was caused by the involuntarily administered sedative.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option correctly identifies that the drink was spiked without Kavita's knowledge, it provides an incomplete statement of the defence. Merely lacking knowledge that a substance was administered is insufficient; Section 85 additionally requires that the involuntary intoxicant rendered the person incapable of knowing the act's nature or wrongness. This option states only the first element (involuntary administration) without addressing the second critical element (resultant incapacity). A complete defence requires both elements to be established, making this reasoning inadequate even though it reaches the correct conclusion.

62. Correct Answer: (c) No, because the law authorizes running the risk of harming an innocent person when repelling a deadly assault.

Reference Line: "Section 106 authorises running the risk of harming an innocent person when repelling a deadly assault."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This statement ignores the specific provision of Section 106, which explicitly addresses situations where an innocent person may be harmed during the exercise of private defence against a deadly assault. The law recognizes that in the exigency of defending against immediate life-threatening danger, it may be impossible to ensure that no innocent person is at risk. Section 106 provides limited protection for such situations by authorizing "running the risk" of harming innocents when repelling deadly assaults, balancing the defender's right to protect life against the unfortunate possibility of collateral harm.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option imposes an unrealistic standard that would effectively nullify the right of private defence in many dangerous situations. When facing an imminent deadly assault with armed robbers advancing menacingly with knives, requiring the defender to refrain from defensive action until there is zero risk to any bystander would leave victims vulnerable and defenseless. Section 106 recognizes that in such extreme circumstances, the law permits running the risk of harm to innocents. The question is whether the risk was reasonable in context, not whether all risk was eliminated.

Option (c) Correct: Section 106 specifically authorizes running the risk of harming an innocent person when repelling a deadly assault. Ramesh faced armed robbers with knives who were advancing toward him—a situation that clearly involved deadly assault justifying defensive measures including use of his firearm. The pedestrian's injury, while unfortunate, resulted from a risk that Section 106 permits in such circumstances. The provision does not require certainty of harming innocents, only that there was a risk of such harm while repelling the deadly assault, which is precisely what occurred here.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this reasoning reaches the correct conclusion, it relies on general principles of accident and lack of intention rather than the specific statutory protection provided by Section 106. The defence does not rest merely on the injury being "accidental" or lacking intention—many accidental harms can still attract liability. The specific protection comes from Section 106's recognition that when repelling deadly assaults, the law tolerates the risk of harm to innocents. This is a deliberate policy choice balancing competing interests, not merely an application of general accident principles.

63. Correct Answer: (b) No, because seeking public protection was impossible given the immediate nature of the assault.

Reference Line: "Section 99 limits the right by denying it when a public servant or a person acting under his direction acts in good faith without causing reasonable apprehension of death or grievous hurt, when there is time to seek public protection, or when more harm than necessary is inflicted."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While this option reaches the correct conclusion, its reasoning is imprecise. It suggests that the imminence of the deadly threat alone justified defensive action "despite police station proximity," without addressing the specific legal test under Section 99. The correct analysis requires determining whether there was actually "time to seek public protection." The imminence is relevant to that determination, but the reasoning should focus on whether Deepak had realistic opportunity to reach the police station before being shot, not merely on whether the threat was imminent in general terms.

Option (b) Correct: Section 99 denies the right of private defence when there is time to seek public protection. However, "time" must be understood in the context of the actual danger faced. Although a police station was 200 meters away, the assailant had closed the distance, already fired shots, and was now aiming directly at Deepak. In these circumstances, there was no realistic time to seek public protection—attempting to run further would have exposed Deepak to being shot. The limitation in Section 99 applies when there is practical opportunity to seek official help, not when such help exists nearby but cannot be accessed before the harm materializes.

Option (c) Incorrect: This interpretation mechanically applies the "time to seek public protection" limitation without considering the factual context of immediate danger. Section 99's limitation requires actual practical time to seek help, not merely geographical proximity to authorities. The assailant had closed distance and was aiming directly at Deepak with a gun—the time required to cover even 200 meters would have been sufficient for the assailant to shoot. The law does not require victims to risk their lives attempting to reach help when the threat is so immediate that defensive action is necessary for survival.

Option (d) Incorrect: This reasoning conflates two separate limitations in Section 99: availability of time

to seek public protection and infliction of more harm than necessary. Even if official assistance was geographically nearby, there was no practical time to seek it given the imminent shooting. Furthermore, the harm caused (striking with a stone causing grievous hurt) was proportionate to defending against a gun-wielding assailant who had already fired shots and was aiming to kill. The harm was not excessive given the deadly nature of the threat, making both prongs of this reasoning incorrect.

64. Correct Answer: (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Reference Line: "Section 98 further allows private defence even against acts of children, the intoxicated, or the mentally unsound when their conduct would otherwise amount to an offence." and "Private defence under Sections 96 and 97 is preventive, not punitive."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion. Assertion (A) is true because Section 98 explicitly permits private defence against acts of children when their conduct would otherwise amount to an offence—the child's attempt to stab Meera with a broken bottle would constitute assault or attempt to cause grievous hurt. Reason (R) is true because private defence is indeed preventive (aimed at stopping harm) rather than punitive (aimed at punishing wrongdoers), as stated in the passage. Furthermore, (R) correctly explains (A) because the preventive nature of private defence is the underlying rationale for why it extends even to acts by children, the intoxicated, or mentally unsound persons who lack criminal capacity—victims need protection from harmful conduct regardless of the aggressor's capacity to be punished. The law recognizes that the right to defend oneself exists to prevent harm, not to punish the attacker, which is why criminal capacity is irrelevant.

Option (b) Incorrect: While both statements are indeed true, (R) is the correct explanation of (A), making this option wrong. The preventive (rather than punitive) nature of private defence directly explains why the law permits its exercise against children, intoxicated persons, and mentally unsound individuals. If private defence were punitive in nature, it would be illogical to allow it against persons lacking criminal capacity since punishment requires culpability. However, because defence is preventive—focused on stopping harm

rather than retribution—it makes perfect sense that it applies regardless of the aggressor's capacity. The reason thus provides the theoretical foundation for the assertion.

Option (c) Incorrect: Reason (R) is demonstrably true as the passage explicitly states that "Private defence under Sections 96 and 97 is preventive, not punitive." This is a fundamental principle underlying the entire doctrine of private defence. The preventive nature distinguishes private defence from punishment by the state—it allows individuals to protect themselves and others from immediate harm without waiting for official intervention. This characterization is central to understanding why the right extends to situations involving aggressors who lack criminal capacity, making (R) unquestionably true.

Option (d) Incorrect: Assertion (A) is clearly true, not false. Section 98 explicitly provides that private defence is available "even against acts of children, the intoxicated, or the mentally unsound when their conduct would otherwise amount to an offence." A seven-year-old attempting to stab someone with a broken bottle engages in conduct that would constitute an offence (assault or attempt to cause grievous hurt) if done by a person with capacity. Therefore, Meera's right to defend herself exists despite the aggressor being a child. The law does not leave potential victims defenseless when faced with dangerous conduct merely because the aggressor lacks criminal responsibility.

65. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because the Polluter Pays Principle extends to compensating victims and restoring environmental degradation.

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) Correct: The Supreme Court of India has expansively interpreted the Polluter Pays Principle to impose absolute liability that extends beyond mere payment of statutory fines. It encompasses compensating victims who suffer harm and bearing the complete costs of restoring environmental degradation. The principle requires polluters to internalize the full environmental and social costs of their activities, not merely pay predetermined penalties. In this case, the company must bear costs of cleaning the river, restoring the ecosystem, and

compensating affected villagers for health damages, as these represent the true costs of the pollution it generated.

Option (b) Incorrect: While the Environment Protection Act, 1986 does empower the government to take measures to protect environmental quality and facilitates internalizing environmental costs, this option incorrectly attributes the liability framework to the Act rather than to the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Polluter Pays Principle. The broader liability extending to victim compensation and restoration costs comes from judicial interpretation of the Polluter Pays Principle as imposing absolute liability, not directly from the Act's empowerment provisions. The Act provides the statutory framework, but the expanded liability doctrine is a judicially developed principle.

Option (c) Incorrect: This statement fundamentally misunderstands the scope of the Polluter Pays Principle as interpreted by Indian courts. Statutory penalties are administrative sanctions that represent minimum deterrence; they do not exhaust the polluter's liability. The Supreme Court has held that the principle extends to absolute liability covering victim compensation and environmental restoration costs. Accepting that prescribed penalties fully satisfy the principle would allow companies to "pay and pollute"—the very critique the passage identifies as a limitation of narrow interpretations. The principle aims for complete internalization of environmental costs, not capped liability.

Option (d) Incorrect: Requiring polluters to compensate victims and restore degradation in addition to paying penalties does not constitute "double punishment" but rather represents different components of comprehensive liability. Statutory penalties serve as deterrence and administrative sanctions, while compensation addresses private harm to victims, and restoration costs address public environmental harm. These are distinct heads of liability serving different purposes within the absolute liability framework. The Polluter Pays Principle, as interpreted by Indian courts, encompasses all these dimensions to ensure polluters bear the full social and environmental costs of their activities.

66. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because Extended Producer Responsibility covers downstream use and disposal throughout product life-cycle.

Reference Line: "Extended Producer Responsibility, described by the OECD as responsibility borne by

manufacturers and importers throughout a product's life-cycle, functions as an articulation of Polluter Pays by covering upstream material choices, production impacts, and downstream use and disposal."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This reasoning contradicts the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which explicitly rejects the notion that manufacturer responsibility ends at the point of sale. EPR extends producer responsibility throughout the entire product life-cycle, including the post-consumer phase. The principle recognizes that manufacturers make critical decisions about material choices and product design that determine environmental impact during disposal, and therefore they should bear responsibility for end-of-life management. Transfer of ownership to consumers does not absolve manufacturers of their extended responsibility under EPR.

Option (b) Incorrect: While waste management does involve public authorities, this statement ignores the specific framework of Extended Producer Responsibility which places obligations on manufacturers and importers for products they introduce into the market. EPR does not relieve public authorities of all waste management duties, but it does impose parallel responsibilities on producers for their specific products throughout the life-cycle. The principle recognizes that effective waste management for complex products requires producer involvement in collection, recycling, and safe disposal systems, not sole reliance on general municipal waste infrastructure.

Option (c) Correct: Extended Producer Responsibility is specifically designed to hold manufacturers and importers responsible throughout a product's entire life-cycle, explicitly covering downstream use and disposal. As an articulation of the Polluter Pays Principle, EPR recognizes that environmental harm from products extends beyond the manufacturing stage to include disposal-phase pollution. By making upstream material choices that determine downstream environmental impact, manufacturers bear responsibility for ensuring proper end-of-life management, including establishing take-back systems and funding recycling infrastructure. This comprehensive life-cycle responsibility is the essence of EPR.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this statement is technically true as a general proposition about the Polluter Pays Principle, it does not provide the specific

legal framework that imposes life-cycle responsibility on manufacturers for post-consumer waste. The correct and more precise basis for holding the manufacturer responsible is Extended Producer Responsibility, which is a specific articulation of Polluter Pays designed for product-related pollution. EPR provides the detailed framework—covering material choices, production, use, and disposal—that directly addresses manufacturer responsibility for post-consumer waste, making it the more accurate and specific legal principle applicable to this situation.

67. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because the Polluter Pays Principle requires internalizing all environmental costs regardless of regulatory compliance.

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" and "the Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the government to take all measures necessary to protect and improve environmental quality, thereby internalizing environmental and direct costs."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The Polluter Pays Principle fundamentally requires those who produce pollution to bear the costs necessary to prevent damage to human health or the environment. The principle aims at internalizing environmental and direct costs, as facilitated by the Environment Protection Act's empowerment to take all necessary protective measures. When scientific evidence indicates potential long-term ecological damage from pharmaceutical residues, the principle requires the polluter to bear costs of preventing such damage, regardless of current regulatory compliance. Mere adherence to minimum standards does not fulfill the obligation to prevent harm when better prevention methods are available and necessary to avoid identified environmental risks.

Option (b) Incorrect: The Environment Protection Act, 1986 specifically empowers the government to take "all measures necessary" to protect and improve environmental quality, providing broad statutory authority beyond fixed regulations. This empowerment is designed to enable dynamic responses to emerging environmental threats. Additionally, courts have interpreted environmental principles, including Polluter Pays, as imposing duties that transcend specific regulatory prescriptions. Requiring additional

measures to prevent identified environmental risks is not arbitrary but falls within the scope of the Act's protective mandate and the principle's requirement to prevent damage, even when regulations have not yet been updated to address new scientific understanding.

Option (c) Incorrect: This interpretation reduces the Polluter Pays Principle to mere regulatory compliance and payment of prescribed charges, which contradicts the principle's fundamental purpose of preventing damage to human health and environment. The Supreme Court's interpretation of Polluter Pays as imposing absolute liability means it operates independently of minimum regulatory standards. Compliance with existing standards does not exhaust the obligation to prevent environmental damage, especially when scientific evidence suggests that current standards may be inadequate. The principle requires bearing costs necessary to prevent harm, not merely meeting minimum prescribed requirements.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this statement correctly identifies a limitation of the Polluter Pays Principle—the "pay and pollute" critique mentioned in the passage—it does not provide the correct legal basis for requiring advanced treatment systems. The critique recognizes that payment alone is insufficient, but the remedy is not simply to reject payment mechanisms. Rather, the principle's requirement to "bear the costs of managing pollution to prevent damage" means that when payment of cess does not adequately prevent identified harm, polluters must take additional preventive measures. The correct analysis focuses on the prevention obligation, not on rejecting the payment aspect entirely.

68. Correct Answer: (c) No, because the Public Trust Doctrine prohibits selling or converting trust property even for fair cash equivalent.

Reference Line: "The Public Trust Doctrine holds that certain resources—such as air, sea waters, rivers, forests, and ecologically fragile lands—are preserved for public use, with the State as trustee under a legal duty to protect them from conversion to private ownership" and "the property must not be sold even for fair cash equivalent."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This reasoning ignores the Public Trust Doctrine's fundamental constraint on State power over trust resources. While the State generally exercises sovereign rights over public property, certain resources including forests and ecologically fragile

lands are held under a trust for public use, creating a legal duty that limits sovereign discretion. The doctrine specifically imposes restrictions preventing conversion to private ownership or use, regardless of consideration received. The State's role as trustee—not absolute owner—means it cannot treat trust property as ordinary government assets available for commercial exploitation to meet fiscal needs. Financial constraints do not override the fiduciary duty to preserve trust resources for public purposes.

Option (b) Incorrect: The Public Trust Doctrine's requirement that trust property "must be available for use by the general public for public purposes" means genuine, meaningful public access and use, not token preservation of a fraction as landscaped gardens. Converting 80% of a historic forest park to a luxury commercial complex fundamentally alters the property's character and availability for the recreational and ecological purposes that define its trust status. Maintaining 20% as landscaped gardens does not satisfy the doctrine's requirements—the property must be maintained for specific public uses such as recreation, and courts have held that altering the true nature of historically and environmentally significant parks violates the doctrine.

Option (c) Correct: The Public Trust Doctrine holds forests among the resources preserved for public use, with the State as trustee under a legal duty to protect them from conversion to private ownership. The doctrine imposes three specific restrictions: the property must be available for public use, it must not be sold even for fair cash equivalent, and it must be maintained for specific uses. Leasing a historic forest park to a private developer for commercial construction violates all three restrictions—it removes availability for genuine public recreational use, effectively converts the property to private commercial control (even if structured as a lease rather than sale), and fundamentally changes the property from its designated public purpose. Fair market value is explicitly insufficient to justify such conversion.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes that the lease should not be permitted, it misstates the legal basis by suggesting that leasing might be permissible if the "entire property remains available for original recreational purposes." The problem is not merely about the percentage of property remaining available, but about the fundamental prohibition on conversion to private ownership and commercial use. The Public Trust Doctrine does not permit leasing trust property for private commercial

purposes even if some recreational access is maintained. The restriction is categorical regarding conversion to private ownership or control, not merely proportional. This reasoning suggests a compromise is possible when the doctrine imposes an absolute duty.

69. Correct Answer: (a) Individual treatment at each factory's discharge point, as rectification-at-source requires addressing pollution at its origin.

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: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) Correct: The rectification-at-source principle specifically requires that environmental harm be repaired at its origin. This means pollution must be addressed at each point where it enters the environment—in this case, at each factory's discharge point before effluents enter the river. Installing individual treatment systems at respective discharge points ensures that each polluter treats its waste at the source, preventing pollution from entering the common resource in the first place. This approach operationalizes both the preventive action principle (forestalling harm) and rectification-at-source (addressing it at origin), with each polluter bearing the cost of managing its own pollution regardless of whether its individual contribution seems minimal.

Option (b) Incorrect: While a common effluent treatment plant downstream may appear economically efficient, it contradicts the rectification-at-source principle which requires addressing pollution at its origin, not after it has been discharged into common resources. Allowing factories to discharge untreated effluents into the river, even if treated collectively downstream, violates the principle that harm should be prevented and repaired at the point of generation. Additionally, this approach creates moral hazard—individual factories have reduced incentive to minimize pollution if treatment occurs collectively downstream. The principle prioritizes prevention at source over economic efficiency of collective remediation after discharge.

Option (c) Incorrect: This reasoning, while appearing equitable, misunderstands both the rectification-at-source principle and the Polluter Pays Principle. Rectification-at-source requires each polluter to

address pollution at its origin regardless of whether its individual contribution is proportionally large or small in the cumulative impact. The focus is on the location and manner of rectification (at source), not on proportional allocation of collective liability. Moreover, attempting to calculate individual contributions to cumulative pollution is often practically impossible and delays preventive action. Each polluter must treat its own waste at source—the principle does not permit avoiding source treatment by arguing one's contribution is smaller than others'.

Option (d) Incorrect: This approach fundamentally violates both the rectification-at-source and Polluter Pays principles. Every polluter, regardless of the magnitude of individual contribution, must address pollution at its source and bear the costs of prevention and treatment. Creating exemptions for "minimal" polluters would undermine the preventive architecture of environmental law—cumulative pollution from many small sources can cause severe harm, as evidenced by this scenario. The principles apply to all polluters, not selectively to major ones. Furthermore, determining thresholds for "minimal" contribution would create enforcement difficulties and perverse incentives for polluters to remain just below exemption limits, ultimately failing to prevent environmental degradation.

70. Correct Answer: (a) No, because the notice must include contact details of a Data Protection Officer or another authorized contact.

Reference Line: "The notice-and-transparency principle obliges a Data Fiduciary, before seeking consent, to provide a clear notice stating the purpose of processing, the complaint mechanism, and access to the notice in English or any language in the Eighth Schedule, and to include contact details of a Data Protection Officer or another authorized contact."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The notice-and-transparency principle explicitly requires that before seeking consent, the Data Fiduciary must provide a notice that includes "contact details of a Data Protection Officer or another authorized contact." The platform's notice omits this mandatory element. While the company may not have appointed a formal Data Protection Officer, it must still provide contact details of an authorized person responsible for data protection matters. The disjunctive "or" in the provision means the platform

can provide details of another authorized contact if no DPO exists, but some contact details must be included for the notice to be complete.

Option (b) Incorrect: This statement misrepresents the Act's requirements in two ways. First, while appointment of a Data Protection Officer may not be mandatory for all Data Fiduciaries (it is specifically required for Significant Data Fiduciaries), the notice must still include contact details of either a Data Protection Officer or "another authorized contact." The phrase "or another authorized contact" provides flexibility for entities without a designated DPO, but some authorized contact must be specified. Second, the issue is not whether appointment is optional, but whether the notice includes required contact information.

Option (c) Incorrect: While the platform has provided the purpose of processing and complaint mechanism, this does not constitute complete compliance with the notice-and-transparency principle. The Act specifically requires that the notice include contact details of a Data Protection Officer or another authorized contact. The notice requirements are cumulative—purpose, complaint mechanism, language accessibility, and contact details must all be provided. Partial compliance by providing some elements while omitting others does not satisfy the statutory obligation. The complaint email alone does not substitute for the specific requirement of DPO or authorized contact details.

Option (d) Incorrect: The Act does not require simultaneous provision of the notice in all languages of the Eighth Schedule. The requirement is that the notice must be accessible "in English or any language in the Eighth Schedule," which means the Data Fiduciary must provide access to the notice in at least English or one scheduled language. Requiring simultaneous provision in all scheduled languages (22 languages) would be impractical and is not mandated by the statute. The emphasis is on accessibility—ensuring Data Principals can access the notice in a language they understand, not on providing all possible language versions simultaneously.

71. Correct Answer: (c) No, because the consent principle preserves the right to revoke consent at any time without temporal restrictions.

Reference Line: "The consent principle in Section 6 requires consent to be freely given, specific, informed, unconditional, and clear for a defined purpose, declares any conflicting aspect void, and preserves the Data Principal's right to revoke consent at any time."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While the Data Principal was informed about the restriction, this does not validate a clause that contradicts the Act's mandatory requirements. The consent principle requires consent to be "unconditional," and the Act explicitly preserves the Data Principal's right to revoke consent "at any time." A restriction preventing revocation for two years makes the consent conditional and violates the statutory right to revoke. Being informed about an invalid condition does not make that condition valid—the Act declares any "conflicting aspect" void, regardless of whether the Data Principal was aware of it when consenting.

Option (b) Incorrect: The Act does not permit Data Fiduciaries to impose conditions that restrict the Data Principal's right to revoke consent, even if such restrictions appear reasonable from a service-delivery perspective. The consent principle specifically requires consent to be "unconditional"—this means free from conditions that limit the Data Principal's statutory rights. Service continuity concerns do not override the fundamental right to revoke consent. After revocation, the Data Fiduciary may cease providing services if continued processing is necessary for service delivery and no other lawful ground applies, but it cannot prevent revocation itself through contractual restrictions.

Option (c) Correct: Section 6's consent principle explicitly requires consent to be unconditional and preserves the Data Principal's right to revoke consent at any time without qualification. The two-year restriction directly conflicts with this statutory right. The Act declares any conflicting aspect void, meaning the non-revocable clause is automatically invalid regardless of what the parties agreed. After revocation, processing must cease unless another lawful ground under the Act or other Indian law applies. The Data Fiduciary cannot contractually override the statutory right to revoke consent by imposing temporal restrictions, irrespective of business justifications.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests that the Act permits some temporal restrictions on consent revocation if they are below a certain threshold (one year). The statute contains no such graduated approach or temporal threshold. The right to revoke consent exists "at any time" without qualification—this is an absolute right that cannot be restricted by contract for any duration, whether two years, one year, or even one month. The Act's language is unambiguous

in preserving the revocation right without temporal limitations. Creating arbitrary time-based distinctions contradicts the plain statutory text and the fundamental nature of consent as unconditional.

72. Correct Answer: (a) No, because the Consent Manager is authorized to manage, review, and withdraw consent on behalf of the Data Principal.

Reference Line: "The consent-manager governance principle allows the Data Principal to manage, review, or withdraw consent through a registered Consent Manager that is answerable to the Data Principal and must meet prescribed technical, operational, financial, and other requirements."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The consent-manager governance principle specifically allows Data Principals to manage, review, or withdraw consent through registered Consent Managers. When a Data Principal uses a registered Consent Manager to withdraw consent, that withdrawal is legally effective and binding on the Data Fiduciary. The Consent Manager acts as an authorized agent of the Data Principal for consent management purposes. The banking app's argument that it only recognizes direct withdrawals contradicts the statutory framework that empowers Data Principals to use Consent Managers for this exact purpose. Continued processing after valid withdrawal through a Consent Manager violates the Act unless another lawful ground applies.

Option (b) Incorrect: While this option reaches the correct conclusion that continued processing is unlawful, it overstates the immediacy requirement and ignores the possibility of alternate lawful grounds. The Act requires processing to cease after consent withdrawal, but it includes the qualification "unless another lawful ground under this Act or other Indian law applies." Additionally, practically, there may be a reasonable time needed to implement cessation. The more precise legal basis for invalidity is not absolute immediate cessation, but rather that withdrawal through a registered Consent Manager is legally effective and the banking app has not demonstrated any alternate lawful basis for continued processing.

Option (c) Incorrect: This statement directly contradicts the consent-manager governance principle, which explicitly enables Data Principals to manage and withdraw consent through registered Consent Managers. The Act does not create a

distinction between "direct" consent and consent managed through Consent Managers—both are equally valid. The purpose of Consent Managers is precisely to allow centralized management of consent across multiple Data Fiduciaries. If withdrawals through Consent Managers were not binding on Data Fiduciaries who received original consent directly, the entire Consent Manager framework would be rendered meaningless. The banking app cannot refuse to recognize withdrawals made through statutorily authorized mechanisms.

Option (d) Incorrect: While the Act does permit continued processing after consent withdrawal if another lawful ground exists, this option is incorrect because the banking app has not asserted or demonstrated any such alternate lawful basis. The banking app's stated reason for continued processing is that it does not recognize withdrawals through Consent Managers—this is not a valid alternate lawful ground but rather a rejection of the Consent Manager framework itself. If the banking app had a legitimate basis under Section 7 (legitimate uses) or state-processing provisions, it could continue processing, but simply refusing to honor valid consent withdrawal is unlawful.

73. Correct Answer: (d) Yes, because the legitimate-uses principle permits processing when the Data Principal voluntarily provides data for a particular purpose.

Reference Line: "The legitimate-uses principle in Section 7 permits processing for delineated purposes, including situations where the Data Principal voluntarily provides data to the Data Fiduciary for a particular purpose without an express consent statement."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The Act does not require explicit formal consent in all circumstances. While consent is a primary lawful basis for processing, Section 7's legitimate-uses principle specifically contemplates situations where processing is lawful even "without an express consent statement." The Act recognizes that in certain contexts, individuals voluntarily provide data for obvious purposes, and requiring formal consent mechanisms in such situations would be impractical. The hospital scenario—where patients voluntarily fill out registration forms for the clear purpose of receiving medical services—falls within this legitimate-use

exception. The Act balances data protection with practical realities of data processing.

Option (b) Incorrect: While medical data may warrant enhanced protection, the Act does not create an absolute rule requiring formal consent for all medical data processing regardless of circumstances. The legitimate-uses principle applies across data types when the conditions are met—voluntary provision for a particular purpose. The sensitivity of data may influence what constitutes adequate safeguards or impose additional obligations, but it does not automatically exclude the application of Section 7. The hospital's processing is for the specific purpose for which patients voluntarily provided the data (scheduling and medical consultation), bringing it within legitimate uses.

Option (c) Correct: Section 7's legitimate-uses principle explicitly permits processing in situations where the Data Principal voluntarily provides data to the Data Fiduciary for a particular purpose without an express consent statement. Patients voluntarily filling out registration forms for appointment scheduling and medical consultation clearly satisfy this criterion. The data provision is voluntary (not coerced), for a specific purpose (medical services), and the purpose is evident from the context. This represents a practical accommodation within the Act's framework—not all processing requires formal consent mechanisms when the Data Principal's voluntary provision for a clear purpose demonstrates their intent.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option misapplies the state-processing principle, which specifically relates to government entities processing data for delivering subsidies, benefits, services, certificates, licenses, or permits. A private hospital does not fall within the state-processing principle's scope—this principle applies to State functions, not private healthcare providers. The correct basis for lawful processing in this scenario is the legitimate-uses principle under Section 7, not any exemption under state-processing provisions. Conflating private healthcare services with State service delivery misunderstands the distinct grounds for lawful processing under the Act.

74. Correct Answer: (b) No, because breach notification to the Board and affected Data Principals is mandatory regardless of data type.

Reference Line: "The general obligations principle in Section 8 requires accuracy and consistency, technical and organizational safeguards, breach notification to

the Board and affected Data Principals, and public disclosure of Data Protection Officer contact details."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes the company violated its obligations, it imposes an unrealistic "immediate" notification standard that may not be practically achievable. The Act requires breach notification but does not specify that it must be instantaneous without any time for verification and assessment. Some reasonable period to confirm the breach, assess its scope, and prepare accurate notifications is implicitly permitted. However, three weeks is likely excessive, and more importantly, the company failed to notify the Board at all. The violation stems from inadequate and incomplete notification, not merely from any delay in notification.

Option (b) Correct: The general obligations principle in Section 8 explicitly requires breach notification to both the Data Protection Board and affected Data Principals. This obligation is stated without qualification regarding the type of data compromised—the Act does not limit breach notification to financial or certain categories of sensitive data. The company's failure to notify the Board at all, and its three-week delay in notifying users, violates the mandatory breach notification requirement. While the Act may provide reasonable time for notification after discovery, the company's approach of delaying for strategic communication planning and entirely omitting Board notification fails to fulfill statutory obligations.

Option (c) Incorrect: Taking corrective action to fix security vulnerabilities is part of the technical and organizational safeguards obligation, but it does not substitute for or fulfill the separate obligation of breach notification. The general obligations principle encompasses multiple distinct requirements: implementing safeguards and providing breach notifications. These are cumulative obligations, not alternative ones. Fixing the vulnerability addresses the safeguards requirement going forward but does not excuse the failure to notify the Board and affected Data Principals about the breach that already occurred. Compliance with one aspect of Section 8 does not excuse non-compliance with another.

Option (d) Incorrect: This statement incorrectly limits the breach notification obligation to certain categories of data. The Act does not create such categorical distinctions in breach notification requirements. Section 8's general obligations principle requires breach notification without qualifying it based on data

type. All Data Fiduciaries must notify the Board and affected Data Principals of breaches regardless of whether the compromised data is financial, medical, or general personal information. The company's argument reflects a misunderstanding of the Act's scope—breach notification is triggered by unauthorized access to personal data, not by the sensitivity classification of the specific data involved.

75. Correct Answer: (d) No, because the restriction is not imposed by or under authority of law as required.

Reference Line: "Three threshold requirements govern any curtailment: (i) the restriction must be by or under authority of law (not mere executive fiat)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While maintaining public order is indeed a legitimate ground under Article 19(3) for restricting the right of assembly, this analysis addresses only one of the three threshold requirements. A restriction must not only pursue an enumerated purpose but also satisfy two other mandatory conditions: it must be by or under authority of law, and it must be reasonable. The Commissioner's order, being issued under general administrative powers without specific legislative backing, fails the first threshold requirement. Satisfying the purpose requirement alone is insufficient when other mandatory constitutional conditions are not met.

Option (b) Incorrect: This statement incorrectly assumes that police commissioners possess inherent constitutional authority to restrict fundamental rights through administrative orders. Article 19 explicitly requires that restrictions be imposed "by or under authority of law"—meaning through legislation or rules framed under legislative authority, not through executive fiat or administrative discretion. While police may have general powers to regulate traffic or maintain order in specific situations, these do not extend to imposing blanket restrictions on fundamental rights without specific legislative authorization. Constitutional rights cannot be curtailed by mere executive action, regardless of the administrative convenience or practical necessity.

Option (c) Incorrect: While this option might raise valid concerns about proportionality and reasonableness, it addresses the second and third threshold requirements (reasonableness and enumerated purpose) without recognizing the primary defect: the absence of legislative authority. Before

courts reach questions of proportionality and excessiveness, they must first determine whether the restriction has legal foundation. A restriction that fails the "authority of law" requirement is invalid regardless of whether it might be considered reasonable or proportionate. The sequence of constitutional analysis matters—lack of legislative backing renders the order void without need to examine its reasonableness.

Option (d) Correct: The constitutional threshold requirement mandates that any restriction on Article 19 freedoms must be "by or under authority of law (not mere executive fiat)." The Commissioner's order, issued under general administrative powers without backing from any specific legislative provision or statutory rule, constitutes executive fiat rather than law-authorized action. Even if the order serves a legitimate purpose (public order) and might be considered reasonable in degree, it fails at the first threshold and is therefore constitutionally invalid. This requirement ensures that fundamental rights can be curtailed only through democratic legislative process, not through unilateral executive action.

76. Correct Answer: (c) No, because less restrictive alternatives exist that could sufficiently address the health concerns.

Reference Line: "The proportionality requirement demands a direct and proximate nexus between the restraint and the legislative objective and asks whether less restrictive alternatives could suffice."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While the State correctly points out that legislative authority exists and public health is a legitimate concern, this analysis is incomplete. Constitutional validity requires satisfying all three threshold requirements, including reasonableness. The proportionality test—a key component of reasonableness—specifically asks whether less restrictive alternatives could achieve the objective. A restriction that has legislative backing and serves a legitimate purpose can still fail constitutional scrutiny if it is disproportionate to the threat and unnecessarily broad when narrower measures would suffice. Satisfying two thresholds does not excuse failure of the third.

Option (b) Incorrect: While the Act grants the State Government power to take measures for public health, this discretion is not unlimited or unreviewable. Constitutional freedoms cannot be curtailed by

unguided administrative discretion that fails the proportionality test. The passage specifically notes that "unguided or blanket discretion counts against" reasonableness. Even when legislature delegates power to the executive, the exercise of that power must satisfy constitutional requirements of reasonableness and proportionality. The State's discretion operates within constitutional boundaries—it cannot impose disproportionate restrictions merely because the statute uses broad language.

Option (c) Correct: The proportionality requirement explicitly asks "whether less restrictive alternatives could suffice." In this scenario, the mild nature of the outbreak (0.5% infection rate, no fatalities) and the availability of less restrictive measures (capacity limits, hygiene protocols, masks) demonstrate that a complete six-month ban is disproportionate. The restriction lacks the "direct and proximate nexus" between the degree of restraint and the severity of the health threat. Constitutional scrutiny requires that when fundamental rights are curtailed, the State must employ the least restrictive means reasonably available to achieve its legitimate objective. The existence of effective alternatives renders the total ban unreasonable.

Option (d) Incorrect: This reasoning incorrectly suggests that mild health threats can never justify restrictions on Article 19 freedoms. The constitutional test is not whether the threat meets a particular severity threshold, but whether the restriction is proportionate to the actual threat and reasonable in light of all circumstances. Even mild health concerns could justify some restrictions if proportionate—for example, basic hygiene requirements or limited capacity controls. The problem with the State's order is not that mild flu cannot justify any restriction, but that a complete six-month closure is disproportionate to this particular threat when less restrictive alternatives exist.

77. Correct Answer: (d) Yes, because Article 19(6) permits regulation of professional qualifications in the general public interest.

Reference Line: "under 19(6) for profession/trade—general public interest, including regulation of professional qualifications" and "It must pursue a purpose enumerated in Article 19(2)–(6)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The mere fact that a regulation imposes additional requirements on established

professionals does not automatically render it unconstitutional. Article 19(6) explicitly permits restrictions on professions in the "general public interest, including regulation of professional qualifications." The constitutional test is whether the regulation serves a legitimate public interest purpose and is reasonable, not whether it creates additional burdens. Medical knowledge evolves, and ensuring practitioners maintain current competency serves public health—a recognized public interest. The existence of prior licensing does not immunize professionals from reasonable continuing qualification requirements if they serve legitimate regulatory objectives.

Option (b) Incorrect: This statement misrepresents the scope of permissible regulation under Article 19(6). The Constitution does not prohibit regulation of professional qualifications after initial licensing; rather, it allows ongoing regulation in the general public interest. Professional regulation is not a one-time event frozen at the point of initial licensing. Continuing education requirements, periodic recertification, and updated qualification standards are recognized forms of professional regulation worldwide and can be constitutionally valid if they serve public interest and are reasonable. The State's power to regulate professions extends throughout a professional's career when justified by legitimate public interest concerns.

Option (c) Incorrect: This statement overgeneralizes by suggesting that any restriction aimed at public health is automatically reasonable, which contradicts the constitutional framework. While protecting public health is a legitimate objective under various clauses of Article 19(2)–(6), pursuing a legitimate objective does not automatically satisfy the reasonableness requirement. Courts must still examine whether the restriction is proportionate, whether it employs appropriate means, whether less restrictive alternatives exist, and whether procedural safeguards are adequate. The Act's validity rests on both its legitimate purpose and its reasonableness—the two requirements are independent and cumulative, not substitutable.

Option (d) Correct: Article 19(6) specifically permits restrictions on the right to practice professions in the "general public interest, including regulation of professional qualifications." The Act pursues an enumerated constitutional purpose—ensuring medical practitioners maintain current knowledge to protect public health falls squarely within "general public interest" and "regulation of professional

qualifications." Additionally, the Act includes procedural safeguards (detailed criteria, examination procedures, appeals, time-bound processing) that support reasonableness. The restriction satisfies the threshold requirement of pursuing an enumerated purpose and, given its safeguards and public health rationale, appears reasonable, making it constitutionally valid.

78. Correct Answer: (a) No, because the vague language grants unguided administrative discretion that undermines reasonableness.

Reference Line: "The onus to justify reasonableness lies on the State" and "unguided or blanket discretion counts against it" and "Substantive and procedural safeguards both matter."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The Act's vague language—"may cause disharmony"—fails to provide clear standards for determining when speech crosses the line from protected expression to prohibited conduct. This creates "unguided or blanket discretion" for authorities, which the passage identifies as counting against reasonableness. Procedural safeguards matter to constitutional validity, and indefinite terminology that permits arbitrary enforcement undermines reasonableness regardless of the legitimacy of the underlying objective. The State bears the onus to justify reasonableness, and an Act granting unbounded discretion to suppress speech fails that burden. Adequate definition, clear standards, and controlled discretion are essential components of reasonable restrictions on speech.

Option (b) Incorrect: This statement reverses the constitutional burden of proof. The passage explicitly states that "the onus to justify reasonableness lies on the State," not on the challengers. When a fundamental right is restricted, the State must affirmatively demonstrate that the restriction is reasonable—citizens need not prove unreasonableness beyond doubt. This allocation of burden reflects the constitutional primacy of fundamental rights: restrictions are treated as exceptions requiring justification, not as presumptively valid measures requiring disproof. The State must show clear nexus, proportionality, and adequate safeguards; challengers need only raise legitimate concerns about arbitrariness or excessive breadth.

Option (c) Incorrect: While preventing communal disharmony can fall within the "public order" ground under Article 19(2), satisfying the enumerated purpose requirement is only one of three threshold conditions. The Act must also be reasonable, and reasonableness encompasses both substantive proportionality and procedural safeguards. Vague language like "may cause disharmony" without clear standards creates unguided discretion for authorities, which the passage explicitly states "counts against" reasonableness. A law can pursue a legitimate objective yet fail constitutional scrutiny if it grants arbitrary power or lacks adequate definitional boundaries and procedural protections.

Option (d) Incorrect: While Article 19(2) does not use the specific phrase "communal harmony," this does not automatically invalidate the Act. Constitutional grounds are not interpreted in a rigid, literalistic manner—preventing communal disharmony can reasonably fall within the enumerated ground of "public order," as communal tensions directly threaten public peace and order. The Act's defect is not that its purpose fails to fit any enumerated ground, but rather that its vague language and unguided discretion render it unreasonable. The constitutional challenge succeeds on reasonableness grounds (unguided discretion), not on the basis that communal harmony is an impermissible objective.

79. Correct Answer: (b) Yes, because total prohibition can be a proportionate restriction when addressing severe resource crises.

Reference Line: "'Restriction' may, in appropriate cases, include total prohibition if proportionate to the legitimate aim" and "The proportionality requirement demands a direct and proximate nexus between the restraint and the legislative objective."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While this reasoning identifies that general public interest is a valid ground under Article 19(6) and notes that alcohol is non-essential, it does not adequately address the proportionality analysis required for total prohibition. The mere fact that a commodity is non-essential and a legitimate public interest exists does not automatically justify complete prohibition. The constitutional test requires examining whether total prohibition is proportionate to the specific threat (severe drought), whether a direct nexus exists between the ban and water conservation,

and whether the measure is reasonable given prevailing conditions. The answer oversimplifies by suggesting that non-essential status alone validates total prohibition.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly states that "'Restriction' may, in appropriate cases, include total prohibition if proportionate to the legitimate aim." The scenario presents appropriate circumstances: a severe water crisis threatening drinking water and agriculture (critical needs), alcohol production's significant water consumption, the non-essential nature of alcohol, and the temporary duration (two years). The total prohibition has a "direct and proximate nexus" to the legitimate objective of water conservation during an unprecedented drought. Considering "the nature of the right, the purpose and urgency of the restriction, the extent of harm targeted, the proportionality of means, prevailing conditions," a complete ban can be reasonable when less restrictive measures would inadequately address a genuine crisis.

Option (c) Incorrect: This statement contradicts the passage's explicit recognition that restriction "may, in appropriate cases, include total prohibition if proportionate to the legitimate aim." The Constitution does not categorically prohibit total bans on lawful trades—it requires that any restriction, including complete prohibition, be reasonable and proportionate. Courts have upheld total prohibitions when justified by circumstances such as protecting health, morals, or addressing severe public crises. The absolutist position that "total prohibition is never reasonable" misreads constitutional law. The test is contextual proportionality, not categorical prohibition of prohibitions. Complete bans can survive scrutiny when the threat is grave, and the prohibition is proportionate.

Option (d) Incorrect: While the proportionality test does ask "whether less restrictive alternatives could suffice," the State need not prove that no conceivable partial restriction could work—rather, it must show that the chosen measure is reasonable and proportionate to the crisis. In a severe drought threatening critical water supplies, a complete prohibition on a water-intensive, non-essential industry for a limited period can be proportionate even if partial restrictions might achieve some conservation. The question is not whether any alternative exists, but whether the total ban is a reasonable response to an unprecedented crisis. Given the urgency and severity described the State's choice of complete prohibition to

maximize conservation falls within constitutional bounds.

80. Correct Answer: (c) The gift is valid as Meera's decision was independent, and the guru merely received the benefit without actively procuring the gift. Reference Line: "Undue influence (Section 16) is present when the relations between the parties enable one to dominate the will of the other and use that position to obtain an unfair advantage."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While Dhruv is in a fiduciary relationship with Meera, he did not benefit from the transaction—the charitable trust did. The reference line requires the dominant party to "use that position to obtain an unfair advantage," but Dhruv was not the beneficiary and merely facilitated his mother's independent decision. The burden-shifting for unconscionable transactions applies to the beneficiary in a dominant position who procures the transaction, not to third-party facilitators. Furthermore, ₹40 lakhs may not be unconscionable if Meera retains sufficient assets, which the facts don't clarify.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line requires that the dominant party must "use that position to obtain an unfair advantage," indicating active exploitation rather than passive receipt. While spiritual relationships can create influence, there's no evidence the guru actively solicited, pressured, or procured this gift. The facts show similar donations by other elderly followers are common, suggesting voluntary religious philanthropy rather than exploitation. The burden-shifting mechanism applies only when unconscionability is established, and passive receipt of an independently-made donation does not constitute "using" a position of dominance.

Option (c) Correct: The reference line establishes that undue influence requires actively "using" the position to obtain an unfair advantage, not merely being in a position of influence. The guru passively received the benefit without active procurement—Meera independently initiated the donation based on her 20-year devotional relationship. The passage's examples of undue influence involve active inducement: "a doctor induces an elderly patient" or contexts where dominant parties actively procure benefits. Here, the facts indicate independent decision-making, no active solicitation, and a pattern of voluntary charitable giving among followers.

Option (d) Incorrect: While reaching the correct conclusion, this option's reasoning is fundamentally flawed because it focuses on Dhruv's role when he wasn't the beneficiary. The relevant analysis must examine whether the guru (actual beneficiary) used a position of dominance, not whether Dhruv dominated. More critically, stating "long-standing devotion indicates genuine consent" oversimplifies the law—prolonged relationships can create deeper dominance that might be exploited. The correct reasoning focuses on the absence of active procurement or exploitation by the beneficiary, not merely the existence or duration of the devotional relationship.

81. Correct Answer: (b) Sunita's statement constitutes negligent misrepresentation as she failed to verify a material fact, making the contract voidable with potential damages.

Reference Line: "Fraud (Section 17) requires a false representation made knowingly, without belief in its truth, or recklessly, with intent to deceive" and "Misrepresentation (Section 18) is an untrue statement of fact or law that induces agreement, and may be fraudulent, negligent, or innocent. Misrepresentation generally entitles the aggrieved party to rescission and, in cases of fault, may support a claim for damages."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Fraud requires making a representation "knowingly, without belief in its truth, or recklessly," and the passage notes that "deceit entails an absence of honest belief" per *Derry v. Peek*. Sunita had honest belief based on her architect's confirmation—she wasn't reckless in the sense of having no belief in the truth. Recklessness in fraud requires complete disregard for truth with no basis for the assertion, whereas Sunita had some grounds (architect's statement), though insufficient for her definitive representation. This failure to adequately verify constitutes negligence rather than the higher threshold of reckless fraud.

Option (b) Correct: The passage states misrepresentation "may be fraudulent, negligent, or innocent" and that "in cases of fault, may support a claim for damages." Sunita made a definitive statement about a verifiable legal fact (regulatory approval) without checking written documentation in a ₹2 crore transaction. For such material facts affecting property value and usability, a reasonable person would verify

written approval before making categorical representations. This failure to verify a readily ascertainable fact, while not rising to fraud (she had some basis), constitutes negligence—fault that makes the contract voidable and supports damages.

Option (c) Incorrect: Innocent misrepresentation requires that the belief be reasonably held with reasonable care taken to ensure accuracy. The passage distinguishes fraudulent, negligent, and innocent misrepresentation, implying different fault levels. For a statement of critical importance about regulatory approval—a matter of public record—reasonable care requires verifying written documentation rather than relying on oral confirmation. Her failure to take this basic verification step when information was readily accessible elevates this beyond innocent misrepresentation to negligent misrepresentation, supporting a damages claim under "cases of fault."

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage defines misrepresentation as "an untrue statement of fact or law that induces agreement"—the focus is on whether the statement was untrue and induced the contract. While reliance on an architect might reduce culpability (supporting negligent rather than fraudulent characterization), it doesn't eliminate misrepresentation entirely. A party making definitive statements of material fact in commercial transactions assumes responsibility for accuracy, particularly when facts are readily verifiable through documentation. If reliance on third parties absolved responsibility, it would undermine the misrepresentation doctrine since parties could always claim they relied on others' information.

82. Correct Answer: (d) The contract is valid as the mistake relates to the quality or value of the subject matter, not its identity or existence.

Reference Line: "Mistake (Sections 20–22) affects consent when both parties are under a mistake as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement, in which case the agreement is void" and "contracts induced by coercion, undue influence, fraud, or misrepresentation are voidable at the aggrieved party's option, while a fundamental mutual mistake of fact renders the agreement void."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The reference line requires that mistake must be "as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement" to render it void. Not every mutual mistake

voids contracts—only mistakes about facts essential to the agreement's foundation. The test for "essential" requires that the mistake go to the very root—the identity or existence of subject matter, not its attributes or quality. The subject matter (a 1960s vintage Royal Enfield Bullet from Amit's collection) exists and was delivered; both parties got what existed but were mistaken about specifications affecting value, which constitutes a mistake about quality rather than essential identity.

Option (b) Incorrect: While Amit made an untrue statement about the year, characterizing this as misrepresentation is problematic when both parties shared the same mistaken belief based on identical documentation. The passage distinguishes misrepresentation (one party inducing another through superior knowledge) from mutual mistake (both sharing the same erroneous belief). Both parties examined the motorcycle and relied on the same documentation—there's no indication Amit had better means of knowledge or superior position to know the truth. They were both victims of the same erroneous documentation, making this mutual mistake rather than misrepresentation.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option misstates the law by suggesting mutual mistake can make contracts voidable based on attributes affecting one party's consent. The reference line clearly states: "contracts induced by coercion, undue influence, fraud, or misrepresentation are voidable at the aggrieved party's option, while a fundamental mutual mistake of fact renders the agreement void." The dichotomy is clear—mutual mistake makes contracts void (not voidable), and only when the mistake concerns essential facts. There's no provision for mutual mistake making contracts voidable, and the focus on "foundation of Karan's consent" suggests unilateral emphasis when mutual mistake requires shared error affecting the agreement itself.

Option (d) Correct: The reference line states that only mistakes "as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement" render contracts void, and the passage distinguishes void (mutual mistake of essential fact) from voidable (vitiating factors like misrepresentation) contracts. The specific physical motorcycle—a 1960s Royal Enfield Bullet—exists, was delivered, and is indeed from that era. The mistake about the specific year affects its collector value and quality attributes but not its fundamental identity or existence. Mistakes about quality, value, or attributes of existing subject matter generally don't render

contracts void, distinguished from mistakes about identity (believing it's a Royal Enfield when it's a Yamaha) or existence (believing it exists when destroyed).

83. Correct Answer: (b) No, because Vikram threatened a lawful act within his contractual rights, which does not constitute coercion.

Reference Line: "Coercion (Section 15) arises where a person commits or threatens to commit any act forbidden by the Indian Penal Code, or unlawfully detains property, with the intention of inducing agreement."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) Incorrect: The reference line defines coercion as threatening "any act forbidden by the Indian Penal Code, or unlawfully detains property." Vikram's threat was to exercise his lawful contractual right to refuse renewal of a client contract requiring both partners' consent. Threatening to exercise a legal right, even if it creates significant commercial pressure, does not constitute coercion under Section 15. The ICA specifically limits coercion to threats of acts forbidden by the IPC or unlawful detention of property. Commercial pressure from threatened lawful acts, regardless of their harsh consequences, falls outside the statutory definition of coercion.

Option (b) Correct: The reference line requires that coercion involves threatening "any act forbidden by the Indian Penal Code, or unlawfully detains property." Vikram threatened to exercise his contractual right to refuse renewal, which is a lawful act within his legal entitlements. The law distinguishes between unlawful threats (coercion) and lawful commercial pressure. While Vikram's negotiating tactic was aggressive and placed Neha in a difficult position, threatening to do what one has a legal right to do does not vitiate consent under Section 15. The fact that this pressure resulted in an unfavorable agreement doesn't transform lawful negotiating pressure into coercion.

Option (c) Incorrect: Undue influence under Section 16 requires "relations between the parties enable one to dominate the will of the other and use that position to obtain an unfair advantage," typically arising from fiduciary relations, authority, or impaired mental capacity. Business partners in arm's-length dissolution negotiations don't have the type of relationship contemplated by undue influence doctrine. Vikram's superior negotiating leverage from contractual rights doesn't create the dominance-subordination relationship required for undue influence. The

undervaluation alone, without unconscionability combined with a dominant-subordinate relationship (such as doctor-patient, parent-child), doesn't establish undue influence. This is commercial hard bargaining, not exploitation of a position of dominance.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option reaches the correct conclusion that consent wasn't vitiated, its reasoning is flawed. It suggests that understanding consequences prevents vitiation of consent, but the passage shows that even when parties understand consequences, consent can be vitiated if obtained through coercion, undue influence, fraud, or misrepresentation. In Chikkam Ammiraju, the party understood that refusing might lead to suicide but consent was still vitiated. The correct reasoning is not that Neha understood the consequences, but rather that Vikram's threat of lawful action doesn't fall within the statutory definition of coercion, making the agreement valid despite commercial pressure.

84. Correct Answer: (a) Rajiv's conduct constitutes fraud through active concealment and rendering his earlier true statement misleading by changed circumstances.

Reference Line: "Fraud (Section 17) requires a false representation made knowingly, without belief in its truth, or recklessly, with intent to deceive, and may also arise through active concealment. Mere silence is not fraud unless there is a duty to speak, silence is deceptive, circumstances change, or half-truths are uttered."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The reference line states that fraud "may also arise through active concealment" and that "mere silence is not fraud unless...circumstances change, or half-truths are uttered." Rajiv's conduct involves both elements: (1) active concealment by plastering and painting over cracks to hide them during showings, demonstrating intent to deceive, and (2) his earlier true statement about the inspection became a half-truth when circumstances changed with the discovery of foundation cracks. By stating the structure was sound based on an old inspection without disclosing recently discovered serious defects, his statement was misleading. The active concealment through cosmetic repairs to hide the defects demonstrates knowledge and intent to deceive, satisfying the fraud requirements.

Option (b) Incorrect: While the reference line states "mere silence is not fraud unless there is a duty to speak, silence is deceptive, circumstances change, or half-truths are uttered," Rajiv's conduct goes beyond mere silence. He engaged in active concealment by plastering and painting the cracks specifically to hide them during property showings, which demonstrates intent to deceive. Additionally, his silence rendered his earlier statement about structural soundness into a half-truth after discovering the foundation damage. The reference line explicitly recognizes that circumstances changing can make silence fraudulent, and active concealment is independently recognized as fraud under Section 17.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reference line distinguishes fraud (requiring knowledge, lack of belief in truth, or recklessness with intent to deceive) from misrepresentation (which may be innocent). Rajiv's active concealment through plastering and painting cracks, combined with knowing about the ₹8 lakh repair requirement while making representations about structural soundness, demonstrates knowledge and intent to deceive rather than innocent mistake. His conduct shows he knew the earlier statement was no longer accurate due to changed circumstances but deliberately concealed this through active measures. This constitutes fraud, not innocent misrepresentation, and "fraud renders the contract voidable, and the aggrieved party may rescind and claim damages for deceit."

Option (d) Incorrect: While Rajiv's statement about the inspection was technically accurate when narrowly construed, the reference line recognizes that "half-truths" constitute fraud and that silence becomes fraudulent when "circumstances change." After discovering the foundation cracks, Rajiv's earlier statement about structural soundness based on an outdated inspection became misleading—a half-truth that didn't reflect current reality. Moreover, the reference line explicitly states fraud "may also arise through active concealment," and Rajiv deliberately concealed the cracks through plastering and painting. The combination of changed circumstances making his earlier statement a half-truth and active concealment to hide known defects establishes fraud regardless of the technical accuracy of his original inspection statement.

Section - D : Logical Reasoning

85. Correct Answer: (b) AI systems have begun adjusting arguments mid-response during simulations involving active questioning.

Reference Line: "Lawyers operate in spaces where the law is unsettled, precedents conflict and judges' interventions reshape the argumentative landscape."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option highlights the practice of judges depending on memos prepared by clerks or assistants, which suggests that not all judicial reasoning is deeply original or self-generated. However, the author's argument focuses on AI's inability to reason through unpredictability, not the practices of judges. Even if judges delegate parts of their work, this does not alter the core critique that AI cannot internally navigate ambiguity or exercise legal judgment. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) If AI is able to revise and refine its responses in real-time when faced with complex or unexpected judicial questions, it would suggest that it can simulate one of the most important qualities the author attributes only to human advocates—adaptive reasoning. The author's claim is built on the premise that AI can only produce static, predictive outputs. If the AI can engage in dynamic interaction and recursive argumentation, it undermines the assumption that such abilities are exclusively human. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option presents the idea that even human lawyers often rely on pre-existing legal frameworks, templates, and databases to construct arguments. While it implies that legal reasoning is sometimes procedural, it does not show that AI can engage in the complex and situational judgment the author values. Rather than undermining the author's point, it may reinforce a different critique: that human advocacy, too, can be formulaic. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option claims that human advocates may adjust behavior based on courtroom norms rather than spontaneous insight. It challenges the idea that all human advocacy is inherently thoughtful or strategic, but it does not prove that AI possesses those traits either. The author's point is not that human advocates are always ideal but that they are capable of qualities AI fundamentally lacks—such as memory, intuition,

and adaptability. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (a) Whether unbiased legal experts judged the advocacy quality without knowing it was machine-generated.

Reference Line: "He concluded that AI may soon extend beyond research or drafting to the domain of oral advocacy itself."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option proposes a method for assessing the AI's performance through blind evaluation by independent legal experts. If these experts, unaware of the source, still found the advocacy compelling, it would suggest that the quality of the AI's output is genuinely high and not inflated by bias or novelty. This removes the influence of Unikowsky's expectations or enthusiasm, offering a more objective benchmark for the claim. Therefore, it is the most effective way to assess whether the label "outstanding" is justified. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option examines whether the AI can maintain logical coherence when faced with unfamiliar or unexpected questions. While this tests the depth of the AI's capabilities, it is more relevant to evaluating the AI's performance limits than the reliability of Unikowsky's personal judgment. The question is not whether the AI is universally competent, but whether his praise for its advocacy in this instance is well-founded. Therefore, this information would be informative but not most useful for evaluating reliability. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Replication by another senior advocate would help determine whether the AI's performance is consistent across users and conditions. However, even if others achieved similar results, that does not guarantee that Unikowsky's assessment was unbiased or accurately measured. It reflects generalizability more than reliability. The key issue is the credibility of his personal evaluation, not whether others can repeat the process. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Comparing the AI's responses to those of junior legal professionals may reveal its relative strength, but this sets a low benchmark. Even if Claude 4.0 outperforms novices, it doesn't validate the claim that its advocacy was "outstanding" by professional standards. Moreover, the comparison does not reveal if

Unikowsky's judgment was based on performance quality or on the surprise factor of machine fluency. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (b) Advanced models now adjust interpretations based on patterns found across conflicting legal precedents.

Reference Line: "By substituting reading for dialogue, he feared, people would mistake the familiarity of words for genuine knowledge."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option supports the author's argument rather than weakening it. It points to the continued failure of AI in scenarios requiring nuanced judgment, such as interpreting ambiguous legal language or responding to layered hypotheticals. By emphasizing AI's limits in precisely the areas the author is concerned about, it reinforces the idea that machines are incapable of genuine reasoning. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option presents evidence that AI is capable of interpreting and resolving tensions between conflicting legal authorities, a task the author believes requires human judgment. If AI can recognize patterns in contradictory case law and generate coherent arguments accordingly, it demonstrates an ability to go beyond surface-level mimicry. This challenges the author's assumption that AI lacks the cognitive flexibility required for real legal reasoning. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This highlights the mechanical behavior of human advocates, suggesting they too can be formulaic or dependent on structured tools. While this might imply that humans also simulate reasoning at times, it does not prove that AI is capable of real reasoning. Instead, it merely reduces the distinction between human and machine performance without contradicting the main argument. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The emphasis on empathy aligns with the author's view that human advocacy involves moral and emotional insight, which machines lack. It confirms that AI cannot replicate certain persuasive dimensions of advocacy, such as compassion, tone modulation, and ethical nuance. Since this reinforces the qualitative difference between AI and human advocates, it supports rather than undermines the author's claim. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (a) The core of legal advocacy lies in judgment that adapts to uncertainty, not merely in structured articulation.

Reference Line: "At the appellate level, advocacy is not merely about finding answers but about reasoning through uncertainty."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author draws a clear distinction between merely producing answers and reasoning through legal uncertainty, which requires recursive thinking, adaptability, and intuition. These characteristics are described as central to appellate advocacy. If we accept all the author's claims, it necessarily follows that structured articulation alone does not suffice. Legal advocacy, according to the author, is defined by its engagement with unsettled and evolving issues. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option introduces a claim about the future consequences of AI on legal integrity, which is speculative in nature. The author does not predict the collapse or corruption of adversarial systems but rather questions the qualitative role of the human advocate. Therefore, this option draws a causal conclusion that is not logically entailed by the passage and cannot be considered necessarily true. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage focuses on AI's lack of judgment, consciousness, and adaptability rather than its data-processing capabilities. While AI's limitations are mentioned, they are framed in epistemological and moral terms, not computational ones. Thus, even if data processing were sufficient, the author would still argue that AI lacks true legal reasoning. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Although tone, timing, and strategic responsiveness are mentioned in the passage, they are presented as dimensions of adaptability rather than substitutes for reasoning. The author does not argue that legal persuasion depends less on accuracy or that it relies more on style or tradition. Therefore, this option misrepresents the author's nuanced view and is not something that necessarily follows. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (d) Genuine understanding presupposes conscious awareness that cannot be achieved through algorithmic prediction and linguistic processing.

Reference Line: "AI can mimic legal reasoning without engaging in judgment or responsibility."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option focuses on the institutional or ethical authority of advocacy, emphasizing accountability. While the author does mention responsibility, his primary concern is not who can be held accountable in court, but whether the AI has the internal cognitive faculties necessary for judgment. Accountability is a consequence, not a premise, of reasoning in the author's framework. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option emphasizes intuition and insight, which the author certainly values, but it shifts the focus from epistemology (understanding) to the source of legitimacy in persuasion. The passage never claims that legitimacy comes from human intuition alone, but rather that AI lacks the process of reasoning. Therefore, this option assumes a standard the author does not use. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option points to performance style and adaptability, which the author does mention. However, the author's critique is not based merely on the inability of AI to perform in certain stylistic ways, but on the deeper claim that it cannot reason due to the absence of awareness and moral responsibility. Thus, while performance is discussed, it is not the foundational assumption. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author distinguishes between the appearance of reasoning and its authentic execution, arguing that AI lacks the judgment, intuition, and responsibility that define true legal advocacy. This position implicitly assumes that real understanding is tied to consciousness, that without awareness, even perfect mimicry is hollow. If one were to reject this assumption, the author's entire argument against AI's authenticity would lose its foundation. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (a) The development of AI in advocacy disrupts traditional lines between authentic reasoning and structural mimicry.

Reference Line: "The idea that a machine might replicate not only the logic but also the tone, timing and responsiveness of argument raises a profound question: What remains uniquely human in the role of the advocate?"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author's concern revolves around the blurred distinction between genuine human reasoning and AI's capacity to simulate it convincingly. He is not claiming that AI engages in authentic legal judgment, but that its ability to mimic structure and style challenges long-standing ideas of what constitutes true advocacy. This reflects the philosophical tension the author wants to highlight and logically follows from the argument's central theme. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This conclusion suggests that AI's presence will necessitate formal changes in courtroom procedures worldwide. However, the author never makes procedural or policy recommendations. His analysis remains conceptual and philosophical, focused on judgment, not regulation. As a result, this is a speculative leap that extends beyond what the passage supports. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option implies that human advocates will be replaced unless they adopt AI-based methods, introducing a deterministic prediction not present in the passage. The author does not claim that displacement is inevitable or suggest that integration of algorithmic tools is necessary for survival. His primary focus is on what remains uniquely human, not on forecasting training trends. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This conclusion claims that traditional advocacy practices are becoming obsolete, which overstates the author's position. While the author acknowledges AI's growing capabilities, he defends the irreplaceable nature of human judgment and recursive reasoning. He does not suggest that traditional methods are outdated, but rather that they are uniquely human and still essential. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (c) Programmes that aim only at reducing death rates may miss concerns about patients' life quality after treatment.

Reference Line: "Reporting only its incidence and mortality does not present a real picture of the cancer burden."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option makes an oversimplified assumption about causality. While the passage mentions that population growth contributes to higher DALYs, it does not suggest that simply reducing the population would proportionally reduce DALYs. DALYs are influenced by a variety of factors such as healthcare access, diagnosis timing, treatment quality, and ageing. Moreover, older

populations—regardless of size—are likely to increase DALY burden due to higher cancer susceptibility. Therefore, this reasoning fails to account for the complexity of the issue. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage explicitly states that in low and middle SDI countries, most of the cancer-related DALYs are due to premature death, not long-term disability. This is attributed to late diagnosis and poor access to treatment, which means patients are more likely to die than live with cancer-related disabilities. Thus, the claim that regions with limited diagnostic tools report more years of disability than death is inconsistent with the data and conclusions presented in the passage. It contradicts the actual burden distribution discussed. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author argues that focusing exclusively on mortality or incidence does not reflect the full burden of cancer. DALYs include not just death (Years of Life Lost) but also the impact of living with disability (Years Lived with Disability). This implies that strategies focusing solely on death rates would ignore post-treatment suffering and long-term impairments in survivors. Thus, it is reasonable to infer that such programmes overlook a significant portion of the actual disease burden. The option indirectly aligns with the passage's central reasoning about incomplete metrics. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option inaccurately assumes that a stabilisation in incidence will lead policymakers to shift away from prevention efforts. The passage makes it clear that even in high-income regions with stable or declining age-standardised incidence rates, DALYs are rising due to ageing populations and longer life spans with disability. Therefore, prevention remains crucial even when incidence seems stable, as the overall burden continues to grow in other dimensions. This interpretation overlooks the nuance of DALY metrics. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (b) Improving national mortality rates should remain the most critical part of cancer policy and budgeting frameworks.

Reference Line: "DALYs are an important tool: they provide a picture of the real impact of cancer..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is consistent with one of the key points made in the passage: that in high-income (high-SDI) countries, improved survival leads to more years lived with cancer-related disability, which contributes to

higher YLDs and therefore higher DALYs. This implies that a country can have a robust healthcare system that reduces cancer mortality, yet still report high DALY figures due to survivorship with lasting impairments. The author highlights this nuance to show why focusing on mortality alone is insufficient. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option claims that improving mortality rates should be the most important objective of cancer policy, which is at odds with the author's broader argument. The passage criticizes the tendency to rely solely on incidence and mortality rates, stressing that such an approach does not capture the full burden of the disease. By saying mortality should remain the central goal, this option ignores the importance of disability, survivorship, and quality of life—all of which are central to the DALY metric promoted by the author. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This statement reflects the author's endorsement of DALYs as a more holistic and comprehensive metric. The passage clearly asserts that DALYs combine both years lost to early death and years lived with disability, offering a more complete picture of the burden cancer imposes on individuals and societies. This allows policymakers to better understand the impact beyond what is captured in mortality statistics. The phrasing of this option is aligned with the author's reasoning. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The inclusion of quality-of-life indicators is precisely what the DALY metric attempts to account for through the YLD component. The author repeatedly emphasizes the importance of capturing not just whether someone dies from cancer, but how they live after diagnosis and treatment. This option is an implicit endorsement of the DALY framework and reflects the author's position that strategies should be more comprehensive and include survivor wellbeing. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (a) Survivors of major cancers frequently need continuous support due to physical complications that limit independence.

Reference Line: "High SDI countries reflect higher YLD proportions indicating improved survival and subsequent disability."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This statement provides strong support for the use of DALYs because it reflects one of the core components of the metric: years lived with disability. If survivors of cancer frequently suffer long-term impairments, then a

metric that includes these effects (as DALYs do) will capture the real-life consequences of cancer better than metrics limited to mortality. The need for continuous support after survival illustrates that cancer does not stop at avoiding death—it imposes ongoing burdens that must be measured. This evidence directly enhances the author's central argument. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this option points to a shortcoming in mortality data reporting, it doesn't inherently justify DALYs as a better metric. Delays or inconsistencies in reporting death rates are administrative issues, not conceptual limitations of mortality statistics themselves. This could be used to advocate for improved data collection, but it does not logically validate DALYs as offering a broader or deeper picture of cancer's burden. It shifts the conversation toward data availability rather than the comprehensiveness of measurement. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The detection of early-stage cancers may reduce mortality and potentially improve survival outcomes, but it does not inherently strengthen the case for DALYs. The focus of this statement is on medical progress and diagnosis, not on the measurement of the lived burden of disease. While earlier detection might reduce YLL, it does not expand or explain the importance of including YLD, which is central to the argument for using DALYs. It is a healthcare development, not a validation of the metric itself. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option criticizes health system priorities but does not reinforce the argument for DALYs. The fact that some regions prioritize other diseases over cancer may indicate misplaced policy focus, but it does not explain why DALYs are a better tool for assessing cancer burden. It may even be unrelated—this allocation of resources could occur regardless of how the burden is measured. This is a systems-level critique that doesn't engage with the comparative value of DALYs as a comprehensive indicator. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (a) Expand public cancer care to include survivor support services such as pain management, therapy, and reintegration.

Reference Line: "DALYs... emphasise both years of life lost due to premature death and years of life lived with the disabling consequences of cancer."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option best reflects the author's argument that an effective approach to cancer policy must address not only death prevention but also the long-term impacts of the disease. DALYs account for years lived with disability, and therefore any comprehensive strategy must include post-treatment care for survivors. Pain management, rehabilitation, and social reintegration are essential components of reducing the YLD portion of DALYs. This course of action is fully aligned with the passage's emphasis on holistic, burden-based policymaking. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While tracking mortality trends can be helpful for policy planning, this option reinforces the limited perspective that the author critiques. The author specifically states that mortality and incidence do not capture the entire burden of cancer, and therefore relying solely on such dashboards would perpetuate an incomplete understanding of the issue. This action does not address the years lived with disability or quality-of-life concerns of survivors. Thus, it does not meet the standard of comprehensive planning advocated in the passage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Although early detection is crucial for reducing premature deaths and can improve outcomes, focusing exclusively or primarily on detection does not fulfill the passage's call for addressing the full burden of disease. The author emphasizes the need to account for both YLL and YLD, and early detection primarily addresses only the former. Without integrating disability care and survivorship programmes, this action remains a partial solution. It improves one side of the equation but ignores the other. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This course of action proposes reallocating resources away from non-critical care, which could include support for people living with cancer or those in palliative stages. The passage advocates for a holistic understanding of cancer burden, which includes not only prevention and awareness but also care for those living with long-term effects. Reducing funding for any part of that continuum—especially for vulnerable patients—goes against the DALY framework's comprehensive approach. This choice simplifies a complex problem and contradicts the author's message. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (b) Since the majority of cancer DALYs are due to early deaths, it is pointless to factor in disability-related data.

Reference Line: "About 97% of DALYs related to cancer are attributable to YLL from premature death..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option raises a fair critique by pointing out that DALYs do not fully capture emotional or socio-economic burdens placed on families. While this does highlight a limitation of the metric, it does so through sound reasoning. It suggests that DALYs may not represent the full spectrum of suffering, but it does not irrationally reject their use. This is an example of a valid, nuanced concern about scope—not faulty logic. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This statement is a textbook example of flawed reasoning. It suggests that because YLL makes up the majority of cancer DALYs, the YLD component should be ignored entirely. This is logically unsound because it equates smaller numerical weight with irrelevance. The passage emphasizes the importance of including both death and disability to understand the true burden of cancer. Dismissing the disability component simply due to its lesser share ignores its policy and human significance. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option identifies a real methodological challenge with DALYs: they rely on standardised disability weights that may not align with how different cultures perceive or respond to illness. This makes global comparisons complicated but does not represent flawed logic. It acknowledges that while DALYs are useful, their application across diverse societies may require cultural sensitivity or adaptation. The argument is reasonable and evidence-based. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This is a practical critique rooted in real-world challenges with data collection. It highlights that when countries lack robust health surveillance systems, DALY estimates may be based on assumptions or projections, potentially reducing their accuracy. This is a valid concern about data reliability and does not represent illogical or biased thinking. It points to implementation issues, not conceptual flaws. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (a) Health systems will need to simultaneously address growing treatment demand and chronic conditions among survivors.

Reference Line: "DALYs have increased dramatically, especially in low and middle-sociodemographic index (SDI) countries..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option accurately reflects the passage's central insight: that DALYs measure both premature death and life lived with disability. As DALYs rise, it implies both increasing mortality and a greater number of people living with cancer-related disabilities. Consequently, health systems will be forced to expand capacity—not only for life-saving treatments but also for long-term rehabilitation, palliative care, and survivor support. This outcome follows logically from the trends described in the passage and aligns with the public health concerns raised by the author. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this option appears optimistic, it assumes that awareness campaigns will lead to measurable and widespread behavioural change resulting in fewer deaths. However, the passage does not support this assumption. Rising DALYs are attributed to structural challenges—such as late diagnosis and poor access to treatment—not lack of awareness. Therefore, while awareness may help, it is not a guaranteed or directly implied outcome of rising DALYs. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option suggests a global improvement in therapy access due to aid redistribution, but the passage does not discuss international aid mechanisms or suggest that such redistribution is occurring or likely to occur. Furthermore, access to chemotherapy is a supply-side intervention, not an automatic result of increasing DALYs. This outcome requires several external conditions not mentioned or implied in the passage, making it speculative at best. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This statement assumes that governments will shift funding away from terminal care to prevention, but such a move is neither proposed nor supported by the passage. On the contrary, the author's emphasis on DALYs implies the need for integrated responses that include acute care, survivorship support, and end-of-life care. Reducing terminal care in favour of prevention would contradict the call for comprehensive planning. This reflects a false trade-off not advocated in the text. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (b) A failure to distinguish between transitory and structural inflationary signals has led to unnecessarily restrictive policy measures.

Reference Line: "But many did expect food prices to soften. In fact, the RBI also seemed to share that view, but strangely chose not to look through the spurt in vegetable prices..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option frames the RBI's actions as prudent and stability-driven in light of disinflationary conditions. However, the author does not present the RBI's policy as a calculated response to macroeconomic risks but rather as an irrational one, given that inflation was forecasted to remain within target. This interpretation paints the RBI's decision in a favorable light, which goes against the author's critical tone throughout the passage. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author repeatedly argues that the RBI has misread inflation signals by reacting to short-term food price spikes instead of evaluating whether such shocks are structural or transient. The passage suggests that the central bank acknowledged the temporary nature of the inflation but still chose not to adjust policy accordingly. This reveals that the author believes the core issue is the RBI's inability or unwillingness to separate volatile price changes from broader economic trends, making this the most accurate representation of the main argument. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option suggests that the RBI's actions are required under its legal inflation-targeting framework, particularly when inflation crosses the tolerance band. However, the passage indicates that the inflation forecast was already below the upper limit, implying that strict action was not obligatory. The author's critique lies in the RBI acting more hawkishly than necessary, not in it fulfilling a mandated response. Therefore, this interpretation does not align with the author's argument. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While the author does mention that non-economic factors like currency defense have influenced policy decisions in the past, there is no indication that this is the case in the current scenario. The author focuses on the RBI's misjudgment of inflation rather than on any deliberate attempt to stabilize the rupee. This option distracts from the core critique, which is about analytical missteps rather than geopolitical or market responses. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (c) Recent inflationary pressures were primarily the result of elevated wages in service-sector employment.

Reference Line: "Headline inflation was then driven by high food inflation."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This statement suggests that the RBI has adopted a short-term, reactive approach to inflation data. This idea is consistent with the author's critique that the central bank placed too much emphasis on temporary food price increases instead of focusing on expected inflation trends a few quarters ahead. The author explicitly disapproves of the RBI's response to a short-lived spike in vegetable prices, which supports this interpretation. Therefore, this statement can be reasonably inferred from the passage and cannot be considered necessarily false. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage implies that the main driver of recent inflation was food prices, particularly vegetables, while hinting that other inflation components may have remained stable. Though the term "core inflation" (which excludes food and fuel) is not explicitly mentioned, the author's criticism of the RBI's failure to look through the food shock implies that underlying inflation might have been within target. Therefore, this statement is plausible and does not contradict the author's argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage states that headline inflation was driven by food inflation, especially a surge in vegetable prices. There is no mention of wage pressures or inflation arising from the service sector. In fact, the author argues that the inflationary surge was widely expected to be temporary and food-related. If service-sector wages had been the primary cause, it would represent a structural inflationary force—contrary to the passage's framing of inflation as transitory. Thus, this statement is clearly at odds with the information provided and must be false. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The author suggests that in some past instances, the RBI's decisions were shaped by considerations such as defending the currency. However, the phrase "have historically reflected inflation forecasts" implies that forecasts have generally guided monetary actions, which may still be consistent with occasional deviations. Since the passage criticizes selective misjudgments and not a pattern of total politicization,

this statement cannot be considered necessarily false. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. Correct Answer: (b) The RBI's inflation projections have frequently overpredicted actual price movements over the past few quarters.

Reference Line: "This wouldn't be the first time that it would be doing so."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This statement introduces a comparative perspective by referencing other central banks' actions. While it might imply that the RBI is being overly cautious relative to its peers, it doesn't necessarily validate the author's claim that the RBI's inflation forecasts are inaccurate. Central banks operate under different domestic constraints, and the author's critique is specifically about the RBI's misjudgment of inflationary pressures within India. Thus, this evidence is too general to strengthen the argument substantially. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author suggests that the RBI has a pattern of overestimating inflation, as implied by the phrase "this wouldn't be the first time." If empirical evidence shows that past projections consistently overshot actual inflation, it would substantiate the claim that the central bank habitually overstates inflationary risk. Such data would reinforce the author's assertion that the RBI's current stance is based on flawed forecasting rather than on credible inflationary pressure. This evidence would make the critique of excessive caution much stronger. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This statement deals with consumer psychology and how inflation expectations might be shaped by media coverage. Although interesting, it addresses public perception rather than the RBI's institutional estimation errors. The author is not concerned with how citizens interpret inflation data but with whether the central bank's internal models are credible. Therefore, while this statement provides a tangential explanation for short-term inflation fears, it does not strengthen the claim that the RBI itself is overestimating inflation. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option suggests that the RBI maintains high real rates as a response to fiscal expansion rather than inflation misjudgment. While it offers an alternative reason for policy tightness, it diverts attention from the author's central contention that inflation risks are overstated. If anything, this explanation might weaken the author's argument by attributing the policy stance

to fiscal balancing rather than faulty inflation forecasts. Consequently, this statement does not provide supporting evidence for the author's claim. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (d) The RBI maintains policy rates above inflation solely to attract foreign capital inflows.

Reference Line: "But many did expect food prices to soften. In fact, the RBI also seemed to share that view, but strangely chose not to look through the spurt in vegetable prices..."

"This implied a real interest rate of slightly more than 2 per cent. Surely, such a tight policy was needed... Wrong."

"Headline inflation was then driven by high food inflation... even though what matters for monetary policy is not inflation now, but a few quarters down the line."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Explanation:

(a) The author draws attention to the mismatch between the RBI's inflation projections which indicate moderate inflation and its decision to maintain a tight monetary stance. This discrepancy suggests that the RBI's policy actions are not in harmony with its publicly shared outlook. The criticism revolves around this inconsistency, making the inference logical and well supported by the passage's argument. Hence, option (a) can be inferred and is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage clearly highlights that the RBI's policy decisions were based on a spike in food prices particularly vegetables even though these were expected to be temporary. The author's core complaint is that such transitory price shocks were treated as more serious and lasting threats. This suggests that policymakers are indeed treating short-term inflation as structurally significant, making this a valid inference. Hence, option (b) can be inferred and is not the correct answer.

(c) The author implies that the data being used to justify high interest rates might be unrepresentative of long-term inflation trends. The passage criticizes the RBI for not "looking through" temporary inflation caused by food prices. Since food price shocks are not reflective of broader, structural economic dynamics, it follows that the central bank may be relying on misleading data for policy decisions. This can be reasonably inferred. Hence, option (c) can be inferred and is not the correct answer.

(d) The claim that the RBI keeps interest rates high solely to attract foreign capital inflows is not supported by any part of the passage. While there is a brief mention that “defending the currency” has influenced past decisions, this is neither tied explicitly to attracting foreign capital nor suggested as a reason for the current policy. The author focuses on inflation misjudgment as the primary issue, not external capital strategies. Thus, this statement extends beyond the text and cannot be inferred. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (a) The RBI maintained a restrictive policy despite forecasting inflation well within its own target range.

Reference Line: “The RBI had then forecasted inflation at 4.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2025-26... Surely, such a tight policy was needed to bring inflation in line with the target. Wrong.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This is the clearest instance of a paradox as per the definition—a situation that appears logically inconsistent but is actually real. The author critiques the RBI for maintaining a tight policy (high real interest rates) while simultaneously projecting moderate inflation within the target range. This contradiction between what the central bank anticipates (low inflation) and how it acts (tight monetary stance) creates a tension that underlines the paradox. It seems illogical on the surface and thus fits the definition well. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option presents two projections—higher inflation and lower growth—but these are not necessarily contradictory. In macroeconomic terms, it is entirely possible for inflation to rise even as growth slows, such as during cost-push inflation or stagflation. The author does not discuss these two projections occurring simultaneously in the passage, nor does this situation constitute a paradox in the context of the author’s argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) While the author does argue that the inflation spike was transitory, there is no claim that structural inflation risks had significantly declined. The passage primarily focuses on food price inflation and does not assert any broader reduction in underlying inflation risks. This option adds information not contained in the passage and fails to present a logical contradiction that

qualifies as a paradox. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option might initially seem contradictory, but it does not reflect a paradox in the way the author presents it. The RBI justifying a tight policy despite disinflation is precisely the issue the author is critiquing. However, this wording lacks the inherent logical absurdity that defines a true paradox. It simply reiterates that the RBI may have made a poor policy judgment—it does not expose a tension between belief and action in the same way option (a) does. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (b) An overemphasis on headline inflation has led to monetary responses that disregard cyclical patterns in growth.

Reference Line: “But many did expect food prices to soften. In fact, the RBI also seemed to share that view, but strangely chose not to look through the spurt in vegetable prices...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Although the author mentions that in the past the RBI has taken decisions influenced by external factors like defending the currency, this is presented as historical context rather than a critique of the present policy. The author’s primary concern is about the misjudgment of inflation, not the RBI’s fear of currency volatility. This option misrepresents the focus of the author’s argument and assigns a motivation that is not substantiated by the current scenario discussed in the passage. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author’s core critique is that the RBI reacted strongly to a spike in food inflation—something that was expected to be temporary—despite forecasts showing inflation would decline in the near future. This suggests the RBI relied on headline figures rather than forward-looking analysis or broader economic indicators. The phrase “disregard cyclical patterns in growth” captures the author’s view that monetary policy should be based on a more holistic and predictive understanding of the economy rather than on transient data. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option shifts the conversation toward fiscal policy and implies that the RBI’s conservatism has forced the government to rely more heavily on tax changes or spending to boost demand. However, the passage only briefly touches on fiscal measures and does not suggest that the RBI’s behavior has led to a

policy vacuum or fiscal over-reliance. The author's argument is centered on the RBI's internal reasoning and inflation projections, not its relationship with fiscal authorities. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer. (d) This option speculates that structural reforms are being stalled because of the RBI's hesitance to adopt a dovish (i.e., rate-cutting) stance. However, the passage does not discuss reforms or policymaking beyond the monetary domain. There is no suggestion that central bank behavior is delaying broader reform agendas. This interpretation adds content not present in the text and introduces a new, unsupported argument. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

103. **Correct Answer:** (a) Nitin

Explanation:

Month	Date	Person
May	14	Amit
May	29	Rahul
July	14	Kanhaiya
July	29	Nitin
September	14	Narendra
September	29	Randeep
November	14	Sachin
November	29	Syed

104. **Correct Answer:** (c) 3

Explanation:

Month	Date	Person
May	14	Amit
May	29	Rahul

July	14	Kanhaiya
July	29	Nitin
September	14	Narendra
September	29	Randeep
November	14	Sachin
November	29	Syed

105. **Correct Answer:** (d) Rahul

Explanation: Except for Rahul who's birthday month has 31 days, rest all have a month with 30 days.

Month	Date	Person
May	14	Amit
May	29	Rahul
July	14	Kanhaiya
July	29	Nitin
September	14	Narendra
September	29	Randeep
November	14	Sachin
November	29	Syed

106. **Correct Answer:** (b) Amit

Explanation:

Month	Date	Person
May	14	Amit

May	29	Rahul
July	14	Kanhaiya
July	29	Nitin
September	14	Narendra
September	29	Randeep
November	14	Sachin
November	29	Syed

107. **Correct Answer:** (a) 6

Explanation:

Month	Date	Person
May	14	Amit
May	29	Rahul
July	14	Kanhaiya
July	29	Nitin
September	14	Narendra

September	29	Randeep
November	14	Sachin
November	29	Syed

108. **Correct Answer:** (c) September

Explanation:

Month	Date	Person
May	14	Amit
May	29	Rahul
July	14	Kanhaiya
July	29	Nitin
September	14	Narendra
September	29	Randeep
November	14	Sachin
November	29	Syed

Section - E : Quantitative Aptitude

109. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Let x be kg of Darjeeling.

Then $(1200x + 800(20 - x)) / 20 = 960$.

So $1200x + 16000 - 800x = 19200 \Rightarrow 400x = 3200 \Rightarrow$

$x = 8$ kg.

110. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Herb amount = $0.25 \times 30 = 7.5$ L (unchanged)

Let final volume = V

$\Rightarrow 7.5 \div V = 0.18$

$\Rightarrow V = 7.5 \div 0.18 = 41.666... \text{ L}$

Water to add = $41.666... - 30 = 11.67$ L

111. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

By allegation with mean 880 between 1100 and 700:

Arabica : Robusta = $(880 - 700) : (1100 - 880) = 180 : 220 = 9 : 11$.

Hence Arabica = $25 \times (9/20) = 11.25$ kg.

112. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Initial sugar = $0.12 \times 40 = 4.8$ L.

Each replacement multiplies solute by $(1 - 8/40) = 0.8$.

After two replacements: sugar = $4.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 = 4.8 \times 0.64 = 3.072$ L.

Percentage = $3.072 / 40 = 0.0768 = 7.68\%$.

113. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Total cost needed = $30 \times 900 = ₹27,000$.

Darjeeling 10 kg costs ₹12,000.

Remaining 20 kg (A+N) must cost ₹15,000 \Rightarrow mean = ₹750/kg.

For A (₹800) and N (₹600) to average ₹750: $A : N = (750 - 600) : (800 - 750) = 150 : 50 = 3 : 1$.

Thus in 20 kg, A = 15 kg and N = 5 kg.

114. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Let P_c be required price of the coffee portion:

$0.85P_c + 0.15 \times 300 = 820$

$\Rightarrow 0.85P_c = 775$

$\Rightarrow P_c = 775/0.85 = ₹911.7647...$

Allegation for 1100 and 700 to get 911.7647

gives Arabica : Robusta = $(911.7647 - 700) : (1100 - 911.7647) = 211.7647 : 188.2353 \approx 9 : 8$.

Total 20 kg has 15% chicory $\Rightarrow 3$ kg chicory;

coffee = 17 kg split as 9 : 8 \Rightarrow Arabica 9 kg, Robusta 8 kg.

115. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Discounted price = $140 \times (1 - 0.20) = ₹112$.

GST = 5% of 112 = ₹5.60.

Final price = $112 + 5.60 = ₹117.60$.

116. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Already-discounted price = ₹112.

Extra 30% off $\Rightarrow 112 \times (1 - 0.30) = ₹78.40$.

GST 5% = $78.40 \times 0.05 = ₹3.92$.

Final = $78.40 + 3.92 = ₹82.32$.

117. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Paid pack price = $45 \times (1 - 0.10) = ₹40.50$.

Total revenue = $90 \times 40.50 = ₹3,645$.

Total packs given = $90 + 15 = 105$.

Effective price per pack = $3,645 \div 105 = ₹34.7143$.

Discount from MRP = $(45 - 34.7143)/45 \times 100 \approx 22.86\%$.

118. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Net per set = $240 \times (1 - 0.12) = ₹211.20$.

For 40 sets, net proceeds = $211.20 \times 40 = ₹8,448$.

119. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Revenue (ex-GST) = $105 \times 112 + 15 \times 78.40 = 11,760 + 1,176 = ₹12,936$.

Cost = $120 \times 80 = ₹9,600$.

Profit = $12,936 - 9,600 = ₹3,336$.

Profit% on cost = $3,336/9,600 \times 100 = 34.75\%$.

120. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Discounted price = $240 \times 0.90 \times 0.95 = ₹205.20$.

Profit on first 80: $(205.20 - 150) \times 80 = 55.20 \times 80 = ₹4,416$.

Evening profit per set = $240 - 150 - (0.12 \times 240) =$
 $240 - 150 - 28.80 = ₹61.20.$

Profit on 40 = $61.20 \times 40 = ₹2,448.$

Total profit = $4,416 + 2,448 = ₹6,864.$

Total cost = $120 \times 150 = ₹18,000.$

Profit% = $6,864 / 18,000 \times 100 \approx 38.13\%.$