

**COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST
(CLAT) 2026 Mock 202607:
ANSWER KEY AND SOLUTION**



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

Section - A : English Comprehension

1. Correct Answer: (d) A pattern of short-term attention that fades once the immediate crisis appears to pass.

Reference Line: "Then, once winds pick up and visibility improves, the urgency evaporates. This seasonal memory loss helps explain why structural reforms remain slow..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) A cognitive disorder affecting urban populations exposed to severe air pollution.

This option treats the metaphor of "seasonal memory loss" as a literal medical condition affecting individuals due to pollution exposure. However, the author uses the term figuratively to criticize the short-lived attention span of the public and policymakers toward pollution once visibility improves. There is no discussion of clinical symptoms or neurocognitive decline in the text, nor is any link drawn between individual health and political memory lapses. The critique is institutional and social, not medical. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The tendency of bureaucrats to deliberately delay long-term reforms for electoral gain.

This option suggests political manipulation or conscious delay by bureaucrats, which goes beyond the scope of the passage. The author attributes the inaction to a collective decline in urgency rather than calculating strategies for political gain. There is no assertion that reforms are intentionally postponed due to vote-bank politics or administrative self-interest. Instead, the focus is on public and institutional amnesia driven by temporary improvements in air quality. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The inability of policymakers to recall previous failed interventions on pollution.

This option implies that memory failure is specific to the inability to remember past policy errors, but the phrase "seasonal memory loss" is used more broadly. The author's criticism targets not just failure to recall specific programs but a general disengagement with structural reforms. The issue is not forgetfulness of past interventions but a repeated cycle of crisis-driven attention followed by complacency once conditions marginally improve. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) A pattern of short-term attention that fades once the immediate crisis appears to pass.

This option best reflects the author's intention in using the phrase "seasonal memory loss." It captures the idea that concern about pollution is highly cyclical, with urgency peaking only when visibility drops, only to be forgotten when conditions improve. This lack of sustained pressure prevents meaningful reform and allows authorities to rely on cosmetic measures year after year. The author's entire argument rests on this critique of collective attention deficit. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Correct Answer: (d) Skeptical of its feasibility due to meteorological and systemic limitations.

Reference Line: "Cloud seeding looks decisive, but winter in North India is dominated by dry, stable continental air. Without moisture, there are no rain-bearing clouds to seed."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Curious about its potential when supported by consistent climate conditions.

The author does not express any interest in further exploring or studying cloud seeding based on weather variables. On the contrary, the author is clear that North India's dry winter climate makes cloud seeding practically inapplicable. There is no openness to conditional effectiveness, nor any language that invites research optimism. The tone is grounded in present-day scientific limitations and policy futility, not hypothetical curiosity. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Optimistic about its short-term benefits in conjunction with emission controls.

While the author acknowledges that cloud seeding may temporarily reduce particulate levels, they emphasize that pollution levels quickly rebound after the rains stop. The failure lies not in how the method is combined but in its short-lived nature and inability to solve the real problem of emissions. The tone is critical of false hope and performative action, not supportive of any integrated solution involving cloud seeding. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Encouraging all experimental approaches that signal administrative action.

This option misrepresents the author's stance, which clearly disapproves of symbolic experiments done for show. The author criticizes such strategies as being "heavy on optics, light on impact," indicating

disapproval of actions taken just to appear active. The repeated return of these solutions each year is described with irony and frustration, not encouragement. The intent is not to welcome experimentation but to demand real change. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Skeptical of its feasibility due to meteorological and systemic limitations.

This option correctly identifies the author's position. The author clearly explains that winter in North India lacks the moisture needed for rain-bearing clouds, making cloud seeding ineffective from the start. Even when it rains, the benefits are fleeting because emissions persist. The criticism is rooted in environmental realities and system-level inaction, both of which make such solutions futile. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Correct Answer: (a) Most people cannot escape exposure to polluted air.

Reference Line: "For everyone else, there is no 'winter break' from breathing."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option accurately reflects the author's point that breathing is not a voluntary act and therefore cannot be paused just because pollution levels rise. The author contrasts those who can leave the city for cleaner air with those who do not have such financial or social mobility. The phrase emphasizes that the majority of residents must continue to inhale the harmful air every day without respite. The author highlights the structural inequality in the ability to avoid harm, stressing that survival conditions differ enormously based on class position. It shows that the experience of pollution is unavoidable for most and therefore a serious public health concern. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This interpretation frames the author as recommending administrative leave, which is not present anywhere in the passage. The phrase is metaphorical, meant to show the impossibility of taking time off from breathing or environmental exposure. Suggesting state-declared holidays oversimplifies the issue and shifts the focus to workplace arrangements rather than systemic lack of solutions. The author is not calling for temporary relief measures but critiquing the deeper neglect of emission reduction. This misreads the tone and intent entirely,

reducing a structural critique to a logistical suggestion. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option narrows the problem to a professional class concern, while the author stresses that exposure affects all who remain in the city, particularly those with limited resources. The passage does not propose work-from-home as a mitigation strategy, nor does it focus on occupational flexibility. Remote work would only benefit a small subset of the population and would not address the widespread and unavoidable nature of polluted air. The author's framing is about inequality and state responsibility, not workplace adaptation. Therefore, this option misinterprets the broader social critique. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option interprets the passage as advocating relocation as a solution, which is the opposite of the author's intent. The passage states that only a privileged segment can leave the city during smog season, emphasizing the unfairness of this divide. The author uses the example not to encourage migration but to reveal the harsh disparity between those with options and those without. Framing relocation as a desirable or universally applicable remedy ignores the economic and social constraints highlighted in the text. The emphasis is on inequality, not on proposing travel as a policy recommendation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. Correct Answer: (a) Scientific consensus that structural emissions must be addressed directly.

Reference Line: "It allows authorities to be seen 'doing something,' rather than doing what works: reducing sources of emissions and cleaning up what remains."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Scientific consensus that structural emissions must be addressed directly.

This option aligns with the author's principal argument that only systemic interventions targeting emissions at their source will make a lasting difference. The passage emphasizes that cloud seeding and similar "solutions" fail because pollution quickly returns due to ongoing emissions. The statement affirms the scientific clarity around what needs to be done and supports the critique of cosmetic actions. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Diplomatic conflicts over transboundary air pollution control treaties.

No international issues or diplomatic tensions are referenced in the passage. The author's analysis is

focused on domestic policies, urban inequalities, and public responses within North India. Introducing global treaty complications as a supportive argument goes beyond the text and is irrelevant to the specific critique of symbolic measures. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Lack of year-round political interest in air quality indicators and research.

While the author implies waning public and political urgency, the argument is not about sustained research or metrics. The criticism is aimed more at the theatrical nature of response mechanisms and the preference for visibility over efficacy, not at data collection or political apathy in general. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Legal restrictions on using water resources for artificial rainfall efforts.

This option raises a point that is not even hinted at in the passage. The criticism of cloud seeding is based entirely on weather conditions and ineffectiveness, not on laws or environmental permissions regarding water use. It introduces an irrelevant legal angle that distracts from the scientific and political analysis provided by the author. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. **Correct Answer:** (d) Irony

Reference Line: "It joins a familiar supporting cast – smog towers, smog guns, and, more recently, 'green crackers' and wearable 'air purifiers' – all heavy on optics, light on impact."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Hyperbole

This option suggests exaggeration for dramatic effect, but the devices mentioned are real products. The author is not inventing absurdities but critiquing the actual existence of such gadgets. While the tone is sarcastic, the criticism is grounded in fact. Therefore, the use of these examples is not an exaggeration of reality but a commentary on the absurdity of real-world solutions. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Symbolism

This interpretation assumes that "wearable air purifiers" stand for a broader theme or abstract value. However, the reference is not symbolic but direct and factual. The author is not using the object to symbolize something else; instead, they list it among other superficial fixes that are presented as solutions but lack impact. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Analogy

The author does not compare "wearable air purifiers" to another concept or system, which is a necessary feature of an analogy. There is no "like" or "as" comparison, nor is the device used to explain a separate idea. Instead, it is part of a literal list used to critique shallow responses to pollution. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Irony

This option captures the author's rhetorical strategy accurately. The inclusion of such a product in a list of ineffective solutions draws attention to the absurdity of using personal gadgets to address a public health crisis. The irony lies in the mismatch between the seriousness of the problem and the triviality of the response, reinforcing the author's criticism of symbolic gestures. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

6. **Correct Answer:** (d) Seasonal pollution responses are more about political optics than structural reform.

Reference Line: "It allows authorities to be seen 'doing something,' rather than doing what works: reducing sources of emissions..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Artificial rain and smog towers could be effective if implemented during wetter seasons.

The passage does not entertain the possibility that such measures could work under better conditions. On the contrary, it explicitly states that even when rain does fall, the reduction in pollution is temporary and insufficient. The author is dismissive of these solutions regardless of season or timing, indicating structural reform as the only path. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) North India's pollution problem persists because of misapplied science and faulty instruments.

The author does not criticize science or technology for being incorrect or poorly designed. The problem lies not in misapplication but in political and social preference for visible, temporary action over systemic emission control. The critique is aimed at performance and priorities, not tools or scientific understanding. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Migration is the only viable solution for surviving urban smog waves.

The author clearly frames migration as a privilege enjoyed by a small minority, not as a viable strategy for most people. The passage criticizes the very idea that leaving the city is a realistic option, using it to underscore social inequality rather than propose it as a solution. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Seasonal pollution responses are more about political optics than structural reform.

This option accurately encapsulates the author's main point. The passage criticizes repeated reliance on cosmetic fixes that gain attention but fail to address the root causes of pollution. The emphasis is on how these symbolic actions allow governments to appear active while avoiding the hard work of cutting emissions. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

7. Correct Answer: (b) The war endured because public and political pressures overshadowed military certainty.

Reference Line: "It was not because [policymakers] were greatly confident that fighting on would lead to victory... hinged on factors like ideology, public sentiment, and the agendas of powerful individuals..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The war dragged on due to unwavering faith in America's military superiority.

This option falsely assumes that U.S. policymakers persisted in the war because they believed in inevitable military success. However, the passage explicitly mentions that their continuation was not based on confidence in victory. The decision to remain engaged was driven more by ideological commitment, personal agendas, and external pressures than any assured military triumph. This eliminates the notion of steadfast faith in battlefield dominance. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The war endured because public and political pressures overshadowed military certainty.

The author makes it clear that the war lasted not because of confidence in success but due to a complex combination of ideological rigidity, leadership ambitions, and societal dynamics. These influences overpowered rational military calculations and dragged the conflict further. The war became a theatre for ideological demonstration rather than a path to clear victory, making this the most aligned with the passage's interpretation. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The war's duration stemmed from a tactical miscalculation of Vietnamese geography.

Geographical errors or terrain-based challenges are not mentioned anywhere in the text. This option shifts the focus to military logistics, which the author does not explore. Instead, the war's longevity is presented as a function of ideological and political inertia, not

military planning errors related to geography. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The war was prolonged by North Vietnam's failure to comply with international agreements.

Although the passage refers to the unfulfilled elections under the Geneva Accords, it does not attribute the two-decade-long war solely to this failure. The war's persistence is portrayed as rooted in ideological conflict and the influence of powerful stakeholders rather than procedural breakdowns or international violations. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

8. Correct Answer: (a) Reverence that blinds judgment and rationality about a political figure

Reference Line: "...others disapproved of his complicity in war crimes and the idolatry of him as a leader."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Reverence that blinds judgment and rationality about a political figure

The word "idolatry" in the passage suggests excessive and uncritical admiration. The author contrasts the admiration for Ho Chi Minh as a nationalist leader with the discomfort surrounding his complicity in war crimes. This framing highlights how unexamined hero-worship can obscure critical evaluation of a leader's actions, making this interpretation the most consistent with the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Celebration of national icons to unite a fractured political landscape

This option suggests that idolatry was used as a political tool for national cohesion, which is not supported by the text. The passage presents idolatry negatively, as a critique of the excessive glorification of Ho Chi Minh, not as a strategy to unify the nation. The focus is moral and psychological, not political or strategic. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Religious symbolism attached to the revolutionary goals of communism

While the term "idolatry" has religious connotations, the author does not use it in a theological or symbolic ideological sense. There is no indication that religious metaphors are used to describe communism in the passage. The context focuses on moral discomfort with personal hero-worship rather than spiritual associations. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Cultural storytelling used to elevate resistance leaders into myths

This option introduces a folkloric or cultural narrative layer that the passage does not suggest. The author's tone is critical of exaggerated reverence and does not allude to myth-making or storytelling traditions. The emphasis lies in political evaluation and moral scrutiny, not cultural commemoration. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

9. Correct Answer: (a) Vietnam became a flashpoint where colonial legacy and ideological rivalry violently collided.

Reference Line: "Cold War ideology—the struggle between capitalism and communism... fueled the battle... Vietnam split in two... supported by the U.S., France... USSR and China..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Vietnam became a flashpoint where colonial legacy and ideological rivalry violently collided.

The passage clearly describes Vietnam as a nation shaped by both its colonial past and the Cold War struggle between capitalism and communism. This dual influence turned it into a battlefield where global ideological tensions erupted into violent conflict. The reference to support from the U.S., USSR, and China underscores Vietnam's role as a Cold War epicenter, making this option entirely consistent. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Vietnam emerged as a neutral ground where global superpowers avoided direct confrontation.

The narrative runs counter to this idea, emphasizing that Vietnam became a proxy war battlefield where both communist and anti-communist blocs poured in resources, training, and arms. The country did not remain neutral; rather, it was sharply divided and became a medium of indirect confrontation. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Vietnam retained sovereignty by balancing its allegiance between East and West.

There is no evidence in the passage to suggest that Vietnam maintained any strategic balance. Instead, it was split into two competing regimes, each backed by a different superpower alliance. The war emerged precisely because such a balance was never achieved. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Vietnam's internal politics isolated it from broader Cold War ideological currents.

This interpretation is directly contradicted by the text, which repeatedly references Cold War ideology as a central factor. Vietnam was deeply involved in the global ideological divide and became a symbolic and

strategic arena in that struggle. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. Correct Answer: (b) A national independence leader whose legacy invites both admiration and critical moral reflection.

Reference Line: "While many saw him as a champion for independence, others disapproved of his complicity in war crimes and the idolatry..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanations:

(a) This option suggests that Ho Chi Minh is depicted as an unequivocally celebrated figure whose actions are not questioned. However, the passage explicitly notes that many criticized him for being complicit in war crimes and for the excessive reverence he received. This implies moral complexity rather than unchallenged admiration. The portrayal emphasizes controversy instead of unquestioned praise. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage acknowledges Ho Chi Minh's significant role in Vietnam's struggle for independence while simultaneously highlighting the ethical concerns surrounding his leadership. This dual evaluation presents him as both a national hero and a figure whose methods generated discomfort and critique. The tension between admiration and moral scrutiny aligns precisely with how the author frames his legacy. This makes the interpretation nuanced rather than one-dimensional. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option implies that Ho Chi Minh's prominence was artificially constructed by outside ideological forces rather than emerging from his own leadership and historical influence. The passage contradicts this by showing him as a central, active revolutionary figure with substantial agency. There is no indication that his fame or authority originated mainly from external propaganda. The narrative attributes his influence to leadership, not external crafting. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option incorrectly presents Ho Chi Minh as a peripheral or overshadowed figure. In fact, the passage depicts him as a defining leader of North Vietnam whose ideological and political role shaped the nation's direction. He is portrayed as influential, not marginal. The reference to idolatry further reinforces his prominence rather than insignificance. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. Correct Answer: (d) Blitz

Reference Line: "Years of bloody attrition warfare..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Escalation

While “escalation” implies an increase in intensity, it does not serve as the most direct antonym of “attrition,” which refers to gradual wearing down. Both terms could describe prolonged conflict, albeit at different intensities. Thus, escalation is not an exact opposite but rather an adjacent concept. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Mobilization

Mobilization refers to the act of assembling forces or resources for war. It does not contradict the idea of attrition but could be a preliminary stage in warfare. It is procedural rather than descriptive of the nature or pace of combat. Therefore, it does not serve as an antonym. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Regeneration

Regeneration focuses on healing and recovery, which is conceptually inverse to damage. However, attrition describes a method of warfare, not just damage itself. Regeneration is thematic but not strategically opposite. It implies recovery but not sudden intensity. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Blitz

Blitz implies a rapid, overwhelming assault, which contrasts directly with the slow, grinding nature of attrition warfare. One emphasizes speed and surprise; the other involves drawn-out exhaustion. This stark contrast in tempo and strategy makes it the clearest opposite. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

12. Correct Answer: (a) The war served as a cautionary tale of military overreach and diplomatic miscalculation.

Reference Line: “The conflict spread across several countries as a seemingly endless proxy war, exacting a bitter cost for all involved.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The war served as a cautionary tale of military overreach and diplomatic miscalculation.

The passage presents Vietnam as a costly and extended proxy conflict with involvement from multiple powers and enormous human loss. The tone indicates regret and warns against the dangers of ideological rigidity and ambition-driven warfare, making it an implicit cautionary tale. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The war exposed the fragility of Asian alliances in resisting communism.

There is no specific mention of regional alliances or their failures in the passage. The focus remains on ideological confrontation between global powers rather than on the collapse or success of Asian coalitions. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The war exemplified how localized civil disputes could remain regionally contained.

The conflict clearly did not remain contained—it spread across borders and was supported by multiple countries. The term “proxy war” confirms the global entanglement of what began as a civil war. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The war enabled France and the U.S. to maintain long-term influence in Southeast Asia.

This is factually incorrect as both France and the U.S. eventually withdrew, and their influence diminished significantly. The passage underscores the failure, not the continuation, of Western dominance. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. Correct Answer: (c) Short-term fixes in agriculture often come at the cost of lasting ecological harm.

Reference Line: “As applications of pesticides continue and the virtually indestructible residues continue to build up in the soil, it is almost certain that we are heading for trouble.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Regulatory loopholes in pesticide testing have allowed long-standing damage to spread.

Although the passage critiques the Department’s delayed withdrawal of heptachlor, its main concern is not regulatory loopholes but the ecological and long-term consequences of chemical use. The message is broader and focused on environmental impact rather than legal oversight. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Improperly stored insecticides are the primary cause of agricultural failure worldwide.

The passage makes no mention of storage or mishandling of chemicals. The issue is with approved application and residual build-up in the soil, not accidents or poor storage practices. This option introduces a theme not present in the text. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Short-term fixes in agriculture often come at the cost of lasting ecological harm.

This statement accurately captures the author’s argument. The use of insecticides like heptachlor, intended for immediate pest control, results in long-

term soil degradation and crop failure, showing that quick solutions can carry hidden, long-lasting costs. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Farmers should return to traditional practices to avoid modern chemical errors.

The passage critiques current chemical practices but does not promote traditional methods. There is no mention of alternative farming techniques, and the argument is framed as a caution about technological overconfidence, not a nostalgic return. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

14. Correct Answer: (b) It continued supporting harmful chemicals even after their dangers were evident.

Reference Line: "The federal Department of Agriculture... found itself in the anomalous position of declaring heptachlor acceptable for use... belatedly withdrew its registration."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) It acted swiftly to safeguard environmental and public interests.

The passage clearly describes the Department's response as "belated," which directly refutes the idea of swift action. It continued endorsing the chemical even when its harmful effects had become clear, demonstrating delay rather than timely intervention. The criticism here lies in inertia, not urgency. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) It continued supporting harmful chemicals even after their dangers were evident.

The phrase "anomalous position" captures the Department's failure to withdraw approval despite mounting evidence of crop failure and lingering toxicity. The withdrawal came only after years of environmental damage and farmer losses, showing that institutional support persisted beyond reason. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) It coordinated effectively with scientists to resolve chemical contamination.

The passage states that scientists were unable to determine how long the poison would persist or how to fix the problem. This indicates a lack of effective coordination or solutions, and certainly no evidence that the Department worked closely with researchers to find a remedy. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) It lacked the authority to act against large pesticide manufacturers.

There is no suggestion that the Department's delay was due to external pressure or legal constraints. The passage frames the delay as administrative failure, not lack of power. It critiques regulatory hesitance, not corporate influence or legislative limitation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. Correct Answer: (d) Certain toxic substances stay active in soil beyond expected timeframes.

Reference Line: "As applications of pesticides continue and the virtually indestructible residues continue to build up in the soil..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Some pesticide effects fade slowly but disappear through seasonal soil cycles.

The author explicitly notes that even after four years, heptachlor was still present in the soil and harming plants. There is no indication that natural seasonal changes can safely eliminate such residues, and the long-term persistence of toxicity directly contradicts this claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Remnants of chemical use dissolve naturally after several crop rotations.

Replanting efforts by the hop growers proved futile, as the newly planted crops also died. This shows that time and successive planting do not dissolve the toxins, making the idea of chemical fading through crop rotation factually inaccurate in this context. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Such pesticide residues are now rare due to improved regulation in farming.

The passage offers no reassurance that these chemicals have become rare. Instead, it warns that their use continues and residues build up in the soil. The discussion is grounded in caution about current practices, not in a claim of regulatory success. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Certain toxic substances stay active in soil beyond expected timeframes.

The phrase "virtually indestructible residues" directly supports this interpretation, as it refers to chemicals like heptachlor persisting in the soil long after application, causing damage that no one knows how to reverse. The unpredictability and duration of toxicity are central to the author's concern. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

16. Correct Answer: (c) Blind trust in institutional recommendations can expose agricultural systems to irreversible harm.

Reference Line: "On the advice of agricultural experts and insecticide manufacturers... Within a year... the vines... were wilting and dying."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Farmers can reverse ecological damage by switching to newer pesticide formulations.

The hop growers replanted at great expense, but the damage continued, showing that switching to new crops or replanting strategies failed. This indicates that the soil itself had been poisoned in a lasting way, and no recovery occurred through formulation changes or plant rotation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Large-scale pest control can be successfully achieved by combining expert advice with local knowledge.

The growers acted based on expert advice from agricultural authorities and manufacturers, yet the outcome was catastrophic. Far from successful pest control, the result was dead crops and lingering toxicity, highlighting the danger of overreliance on technical expertise without adequate testing. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Blind trust in institutional recommendations can expose agricultural systems to irreversible harm.

The passage demonstrates how following expert advice without scrutiny led to widespread soil contamination and economic loss. This highlights the risk of placing unquestioned faith in official guidance, especially when dealing with poorly understood chemical interventions. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Crop failure due to natural pests often outweighs the dangers posed by chemical treatments.

The passage does not claim that the root weevil caused more damage than the chemical; in fact, it shows that the pesticide caused far more harm than the pest it was meant to eliminate. This comparison is unfounded and reverses the author's argument. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

17. Correct Answer: (a) The chemical's long-term harm may exceed human predictive and corrective capacity.

Reference Line: "Four years later the soil still contained heptachlor, and scientists were unable to predict how long it would remain poisonous, or to recommend any procedure for correcting the condition."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The scientists' inability to forecast when the soil would recover, combined with their failure to suggest any method of remediation, implies that the chemical's persistence surpassed known environmental management capacities. The passage emphasizes that even after several years, the toxin remained active, suggesting that human understanding of such substances was incomplete. This uncertainty creates the possibility that the damage may continue indefinitely, undermining the idea of controlled agricultural intervention. The author raises this as a warning about tampering with ecological systems using insufficiently understood chemicals. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The notion that soil may naturally heal over time conflicts with the passage's account of crops continuing to die even after costly replanting efforts. The fact that the toxicity remained unchanged for years indicates that time and routine agricultural cycles did nothing to reverse the damage. The failure of recovery despite multiple attempts demonstrates that relying on natural resilience was not a viable solution in this case. The persistence of the chemical shows that natural cycling processes were insufficient to neutralize its effects. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The problem described in the passage lies in the chemical residue's durability rather than in farming strategies or replanting decisions. The growers did replant, showing that the technique itself was not in question, yet the new crops also died. This shows that the uncertainty lay in the chemical's behavior in the environment rather than in agricultural practices. The scientists' inability to determine duration or remedy reveals that the core issue was toxicity, not cultivation. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not support the idea that the toxicity was temporary or exaggerated. On the contrary, the poison remained potent in the soil for at least four years, and experts could not even estimate when it would fade. This persistence shows that the problem was severe and enduring rather than overstated. Also, there is no indication that the scientific testing was inadequate; instead, the chemical itself proved resistant to breakdown. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. Correct Answer: (a) Human intervention through chemicals, if uninformed, may irreparably destabilize soil health.

Reference Line: “A few false moves on the part of man may result in destruction of soil productivity and the arthropods may well take over.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author repeatedly cautions that using poorly understood chemical tools like heptachlor without comprehensive knowledge can lead to irreversible ecological consequences. The warning that “a few false moves” may destroy soil productivity shows that uninformed interference can permanently damage vital natural systems. The hop growers’ story exemplifies this, where expert-recommended chemical use led to widespread and persistent harm. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Nowhere does the passage suggest that visible residues can be safely removed. On the contrary, the soil remained poisoned even four years after application, and scientists were unable to predict when the toxicity would end. This undermines the belief in safe and manageable cleanup after visible contamination, portraying such hope as unrealistic. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage describes how replanting efforts failed repeatedly, and new roots also died, even after significant investment. This indicates that genetic strength in plants could not overcome the underlying issue of poisoned soil, proving that the problem was chemical persistence, not plant weakness. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The problem highlighted in the passage is not pest resistance or tolerance but the lasting environmental damage caused by chemical residues. Regular replacement would not address the root issue of toxicity build-up, and such a strategy might worsen the ecological burden. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. Correct Answer: (c) Statement I and III

Reference Line: “She found that the more external help participants had, the lower their level of brain connectivity...”; “Kosmyrna... working on wearable brain-computer interfaces...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Statement I and II

Statement I is accurate because Kosmyrna is building wearable brain-computer interfaces that can interpret brain states, which qualifies as AI tools reading neural signals. However, Statement II is contradicted by the lab’s EEG findings, which showed decreased cognitive

activity among ChatGPT users, not increased mental engagement. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Statement II and III

Although Statement III is true—Kosmyrna observed candidates using ChatGPT and suspected they didn’t fully grasp the answers—Statement II is still incorrect. The study’s key finding was a reduction in brain network activity, which rules out increased mental processing. Thus, this combination contains one accurate and one false statement. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Statement I and III

Kosmyrna’s ongoing research on wearable neurotechnology supports Statement I, while her anecdotal suspicion of changes in people’s behavior, like pausing during interviews and depending on AI tools, validates Statement III. These two reflect both the technological and observational aspects of the passage accurately. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) All three statements

Despite the truth of Statements I and III, Statement II conflicts with the central experiment results showing that ChatGPT users had lower brain connectivity. Since all three cannot be considered true without contradiction, this option is invalid. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. Correct Answer: (a) coordinated communication among separate regions within neural processing systems

Reference Line: “...the more external help participants had, the lower their level of brain connectivity...”

Difficulty Level: Advanced Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The term “connectivity” in this context refers to the functional coordination between different regions of the brain that work together during tasks involving reasoning, creativity, and focus. The study found that when individuals relied heavily on ChatGPT, this internal network communication weakened, which indicates reduced mental engagement. This interpretation aligns with the scientific framing of connectivity as interaction among neural circuits rather than physical contact or emotional response. The passage emphasizes diminished mental effort, making this meaning the most precise. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option incorrectly frames connectivity as the formation of structural links in the brain, which would require biological growth or physical modification. The

passage does not discuss the development of new neural tissue or anatomical changes. Instead, it examines functional interaction among existing networks. Therefore, this meaning does not match the experimental observations. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This choice misinterprets connectivity as emotional association or affective bonding. The passage focuses on mental workload, attention, and creativity rather than emotional memory or mood. There is no evidence that the research involved emotional states or affective responses. As such, this interpretation is inconsistent with the cognitive emphasis of the study. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option confuses connectivity with instinctive or reflexive survival pathways, which are automatic and not usually associated with deliberate thinking or creativity. The section of the brain referenced in the passage is involved in complex reasoning, not instinctive responses. The EEG findings relate to thoughtful mental activity, not automatic biological impulses. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. Correct Answer: (c) It risks weakening the user's own cognitive effort, understanding, and mental engagement.

Reference Line: "...those who used ChatGPT to write showed significantly less activity in the brain networks..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) It may cause a decline in user curiosity and the motivation to explore new technologies independently. The passage does not indicate that users avoid new tools or become less curious about technology. Rather, it focuses on what happens when AI is used—specifically its effects on the brain during engagement. The concern is not avoidance but dependence. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) It could lead to increased emotional detachment in everyday interpersonal communication.

There is no mention of changes in emotional expression or interpersonal relationships. The author does not discuss empathy, communication style, or social connection; the concern is strictly cognitive. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) It risks weakening the user's own cognitive effort, understanding, and mental engagement.

The author clearly expresses worry that users relying on ChatGPT may exhibit less brain activity in areas

responsible for creativity, attention, and reasoning. This reflects a reduction in internal processing, suggesting a weakening of independent thought. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) It can accelerate a user's overconfidence by providing overly simplified factual responses.

The passage does not mention user confidence levels or the accuracy of AI responses. The concern is not misinformation or simplicity, but rather what AI reliance does to the user's internal brain function. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. Correct Answer: (d) Investigative

Reference Line: "Around two years ago, she began receiving out-of-the-blue emails... With some MIT colleagues, Kosmyna set up an experiment..."

Difficulty Level: Advanced Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Narrative

While the passage opens with descriptive imagery of the MIT Media Lab, the primary purpose is not storytelling. The text moves quickly into research context, experiments, and cognitive observations rather than a chronological narrative arc. There is no development of characters or plot, which are hallmarks of narrative style. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Skeptical

The tone is not dismissive or mocking of technology; instead, it is measured and inquiry-driven. The author does not ridicule AI use but seeks to understand its cognitive effects through scientific study. There is no sarcasm, disbelief, or rhetorical questioning that would indicate skepticism as the defining tone. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Abstract

The writing is grounded in concrete evidence, including lab experimentation, interviews, and observed behavior. The author does not dwell in philosophical speculation or theoretical argument. The text is anchored in factual description rather than abstraction. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Investigative

The passage blends firsthand accounts, behavioral observations, and structured EEG research to examine the real effects of AI reliance. The author assesses evidence, follows leads in user reports, and incorporates empirical findings, which are hallmarks of investigative journalism. The style prioritizes inquiry

and verification. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

23. Correct Answer: (d) Brain imaging revealed gaps between self-perception and actual mental engagement

Reference Line: "...whatever the people using ChatGPT felt was going on inside their brains, the scans showed there wasn't much happening..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Users consistently overestimated the intellectual rigor of tasks completed using AI support

Although this comes close, the phrase is not about users evaluating task difficulty. Instead, it emphasizes a gap between perceived mental effort and actual brain activity levels. The issue is misperception of internal engagement, not task challenge. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Emotional experiences during AI use were more intense than analytical brain activity

The passage does not address emotional intensity. It focuses on cognitive networks related to attention and creativity. There is no suggestion that users felt more emotionally engaged than mentally active. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Participants believed their understanding improved, but performance proved otherwise

There is no reference to test scores or output quality. The scans revealed neurological quietness, not an evaluation of essay quality or performance outcomes. The author comments on internal function, not external results. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Brain imaging revealed gaps between self-perception and actual mental engagement

This matches the central contrast in the sentence—users believed they were mentally engaged while brain scans showed reduced activity. The phrasing captures the disconnect between subjective experience and measurable cognitive effort. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

24. Correct Answer: (c) reduced neural activity in areas linked to attention, creativity, and cognitive processing

Reference Line: "those who used ChatGPT to write showed significantly less activity in the brain networks

associated with cognitive processing, attention and creativity."

Difficulty Level: Advanced Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage clearly contradicts this claim by reporting that participants who used ChatGPT experienced diminished brain activity, particularly in areas associated with attention and creativity. Rather than improving focus or creative thinking, the tool led to under-engagement of the brain, especially compared to writing with no assistance or even with search engines. The concern raised was that generative AI may make people mentally passive during tasks that usually demand cognitive effort. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The text does not mention any enhancement in brain connectivity due to ChatGPT usage. On the contrary, it emphasizes that brain network activity declined when users relied on ChatGPT to write. This includes the weakening of connections responsible for memory processing and complex thinking. Therefore, the claim of improved connectivity and problem-solving is not only unsupported but also directly contradicted by the research findings presented in the passage. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This is a precise and accurate reflection of what Kosmyna's experiment demonstrated. The EEG scans showed that brain activity significantly reduced in networks tied to cognitive engagement, attention, and creativity when participants used ChatGPT. This decline was measurable and repeatable across participants, showing that despite the feeling of being mentally engaged, the actual neurocognitive output was much lower when relying on generative AI. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) There is no reference in the passage to any improvement in brain efficiency or multitasking abilities as a result of ChatGPT use. The study design compared three conditions: writing unaided, using a search engine, and using ChatGPT. The finding was that AI reliance caused a drop in brain engagement, not a boost in mental agility or task-switching ability. The wording in this option introduces claims unrelated to the core scientific findings of the experiment. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

Section - B : Current Affairs including General Knowledge

25. Correct Answer: (a) 96 km

Explanation: Sir Creek is a 96-kilometre-long tidal estuary located between Gujarat (India) and Sindh (Pakistan) in the Rann of Kutch. It originates from the Rann and opens into the Arabian Sea, acting as a natural boundary between the two nations. The creek holds major strategic and economic importance due to its potential reserves of oil, gas, and marine resources, as well as its role in determining the maritime boundary in the Arabian Sea.

26. Correct Answer: (d) Zero Line Border

Explanation: The India–Pakistan border at Nadabet village in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, is known as the Zero Line Border. It marks the exact dividing line between the two nations and is depicted on maps as a red zigzag line. Located in one of India's westernmost border villages, it is a symbolic point where Indian territory meets Pakistani land. The Zero Line Border has become a major tourist attraction, representing India's strategic frontier and showcasing the country's border security and patriotism.

27. Correct Answer: (d) 90%

Explanation: Following the 1965 India–Pakistan war, both countries agreed to submit the Rann of Kutch boundary dispute to a United Nations-appointed tribunal for peaceful arbitration. On February 19, 1968, the tribunal awarded 90% of the disputed area to India and 10%—including Rahim Ki Bazar, Dhara Banni, and Chhad Bet—to Pakistan. The verdict was accepted by both nations, marking one of the earliest successful diplomatic settlements between them.

28. Correct Answer: (c) Bombay Presidency

Explanation: During British rule, the Sir Creek area was placed under Sind, which fell within the Bombay Presidency, while Kori Creek to the west of the Rann of Kutch was allotted to the Kutch Darbar. This boundary division was depicted in British-era maps with a green demarcation line and later became a key historical reference in the India–Pakistan border interpretations regarding the Sir Creek region.

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

Explanation: Sir Creek is a 96-kilometre-long tidal estuary forming the boundary between India's Gujarat (Rann of Kutch) and Pakistan's Sindh Province.

Historically, it was called Ban Ganga and was later renamed Sir Creek after a British official. However, statement III is incorrect because Sir Creek flows westward into the Arabian Sea, not eastward into the Bay of Bengal.

30. Correct Answer: (b) Arabian Sea

Explanation: Sir Creek, earlier called Ban Ganga, separates the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat from Sindh Province in Pakistan and flows westward into the Arabian Sea. This estuarine channel serves as a natural maritime boundary between the two nations and holds significant strategic and economic value due to its role in defining the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of India and Pakistan.

31. Correct Answer: (d) Fourth

Explanation: Maitri II will be India's fourth research station in Antarctica, succeeding Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1989), and Bharati (2012). The new station is being constructed to replace the ageing Maitri base and to support year-round scientific research in fields such as climate science, glaciology, oceanography, and space weather monitoring. Equipped with modern laboratories, renewable energy systems, and advanced living facilities, Maitri II underscores India's growing role in polar exploration and global climate action under the Antarctic Treaty System.

32. Correct Answer: (c) The Goa-based NCPOR under MoES leads India's Arctic and Antarctic missions.

Explanation: The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), based in Goa and functioning under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), is the nodal agency responsible for organizing and operating India's Antarctic and Arctic missions. It manages India's research stations Maitri and Bharati, conducts cryosphere and ocean studies, and facilitates international collaboration in polar science and climate research. Through NCPOR, India strengthens its role in global scientific exploration under the Antarctic Treaty System and contributes to understanding the impacts of climate change on polar environments.

33. Correct Answer: (a) Dakshin Gangotri Station

Explanation: Dakshin Gangotri Station, established in 1983, was India's first research base in Antarctica, signifying the country's formal participation in polar

scientific exploration. It focused on glaciology, atmospheric studies, and environmental monitoring. Although later decommissioned due to ice accumulation, it paved the way for India's subsequent Antarctic bases — Maitri and Bharati — reinforcing India's long-term commitment to climate science, sustainability, and polar research excellence.

34. Correct Answer: (b) Schirmacher Oasis — a 20 km-long ice-free landmass

Explanation: Maitri, India's second research station in East Antarctica, has been operational since 1989 and is located along the Schirmacher Oasis, a 20 km-long ice-free ridge surrounded by vast ice sheets and shelves. The station lies about 100 km inland and roughly 50 metres above sea level. It houses key facilities such as laboratories, accommodation modules, a summer camp, a lake water pump house, and fuel storage units. Maitri plays a vital role in atmospheric, geological, and environmental research.

35. Correct Answer: (b) 69

Explanation: Antarctica, the coldest and driest continent on Earth, has no permanent human population. Instead, it hosts a transient community of scientific researchers and support staff working at around 69 research stations operated by various countries. These stations function year-round or seasonally under the framework of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, which mandates that the continent be used solely for peaceful and scientific purposes. The treaty also suspends territorial sovereignty claims and promotes international scientific cooperation across disciplines such as climatology, glaciology, and marine biology.

36. Correct Answer: (a) The MPI is jointly released by UNDP and OPHI at the University of Oxford.

Explanation: The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2025 is jointly published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). It assesses poverty through indicators across health, education, and living standards, going beyond income-based measures. The 2025 edition reveals that 40% of people living in multidimensional poverty reside in countries facing war, fragility, or low peacefulness, underscoring the close link between conflict and poverty reduction challenges.

37. Correct Answer: (d) Gujarat

Explanation: The five most populous states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh — accounted for 65% of India's extreme poor in 2011–12. By 2022–23, these states also contributed to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty, reflecting significant socioeconomic progress. Gujarat, while a major economic state, was not part of this group of five populous states contributing to both the concentration and reduction of extreme poverty.

38. Correct Answer: (c) Benin

Explanation: As per the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) findings, Benin achieved the fastest absolute reduction in multidimensional poverty between 2017–2018 and 2021–2022, followed by Cambodia (2014–2021–2022) and the United Republic of Tanzania. Benin's rapid progress reflects effective policy implementation, improved access to education and healthcare, and targeted poverty alleviation programs, marking it as one of the most notable success stories in recent global poverty reduction efforts.

39. Correct Answer: (d) Ten

Explanation: Multidimensional poverty is evaluated using ten globally recognised indicators that measure deprivations in health, education, and standard of living, as defined by the UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). Countries affected by war and conflict consistently exhibit higher deprivation levels across all ten indicators compared to peaceful nations. This highlights how conflict intensifies inequalities by destroying infrastructure, displacing populations, and disrupting access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and sanitation — deepening overall poverty and human suffering.

40. Correct Answer: (a) Poverty and Equity Briefs

Explanation: The Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs), published twice a year by the World Bank, present concise, two-page summaries analyzing poverty, inequality, and shared prosperity trends across more than 100 developing nations. Released during the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and IMF, these briefs use indicators such as national poverty lines, international poverty benchmarks (\$2.15, \$3.65, and \$6.85), and the Gini Index. They also include multidimensional poverty measures, making them a vital tool for monitoring and sustaining global poverty reduction efforts.

41. Correct Answer: (d) Tarkarli Beach

Explanation: The nominated list includes Shrivardhan and Nagaon beaches in Raigad district, Parnaka in Palghar, and Guhagar and Ladghar beaches in Ratnagiri district. Tarkarli Beach, located in Sindhudurg district, is not part of this nomination list. The inclusion of these specific beaches highlights Maharashtra's focus on promoting eco-friendly coastal tourism and meeting the Blue Flag sustainability standards set by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark.

42. Correct Answer: (c) Beach Management Services

Explanation: The BEAMS initiative, short for Beach Management Services, was introduced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under its integrated coastal management programme. It aims to ensure sustainable tourism, reduce pollution levels on beaches, and bring India's coastal zones up to international Blue Flag standards. The initiative focuses on scientific monitoring, waste reduction, and public awareness to preserve coastal ecosystems and enhance beach cleanliness nationwide.

43. Correct Answer: (b) France

Explanation: The Blue Flag programme originated in France in 1985 as an innovative environmental initiative promoting clean beaches and sustainable coastal tourism. Over the decades, it has expanded under the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to more than 50 countries worldwide, setting rigorous standards for water quality, safety, environmental management, and education. The programme continues to serve as a benchmark for coastal sustainability and eco-friendly tourism practices across the globe.

44. Correct Answer: (c) 18

Explanation: As of 2025, India has a total of 18 Blue Flag certified beaches, comprising 13 previously recognised beaches and 5 newly certified ones. This expansion underscores India's growing success in achieving international standards of cleanliness, safety, environmental management, and sustainable tourism. The certification is awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark, under its global Blue Flag programme, which recognises eco-friendly and well-managed coastal destinations worldwide.

45. Correct Answer: (a) 2018

Explanation: India joined the Blue Flag programme in 2018, marking its commitment to meeting international standards for coastal cleanliness, safety, and eco-friendly tourism. The Blue Flag initiative, managed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark, began in France in 1985 and expanded across Europe by 1987. India's participation since 2018 has driven significant progress in sustainable beach management, culminating in several Indian beaches earning the prestigious Blue Flag certification for environmental excellence and tourism quality.

46. Correct Answer: (c) Only II and III

Explanation: The Blue Flag certification is an international eco-label awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark, to beaches and marinas that comply with 33 stringent criteria grouped under four broad categories: environmental education and information, water quality, environmental management, and safety and services. These standards ensure clean bathing water, effective waste management, safety infrastructure, and awareness among tourists and local communities. The Blue Flag programme is not managed by UNEP; it is an independent initiative of FEE, though its objectives complement global environmental and coastal sustainability goals promoted by bodies like UNEP and other international organisations.

47. Correct Answer: (a) Apollo Gallery

Explanation: In the October 2025 daylight robbery, thieves broke into the Apollo Gallery of the Louvre Museum in Paris, stealing royal and Napoleonic jewels. The gang accessed the gallery through a Seine-facing façade and completed the heist within minutes, prompting a two-day museum closure and nationwide discussions on museum security. While the Louvre reopened soon after, the Apollo Gallery remained sealed for forensic investigation. The Apollo Gallery is one of the museum's most celebrated halls, historically housing the French Crown Jewels, including pieces from the Napoleonic era.

48. Correct Answer: (c) King Philip II

Explanation: The Louvre Palace began as a fortress commissioned by King Philip II of France around the late 12th to early 13th century. Its purpose was to

protect Paris from invasions coming from the west, particularly via the Seine River. The fortress featured thick defensive walls, a large moat, and a central keep. Over the centuries, the Louvre evolved from a medieval fortress into a royal residence and later into the world-renowned Louvre Museum, housing some of humanity's greatest artistic and cultural treasures. King Philip II's fortification thus laid the foundation for what would become one of the most iconic landmarks in France.

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

Explanation: All three statements are correct. The theft targeted eight pieces from France's crown jewels, including Napoleon I's gifts to Empress Marie-Louise and the sapphire suite of Queen Marie-Amélie. The latter featured a tiara, necklace, and single earring adorned with eight sapphires and 631 diamonds. The heist has been described as one of the most audacious in French history, involving priceless royal artifacts of immense historical and cultural value.

50. Correct Answer: (c) Reliquary brooch

Explanation: The Reliquary brooch, owned by Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III, was among the most prized items stolen from France's crown jewels. This brooch stood out for its detailed artistry and imperial symbolism, reflecting the luxury and refinement of the Second French Empire. Its theft represents a major cultural loss, as it was one of the most historically

significant royal artifacts from France's rich imperial legacy.

51. Correct Answer: (a) Mona Lisa

Explanation: In 1911, the Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci, was stolen from the Louvre Museum by Vincenzo Peruggia, an Italian employee who believed the masterpiece should belong to Italy. He hid the painting under his coat and walked out of the museum unnoticed. After two years, the artwork was recovered in Florence. Ironically, the theft made the Mona Lisa world-famous, transforming it from a relatively obscure Renaissance painting into one of the most recognised and celebrated works of art in history. Today, it is protected behind high-security bulletproof glass in the Louvre's Denon Wing, attracting millions of visitors each year.

52. Correct Answer: (c) Emperor Napoleon III

Explanation: The stolen crown is linked to Empress Eugénie, the wife of Emperor Napoleon III, who reigned during the Second French Empire (1852–1870). The crown is one of the most exquisite pieces in the Louvre's collection, featuring intricate gold craftsmanship, more than 1,000 diamonds, and rare emeralds. It stands as a testament to 19th-century French imperial artistry, reflecting the elegance and grandeur of Napoleon III's court and France's rich cultural heritage in fine jewellery.

53. Correct Answer: (b) Ramesh is discharged from his obligation as he made a genuine offer to perform which was refused.

Reference: "Attempted (or tendered) performance discharges the promisor when a genuine offer to perform is refused by the promisee."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While the general rule for discharge by performance requires actual performance where both parties must perform their respective obligations completely, the passage explicitly provides an exception for attempted or tendered performance. According to the passage, when a promisor makes a genuine offer to perform and the promisee refuses to accept that performance, the promisor is discharged from the contractual obligation without needing to complete actual performance. Therefore, Ramesh's failure to actually complete and physically deliver the portrait is immaterial once Sita refused his genuine offer, making actual completion unnecessary for his discharge.

Option (b) Correct: The passage clearly states that attempted (or tendered) performance discharges the promisor when a genuine offer to perform is refused by the promisee, establishing this as a distinct mode of discharge by performance. In this scenario, Ramesh made a genuine and bona fide offer on March 10, 2024 (which was five days before the contractual deadline) to complete the portrait and deliver it to Sita, but she expressly refused to accept it by stating she no longer wanted the portrait. Since all elements of tendered performance are satisfied, a genuine offer made before the due date and an unequivocal refusal by the promisee, Ramesh stands discharged from his contractual obligation regardless of whether Sita later changes her position.

Option (c) Incorrect: Mutual agreement to rescind is indeed a separate and independent mode of discharge by mutual agreement where parties can rescind the contract altogether by mutual consent, dissolving it without creating a new obligation. However, this mode of discharge is not required when the promisee refuses a genuine offer of performance by the promisor, as tendered performance itself operates as a distinct and autonomous ground of discharge under the category of discharge by performance. The passage treats these as separate modes, discharge by performance (including tendered performance) and discharge by mutual

agreement (including rescission), and there is no requirement that Ramesh must obtain Sita's agreement to rescind when her refusal of his genuine offer already operates to discharge him.

Option (d) Incorrect: Anticipatory breach under Section 39 occurs when, before the performance due date arrives, a party either expressly declares that it will not perform its obligations or disables itself from performing through its own actions, thereby repudiating the contract before the time for performance. In this case, Ramesh is not refusing to perform or declaring non-performance; rather, he is actively attempting to fulfill his contractual obligation by offering to complete and deliver the portrait before the due date. His action of calling Sita on March 10 represents an attempt to perform (tendered performance) rather than any form of breach, making this a case of discharge through attempted performance when the promisee refuses, not anticipatory breach by the promisor.

54. Correct Answer: (c) The breach remains undischarged as novation requires substitution before any breach has occurred.

Reference: "Novation under Section 62 requires a valid reason, the consent of all parties, and substitution before expiry or breach; a later substitution does not discharge the earlier breach."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The passage expressly and unambiguously states that novation under Section 62 requires three essential elements: a valid reason for substitution, the consent of all parties to the substitution, and critically, the substitution must occur before expiry of the contract or before any breach has occurred. Furthermore, the passage explicitly provides that "a later substitution does not discharge the earlier breach," making it clear that novation cannot operate retrospectively to discharge breaches that have already materialized. This principle is reinforced by the case of *Manohur Koyal v. Thakur Das* (1888), where a new bond executed after a breach had occurred did not amount to novation, and the discharge was held to be by breach itself rather than by novation, confirming that the timing of substitution relative to the breach is decisive.

Option (b) Incorrect: Even if the new contract executed in September 2023 creates fresh obligations between

Company X and Company Y with modified terms including enhanced consideration of ₹12 lakhs instead of ₹10 lakhs and delivery of fresh goods, it cannot operate to discharge past breaches that occurred before the substitution took place. The fundamental principle that novation requires pre-breach substitution means that any breach committed in June 2023 remains undischarged by the September 2023 contract. While the new contract may create new rights and obligations going forward, it does not have retrospective effect to extinguish liability for breaches already committed, as the essential temporal requirement of novation, that substitution must precede breach, is violated when a breach has already materialized before the new contract is executed.

Option (c) Correct: The passage clearly and explicitly states that novation requires substitution before breach occurs, and importantly adds that "a later substitution does not discharge the earlier breach," establishing a strict temporal requirement for valid novation. Since Company Y committed a material breach in June 2023 by delivering defective goods, and the new contract was executed only in September 2023 (three months after the breach had already occurred), the substitution happened after the breach rather than before it. This timing makes it impossible for the September contract to operate as a valid novation with respect to the June breach, meaning Company Y's breach remains undischarged despite the execution of the new contract, and Company X retains its right to claim damages for that breach.

Option (d) Incorrect: Remission under Section 63 is a distinct mode of discharge by mutual agreement where the promisee voluntarily and intentionally gives up or forgives the performance owed, either wholly or partially, extends the time for performance, or accepts a different mode of performance from what was originally agreed. Remission requires a conscious, deliberate act by the promisee to waive or forgive the obligation or breach, and it does not automatically result merely from the execution of a new contract after a breach has occurred. In this scenario, there is no indication that Company X intentionally and expressly waived or remitted its claim for damages arising from the June 2023 breach; rather, the parties simply entered into a new contract with modified terms, which does not constitute remission of the earlier breach without clear evidence of Company X's intention to forgive that breach.

55. Correct Answer: (d) Discharge by supervening impossibility due to personal incapacity in a contract requiring personal skill.

Reference: "personal incapacity in contracts requiring personal skill, or a radical change of circumstances defeating the contract's commercial purpose."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Discharge by operation of law arises in situations where specific legal provisions or statutes prevent performance of the contract, such as the death of a party, insolvency proceedings that legally incapacitate a party from fulfilling obligations, or merger of entities that results in legal incapacity to perform under the original contract structure. These situations involve statutory or legal mechanisms that automatically discharge the contract due to changes in the legal status or capacity of the parties themselves rather than the nature of the performance. While personal incapacity might seem similar, the passage specifically categorizes personal incapacity in skill-based contracts under supervening impossibility or frustration rather than under operation of law, making supervening impossibility the more precise and applicable ground for discharge in Vikram's situation where his personal ability to perform has been destroyed by a supervening medical condition.

Option (b) Incorrect: Anticipatory breach under Section 39 requires that a party, before the performance due date arrives, either expressly declares its intention not to perform its contractual obligations or deliberately disables itself from performing through its own voluntary actions, thereby repudiating the contract in advance of the time for performance. The key element of anticipatory breach is the voluntary and deliberate nature of the non-performance or disablement by the breaching party. In Vikram's case, his incapacity to perform resulted from an involuntary medical condition, a severe throat infection that permanently damaged his vocal cords, rather than any deliberate declaration of non-performance or self-induced disablement. The passage also distinguishes between situations that do not discharge a contract, including "self-induced incapacity," suggesting that only voluntary disablement could constitute breach, whereas Vikram's involuntary medical incapacity arising from supervening circumstances makes this a case of frustration rather than anticipatory breach.

Option (c) Incorrect: Lapse of time as a ground for discharge specifically refers to situations where

performance is not completed or initiated within the prescribed time period stipulated in the contract, and such failure to perform within the time limit may potentially constitute a breach of contract by the defaulting party. This ground is concerned with temporal non-performance rather than impossibility of performance arising from supervening circumstances. In Vikram's case, the issue is not that he failed to perform within the time period due to delay or neglect; rather, the performance became genuinely and objectively impossible due to his permanent vocal cord damage that occurred after the contract was formed but before the due date of December 20, making this a case of supervening impossibility rather than lapse of time.

Option (d) Correct: The passage explicitly and specifically identifies "death or personal incapacity in contracts requiring personal skill" as one of the illustrations of supervening impossibility or the doctrine of frustration that operates to discharge a contract when performance becomes impossible or unlawful after the contract's formation. Vikram's contract to perform as a classical singer clearly required his personal skill, talent, and abilities that could not be delegated to or performed by another person. When he suffered permanent vocal cord damage on December 1, 2024 (after the contract was entered into but before the performance date), making it medically impossible for him to sing professionally ever again, this constitutes personal incapacity in a contract requiring personal skill, which falls squarely within the doctrine of supervening impossibility and discharges the contract without making Vikram liable for breach.

56. Correct Answer: (a) This constitutes remission under Section 63, partially discharging Arun's obligation to pay ₹2 lakhs.

Reference: "Remission under Section 63 allows the promisee to remit performance wholly or in part, extend time, or accept a different mode of performance."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The passage explicitly states that remission under Section 63 allows the promisee to remit performance wholly or in part, extend the time for performance, or accept a different mode of performance, establishing remission as a unilateral right of the promisee. Since Priya is the promisee (the

lender who is entitled to receive repayment), she has the legal authority under Section 63 to voluntarily give up or forgive part of the performance owed to her without requiring Arun's (the promisor's) consent or agreement. By telling Arun that she is giving up her right to receive ₹2 lakhs and will accept only ₹3 lakhs as full settlement, Priya is exercising her right to partially remit Arun's performance obligation, thereby discharging his obligation to pay ₹2 lakhs while the obligation to pay ₹3 lakhs remains. This is a classic case of partial remission where the promisee unilaterally reduces the promisor's obligation.

Option (b) Incorrect: Waiver is described in the passage as the intentional abandonment of a contractual right, which operates to release the other party from the corresponding obligation entirely. While waiver and remission both involve the voluntary relinquishment of rights by one party, waiver typically refers to a complete abandonment of a right or the release of the other party entirely from their obligations under the contract. In this scenario, Priya is not releasing Arun entirely from his debt obligation; rather, she is only forgiving or giving up ₹2 lakhs while still expecting and retaining her right to receive the remaining ₹3 lakhs. This partial forgiveness of the debt makes it a case of partial remission under Section 63 rather than a complete waiver, as Priya continues to maintain her right to the reduced amount and has not abandoned her contractual rights entirely.

Option (c) Incorrect: Alteration, as described in the passage, is a mode of discharge by mutual agreement that requires the mutual consent of both parties to change one or more terms of the original contract, and such alteration forms a new agreement while discharging the old contract. The critical element of alteration is that it requires bilateral action, both parties must agree to the changed terms for alteration to be valid. In contrast, remission is a unilateral act by the promisee that does not require the promisor's consent, acceptance, or agreement to be effective. In this case, Arun remained silent and did not respond to Priya's communication, meaning there was no mutual consent or agreement between the parties to alter the contract terms. Arun's silence cannot be construed as consent for alteration, but Priya's unilateral statement can operate as remission since remission does not depend on the promisor's acceptance.

Option (d) Incorrect: Rescission is a mode of discharge by mutual agreement where the parties mutually agree to dissolve or terminate the entire contract without

creating any new obligations, effectively treating the contract as if it never existed and releasing both parties from all obligations under it. Rescission typically involves the complete termination of the contractual relationship and requires the mutual agreement of both parties to rescind. In this scenario, Priya is not proposing to dissolve or terminate the entire contract; rather, she is only forgiving or giving up part of the debt (₹2 lakhs) while maintaining her entitlement to the remaining amount (₹3 lakhs). This partial forgiveness means the contract continues to exist with respect to the ₹3 lakhs obligation, making this a case of partial remission rather than rescission. Additionally, rescission requires mutual agreement, whereas Priya's action here is unilateral, further distinguishing it from rescission.

57. Correct Answer: (b) The contract is discharged by supervening impossibility due to supervening illegality after formation.

Reference: "Supervening impossibility (doctrine of frustration) discharges a contract that becomes impossible or unlawful after formation,"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Discharge by operation of law, as described in the passage, arises in situations where specific legal provisions prevent performance due to changes in the legal status or capacity of the parties themselves, such as death of a party, insolvency proceedings that legally incapacitate a party from fulfilling contractual obligations, or merger of entities that results in legal incapacity to perform under the original contract structure. These situations involve statutory or legal mechanisms that affect the parties' ability or legal capacity to contract rather than making the subject matter or performance of the contract itself illegal or impossible.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly and specifically lists "supervening illegality" as one of the key examples of supervening impossibility or the doctrine of frustration that operates to discharge a contract when it becomes impossible or unlawful after the contract's formation. Supervening impossibility encompasses situations where events occurring after contract formation make performance objectively impossible or unlawful through no fault of either party. In this scenario, the contract between Sunita and Builder Ltd. was validly formed with the intention to construct a specific type of commercial building, but the enactment of a new law in October 2024 (after the

contract was formed) made that specific type of construction illegal, rendering performance unlawful. Since this illegality supervened after contract formation and makes performance impossible as a matter of law, it falls squarely within the category of supervening illegality under the doctrine of frustration, thereby discharging the contract.

Option (c) Incorrect: Lapse of time as a ground for discharge specifically refers to situations where performance is not completed or rendered within the prescribed time period stipulated in the contract, and such failure to perform within the contractually agreed timeline may potentially constitute a breach of contract by the party failing to perform. This ground is concerned with temporal aspects of performance, whether the parties performed within the time frame agreed upon, rather than with impossibility or illegality of performance arising from changes in circumstances or law after contract formation.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage expressly states that certain events do not discharge a contract, including "mere difficulty in performance, commercial hardship or unprofitability," making it clear that not all obstacles to performance will discharge contractual obligations. However, the passage draws a critical distinction between situations that merely make performance difficult, expensive, or unprofitable (which do not discharge the contract) and situations that make performance genuinely impossible or unlawful (which do discharge the contract through frustration). Supervening illegality, where the performance becomes unlawful due to a change in law after contract formation, is fundamentally different from mere difficulty, hardship, or unprofitability because it makes performance not just difficult but actually illegal and therefore impossible as a matter of law.

58. Correct Answer: (d) Anticipatory breach has occurred under Section 39, and XYZ Ltd. can immediately treat the contract as discharged.

Reference: "An anticipatory breach (Section 39) arises when, before performance is due, a party declares non-performance or disables itself from performing. Discharge by breach frees the non-breaching party and enables remedies."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The passage specifically recognizes anticipatory breach as a valid and actionable ground of breach that occurs precisely when a party declares non-performance before the due date

arrives. The doctrine of anticipatory breach exists to protect the innocent party from having to wait until the performance date when the other party has clearly and unequivocally indicated it will not perform, allowing the innocent party to make alternative arrangements immediately rather than remaining in uncertainty. ABC Corporation's formal written declaration stating they will not supply the wheat and have decided to sell to another buyer constitutes an unequivocal repudiation of the contract that gives rise to immediate rights for XYZ Ltd., and the mere theoretical possibility that ABC might change its mind does not negate the anticipatory breach that has already occurred through the express declaration.

Option (b) Incorrect: Attempted or tendered performance is a mode of discharge by performance that occurs when a promisor makes a genuine, bona fide offer to perform its contractual obligations and the promisee refuses to accept that performance, resulting in the discharge of the promisor from its obligations. The essential characteristic of attempted performance is that the promisor is ready, willing, and able to perform and makes a genuine offer to do so, but the promisee declines or refuses to accept the performance being offered.

Option (c) Incorrect: Actual breach, as described in the passage, occurs at the time of performance or during the course of performance when a party either refuses to perform or fails to perform its obligations, whether such refusal or failure is express (communicated explicitly) or implied (evident from conduct). Actual breach is concerned with non-performance when the performance is actually due or while performance is ongoing. In this scenario, the performance date of September 30, 2024 has not yet arrived when ABC Corporation sent its letter on September 20, 2024, meaning the time for actual performance has not yet come. The breach here arises not from failure to perform on the due date but from the express declaration made before the due date that ABC will not perform, which places this situation in the category of anticipatory breach rather than actual breach, and consequently XYZ Ltd. need not wait until September 30 to claim remedies.

Option (d) Correct: The passage explicitly defines anticipatory breach under Section 39 as arising "when, before performance is due, a party declares non-performance or disables itself from performing," establishing two ways anticipatory breach can occur, by express declaration or by conduct that disables

performance. The passage further states that "discharge by breach frees the non-breaching party and enables remedies," making it clear that breach (including anticipatory breach) allows the innocent party to treat the contract as discharged and seek remedies.

59. Correct Answer: (b) Yes, but only to examine whether the order violates the Constitution, not to assess policy wisdom.

Reference: "Courts ordinarily refrain from interfering with executive policy unless it violates the Constitution, and they do not assess the wisdom of policy choices made within constitutional limits."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While the passage states that courts ordinarily refrain from interfering with executive policy, this is not an absolute prohibition that applies under all circumstances without exception. The passage specifically qualifies this restraint by adding "unless it violates the Constitution," which means that judicial review is available when executive policy exceeds constitutional boundaries or infringes constitutional provisions. The court's deference to executive policy-making is conditional and limited to situations where the policy stays within constitutional parameters, and when constitutional violations are alleged, courts can and must intervene to examine the validity of such executive actions, making blanket non-interference incorrect as a legal proposition.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "courts ordinarily refrain from interfering with executive policy unless it violates the Constitution, and they do not assess the wisdom of policy choices made within constitutional limits," creating a clear distinction between examining constitutional validity (which courts must do) and assessing policy wisdom (which courts must avoid). This means the Supreme Court has the jurisdiction and constitutional duty to examine whether the President's executive order violates the Constitution, including whether it infringes the federal structure or exceeds executive powers, but cannot question whether the policy is wise, desirable, or optimal as long as it remains within constitutional boundaries.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage does mention that constitutional immunities and privileges exist for certain acts of the President, Governors, and superior court judges, but critically qualifies this by stating these

immunities limit inquiry "except in their personal capacity," meaning the protection is not absolute or complete. Moreover, the passage describes judicial review as the power to "test legislative and executive action against the Constitution and invalidate what is unconstitutional," which inherently includes examining executive orders issued by the President when they are challenged as violating constitutional provisions.

Option (d) Incorrect: While the passage establishes that the scope of judicial review is wide and courts examine the validity of executive measures, it simultaneously emphasizes important limitations on this power, stating that courts do not assess the wisdom of policy choices made within constitutional limits and ordinarily refrain from interfering with executive policy unless constitutional violations are involved. The passage makes clear that judicial review is "not unbounded" and operates within defined constitutional parameters. Courts do not have unlimited or unrestricted power to review all aspects of executive actions including policy choices; rather, their review is confined to examining constitutional validity and ensuring adherence to constitutional limitations, while respecting the executive's legitimate domain to make policy decisions within those constitutional boundaries, making the concept of unlimited judicial review fundamentally inconsistent with the passage's framework.

60. Correct Answer: (c) Parliament may amend the Constitution but cannot damage its basic structure as held in Kesavananda Bharati.

Reference: "In Kesavananda Bharati (1973) it settled that while Parliament may amend, it cannot damage the Constitution's basic structure."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While the passage mentions that in Shankari Prasad (1951) the Court initially treated Parliament's amending power broadly, suggesting a more expansive view of constitutional amendment powers in the early post-independence period, the constitutional jurisprudence evolved significantly thereafter through subsequent landmark cases. The passage traces this evolution through Golaknath (1967), which imposed restrictions on amending Fundamental Rights, and culminates in Kesavananda Bharati (1973), which definitively settled that Parliament's amending power, though wide, is not unlimited and cannot be used to damage the Constitution's basic structure.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage does state that in Golaknath (1967) the Supreme Court held that Fundamental Rights could not be amended, which represented a significant restriction on Parliament's amending power at that point in constitutional history. However, the passage also clearly indicates that this position did not remain the final or settled law on the matter, as the subsequent landmark case of Kesavananda Bharati (1973) modified and refined this absolute prohibition. Kesavananda Bharati settled that Parliament may amend the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights, but subject to the crucial limitation that such amendments cannot damage the basic structure of the Constitution.

Option (c) Correct: The passage explicitly states that "in Kesavananda Bharati (1973) it settled that while Parliament may amend, it cannot damage the Constitution's basic structure," representing the definitive and current position of Indian constitutional law on the extent and limits of Parliament's amending power. This doctrine strikes a balance between recognizing Parliament's legitimate constituent power to amend the Constitution to meet changing needs and circumstances, while simultaneously protecting the Constitution's essential features and fundamental framework from destruction or damage.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option suggests that Parliament's amending power is limited only by procedural requirements (such as the special majority and ratification procedures specified in Article 368) and not by any substantive limitations on the content or substance of amendments, which would allow Parliament to amend any provision as long as proper procedure is followed. However, the passage clearly establishes that the Kesavananda Bharati decision imposed substantive limitations on the amending power by introducing the basic structure doctrine, which restricts not just how amendments are made but what can be amended. The basic structure doctrine creates substantive constitutional limitations that prevent Parliament from using the amendment power to damage fundamental features of the Constitution, such as the rule of law, separation of powers, judicial review itself, and fundamental rights, meaning that even if procedural requirements are satisfied, amendments that violate basic structure are unconstitutional, making procedural compliance alone insufficient for valid amendments.

61. Correct Answer: (d) Habeas Corpus, as it secures release of a person from unlawful detention by the state authorities.

Reference: "Courts examine the validity of laws and executive measures and enforce Fundamental Rights through five writs: Habeas Corpus to secure release from unlawful detention, Mandamus to compel performance of a public duty, Prohibition to prevent lower courts or tribunals from exceeding jurisdiction, Certiorari to quash orders of such bodies, and Quo Warranto to test the legal authority to hold a public office."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Certiorari is indeed a constitutional remedy mentioned in the passage, defined as a writ "to quash orders of such bodies" (referring to lower courts or tribunals), and it operates to bring up the record of proceedings before an inferior court or tribunal for examination and potential quashing if jurisdictional errors or violations of natural justice are found. While Certiorari could potentially be used to challenge the legality of a detention order by quashing it, the passage indicates that its primary application is against lower courts or tribunals exceeding their jurisdiction rather than being the first remedy for securing release from detention. Moreover, in detention cases, the immediate and urgent need is to secure the person's physical liberty, which Habeas Corpus directly addresses by requiring production of the detained person and immediate release if detention is unlawful, whereas Certiorari focuses on quashing the order itself without the same direct emphasis on immediate physical liberty, making Habeas Corpus more appropriate for the primary relief sought.

Option (b) Incorrect: Prohibition, as defined in the passage, is a writ "to prevent lower courts or tribunals from exceeding jurisdiction," meaning it operates prospectively to stop an inferior judicial or quasi-judicial body from continuing proceedings or acting beyond its jurisdictional limits. The key characteristic of Prohibition is that it is preventive in nature, issued to stop proceedings before a final order is passed or before an authority acts beyond its jurisdiction. In Rajesh Kumar's case, the detention has already occurred and is continuing, making the situation one requiring remedial action to secure release rather than preventive action to stop future jurisdictional excess. Additionally, the passage indicates Prohibition applies to lower courts or tribunals, whereas the detention

here is by state police under executive authority, making Habeas Corpus (which directly secures release from unlawful detention by any authority) more appropriate than Prohibition (which prevents prospective jurisdictional excess by judicial/quasi-judicial bodies).

Option (c) Incorrect: While Mandamus is indeed a constitutional remedy available under Article 226 and Article 32 to enforce fundamental rights, and the passage defines it as a writ "to compel performance of a public duty," it is not the most direct or appropriate remedy when the primary objective is to secure the immediate release of a person from unlawful detention. Mandamus is typically used to compel public authorities to perform duties they are legally obligated to perform but have failed or refused to do, such as issuing licenses, making appointments, or taking specific administrative actions. In cases of unlawful detention, the immediate need is not merely to compel performance of a duty but to secure the physical liberty of the detained person by examining the legality of the detention itself, which is the specific and primary purpose of Habeas Corpus rather than Mandamus, making Mandamus less appropriate despite being a valid constitutional remedy.

Option (d) Correct: The passage explicitly defines Habeas Corpus as the writ "to secure release from unlawful detention," making it the most direct and appropriate remedy when a person is detained and claims that the detention violates their fundamental right to personal liberty. Habeas Corpus literally means "you may have the body" and requires the detaining authority to produce the detained person before the court and justify the legality of the detention. In Rajesh Kumar's case, where he has been detained without being informed of grounds and without opportunity for representation, allegedly violating Article 21, a writ of Habeas Corpus would require the state police to produce Rajesh before the High Court, explain the legal basis for detention, and if the detention is found unlawful or violative of fundamental rights, secure his immediate release, making it the precisely tailored remedy for securing liberty from unlawful detention.

62. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Landmark applications include Maneka Gandhi (1978), which expanded due process under Article 21, and Vishaka (1997), which recognized workplace sexual harassment as a rights violation and laid down binding guidelines."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The Court is not constrained by legislative silence when constitutional guarantees of equality and dignity are threatened. The judiciary possesses inherent power to enforce rights directly derived from the Constitution. Failure of the legislature to act does not extinguish judicial responsibility. Inaction cannot suspend the protection of fundamental rights, and the Court may step in where governance fails. The separation of powers does not forbid judicial enforcement of core liberties.

Option (b) Correct: Judicial authority extends to interpreting and operationalising constitutional provisions to protect individual liberty and equality. When legislative mechanisms are absent, the Court can evolve binding principles to ensure enforcement of fundamental rights. By issuing directions or guidelines, the Court bridges gaps between constitutional ideals and administrative inaction. Such measures uphold constitutional supremacy while remaining provisional until Parliament legislates. The judiciary thus safeguards dignity and due process through interpretative innovation.

Option (c) Incorrect: The power to secure constitutional rights does not rest solely with Parliament, especially in the face of inaction. The judiciary's mandate includes giving meaningful content to rights under Articles 14, 19, and 21. Restricting judicial intervention would leave citizens remediless against systemic discrimination. Courts act to ensure that constitutional mandates are not rendered illusory. The absence of statute cannot immunize violations of dignity from judicial scrutiny.

Option (d) Incorrect: Every instance of workplace misconduct does not automatically raise a constitutional issue unless it infringes protected rights. Judicial intervention is reserved for matters involving structural or systemic failure of justice. Ordinary service complaints are governed by administrative or disciplinary mechanisms, not constitutional adjudication. Expanding writ jurisdiction to all grievances would trivialize fundamental rights. Courts act selectively where broader rights of equality and dignity are compromised.

63. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because immunities limit inquiry except regarding whether constitutional provisions were properly followed.

Reference: "Constitutional immunities and privileges limit inquiry into certain acts of the President,

Governors, and superior court judges except in their personal capacity."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: Immunities "limit inquiry into certain acts" but includes the important qualifier "except in their personal capacity," suggesting that immunity is not absolute but has boundaries. While the passage does not provide exhaustive detail on all exceptions to immunity, the fundamental principle of judicial review, to test executive action against the Constitution and ensure adherence to constitutional provisions, necessarily implies that courts can examine whether constitutional functionaries have acted within constitutional bounds and followed constitutional provisions, even if they enjoy immunity from inquiry into the merits, wisdom, or motives behind decisions made within constitutional authority. In this case, the court can examine whether the Governor properly followed constitutional provisions and procedures for assembly dissolution, whether constitutional requirements were satisfied, and whether the power was exercised within constitutional limits, without necessarily inquiring into the subjective reasons or political considerations behind the decision.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage explicitly establishes that judicial review exists to "test legislative and executive action against the Constitution," that "courts examine the validity of laws and executive measures," and that the "scope of judicial review is wide," all of which contradict the notion that courts cannot review any executive action by constitutional authorities. While the passage does recognize that constitutional immunities limit inquiry into certain acts of specific high constitutional functionaries (President, Governors, superior court judges), this limited immunity for certain acts by certain authorities is very different from a blanket prohibition on reviewing any executive action by any constitutional authority. The passage's emphasis on judicial review as essential to constitutional supremacy, protection of rights, and ensuring all state power remains subject to the Constitution necessarily means courts can review executive actions to ensure constitutional compliance, making a complete bar on reviewing any executive action by constitutional authorities inconsistent with the fundamental framework described.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage explicitly acknowledges that "constitutional immunities and privileges limit inquiry into certain acts of the President, Governors, and superior court judges,"

clearly establishing that some degree of constitutional immunity does exist for these high constitutional functionaries when they perform their official duties. This immunity is not completely absent but exists as a qualified protection for acts performed in official capacity to ensure that these constitutional authorities can discharge their functions without constant threat of litigation for every official decision. However, the passage also qualifies this immunity by adding "except in their personal capacity," suggesting the immunity has boundaries and is not unlimited. The complete absence of immunity suggested in this option contradicts the passage's express recognition that constitutional immunities and privileges do exist and do limit judicial inquiry to some extent, though these immunities are not absolute and do not cover all circumstances or all aspects of official conduct.

Option (d) Incorrect: While the passage does recognize that constitutional immunities and privileges exist for Governors (along with the President and superior court judges), it critically qualifies this immunity by stating these immunities limit inquiry "except in their personal capacity," indicating that the immunity is not absolute or unlimited but has defined boundaries and exceptions. Moreover, the broader context of the passage emphasizes that judicial review exists to test executive action against the Constitution, that courts examine the validity of executive measures, and that the scope of judicial review is wide, all of which would be contradicted by absolute immunity for all acts of Governors under all circumstances. The concept of absolute and unqualified immunity would undermine constitutional supremacy and the fundamental principle that all state power, including that exercised by Governors, remains subject to the Constitution, making absolute immunity inconsistent with the framework of judicial review and constitutional governance described in the passage.

64. Correct Answer: (d) No, because the prescriptive period begins only when the act becomes a nuisance, not from initial operations.

Reference: "If a person has continued an activity on the land of another for 20 years or more, the prescriptive right to continue it can be acquired, but the period cannot commence to run until the act complained of begins to be a nuisance."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option makes the same fundamental error by suggesting that the 20-year prescriptive period commenced in 1995 when Mr. Sharma first started the brick kiln operations, which would indeed give him over 20 years by 2024. However, this interpretation directly contradicts the explicit rule stated in the passage that "the period cannot commence to run until the act complained of begins to be a nuisance," meaning the start date for calculating the prescriptive period is not when the activity begins but when it becomes an actionable nuisance. The distinction is critical because an activity may exist for many years without constituting a nuisance, and only when it crosses the threshold into becoming a nuisance does the clock start ticking for prescriptive rights purposes.

Option (b) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes that Mr. Sharma cannot successfully claim a prescriptive right, it provides an incorrect legal rationale that is not supported by the passage. The passage does not establish any categorical exclusion or prohibition against claiming prescriptive rights for activities that cause environmental pollution or health hazards; rather, it provides a general framework that prescriptive rights can be acquired for any activity that constitutes a nuisance, provided the 20-year requirement is satisfied with the period calculated from when the act becomes a nuisance. The law of prescriptive rights in nuisance does not distinguish between different types of nuisances based on their environmental or health impacts but applies uniformly across all nuisances.

Option (c) Incorrect: While Mr. Sharma has indeed operated the brick kiln continuously for approximately 30 years from 1995 to 2024, which exceeds the 20-year requirement for acquiring prescriptive rights, the mere passage of time from the commencement of operations is insufficient to establish a prescriptive right to commit nuisance. The passage explicitly states that "the period cannot commence to run until the act complained of begins to be a nuisance," establishing a critical temporal requirement that the 20-year prescriptive period begins not from when the activity started, but from when it actually became a nuisance to the neighboring property. In this scenario, the brick kiln operations significantly expanded in 2018, causing the smoke to become much denser and more frequent, which suggests that the activity became an actionable nuisance only from 2018 onwards when the intensified operations began causing considerable discomfort.

Option (d) Correct: The passage establishes a fundamental principle regarding prescriptive rights in nuisance by stating that "if a person has continued an activity on the land of another for 20 years or more, the prescriptive right to continue it can be acquired, but the period cannot commence to run until the act complained of begins to be a nuisance," and this principle is reinforced by the case of *Sturges v. Birdman* (1879) where an injunction was granted against a confectioner whose prescriptive right claim failed because "the interference had not been an actionable nuisance for the preceding 20 years."

65. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because statutory authority provides complete defence where nuisance is necessarily incidental to authorized activity.

Reference: "Statutory authority, under which an authority of statute is a complete defence for acts done by it; where nuisance is necessarily incidental to what the statute authorizes, there is no liability, as illustrated by a railway company authorized to run trains not being liable if, in spite of due care, sparks from an engine set fire to adjoining property (*Vaughan v. Taff Vail Rail Co.* (1860))."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The passage establishes that "statutory authority, under which an authority of statute is a complete defence for acts done by it; where nuisance is necessarily incidental to what the statute authorizes, there is no liability," and provides the specific illustration from *Vaughan v. Taff Vail Rail Co.* (1860) where "a railway company authorized to run trains not being liable if, in spite of due care, sparks from an engine set fire to adjoining property." This creates a clear legal framework where statutory authorization provides a complete defence when two conditions are satisfied: first, the statute authorizes the activity (here, constructing and operating railway lines), and second, the nuisance is necessarily incidental to the authorized activity (sparks from trains are an inevitable consequence of railway operations even with advanced technology).

Option (b) Incorrect: This option suggests an absolute rule that causing damage to adjoining properties cannot be justified by statutory authorization alone, which directly contradicts the explicit principle established in the passage regarding statutory authority as an effectual defence in nuisance actions. The passage clearly states that statutory authority provides "a complete defence" where the nuisance is

necessarily incidental to what the statute authorizes, and the illustrative case of *Vaughan v. Taff Vail Rail Co.* (1860) specifically involved a situation where sparks from trains set fire to adjoining property, causing actual damage, yet the railway company was held not liable because it had statutory authorization and had exercised due care.

Option (c) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes that the railway company can successfully invoke statutory authority, it incorrectly adds a condition that the company must prove it exercised reasonable care, suggesting that reasonable care is a necessary element for the statutory authority defence to succeed. However, the passage indicates that reasonable care is actually an ineffectual defence in nuisance actions, stating that "the use of reasonable care to prevent nuisance is generally no defense" and illustrating this with *Rapier v. London Tramways Co.* where maximum care was insufficient to prevent liability. The statutory authority defence operates differently from the reasonable care concept, it provides complete protection based on the statutory authorization itself when the nuisance is necessarily incidental, regardless of whether care was exercised. The illustration from *Vaughan v. Taff Vail Rail Co.* does mention "in spite of due care," but this phrase describes the factual circumstances rather than establishing reasonable care as a legal prerequisite for the defence. The defence succeeds because of statutory authority and necessary incidentality, not because of reasonable care, making the conditioning of the defence on proof of reasonable care legally incorrect.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage explicitly uses the example of *Vaughan v. Taff Vail Rail Co.* (1860), which involved precisely a fire hazard situation where "sparks from an engine set fire to adjoining property," to demonstrate when and how the statutory authority defence operates successfully. If the doctrine did not apply to activities causing fire hazards, this case would not have been decided in favor of the railway company, and the passage would not have used it as the paradigmatic illustration of statutory authority as an effectual defence. The law does not create special exclusions based on the type of harm or hazard involved; rather, it applies the statutory authority defence uniformly to all situations where the statutory authorization exists and the nuisance is necessarily incidental to the authorized activity. Fire hazards, environmental pollution, noise, or any other form of nuisance can all potentially fall within the statutory authority defence if the legal requirements are

satisfied, making this categorical exclusion legally unfounded.

66. Correct Answer: (b) No, because the defence that an individual act was insufficient fails when cumulative acts create nuisance.

Reference: "The doctrine concerning nuisance due to the act of others rejects the plea that one defendant's act alone could not cause damage when several independent acts cumulatively create the nuisance; liability may be pursued against those actors, and the defence that an individual act was insufficient in itself fails (Thorpe v. Burmfit, 1873)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: While it is factually accurate that each factory's individual emissions remain within permissible limits and would not constitute a nuisance if considered in isolation, the passage explicitly addresses and rejects this very argument as a valid defence in nuisance actions. The doctrine concerning nuisance due to the act of others specifically "rejects the plea that one defendant's act alone could not cause damage when several independent acts cumulatively create the nuisance," making it clear that the law does not permit a defendant to escape liability simply because their individual contribution, standing alone, would be insufficient to create an actionable nuisance. The legal focus is on whether the cumulative effect of multiple independent acts creates a nuisance, and when such cumulative nuisance exists, liability can be pursued against each of the contributing actors regardless of whether any single actor's contribution would have been sufficient by itself.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "the doctrine concerning nuisance due to the act of others rejects the plea that one defendant's act alone could not cause damage when several independent acts cumulatively create the nuisance; liability may be pursued against those actors, and the defence that an individual act was insufficient in itself fails," and this principle is supported by the case of Thorpe v. Burmfit (1873). This doctrine directly addresses the exact situation presented in this scenario, where multiple independent actors (the five factories) each contribute to a cumulative problem that creates an actionable nuisance (significant air pollution causing health and property damage) even though no single actor's contribution would be sufficient to create a nuisance if acting alone. The law recognizes that allowing each

defendant to escape liability by pointing to the insufficiency of their individual act would effectively leave plaintiffs without remedy in situations where multiple independent sources combine to create harm, which would be unjust and contrary to the protective purpose of nuisance law.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option attempts to distinguish Factory A's liability based on the independence and lack of relationship between the five factories, suggesting that one factory cannot be held responsible for the acts of other unrelated entities. While it is true that the five factories are independent actors with no coordination or common purpose, the passage makes clear that this independence does not prevent liability when their separate acts cumulatively create a nuisance. The doctrine explicitly addresses situations involving "several independent acts" that "cumulatively create the nuisance," and states that "liability may be pursued against those actors" even though they are acting independently without concert or agreement. The law does not require joint action, conspiracy, or any relationship between the defendants for cumulative nuisance liability to attach; it suffices that multiple independent sources contribute to a combined effect that constitutes a nuisance.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests that Factory A's liability depends on a comparative assessment of emission levels among the five factories, with liability potentially attaching only if Factory A has the highest emissions. However, the passage's discussion of the "act of others" doctrine makes no reference to any requirement of comparative contribution levels, proportionality, or ranking among multiple defendants for liability to attach. The doctrine states that when several independent acts cumulatively create nuisance, "liability may be pursued against those actors," without distinguishing between major and minor contributors or requiring that a defendant be the primary or largest contributor. The principle operates to prevent any contributing actor from escaping liability by arguing insufficiency of individual contribution, regardless of whether that contribution is large or small relative to other contributors. As long as a defendant's acts contribute to the cumulative nuisance, liability can be imposed without needing to prove that the defendant contributed more than others or had the highest level of emissions, making this conditional defence based on comparative emission levels legally unsupported and inconsistent with the

doctrine's purpose of ensuring all contributors to cumulative nuisance can be held accountable.

67. Correct Answer: (c) No, because the use of reasonable care to prevent nuisance is generally no defence in nuisance actions.

Reference: "The reasonable care doctrine is also ineffectual, since the use of reasonable care to prevent nuisance is generally no defense; in *Rapier v. London Tramways Co.*, a stench from stables built to accommodate 200 horses amounted to nuisance despite claims of maximum possible care."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option suggests that exercising reasonable care, particularly when exceeding regulatory requirements, provides a complete defence to nuisance actions, which directly contradicts the passage's explicit classification of the reasonable care doctrine as an ineffectual defence. The passage clearly states that "the reasonable care doctrine is also ineffectual, since the use of reasonable care to prevent nuisance is generally no defense," establishing that the exercise of care, regardless of its extent or quality, does not operate as a valid defence in nuisance law. The case of *Rapier v. London Tramways Co.* illustrates this principle where "a stench from stables built to accommodate 200 horses amounted to nuisance despite claims of maximum possible care," demonstrating that even maximum or extraordinary care does not prevent liability when a nuisance exists. The rationale is that nuisance law focuses on the interference with rights and the unreasonable use of property rather than on the defendant's conduct or fault, making it distinguishable from negligence where reasonable care can be a complete defence.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option attempts to combine two separate concepts, reasonable care and public good, as if they could work together to create a valid defence when neither is effective on its own. The passage explicitly identifies both reasonable care and public good as ineffectual defences in separate doctrines, with reasonable care being ineffectual because "the use of reasonable care to prevent nuisance is generally no defense" and public good being ineffectual because "asserting that what is a nuisance to a particular plaintiff benefits the public is no defence." Attempting to condition the reasonable care defence on proving public or economic purpose does not transform an ineffectual defence into an effectual one, as both elements are independently rejected by

nuisance law. The law does not create any exception or special rule that allows reasonable care to become a valid defence when combined with public benefit arguments.

Option (c) Correct: The passage explicitly states that "the reasonable care doctrine is also ineffectual, since the use of reasonable care to prevent nuisance is generally no defense," classifying reasonable care as one of the ineffectual defences that cannot successfully defeat a nuisance action. This principle is illustrated through the case of *Rapier v. London Tramways Co.*, where despite "claims of maximum possible care" in building and maintaining stables that housed 200 horses, "a stench from stables built to accommodate 200 horses amounted to nuisance," demonstrating that even the highest degree of care cannot prevent liability when an actionable nuisance exists. The underlying legal philosophy is that nuisance law is concerned with protecting property rights and preventing unreasonable interferences with the use and enjoyment of land, not with evaluating the defendant's conduct or fault level, which distinguishes it from tort actions based on negligence where reasonable care is central.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option suggests a middle-ground position where reasonable care, while not providing a complete defence, might reduce or mitigate liability when care exceeds industry standards, implying some form of partial defence or liability reduction based on the degree of care exercised. However, the passage provides no support for any such partial or mitigating effect of reasonable care in nuisance actions, instead categorically classifying the reasonable care doctrine as "ineffectual" without any qualification or suggestion of partial effectiveness. The term "ineffectual" means the defence has no legal effect whatsoever, not that it has some reduced or partial effect. The passage contrasts ineffectual defences (which fail completely) with effectual defences (which succeed completely), without suggesting any intermediate category of defences that might partially reduce liability.

68. Correct Answer: (b) No, because it is no defence that the plaintiff moved to or remained at the place where nuisance existed.

Reference: "The plaintiff coming to nuisance doctrine is ineffectual as well, because it is no defense that the plaintiff moved to the place where the nuisance existed; in *Bills v. Hall*, liability followed for 'Diverse noisome,

noxious, and offensive vapour, fumes, smell, and stretches' from the defendant's tallow-chandlery."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option suggests that Mr. Patel's decision to remain living in the area after the tannery began operations in 2015, rather than relocating, provides a valid defence for Mr. Shah based on the theory that Mr. Patel voluntarily exposed himself to the nuisance and therefore should not be entitled to relief. However, the passage explicitly classifies "the plaintiff coming to nuisance doctrine" as "ineffectual," stating that "it is no defense that the plaintiff moved to the place where the nuisance existed," which encompasses both situations where a plaintiff moves to an area where a nuisance already exists and situations where a plaintiff remains in an area after a nuisance begins. The underlying principle is that property rights to use and enjoy land should not be diminished simply because the property owner chooses to stay in the location rather than being forced to relocate due to another's wrongful interference. Allowing this defence would effectively permit defendants to acquire a license to commit nuisance simply because plaintiffs do not immediately abandon their properties, which would undermine property rights and be fundamentally unjust, making Mr. Patel's decision to continue living in his established residence irrelevant to Mr. Shah's liability.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly identifies "the plaintiff coming to nuisance doctrine" as an ineffectual defence, stating that "it is no defense that the plaintiff moved to the place where the nuisance existed," and provides the case of *Bills v. Hall* as illustration, where "liability followed for 'Diverse noisome, noxious, and offensive vapour, fumes, smell, and stretches' from the defendant's tallow-chandlery" despite any argument that the plaintiff came to the nuisance. This principle applies equally whether the plaintiff moved to the location after the nuisance began or, as in this case, remained at the location after the nuisance was created, since the core concept is that a plaintiff's presence at or proximity to the nuisance does not excuse the defendant's wrongful interference with property rights.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option attempts to frame the "coming to nuisance" defence in terms of assumption of risk, a concept borrowed from tort law that suggests a plaintiff who voluntarily encounters a known danger cannot later complain about resulting harm. However,

the passage makes no reference to assumption of risk as a relevant principle in nuisance law, and explicitly classifies the "plaintiff coming to nuisance doctrine" as ineffectual without any exception or qualification based on time periods or theories of voluntary risk assumption. The fact that Mr. Patel continued living near the tannery for nine years (from 2015 to 2024) does not transform an ineffectual defence into an effectual one or create an implied assumption of risk that bars his claim. Nuisance law protects the right to use and enjoy property, and this right does not expire or become waived simply because a plaintiff tolerates an interference for an extended period rather than immediately filing suit or relocating. The passage's categorical rejection of the "plaintiff coming to nuisance" doctrine means that duration of exposure or continued presence is irrelevant, making any assumption of risk argument based on Mr. Patel's nine-year continued residence legally ineffective.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes that Mr. Shah cannot successfully invoke the "coming to nuisance" defence, it provides an incorrect and overly narrow legal rationale by suggesting the defence fails "only because" Mr. Patel's residence was established before the tannery operations began. This reasoning implies that temporal priority (who was there first) is the decisive factor, and that if Mr. Patel had arrived after the tannery was established, the defence might have succeeded. However, the passage's classification of "the plaintiff coming to nuisance doctrine" as ineffectual is categorical and unqualified, stating broadly that "it is no defense that the plaintiff moved to the place where the nuisance existed" without creating any distinction based on temporal sequence or suggesting that the defence might be effectual in some circumstances but not others. The ineffectual nature of this defence means it fails regardless of whether the plaintiff arrived before or after the nuisance began, making temporal priority irrelevant to the legal analysis.

69. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because law permits entry into premises where an accused is believed to be hiding even without warrant.

Reference: "Law also permits entry into premises where an accused is believed to be hiding."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "law also permits entry into premises where an

accused is believed to be hiding," creating a clear legal authorization for police officers to enter premises without prior judicial warrant when they have reasonable grounds to believe that an accused person is hiding there. This provision recognizes the operational necessity of immediate action in situations involving apprehension of suspects, as distinguished from searches for evidence where greater procedural safeguards may be required. In Officer Ramesh's case, he had credible information that a suspect wanted for a dacoity case (which is a serious offence) was hiding in the residential house, and his belief was subsequently vindicated when the suspect was actually found hiding in an upstairs room. The passage's framework balances "judicial oversight and urgency" by permitting warrantless entry specifically for the purpose of apprehending persons believed to be hiding, while maintaining other procedural safeguards. The forcible entry was therefore legally justified under this specific provision, even though the family refused to open the door and no prior judicial authorization was obtained, because the law recognizes that in such situations requiring prior approval would likely result in the suspect escaping.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage explicitly states that "judicial oversight and urgency are balanced through the framework governing searches with or without prior approval," indicating that the law recognizes situations where prior judicial approval is not mandatory. Furthermore, the passage specifically provides that "law also permits entry into premises where an accused is believed to be hiding," which creates a specific exception to any general requirement of prior authorization when the purpose is to apprehend a person believed to be hiding in the premises rather than conducting a general search for evidence. This exception recognizes the practical reality that requiring judicial authorization in situations where a suspect is hiding would often result in the suspect escaping before approval could be obtained, thus frustrating the legitimate purpose of apprehension.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option suggests that the family's refusal to open the door operates as a legal barrier that negates or overrides the officer's statutory authority to enter premises where an accused is believed to be hiding, essentially allowing private parties to veto lawful police action through simple refusal. However, such an interpretation would render the legal provision permitting entry to apprehend hiding suspects practically meaningless, as suspects

and their protectors could always prevent apprehension simply by refusing entry, thereby frustrating the legitimate purposes of law enforcement. The passage states that "law also permits entry into premises where an accused is believed to be hiding" without qualifying this permission with any requirement of consent from the occupants or suggesting that refusal by occupants defeats the authority. The legal authorization to enter is based on the officer's reasonable belief that an accused is hiding, not on the cooperation or consent of the occupants. While procedural safeguards must be followed during searches and arrests, the passage does not indicate that occupant consent is a prerequisite for lawful entry when apprehending hiding suspects, making the family's refusal legally irrelevant to Officer Ramesh's authority to enter.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes that Officer Ramesh's entry was legally justified and accurately notes that dacoity is classified as a serious offence, it provides an overly broad and incorrect legal rationale by suggesting that classification as a serious offence automatically allows "warrantless action in all situations." The passage distinguishes between different types of police powers and different contexts in which they are exercised. The classification of offences as serious or minor is described as defining "the extent of police initiative" with respect to arrest procedures, where "serious offences allow arrest without prior judicial authorization," but this relates specifically to the power to arrest, not to all warrantless actions generally. The specific authority for warrantless entry into premises is provided by the distinct principle that "law also permits entry into premises where an accused is believed to be hiding," which is not dependent solely on whether the offence is serious or minor, but rather on the specific circumstance of a person hiding in premises.

70. Correct Answer: (d) No, because any person may report a serious offence and complaint must be registered even if act occurred outside local jurisdiction.

Reference: "Any person may report a serious offence, and a complaint must be registered even if the act occurred outside the local jurisdiction."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The passage explicitly states that "any person may report a serious offence," using the

expansive term "any person" without any limitation or qualification based on the relationship of the reporter to the crime or the victim. This broad language is deliberately chosen to ensure that serious offences come to police attention regardless of whether the direct victim is able or willing to report, recognizing that victims may sometimes be incapacitated, intimidated, deceased, or otherwise unable to file complaints themselves. In Mohan's case, he is an eyewitness who directly observed a violent crime causing serious injury, and his report serves an important public interest in bringing serious criminal activity to law enforcement's attention.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage does not create any such special category or heightened obligation based specifically on weapon involvement or any other particular characteristic of the crime. Rather, the passage establishes the broad principle that "any person may report a serious offence, and a complaint must be registered even if the act occurred outside the local jurisdiction," without distinguishing between different types or categories of serious offences or creating special rules for weapon-related crimes. The obligation to register applies uniformly to all serious offences regardless of whether weapons were involved, whether injuries were caused, or what specific means were employed in committing the crime.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage explicitly states that "any person may report a serious offence, and a complaint must be registered even if the act occurred outside the local jurisdiction," which creates a clear exception to normal territorial jurisdiction rules for the purpose of ensuring that serious offences are promptly brought to police attention regardless of which police station the complainant approaches. This provision recognizes the practical reality that witnesses or informants may not always know or be able to easily reach the jurisdictionally correct police station, and requiring strict jurisdictional compliance would create unnecessary delays in reporting and investigating serious crimes. While the police station receiving the complaint may subsequently transfer the investigation to the jurisdictionally appropriate station, the initial registration cannot be refused on jurisdictional grounds, making the duty officer's refusal legally unjustified and the absolute territorial requirement suggested in this option inconsistent with the law.

Option (d) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes two critical principles that directly apply to Mohan's situation: "any person may report a serious offence,

and a complaint must be registered even if the act occurred outside the local jurisdiction." The violent street brawl involving weapons causing severe injury clearly constitutes a serious offence, and Mohan, as a witness to the incident, falls within the category of "any person" who may report such an offence. The passage's framework deliberately removes both standing requirements (by allowing "any person" rather than only victims to report) and jurisdictional barriers (by mandating registration "even if the act occurred outside the local jurisdiction") to ensure that serious offences are promptly reported and investigated without procedural obstacles.

71. Correct Answer: (b) Yes, because warrantless searches are permitted in urgent situations where evidence might be lost or destroyed despite timing.

Reference: "Authorized searches ensure judicial supervision, while warrantless searches are permitted in urgent situations where evidence might be lost or destroyed."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option conflates two distinct procedural requirements, the timing of searches (daylight preference) and the requirement of prior judicial authorization (warrant requirement), treating them as if they are both absolute mandatory requirements without exceptions. However, the passage distinguishes between these requirements and provides different frameworks for each. While the passage does state that "searches should, as far as possible, occur in daylight" as a procedural safeguard, the qualifying phrase "as far as possible" indicates this is a preference or guideline rather than an absolute mandate, suggesting exceptions exist when circumstances make daylight searches impractical or counterproductive. More importantly, regarding judicial authorization, the passage explicitly recognizes that "warrantless searches are permitted in urgent situations where evidence might be lost or destroyed," creating a clear exception to any general warrant requirement when urgency justifies immediate action.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "judicial oversight and urgency are balanced through the framework governing searches with or without prior approval" and specifically provides that "warrantless searches are permitted in urgent situations where evidence might be lost or destroyed," creating a clear legal justification for conducting

searches without prior judicial authorization when circumstances present genuine urgency and risk to evidence preservation. In Inspector Verma's case, he had credible intelligence about smuggled goods stored in the warehouse and reasonable belief based on past patterns that waiting until morning to obtain a warrant would result in Rajiv removing or destroying the evidence overnight. This constitutes precisely the type of urgent situation contemplated by the passage where evidence might be lost or destroyed if immediate action is not taken.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage provides no textual support for such a distinction or limitation based on the object or location of the search. The passage states broadly that "warrantless searches are permitted in urgent situations where evidence might be lost or destroyed" without qualifying this permission to apply only to personal searches or excluding searches of premises or property. The passage's discussion of search procedures encompasses searches of premises, as evidenced by references to "entry into premises," "access to the premises," and "the occupant," all of which contemplate searches of property and locations rather than only personal searches. The urgency rationale, that evidence might be lost or destroyed if immediate action is not taken, applies with equal force to evidence stored in premises as to evidence on a person's body, and there is no logical or legal reason to restrict the urgency exception only to one category of searches while excluding others.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage does not establish any such categorical exemptions for specific types of offences from warrant requirements or suggest that certain crimes like smuggling automatically justify warrantless searches in all circumstances. The passage mentions that "certain special laws confer additional or modified powers that work alongside or substitute ordinary procedures," which might include special provisions in smuggling-related legislation, but it does not state that smuggling always exempts searches from warrant requirements completely and unconditionally. The legal justification for the warrantless search in this case derives from the specific circumstance of urgency, the reasonable belief that evidence would be lost or destroyed if immediate action was not taken, rather than from any blanket exemption for smuggling cases. If there had been no urgency and no risk of evidence loss, a warrant would likely have been required even for a smuggling investigation, making the categorical exemption suggested in this option legally incorrect.

72. Correct Answer: (c) No, because two respectable local witnesses should be present during search as a mandatory procedural safeguard always.

Reference: "Procedural safeguards are essential during any search: the officer must allow free access to the premises and provide reasonable facilities; two respectable local witnesses should be present."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option suggests that preparing a written search memo on the spot with signatures constitutes substantial compliance with search requirements and cures or compensates for the absence of the second required witness. However, the passage treats the requirement of two witnesses and the requirement of a written record as separate and independent procedural safeguards, each serving distinct purposes in ensuring the integrity and reliability of search proceedings. The passage states that "two respectable local witnesses should be present" and separately requires that "a written record listing articles and locations of recovery must be prepared on the spot," indicating these are cumulative rather than alternative requirements. The presence of two independent witnesses serves the critical function of providing corroboration and preventing fabrication or manipulation of evidence, which cannot be substituted by more elaborate documentation.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage specifically and unambiguously states that "two respectable local witnesses should be present," using the precise number "two" rather than general language like "witnesses" or "adequate witnesses," which indicates a specific numerical requirement that is not subject to reduction or flexible interpretation. The requirement of two witnesses rather than one is deliberate and significant, as two independent witnesses provide greater corroboration, make collusion between the police and witness more difficult, and ensure more reliable testimony about the search and recovery. If the law permitted flexibility to reduce the number to one or allowed "at least one" to suffice, the passage would not have specified "two" as the requirement. The specific numerical requirement indicates that having only one witness, regardless of how respectable or reliable that single witness might be, fails to satisfy the mandatory procedural safeguard, making this option's suggestion of a minimum one-witness requirement legally incorrect and inconsistent with the passage's clear specification of two witnesses.

Option (c) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "procedural safeguards are essential during any search" and specifically requires that "two respectable local witnesses should be present," setting forth a clear mandatory requirement of two witnesses as one of the essential procedural safeguards that must be followed during any search operation. The use of the word "should" in the context of describing "essential" procedural safeguards, combined with the passage's emphasis that these safeguards "confine" investigative powers through "procedural checks," indicates this is a mandatory requirement rather than a mere suggestion or preference. The requirement of two independent witnesses serves crucial purposes: providing corroboration of what was found and where, preventing police fabrication or planting of evidence, ensuring transparency in the search process, and creating reliable testimony for subsequent court proceedings.

Option (d) Incorrect: While this option correctly concludes that the search is not legally valid due to procedural violations, it misidentifies the specific violation by suggesting the problem is that "the suspect Deepak himself was not made a witness to the search proceedings and recoveries," implying that the accused person must serve as a witness to the search. However, the passage does not require or suggest that the suspect or accused person should be made a witness to the search; rather, it requires "two respectable local witnesses," which refers to independent third parties from the locality who can provide impartial testimony about the search and recovery. Making the suspect himself a witness would undermine the very purpose of having independent witnesses, as the suspect has a direct interest in the outcome and cannot provide the independent corroboration that the witness requirement is designed to ensure. The passage does require that the occupant (which could be the suspect) be present and that a copy of the search memo be provided to the occupant, but this is different from making the occupant a witness to the proceedings. The actual violation in this case is the presence of only one independent local witness instead of the required two, not the failure to make Deepak a witness, making the specific ground stated in this option incorrect even though the conclusion about invalidity is correct.

73. Correct Answer: (a) Electronic records retrieved during searches become admissible only when properly certified as required by law.

Reference: "Electronic records retrieved during searches are treated as documents and become admissible only when properly certified."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes the legal framework for admissibility of electronic records by stating that "electronic records retrieved during searches are treated as documents and become admissible only when properly certified," creating two important principles: first, electronic records are indeed treated as documents (contrary to the defense's argument), and second, they become admissible only upon satisfaction of the certification requirement. This provision recognizes that while electronic records should not be categorically excluded from evidence, they present unique challenges regarding authenticity, integrity, and reliability that require additional procedural safeguards beyond those applicable to traditional physical documents. The certification requirement typically involves establishing through proper procedures that the electronic record is authentic, has not been altered or tampered with, was properly extracted from the device, and accurately represents the data as it existed at the relevant time.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage distinguishes between the seizure of electronic devices (which requires proper documentation like any other seized article) and the subsequent admissibility of electronic records contained in those devices (which has additional specific requirements). The passage states that "electronic records retrieved during searches are treated as documents and become admissible only when properly certified," indicating that proper certification is a necessary additional step beyond mere seizure and documentation of the physical devices. This additional requirement recognizes the unique nature of electronic records, which can be easily altered, manipulated, or fabricated, and therefore require authentication and certification to ensure their integrity and reliability before they can be admitted as evidence. Simply seizing a device with proper documentation establishes custody of the physical device but does not automatically authenticate the electronic data contained within it or satisfy the legal requirements for admitting such data as evidence, making automatic admissibility upon seizure legally incorrect.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage explicitly contradicts this position by stating that "electronic records

retrieved during searches are treated as documents," clearly establishing that the law does recognize electronic records as a form of documentary evidence rather than excluding them from the category of documents. The passage does not support any categorical bar on the admissibility of electronic records; rather, it establishes that such records "become admissible only when properly certified," indicating they can and should be admitted when proper procedural requirements are satisfied. A blanket exclusion of electronic records would be impractical and contrary to the interests of justice in an era where much criminal activity involves digital communications and electronic records often constitute the most probative evidence available. The legal framework accommodates electronic evidence while requiring additional safeguards through certification to ensure reliability and authenticity, making categorical inadmissibility incorrect and inconsistent with the passage's treatment of electronic records.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage distinguishes between seizure documentation requirements (which apply to the physical articles seized, including electronic devices) and admissibility requirements for electronic records (which require certification). The passage requires that "a written record listing articles and locations of recovery must be prepared on the spot," which applies to the physical devices seized, but does not suggest or require that the seizure memo must detail the content of electronic files within those devices. Such a requirement would be impractical, as electronic devices may contain thousands or millions of files, and the full content cannot be examined and documented on the spot during the search. The passage specifically addresses electronic records separately by stating they "become admissible only when properly certified," indicating that certification (not enhanced seizure documentation) is the mechanism for ensuring admissibility of electronic data.

74. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Line: "Arrest memoranda must record the grounds and timing of arrest, notification to a nominated person, and safeguards for medical safety."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Urgency or gravity of the crime cannot excuse failure to comply with mandatory arrest procedures that protect constitutional liberty. The recording of reasons and timing is not a mere

technicality but a substantive safeguard that establishes transparency and prevents arbitrary detention. It provides documentary evidence to test the legality of arrest later in court. Police discretion is always confined by procedural law, and non-compliance here undermines both the fairness of process and evidentiary integrity. Allowing such omission on grounds of expediency would legitimize arbitrary power.

Option (b) Incorrect: Although the omission of grounds and timing is grave, it must be understood in conjunction with the additional failure to inform a nominated person and ensure medical safety. These duties form an interlocking framework of protection under criminal procedure. Violation of any one duty weakens legality, but violation of all three extinguishes it entirely. The purpose is to ensure humane treatment, accountability, and transparency at the point of arrest. Considering only partial omission underestimates the scope of procedural safeguards that together sustain constitutional legitimacy of custody.

Option (c) Incorrect: Public order or administrative urgency cannot override procedural rights guaranteed to every person, including the accused. The constitutional framework treats these safeguards as non-derogable minimum standards of fairness in deprivation of liberty. The insistence on documentation, family notification, and health protection prevents misuse of coercive powers by the state. Allowing omission under the pretext of public safety would subvert the very principles of rule of law and transform emergency discretion into routine abuse. Judicial supervision exists precisely to restrain such arbitrary practice.

Option (d) Correct: The legal framework obliges the arresting officer to document the grounds and time of arrest, immediately inform a nominated person, and ensure medical safety of the detainee. These cumulative duties represent the procedural embodiment of constitutional liberty and human dignity. Non-compliance nullifies the arrest, as it deprives the individual of essential rights to information, communication, and bodily protection. Courts have consistently treated such violations as fundamental procedural illegality warranting judicial censure. Upholding this arrest would erode the entire structure of accountability in criminal justice, making detention arbitrary and constitutionally void.

75. Correct Answer: (b) No, because non-cognizable offenses do not permit police to arrest without warrant even when directly witnessed by officer.

Reference: "The non-cognizable-offense principle pertains to less serious crimes in which the police lack authority to arrest without a warrant and cannot investigate without a magistrate's approval."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The passage establishes that the cognizable-non-cognizable distinction is "foundational" and "determines investigation, arrest, and trial forum," indicating that this classification creates categorical differences in police powers that apply regardless of how the officer becomes aware of the offense. The passage specifically states that for non-cognizable offenses, "the police lack authority to arrest without a warrant," using unqualified language that does not create exceptions based on whether the officer directly witnessed the offense, received a complaint, or learned of it through other means. The arrest power flows from the nature and classification of the offense itself rather than from the circumstances of the officer's knowledge about it. While direct witnessing might provide stronger grounds for belief that an offense occurred, it does not transform a non-cognizable offense into a cognizable one or grant arrest powers that the law withholds for that category of offense, making this suggested principle legally incorrect.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "the non-cognizable-offense principle pertains to less serious crimes in which the police lack authority to arrest without a warrant and cannot investigate without a magistrate's approval," creating a categorical rule that applies to all non-cognizable offenses without exception based on how the police become aware of such offenses. The framework distinguishes between cognizable offenses where "the police may arrest without a warrant" based on the serious nature of the crime, and non-cognizable offenses where this power is categorically absent regardless of the circumstances of discovery or the strength of evidence. In this scenario, simple assault causing minor harm without serious bodily injury constitutes a non-cognizable offense, and the passage's framework provides no exception to the warrant requirement based on the police officer's direct witnessing of the act.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage provides no support for any such exception based on victim demands or

preferences, and instead establishes categorical rules based on the classification of offenses that operate independently of victim wishes. The passage states that for non-cognizable offenses, "the police lack authority to arrest without a warrant," using language that creates an absolute limitation on police power rather than a flexible standard subject to exceptions based on victim demands or other circumstances. While victim complaints and cooperation are important in the criminal justice process, they do not alter the fundamental legal framework governing arrest powers, which is determined by the legislative classification of offenses rather than by case-specific factors like victim demands. Allowing victim insistence to override statutory warrant requirements would undermine the systematic balance between police powers and individual protections that the cognizable-non-cognizable framework establishes, and would create arbitrary and inconsistent application of arrest powers based on victim assertiveness rather than offense gravity, making this suggested exception legally unfounded.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage indicates that cognizable offenses include those involving "causing bodily harm" of a serious nature, distinguished from less serious assaults that fall into the non-cognizable category. Once an offense is classified as non-cognizable based on its legal definition (simple assault without serious harm), the warrant requirement applies categorically to all instances of that offense, regardless of whether particular cases involve more or less visible injury within the range that defines the offense. The presence or absence of bleeding or hospitalization might be relevant to whether the offense crosses the threshold from non-cognizable simple assault to cognizable grievous hurt, but within the non-cognizable category, these factual variations do not affect the warrant requirement, making this reasoning incorrect.

76. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because the power of arrest without warrant extends to situations where offense is about to be committed.

Reference: "The power of arrest without warrant allows the police to act swiftly in serious cases where there is reasonable belief that an offense has been or is about to be committed."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that "the power of arrest without warrant allows the police to act swiftly in serious cases where there is reasonable belief that an offense has been or is about to be committed," creating two distinct temporal scenarios in which warrantless arrest is authorized for cognizable offenses: when an offense "has been" committed (past tense, completed offense) and when an offense "is about to be" committed (future tense, imminent offense). This formulation recognizes that the purpose of granting police immediate arrest powers for serious cognizable offenses includes not only responding to completed crimes but also preventing imminent serious crimes through timely intervention, reflecting the passage's observation that cognizable offenses are treated as grave matters "reflecting the need for immediate action to prevent further injury or secure the accused."

Option (b) Incorrect: This option attempts to restrict the warrantless arrest power for cognizable offenses to only those situations where the offense has already been "actually been committed and completed," excluding preventive arrests for crimes that are imminent but have not yet occurred. However, the passage explicitly contradicts this limitation by stating that the power of arrest without warrant applies "where there is reasonable belief that an offense has been or is about to be committed," with the disjunctive "or" clearly indicating two separate and alternative grounds for warrantless arrest. By including "is about to be committed" as a distinct basis for arrest, the passage recognizes that the law grants police preventive powers to intervene before serious crimes occur rather than limiting them to purely reactive responses after crimes are completed.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage emphasizes that the warrantless arrest power requires "reasonable belief" and states that "judicial interpretation, however, insists that this power must not be exercised arbitrarily but only on credible grounds connected to the alleged crime," establishing that arrest authority depends on the reasonableness and credibility of the grounds rather than merely on receiving information regardless of its reliability. Anonymous tips alone, without any corroboration or verification, would typically not constitute the "credible grounds" that judicial interpretation requires, as anonymous sources cannot be evaluated for reliability and their information cannot be tested.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option correctly concludes that the arrest is not justified but provides an incorrect

legal standard by suggesting that "reasonable belief must be based on direct eyewitness accounts rather than anonymous information and circumstantial evidence," creating a rigid evidentiary requirement that would severely limit police preventive capabilities. However, the passage does not impose any such restrictive requirement limiting "reasonable belief" to direct eyewitness testimony or excluding circumstantial evidence and information from unnamed sources. The passage requires "reasonable belief" based on "credible grounds connected to the alleged crime" but does not specify that such grounds must take any particular form or exclude particular types of information. Reasonable belief is a flexible standard that can be established through various types of information and evidence including circumstantial indicators, as long as the totality of circumstances would lead a reasonable person to believe an offense has been or is about to be committed.

77. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because non-cognizable offenses cannot be investigated without magistrate's approval and automatic registration applies only to serious offenses.

Reference: "The rule of first information reporting requires that when a serious offense is brought to the notice of the police, a formal complaint must be recorded, which serves as the official trigger for investigation. This mechanism ensures procedural immediacy for grave crimes while excluding minor ones from automatic investigation. The process for non-cognizable matters requires prior authorization from a magistrate before investigation begins. The law allows the police to record information but forbids them from proceeding further without such permission."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option misinterprets the "rule of first information reporting" by suggesting it applies uniformly to all offenses reported to police without distinction based on the cognizable-non-cognizable classification, thereby requiring formal FIR registration and automatic investigation commencement for every reported offense regardless of its seriousness. However, the passage explicitly qualifies this rule by stating it "requires that when a serious offense is brought to the notice of the police, a formal complaint must be recorded," using the term "serious offense" rather than "any offense" or "all offenses," and further explaining that "this mechanism

ensures procedural immediacy for grave crimes while excluding minor ones from automatic investigation." The deliberate exclusion of minor offenses from automatic investigation demonstrates that the first information reporting rule operates differently depending on offense classification, triggering immediate formal registration and investigation only for cognizable/serious offenses while requiring different procedures for non-cognizable/minor offenses.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage states that for non-cognizable matters, "the law allows the police to record information but forbids them from proceeding further without such permission," indicating that recording information is specifically permitted and distinct from proceeding with investigation, which is forbidden without magistrate's approval. If recording information were legally equivalent to FIR registration triggering investigation, this distinction would be meaningless and the prohibition on proceeding further would be violated merely by recording the information.

Option (c) Correct: The passage establishes a clear bifurcated framework for handling different categories of offenses, stating that "the rule of first information reporting requires that when a serious offense is brought to the notice of the police, a formal complaint must be recorded, which serves as the official trigger for investigation" while simultaneously explaining that "this mechanism ensures procedural immediacy for grave crimes while excluding minor ones from automatic investigation." For non-cognizable offenses specifically, the passage explicitly states that "the process for non-cognizable matters requires prior authorization from a magistrate before investigation begins" and that "the law allows the police to record information but forbids them from proceeding further without such permission."

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage does not establish or reference any such monetary threshold or suggest that specific damage amounts create special rules or exemptions. Rather, the passage establishes that the distinction between immediate investigation and investigation requiring prior approval is based on the fundamental classification of offenses as cognizable (serious) or non-cognizable (less serious), which is a categorical legal classification based on the nature and defined seriousness of offenses rather than on case-specific factual variations like damage amounts. While the damage amount mentioned in the facts may be relevant to how the offense is classified under the

criminal code (with higher damage potentially elevating an offense to a more serious category), the legal framework in the passage operates based on the classification itself rather than on specific monetary thresholds. The SHO's refusal is justified because the offense is classified as non-cognizable and the passage categorically requires magistrate approval before investigating non-cognizable offenses, not because of any special monetary threshold exemption.

78. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "Judicial decisions have reaffirmed that arrest and investigation in such cases depend strictly on the magistrate's approval, though once granted, the police are obliged to investigate with due diligence."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Urgency does not dissolve statutory restraints on police power in non-cognizable cases. The requirement of prior judicial permission is an indispensable procedural control designed to prevent abuse of authority. Acting without authorization, even under a claim of good faith, undermines the separation between executive action and judicial oversight. Allowing exceptions for expediency would collapse the very distinction between cognizable and non-cognizable offenses. The investigation therefore lacks legal legitimacy from inception.

Option (b) Correct: In non-cognizable offenses, police powers are subordinated to judicial supervision, and no investigation or arrest may begin absent explicit authorization. This ensures that liberty is not compromised for minor infractions without judicial assessment. Once such approval is obtained, the police must exercise their duties diligently and within the scope granted. The absence of permission vitiates jurisdiction itself, rendering all subsequent proceedings void. This rule preserves procedural discipline and balances investigative zeal with constitutional restraint.

Option (c) Incorrect: The general duty to maintain order cannot substitute for the specific statutory requirement of magistrate authorization. The law distinguishes preventive measures from investigative powers, and the latter cannot be assumed by default. Allowing police to investigate under a vague notion of peacekeeping would blur procedural safeguards and enable overreach in trivial disputes. Judicial control ensures that enforcement activity remains

proportionate and legally valid. Administrative responsibility cannot justify procedural illegality.

Option (d) Incorrect: While the absence of sanction initially renders the investigation irregular, it may not necessarily vitiate every action if later ratified or if authorization is retrospectively obtained in procedural compliance. The principle does not automatically invalidate all subsequent steps if the core process is regularized under judicial supervision. However, the legality of initial acts still depends on contemporaneous approval, not post-facto justification. This distinction underscores the necessity of judicial pre-authorization before police intervention in minor offenses.

79. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Line: "The cognizable-offense principle covers serious crimes for which the police may arrest without a warrant and commence investigation without prior judicial permission. These are treated as grave offenses such as murder, rape, robbery, or causing bodily harm, reflecting the need for immediate action."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The requirement of judicial permission applies to minor or non-cognizable offences, not to serious crimes where human life, safety, or public order is at stake. The procedural framework was deliberately structured to allow immediate police intervention in grave situations to prevent further harm or destruction of evidence. A stabbing incident constitutes a serious offence falling squarely within the class of cognizable crimes. Expecting the police to seek prior authorization in such cases would paralyze enforcement and defeat the preventive object of criminal procedure. Law balances liberty with public security through this built-in procedural distinction.

Option (b) Correct: The facts demonstrate a grave offence causing bodily harm, which justifies immediate arrest without prior judicial permission. Criminal procedure empowers the police to act promptly when credible information indicates commission of such serious crimes. The underlying rationale is that urgency and gravity demand direct action to secure the accused and prevent obstruction of justice. The absence of prior sanction does not vitiate the arrest because it conforms to the legally recognized category of cognizable offences. Such powers are intended to ensure swift response where delay may embolden

escape or recurrence of violence, while later judicial review protects against misuse.

Option (c) Incorrect: Procedural illegality arises only when the police act without jurisdiction or reasonable belief, not merely because they omitted to seek a warrant. The statutory design intentionally exempts cognizable offences from the warrant requirement. The central test is whether the police had credible grounds to act under reasonable suspicion of a serious crime. Here, the stabbing incident provided such basis. Treating the omission of a warrant as fatal would collapse the urgency-based distinction between serious and minor offences. The procedural structure exists to secure life and evidence, not to immobilize law enforcement through rigid formalism.

Option (d) Incorrect: The power of arrest without warrant is not universal or unrestricted. It operates within the clearly demarcated sphere of serious offences such as murder, rape, or grievous hurt. Extending it to every complaint would transform limited police discretion into absolute authority and erode constitutional safeguards of liberty. The procedural law confines this power to prevent arbitrary deprivation of freedom and to ensure proportionality between offense gravity and enforcement response. Every complaint does not authorize arrest; only those grounded in credible evidence of a cognizable crime justify immediate police action.

80. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because coastlines rest with government as fiduciary assets requiring preservation of public access regardless of clearances. Reference: "The Public Trust Doctrine is a foundational principle under environmental jurisprudence that treats elements of natural heritage not as possessions but as assets held by government in trust for the collective welfare. It asserts that watery expanses, coastlines, and submerged territories rest with the government acting as fiduciary so that continuity is secured for present and future generations."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes that the Public Trust Doctrine "asserts that watery expanses, coastlines, and submerged territories rest with the government acting as fiduciary so that continuity is secured for present and future generations," clearly including coastlines within the doctrine's scope alongside waters and submerged lands. The doctrine "treats elements of natural heritage not as possessions but as assets held by government in

trust for the collective welfare," fundamentally rejecting the notion that such resources can be treated as ordinary property subject to exclusive private ownership or use. The passage further explains that the doctrine "imposes custodianship over vital resources and frames access and preservation as public rights rather than private dominion," establishing that public access to coastlines is a core protected right under the doctrine. The balancing principle requires "upholding public access while mitigating ecological repercussions," and the fiduciary duty of government requires "safeguarding public resources and balancing commerce and industry with conservation," neither of which permits complete alienation of coastlines for exclusive private use.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage acknowledges that the doctrine was historically "focused on navigable waters, shorelines, and submerged lands," it specifically includes "coastlines" in its contemporary articulation of what "rest with the government acting as fiduciary." The passage presents "watery expanses, coastlines, and submerged territories" as a unified category of resources subject to the doctrine, without creating the artificial distinction between submerged areas and beach areas that this option suggests. Moreover, the passage emphasizes the "scope-expansion principle, by which a doctrine once focused on navigable waters, shorelines, and submerged lands now extends to other resources," indicating that even the historical scope included shorelines and that the modern doctrine has expanded beyond these traditional categories rather than contracting to exclude portions of coastal areas.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage establishes the Public Trust Doctrine as protecting public access and resource preservation for the "collective welfare" and for "present and future generations" broadly, not merely for specific user groups with demonstrated traditional livelihoods. The doctrine "frames access and preservation as public rights rather than private dominion," indicating that all members of the public hold these rights regardless of whether they engage in fishing, recreation, or other specific activities. While traditional livelihoods may be one important consideration in applying the doctrine, the passage does not suggest they create special exemptions or are necessary prerequisites for invoking public trust protection. The doctrine protects coastlines because they are "assets held by government in trust for the collective welfare" and because "continuity is secured

for present and future generations," not solely because particular communities depend on them for livelihood, making this narrow livelihood-based rationale an incomplete and incorrect statement of the doctrine's basis and scope.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage establishes that the Public Trust Doctrine operates at a fundamental constitutional and jurisprudential level that cannot be satisfied merely through administrative clearances, as it "treats elements of natural heritage not as possessions but as assets held by government in trust" and "imposes custodianship over vital resources." Environmental clearances typically address impacts like pollution, ecological damage, and compliance with environmental regulations, but they do not resolve the more fundamental question of whether public trust resources can be alienated for exclusive private use in the first place. The fiduciary duty of government requires "safeguarding public resources and balancing commerce and industry with conservation," not simply ensuring environmental compliance while permitting complete privatization. The balancing principle requires "upholding public access while mitigating ecological repercussions," indicating that both environmental protection and public access must be maintained, not that one can be traded for the other.

81. Correct Answer: (b) No, the doctrine calls for nuanced conflict resolution to maintain doctrinal coherence when centre asserts dominion over resources governed by state laws.

Reference: "The conflict-resolution principle, which acknowledges challenges when the centre asserts dominion over resources historically governed by state laws and calls for nuanced resolution to maintain doctrinal coherence and effective management."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option suggests that the Public Trust Doctrine grants states "exclusive custodial rights" that absolutely bar any central government intervention in water resources within state territories, essentially creating an inflexible rule of complete state sovereignty over public trust resources. However, the passage explicitly recognizes through the "conflict-resolution principle" that situations arise "when the centre asserts dominion over resources historically governed by state laws," acknowledging that central authority can and does extend to resources that states have traditionally managed. The passage does not

resolve this tension by simply granting exclusive authority to either level of government; rather, it "calls for nuanced resolution to maintain doctrinal coherence and effective management," indicating that both central and state governments have legitimate interests and roles that must be reconciled rather than viewing state authority as absolute and exclusive.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly addresses precisely this type of situation through the "conflict-resolution principle, which acknowledges challenges when the centre asserts dominion over resources historically governed by state laws and calls for nuanced resolution to maintain doctrinal coherence and effective management." This principle recognizes that tensions inevitably arise in federal systems when central government authority intersects with state custodial responsibilities over public trust resources, particularly where resources like rivers have been managed under state laws but also implicate national or inter-state concerns. Rather than mechanically favoring either central or state authority, the passage indicates that the Public Trust Doctrine requires "nuanced resolution," suggesting case-by-case balancing that considers the nature of the resource, the scope of impacts, the respective governmental interests, and the need to maintain both "doctrinal coherence" (ensuring the core principles of public trust protection remain intact) and "effective management" (ensuring resources are actually protected and managed properly).

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage's articulation of the "conflict-resolution principle" explicitly contemplates situations where "the centre asserts dominion over resources historically governed by state laws," indicating that such central assertions are not automatically invalid but rather require "nuanced resolution to maintain doctrinal coherence and effective management." The passage does not suggest that the doctrine creates an absolute barrier to central government involvement in managing public trust resources; rather, it requires that any such involvement be evaluated to ensure it serves public trust purposes and maintains the doctrine's core commitments. The passage emphasizes that government as trustee must "balance commerce and industry with conservation" and that the balancing principle requires "harmonizing economic pursuits with environmental protection," suggesting that projects can proceed if they properly balance these interests rather than being automatically invalid.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage establishes that the Public Trust Doctrine imposes substantive constraints on all levels of government in their role as trustees, requiring that they "safeguard public resources" and "balance commerce and industry with conservation" rather than prioritizing economic development without limits. The fiduciary duty of government requires "shielding and enhancing the environment" (as articulated in *M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath*) and ensuring resources are protected "for present and future generations," not simply maximizing economic output. The balancing principle requires "harmonizing economic pursuits with environmental protection" and "mitigating ecological repercussions," indicating that economic goals must be balanced against environmental and public access concerns rather than automatically prevailing.

82. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because the doctrine now extends to air through scope expansion with courts tying wholesome environment to right to life.

Reference: "The scope-expansion principle, by which a doctrine once focused on navigable waters, shorelines, and submerged lands now extends to other resources, including air and wildlife, with modern advocates urging inclusion of rights such as a stable climate and untainted air. In *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India* the Court broadened the doctrine to air and water quality and tied a wholesome environment to the right to life."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The passage acknowledges the historical focus on waters and lands but emphasizes that this is not the doctrine's current scope, using the phrase "once focused" to indicate historical limitation followed by expansion. The passage specifically cites *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India* where "the Court broadened the doctrine to air and water quality and tied a wholesome environment to the right to life," providing authoritative judicial support for extending the doctrine to air quality. This scope expansion is not arbitrary but reflects the doctrine's underlying purpose of protecting resources essential to "collective welfare" and "present and future generations," a purpose equally applicable to air as to water and land, making the suggested historical limitation inconsistent with the doctrine's contemporary understanding and judicial application.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage does not indicate that the Public Trust Doctrine is displaced or rendered

inapplicable by the existence of other environmental laws; rather, it operates as a foundational principle that informs and strengthens environmental protection obligations across various legal mechanisms. The passage describes the doctrine as "foundational" under environmental jurisprudence, suggesting it provides underlying principles that support rather than conflict with specific environmental regulations. In *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum*, the Court explicitly "broadened the doctrine to air and water quality," which would be unnecessary and meaningless if separate environmental legislation automatically excluded public trust principles from applying to air quality matters. Courts can invoke the Public Trust Doctrine to interpret environmental laws more stringently, fill gaps in legislative coverage, or compel governmental action where specific laws are inadequately enforced, making the doctrine a continuing source of governmental obligations regarding air quality that supplements rather than being displaced by environmental legislation.

Option (c) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes through the "scope-expansion principle" that the Public Trust Doctrine, which was "once focused on navigable waters, shorelines, and submerged lands now extends to other resources, including air and wildlife," directly addressing and resolving the question of whether air falls within the doctrine's contemporary scope. The passage emphasizes that "modern advocates urging inclusion of rights such as a stable climate and untainted air" reflects the doctrine's continuing evolution to encompass atmospheric resources essential to public welfare and future generations. Most importantly, the passage provides specific judicial authority for this expansion by citing *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India*, where "the Court broadened the doctrine to air and water quality and tied a wholesome environment to the right to life," establishing that Indian constitutional jurisprudence has definitively extended public trust principles to air quality protection.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage's articulation of scope expansion does not create such limitations or suggest that air is protected only when it affects other resources. The passage states that the doctrine "now extends to other resources, including air and wildlife," treating air as a distinct category of protected resources rather than as merely an adjunct to water or coastal protection. In *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum*, the Court "broadened the doctrine to air and water

quality," placing air and water on parallel footing as independently protected resources rather than subordinating air protection to water protection. The passage's discussion of "untainted air" as a urged inclusion and tying "a wholesome environment to the right to life" suggests that air quality matters in its own right because of its direct importance to human health, welfare, and survival, not merely because of secondary effects on other resources. Limiting air quality protection under the doctrine only to situations affecting water or coastal areas would severely undermine the scope expansion principle and leave most air pollution, including urban air quality, industrial emissions affecting inland areas, and atmospheric pollution unconnected to water bodies, outside the doctrine's protection, making this conditional limitation inconsistent with the broad scope expansion described in the passage.

83. Correct Answer: (d) Yes, because water sources are held in trusteeship obliging government oversight to ensure fair and equal access and prevent excessive extraction.

Reference: "The water-bodies protection principle, which recognizes water sources as held in trusteeship, obliges government oversight to ensure fair and equal access, and demands safeguards against pollution through policies that regulate use, promote conservation, and address contamination and excessive extraction."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The passage establishes that the Public Trust Doctrine operates at a foundational level that constrains governmental action itself, not merely private action, meaning that government cannot grant permissions that violate its fiduciary duties as trustee of public resources. The doctrine "imposes custodianship over vital resources" and requires government to "safeguard public resources" and ensure "fair and equal access," creating substantive obligations that cannot be satisfied merely through issuing permissions without ensuring the underlying purposes are met. The passage's discussion in *M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath* that government as trustee "must shield and enhance the environment" suggests that governmental decisions, including permission-granting, must affirmatively protect public trust resources rather than merely following procedural requirements. If existing borewell permissions result

in excessive extraction and inequitable access that violate public trust principles, then the permission system itself is inadequate and government has an obligation to modify its regulatory framework to better fulfill its fiduciary duties, making the mere existence of permissions insufficient to justify practices that undermine fair and equal access to water sources held in trusteeship.

Option (b) Incorrect: The passage's articulation of the Public Trust Doctrine emphasizes proactive governmental duties to "safeguard public resources," "promote conservation," and ensure resources are protected "for present and future generations," all of which require anticipatory action before resources are completely depleted. The passage requires government to "address excessive extraction," not merely total depletion, and to "ensure fair and equal access," not merely prevent absolute unavailability. The doctrine's purpose of ensuring "continuity is secured for present and future generations" would be defeated if governmental action were required only after complete depletion, as at that point protection for future generations would be impossible.

Option (c) Incorrect: The passage specifically requires government action to "address contamination and excessive extraction," with "excessive extraction" clearly contemplating the problem of over-pumping of groundwater that depletes aquifers, suggesting that groundwater is within the doctrine's scope. The underlying purpose of treating water as a public trust resource, ensuring its availability "for present and future generations" and protecting it as an "asset held by government in trust for the collective welfare", applies equally to groundwater and surface water, as both are essential to public welfare and both can be depleted or contaminated through unregulated use. Allowing unlimited private groundwater extraction based on property rights would undermine the doctrine's core purpose of ensuring resource availability for all and for the future, making this surface-groundwater distinction inconsistent with the doctrine's foundations.

Option (d) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes through the "water-bodies protection principle" that "water sources are held in trusteeship," which "obliges government oversight to ensure fair and equal access, and demands safeguards against pollution through policies that regulate use, promote conservation, and address contamination and excessive extraction." This comprehensive framework directly addresses the situation presented: the passage requires government

to ensure "fair and equal access" to water sources, which is precisely what is lacking when wealthy colonies extract unlimited groundwater while low-income areas face severe rationing; it obligates government to "regulate use" and "promote conservation," which includes regulating private borewell extraction to prevent over-exploitation; and it specifically requires government to "address excessive extraction," which describes the pattern of unlimited private pumping that depletes common groundwater resources.

84. Correct Answer: (b) Yes, because trans-jurisdictional coordination principle requires collaborative frameworks where resources cross state boundaries to uphold trust commitments.

Reference: "The trans-jurisdictional coordination principle, which arises where migratory species or air quality cross state boundaries and requires collaborative frameworks that uphold core public trust commitments."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option asserts absolute state sovereignty over resources and industries within territorial boundaries, essentially treating state boundaries as creating hermetically sealed regulatory domains where each state has unlimited authority without regard to impacts on neighboring states or shared resources. However, the passage explicitly addresses situations where resources cross boundaries through the "trans-jurisdictional coordination principle," which inherently recognizes that state sovereignty must be qualified when resources are shared or impacts cross borders. The passage identifies this principle as arising "where migratory species or air quality cross state boundaries," using examples of resources that by their nature do not respect political boundaries, with rivers being a paradigmatic example of such trans-boundary resources.

Option (b) Correct: The passage explicitly establishes the "trans-jurisdictional coordination principle, which arises where migratory species or air quality cross state boundaries and requires collaborative frameworks that uphold core public trust commitments," providing a clear framework for situations exactly like the shared river scenario presented. The principle "requires collaborative frameworks," indicating that neither state can act unilaterally without regard to impacts on the other but must coordinate their management to protect the

shared resource. The purpose of these frameworks is to "uphold core public trust commitments," meaning that the fundamental obligations to protect resources for collective welfare and future generations must be maintained across the entire river system, not merely within each state's territory.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option suggests that compliance with national pollution standards within the state of operation creates an absolute immunity from additional regulatory requirements or coordination obligations, essentially treating national standards as both ceiling and floor that preclude any enhanced protection or trans-boundary coordination. However, the passage does not indicate that meeting national standards exhausts public trust obligations or precludes requiring additional measures when necessary to protect shared resources. The Public Trust Doctrine operates as a constitutional and common law principle that can require protection beyond minimum statutory standards, as illustrated in *M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath* where the Court held that government as trustee "must shield and enhance the environment,"

suggesting affirmative obligations beyond mere regulatory compliance.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option imposes an extreme burden requiring proof that pollution makes the river "completely unusable for any purposes" before coordination obligations arise, essentially treating public trust protection as relevant only in cases of total resource destruction rather than as requiring preventive and restorative management to maintain resource quality. However, the passage's articulation of public trust principles emphasizes proactive governmental duties to "safeguard public resources," "shield and enhance the environment," and ensure resources are protected "for present and future generations," none of which suggest waiting until complete unusability before action is required. The water-bodies protection principle requires government to "ensure fair and equal access" and "address contamination," not merely prevent total unavailability or complete contamination, indicating that governmental obligations arise whenever resource quality is degraded to a degree that affects public access, use, or welfare.

85. Correct Answer: (b) A mismatch between urban ambitions and administrative execution rendered the Smart Cities Mission more symbolic than substantial. Reference Line: "Crores spent, Smart Cities Mission leaves behind more bills, superficial infrastructure."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option presents the Smart Cities Mission as a project that effectively demonstrated how visionary ideas combined with public support could lead to transformation. However, the author does not celebrate the initiative as a successful demonstration of such a model. In fact, the author is highly critical of the mission's failure to translate vision into action, stating that the program made "practically no impact" and ultimately left behind "superficial infrastructure." Nowhere is it implied that public support played a decisive or constructive role, nor is there any evidence of infrastructural transformation. Therefore, this framing contradicts the author's assessment of failure and overestimates the role of public participation. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option most accurately captures the essence of the author's argument. Throughout the passage, the author contrasts the initial ambitious goals—comparing Indian Smart Cities to European urban centres—with the eventual dilution of those goals into more basic, familiar urban deliverables. The actual implementation fell far short, with poor fund utilization, inter-agency conflicts, and a lack of political follow-through. The author clearly suggests that the Smart Cities Mission became a symbolic exercise with limited substantive impact due to execution failures. The "mismatch" between promises and delivery is a recurring theme, making this choice the best summary of the author's main point. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option shifts the burden of failure onto local governments, implying that the mission's failure was due to their lack of enthusiasm. However, the author does not suggest this. Instead, he emphasizes the central government's disinterest and poor governance. There is no textual basis for claiming that local governments' unwillingness or apathy was a key issue. Moreover, the author focuses on systemic coordination failures and budgetary inefficiency that point to weaknesses at multiple levels, not just at the local level. This mischaracterization of where the fault lies makes this option a flawed interpretation of the author's stance. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option attributes the failure to a lack of technical expertise among municipal bodies, suggesting that local administrators were ill-equipped to implement the projects. While plausible in the real-world context, the passage does not support this inference. The author does not mention technical competence as a barrier to success. His focus remains on policy vision, administrative commitment, resource utilization, and coordination—factors tied to institutional intent and execution, not professional capability. Thus, although the claim may be true elsewhere, it does not reflect the author's reasoning in this passage. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (a) Smart Cities across multiple regions introduced long-term improvements in public safety and access to utilities.

Reference Line: "...a 10-year programme that ended this year has made practically no impact."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option fundamentally challenges the author's assertion that the Smart Cities Mission failed to deliver meaningful outcomes. If Smart Cities across various regions succeeded in improving public safety and utility access—core promises of urban development—then the author's claim that the mission left "practically no impact" becomes invalid. Such improvements would reflect deep, structural benefits as opposed to cosmetic or symbolic change, directly opposing the author's argument that the mission was hollow and underperforming. Therefore, if this statement is true, it would significantly weaken the author's thesis and undermine the credibility of the entire critique. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option suggests that some states were able to implement the mission by shifting resources from other urban schemes. While this could imply isolated success, it does not refute the author's central argument that overall progress was negligible. The passage criticizes the systemic failure of the mission rather than the efforts of a few individual states. Even if some regions achieved results through resource reallocation, this would be viewed as an exception rather than a general contradiction of the author's claim. Moreover, the issue isn't just about funding, but about structural commitment and coordination. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option reframes the central government's disinterest as a calculated political move rather than administrative neglect. While it offers an alternative explanation for the government's waning attention to the project, it does not undermine the author's claim that the mission did not achieve its intended goals. The author's argument centers around performance failure, not the motivations behind disengagement. Thus, even if this political strategy is true, it would not disprove the outcomes described in the passage. It addresses intent, not impact. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option implies that local agencies attempted to mitigate delays by engaging private actors. While this could be viewed as proactive or adaptive governance at the city level, the passage still documents low levels of overall fund utilization and limited coordination. Isolated instances of such efforts do not disprove the general failure of the mission as described by the author. The passage argues that the majority of cities failed to deliver outcomes, so a few localized partnerships cannot be seen as contradicting that conclusion. This represents a narrow exception, not a substantial refutation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (a) Internal audits revealed that central ministries often delayed clearances essential for Smart Cities projects to begin.

Reference Line: "Only half was actually allocated... of what was released a mere 36% was then utilised."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option highlights a concrete and institutional barrier to the progress of the Smart Cities Mission: procedural bottlenecks within central ministries. If internal audits revealed that clearances essential for implementation were routinely delayed, it points to systemic inefficiency and a lack of administrative urgency. This directly supports the author's broader argument that the mission suffered from poor governance and lacked committed follow-through. The failure to facilitate project execution through timely approvals reflects neglect and undermines the seriousness of policy intent. This evidence strengthens the notion that the mission failed not just in outcome, but in administrative will. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option shows that citizens may have noticed limited or cosmetic improvements, which aligns with

the author's characterization of "superficial infrastructure." However, it merely supports the outcome of poor delivery, not the deeper claim that policy commitment itself was lacking. The author's argument is not simply that results were minimal, but that they were a result of insufficient effort, disinterest, and weak administrative coordination. Public perception of weak service delivery may affirm impact failure but does not necessarily reflect on the level of central policy seriousness. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) If private sector engagement remained strong despite the government's erratic involvement, it may suggest that there was some faith in the potential of the program. This would partly contradict the author's view that the mission was abandoned or neglected. Continued interest by private players implies that the framework was not perceived as entirely broken or unserious, which could undermine the author's point that the project lacked credibility and institutional commitment. Therefore, this option would weaken, not strengthen, the author's position. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option presents a case of local governments taking initiative without waiting for central approval. If municipalities moved ahead with implementation independently, it could indicate that the problem was not a lack of policy commitment from the centre but rather a structural delay in coordination. In fact, this could imply that local bodies were more engaged than the author gives credit for. Such local action might dilute the author's broader argument about failure due to systemic lethargy and could signal isolated success. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (d) Some cities succeeded in surpassing the performance targets originally set under the Smart Cities Mission.

Reference Line: "The project 'should have been on its winning lap come 2020'... but instead... only Rs 6,160 crores was actually spent."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This statement refers to the evolution of the mission's vision—from initially promising "European city" standards in 2014 to later offering a modest set of goals like electricity, sanitation, and affordable housing. The passage explicitly states that the government "tweaked" the language of the mission in 2015. This adjustment in the vision and scope clearly supports the

inference that the objectives were modified early on, likely due to practical or political considerations. Therefore, this statement logically follows from the content. Hence, option (a) can be inferred and is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage contains detailed figures illustrating that although Rs 48,000 crores were approved, only half was allocated, and out of that, only 36% was spent. These figures imply that a large chunk of the funds either remained idle or were not utilized. The idea of underutilisation of funds is central to the author's argument and supported by numeric evidence. This makes the inference about unspent funds valid and strongly grounded in the text. Hence, option (b) can be inferred and is not the correct answer.

(c) The author refers to the Parliamentary Standing Committee's observation that there were "numerous instances of one agency undoing the work of another," and that the Committee was "perplexed about the actual progress." This implies the Committee observed serious coordination problems that hindered implementation. This inference is supported both by the Committee's quoted statements and by the author's general critique. Hence, option (c) can be inferred and is not the correct answer.

(d) This option suggests that certain cities exceeded their performance targets. However, this contradicts the core theme of the passage, which emphasizes widespread failure, low fund utilization, uncoordinated implementation, and lack of impact. There is no mention or implication that any city surpassed targets—indeed, the tone throughout is one of universal underachievement. This inference introduces a claim completely unsupported by the text, and it contradicts the overall narrative. Hence, option (d) cannot be inferred and is the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (c) Shifting from top-down megavisions to locally-driven programs with clear administrative accountability.

Reference Line: "The problem was one of hard governance and not logo and nomenclature alone."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option proposes that Indian urban projects should adopt international city models and benchmark against global practices. While this may sound ideal in theory, the author does not critique the mission for lack of international vision. In fact, he criticizes the unrealistic ambition of trying to emulate European cities without matching that with meaningful

execution. The issue is not what was envisioned, but how poorly it was implemented. Thus, looking outward for solutions ignores the author's call for stronger internal governance structures. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option suggests that the government should ensure that its slogans and public communications are in sync with what citizens believe is reform. However, the author's argument is that rhetoric and slogans were the problem, not their misalignment with public opinion. He is critical of the symbolic and superficial nature of the initiative, suggesting that policy energy was spent on naming, branding, and broad promises, rather than substantive groundwork. So improving the symbolism doesn't address the fundamental flaw the author identifies. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option reflects a clear departure from centralised, grand plans to localized, accountable governance. This aligns with the author's critique that the Smart Cities Mission was riddled with superficiality and lacked functional implementation. The reference to "hard governance" implies the need for institutions that actually execute, monitor, and sustain reforms. A shift to locally-managed, clearly accountable systems would reduce coordination failures and improve efficiency. It matches both the tone and logic of the author's argument. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) While this option focuses on making planning more dynamic and visible, it still operates within the same top-down framework that the author critiques. Simply shortening the review cycle (by adopting quarterly performance metrics) may improve transparency but does not resolve fundamental issues like inter-agency conflict, disbursement delays, or political disinterest. The author's concern is with governance quality and delivery mechanisms, not performance tracking alone. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (a) They were politically strategic declarations meant to generate early enthusiasm without long-term viability.

Reference Line: "The aim was... a very high quality of life comparable with any developed European city... This was, of course, unrealistic."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option aligns with the author's critical tone and skepticism toward the grandiosity of the mission's original vision. The reference to achieving a "European

city” standard is described as unrealistic, and the subsequent dilution of the mission’s goals indicates that the initial framing was perhaps more about political optics than achievable policy. By suggesting the aim was to generate enthusiasm without serious backing, this choice captures both the intent and the hollowness the author emphasizes. The fact that interest “waned almost immediately” further implies that the original promises were not meant to be sustained but to serve a temporary political narrative. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option introduces the idea of “media traction,” which is not mentioned or even implied in the passage. The author critiques the failure of governance and execution, not the failure of public communication or media engagement. The issue was not that the public wasn’t convinced or interested, but that the machinery responsible for implementation lacked commitment and coordination. This choice shifts the focus away from administrative failure to media strategy, which is not consistent with the author’s concerns. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Although this option presents a plausible explanation—that experts or technocrats crafted an impractical vision—it introduces a type of policymaker (technocrats) that the author never identifies or critiques. The problem, as per the passage, lies more with political ambition and governance failure, not with expert-driven overdesign. The critique is aimed at overpromising and underdelivering due to systemic disinterest, not technocratic detachment. This misattribution weakens the accuracy of this interpretation. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option assumes that private sector priorities dictated the mission’s relevance, implying that the failure was externally driven by shifting corporate interests. However, the author never discusses private sector participation or its influence on the mission’s direction. On the contrary, the entire critique centers around public sector dysfunction—government disinterest, poor fund utilization, and inter-agency conflict. Therefore, this option introduces an external factor not supported by the text. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (c) Most users seeking contrarian perspectives online ultimately reinforce their existing views after brief experimentation.

Reference Line: “...a semi-annual algorithmic derangement can help you learn whether your perspective is as immovable as you take it to be.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option focuses on the emotional consequence of engaging with unfamiliar viewpoints online. It suggests that rather than fostering meaningful introspection or intellectual flexibility, such exposure makes users more defensive or reactive. However, this outcome does not necessarily negate the possibility that red-pilling still serves as a test of belief rigidity; emotional reactions can still coincide with self-awareness. The author’s argument is about diagnostic utility, not emotional effects. Therefore, the option raises a tangential concern, not a direct challenge to the author’s core claim. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option highlights the cognitive impact of ideological diversity, particularly on those who lack a stable foundation in political thought. While confusion may inhibit the formation of coherent beliefs, it does not fundamentally undermine the red-pilling metaphor the author uses, which is about discovering whether one’s current beliefs are firm or flexible. The presence of confusion does not preclude the possibility of learning about the strength or malleability of one’s views. Thus, although it suggests that red-pilling might not always be productive, it does not directly invalidate the author’s claim about its diagnostic value. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option most effectively challenges the author’s argument. If, after engaging with opposing viewpoints, users come out more firmly rooted in their original ideologies, then the red-pill exercise is not revealing flexibility or doubt, but rather confirming rigidity. This implies that the process does not serve as a test of ideological mobility but instead reinforces prior convictions. Such a phenomenon would contradict the idea that red-pilling exposes individuals to a genuine reassessment of their worldview. The argument collapses if the exercise reliably leads to reaffirmation rather than reevaluation. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option addresses the motives behind contrarianism rather than its effectiveness. If users engage with alternative views to gain social recognition or build online followings, their intent may be insincere or performative. However, this does not necessarily negate the possibility that engaging with such content

can still provoke introspection or challenge beliefs. The author's argument centers on the cognitive impact of red-pilling, not the user's motivation for pursuing it. Therefore, while the point may cast doubt on authenticity, it does not directly dismantle the author's claim. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (a) The existence of multiple answers online often obscures the original question that initiated the user's inquiry.

Reference Line: "Long before you've decided what you want to know, you're told what you should know..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option captures the central mechanism of the author's argument: that online platforms short-circuit inquiry by offering pre-formed answers before users have had the chance to fully articulate or reflect upon the underlying question. If users are fed a series of "explanations" or "truths" without first developing their own line of curiosity, then the thinking process becomes externally directed and potentially superficial. The author is deeply concerned with how algorithms push narratives before authentic curiosity arises, thereby replacing independent questioning with passive acceptance. This assumption is essential to sustain the logical consistency of the broader argument—that the internet gives the illusion of thinking while actually discouraging it. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This describes an effect of ideological instability, namely that convictions formed in such an environment may be fleeting. While this is a plausible consequence of the environment the author critiques, the argument does not require that beliefs be short-lived in order for it to be valid. The concern is more about the structure of thinking being undermined, not necessarily the temporal stability of the conclusions reached. Thus, although related, this is not a foundational truth required by the argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This introduces the issue of evaluating credibility in the presence of multiple narratives, which is a secondary concern. The author's core argument revolves around the disruption of the question-forming process itself, not about the challenges of evaluating the credibility of available answers. Although users may indeed struggle to assess what's reliable, the author's critique focuses on the fact that the inquiry process is being preempted, not necessarily corrupted

by falsehoods. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) While this aligns with a stylistic critique of online discourse—suggesting that visibility and popularity trump intellectual rigor—it is not a necessary element for the author's broader concern. The argument could hold even if the answers were accurate, provided they still appeared before the user's own thinking process began. In other words, the problem lies in the order and process of engagement, not just the quality of content. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (a) Users often engage in personal ideological reflection before algorithmic content begins to influence their online preferences.

Reference Line: "Give a couple of videos a thumbs-up, and your whole feed swerves in a new ideological direction."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author implies that online ideological shifts are triggered by algorithmic responsiveness—that a few user interactions reshape one's entire feed and ideological exposure. However, if users are already rethinking their positions before the algorithm adjusts content, then the causal link reverses: internal belief change comes first, and algorithmic reinforcement comes after. This would weaken the argument that the platform is initiating the ideological shift. Instead, the user becomes the primary agent of change, not the algorithm. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this suggests that algorithms are primarily driven by profit motives, this does not rule out ideological effects. The author does not claim that algorithms have political intentions, but rather that their design results in ideological shifts by emphasizing certain content. An algorithm can be unintentionally ideological in effect even if commercially motivated. Therefore, this option changes the conversation from impact to intent and does not weaken the original argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) If users routinely avoid content that contradicts their beliefs, even when the algorithm promotes it, this supports the idea of entrenched echo chambers. Rather than weakening the argument, it aligns with the author's concern about the self-reinforcing nature of online platforms. It suggests that users are not exposed to ideological diversity, further supporting the view that online environments shape belief through selective exposure. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This points to the existence of exceptions—spaces that encourage independent thought and discourage conformity. However, isolated platforms or subcultures do not disprove the systemic tendency described by the author. The argument is about the dominant trend across major platforms like YouTube, not exceptions. Unless such independent spaces are the rule, not the outlier, this point does not meaningfully weaken the author's claim. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (b) Individuals are shaped by systems that prioritize certainty and speed over depth and intellectual patience.

Reference Line: "It's a machine for telling you what to think."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This contradicts the author's stated view that "unstable realignments" dominate the political landscape, meaning ideologies are frequently shifting rather than becoming rigid. If anything, the author implies that core political categories are contested and fluid, not increasingly fixed. This outcome would misrepresent the actual volatility that the author emphasizes in public discourse. Therefore, it does not reflect the view the author presents. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The phrase "a machine for telling you what to think" implies that platforms prepackage answers and deliver them quickly, removing the space for slow, reflective thinking. The author is concerned that the internet creates the illusion of inquiry while actually encouraging submission to dominant narratives. This suggests that platforms reward quick conclusions, confident assertions, and ideological performance over nuanced or uncertain exploration. In such an environment, individuals are subtly trained to expect clarity and closure rather than process and ambiguity. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The author explicitly states that "everybody hates journalists," indicating a decline in public trust and influence of traditional media institutions. There is no suggestion that journalism has made a comeback to guide or mediate public discourse. In fact, the tone suggests that journalists have been replaced by individuals imitating their role without the same standards. This means the rise of explanatory culture has further eroded, not strengthened, journalistic authority. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author expresses concern about the confusion and superficiality of modern discourse, not about efficient resolution. The passage implies that disagreement persists, and perhaps even worsens, under algorithmic systems that promote simplified narratives and ideological tribes. There is no evidence that disagreements are being resolved—rather, the author questions whether we're thinking at all. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (a) The process of explaining has shifted from fostering doubt to reinforcing intellectual certainty and social validation.

Reference Line: "Even though everybody hates journalists—everyone's explaining."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option correctly identifies the underlying premise of the author's critique—that the modern culture of explanation is performative rather than epistemic. The author implies that online "explainers" don't genuinely investigate or provoke inquiry; instead, they offer closure and certitude, mirroring the authority once held by journalists but without the standards. For this concern to be logically sound, the act of explaining must have fundamentally changed—from a process that encourages questioning to one that delivers conclusions. The assumption is that explanation today is no longer about clarifying complexity but about signaling confidence and asserting ideological alignment. Without this shift in the nature of explanation, the author's criticism of the internet's intellectual environment would not hold. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this presents a valid sociological observation, it focuses on the audience rather than the structure or purpose of the explanation. The author is not primarily concerned with whether people care about expert credentials; the critique lies in how the explanatory function itself has been co-opted for ideological or performative purposes. Even if audiences remain critical of who is explaining, the author's concern remains intact as long as the culture of explanation encourages simplistic answers. Thus, this is not a required assumption for the argument to work. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option points to a possible effect or consequence of the explanatory culture—namely, the erosion of credibility in favor of ideology—but it is not the foundational assumption. The author's argument

depends on a prior shift: that the nature of explanation itself has changed. The decline of credibility may follow, but it does not underpin the criticism itself. The argument would still hold even if some credible discourse exists, so long as the explanatory mode has shifted toward closure and alignment. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This focuses on the motives of explainers, suggesting they seek to build personal brands rather than encourage exploration. However, the author's concern is more about the function of explanation within public discourse rather than the psychology of those delivering it. Even if explainers are well-intentioned, the author still critiques the structure in which they operate—where explanations have become tools for affirmation rather than investigation. Therefore, the argument does not rest on this assumption about personal motives. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (d) Despite the appearance of open disagreement, much of the discourse online conceals an absence of rigorous intellectual effort.

Reference Line: "Have we mistaken a simulacrum of thinking for the real thing?"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option takes a more optimistic interpretation of the rise in contrarianism, suggesting it signals deeper philosophical engagement. However, the author does not celebrate the presence of diverse or alternative views—instead, he questions whether those views are truly reflective of meaningful intellectual transformation. The tone of the passage is skeptical, even cynical, about the quality of thought behind this trend. Therefore, this conclusion misrepresents the author's stance and introduces an unwarranted positive spin. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option introduces a psychological angle not present in the passage. The author does not focus on how people emotionally react to ideological diversity, nor does he discuss a trend toward seeking consistency out of psychological discomfort. Rather, the concern is with the structural and performative aspects of online discourse, not internal emotional dynamics. This interpretation misdirects the focus away from the author's intended critique. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) While the passage suggests that traditional knowledge sources like journalism are being replaced

by "everyone explaining," it does not conclude that this shift is resulting in more effective or authoritative knowledge production. The author is wary of this trend and implies that what is replacing institutions lacks the depth and credibility they once provided. Therefore, this option misrepresents the critical tone by treating a problematic shift as a positive development. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author's concluding rhetorical question suggests that although we appear to be engaging in debates and ideology, we may in fact be performing a version of thinking that lacks depth. This line captures a skeptical tone about whether real intellectual inquiry is happening amidst the abundance of opinions online. The key issue is not the presence of disagreement, but the quality of the engagement—the author is concerned that we are mistaking argument for thought, opinion for reasoning. Thus, a reasonable conclusion is that digital discourse might simulate intellectual activity without its substance. This aligns precisely with the author's broader reflection. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (a) Self-help practices often serve to reinforce internal judgment rather than eliminate it entirely.

Reference Line: "It's very easy to turn anything into another way to feel badly about oneself."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option captures the nuanced idea that self-help tools, though designed to heal and empower, often become mechanisms for self-critique and pressure. The author points out that people feel inadequate for not doing practices "correctly" or for not seeing tangible results, which suggests that these tools can unintentionally sustain the inner voice of judgment. It reflects how self-improvement becomes self-surveillance, where one constantly evaluates their progress and worth. While not stated outright, this conclusion flows logically from the examples and tone of the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option assumes that rejecting structured improvement systems is equivalent to abandoning self-awareness or introspection. However, the author themselves resists structured practices while still engaging in reflective thought. Their personal rejection of self-help books does not signal a rejection of self-examination but a deeper questioning of the culture that underpins such systems. This reasoning confuses the form of introspection (structured vs. unstructured)

with its existence or absence, which is not supported by the passage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author does not question the commitment of people who engage in spiritual practice; in fact, there is an acknowledgment that many pursue such practices seriously and with intention. The concern lies not in the level of commitment but in the way these practices are framed or misused within a cultural context that values achievement and performance. This option misrepresents the author's perspective by suggesting a lack of sincerity among practitioners, which is neither stated nor implied. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option suggests a causality—that disciplined practice of spiritual teachings results in emotional clarity. However, the author critiques this very assumption, giving examples of people feeling they failed because their meditation wasn't focused "enough" or long "enough." This implies that even with discipline, emotional clarity isn't guaranteed and, more importantly, that tying clarity to performance is problematic. The author challenges this model of effort equaling outcome, making this option contrary to the overall message. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (c) Pursuing continuous self-improvement is essential to building long-term inner resilience.

Reference Line: "That nagging inner voice of 'you're not enough' doesn't go away through the hard work at self-improvement."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This statement is a core insight the author seeks to convey. The passage critiques how even well-meaning self-help books or spiritual practices can trigger feelings of failure when individuals don't meet unspoken expectations. This is not an issue of intention but of structure and culture—the way the self-help model often implies that constant effort is required to be "enough." This option echoes the author's observation that striving often leads to dissatisfaction, making it compatible with their view. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author emphasizes how even meditation and mindfulness—practices meant to create space and stillness—are turned into performance metrics in the Western context. Statements like "I focused but didn't

meditate long enough" reflect how emotional peace becomes another benchmark to pursue. This transforms peace into a goal, thereby subjecting it to the same logic as productivity or success. This option supports the author's concerns and would not be rejected. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option asserts that continuous self-improvement is vital for resilience, which the author explicitly challenges. The central claim of the passage is that relentless striving is not the only or best path to well-being and may in fact worsen internal distress. The author promotes a counter-approach—relaxation into self-acceptance—over constant self-betterment. Therefore, this option directly contradicts the author's philosophy and would be rejected. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage critiques how Western interpretations of Eastern philosophies often strip them of their original intention, turning practices like meditation into goal-driven disciplines. The author is careful to point out that these traditions themselves are not flawed but that their usage becomes problematic in cultures obsessed with progress and optimization. This option aligns well with that critique and would not be rejected by the author. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. Correct Answer: (b) Practices meant to ease internal pressure end up reinforcing the very burdens they seek to remove.

Reference Line: "Even those methodologies, at least as practiced here in the West, can become their own kind of self-improvement treadmills."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) While this presents an interesting scenario, it does not reflect the paradox in the passage. The author does not claim that psychological knowledge causes confusion in daily decisions. This option moves away from the thematic concern of inner conflict and focuses on an unrelated problem of cognitive overload or complexity. Moreover, it lacks the necessary contradiction between intent and result that defines a paradox. Therefore, while it appears superficially insightful, it diverges from the passage's central argument. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option presents a clear and nuanced paradox, where methods created to reduce anxiety and internal pressure—such as meditation or spiritual reading—become sources of that very pressure. The author

discusses how individuals begin to judge themselves for not practicing “correctly” or “consistently enough,” which turns therapeutic tools into performance metrics. The contradiction lies in the fact that self-help becomes another form of self-surveillance and self-critique, which is the opposite of its intended purpose. This tension between aim and outcome is the central paradox explored in the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option introduces the idea that professional supervision is required for self-reflection to be effective, but the author never suggests this. In fact, the author’s critique is rooted in how even personal, individual practices can become toxic when framed by societal standards of achievement. There is no mention of therapy or expert-led reflection being necessary. Thus, this introduces an external dependency that does not align with the author’s focus on internal pressures and cultural misuse. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option frames the absence of ambition as an obstacle to emotional balance, which contradicts the author’s suggestion that stepping away from ambition and improvement can actually bring relief. The author questions the very premise that constant striving leads to wellness and suggests that peace may lie in letting go. Therefore, this option not only fails to present a paradox, but also expresses a view opposite to what the author implies. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (c) Communities embracing the value of resting without measuring its productivity.

Reference Line: “What would it look like for us to stop striving and simply be?”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This outcome is strongly supported by the author’s critique. The passage presents several examples of people feeling they have failed to meditate “enough” or read “properly,” despite sincere efforts. These feelings are not due to lack of effort but because the practices have been shaped by performance culture. The guilt individuals feel stems from not meeting internalized spiritual standards, making this a likely consequence of the mindset critiqued in the text. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author’s entire argument revolves around the idea that relentless self-improvement can become mentally exhausting. When every aspect of one’s emotional life is treated as something to be

optimized—whether through therapy, meditation, or productivity hacks—it inevitably leads to emotional fatigue. This is a direct consequence of treating emotional well-being as a competitive goal. Therefore, burnout is highly likely under such conditions. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option describes a hopeful but unlikely scenario under the mindset the author critiques. The idea of resting simply for its own sake, without evaluating how “productive” or “restorative” the rest was, is precisely what the current culture of optimization resists. The author acknowledges this possibility in a rhetorical question but implies that it is far from reality. Because rest is now often subject to self-monitoring and goal-setting, such relaxed communal values are least likely to emerge from the mindset critiqued. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The author repeatedly notes that even well-meaning practices like meditation or mindfulness become rigid, goal-oriented systems that imply a “correct” way of doing things. This creates pressure on individuals to meet certain invisible growth standards, reducing the personal meaning and spontaneity of these practices. This kind of pressure and conformity is a clear result of the performance-oriented mindset the author finds problematic. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (a) Concluding that if a method doesn’t produce results, it must be because the person failed to apply it properly.

Reference Line: “I meditated but didn’t focus enough, I focused but didn’t meditate long enough... I don’t know if it’s making a difference.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option reflects the exact flawed reasoning the author critiques—blaming oneself when a self-help method doesn’t yield expected results. The author discusses how individuals internalize failure, assuming that their inability to gain peace or clarity through meditation or spiritual reading is due to their own inadequacy rather than considering that the method or framework itself may be flawed or poorly suited to their needs. This kind of logic perpetuates the very cycle of self-judgment and emotional exhaustion that the passage warns against. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) While this option reflects a form of flawed reasoning—namely dismissing older practices as

outdated—it is not the specific reasoning flaw the author critiques. The author actually values the wisdom in traditional Eastern practices but laments how they are co-opted into Western achievement-driven culture. The issue isn't whether traditional methods are outdated, but rather how they are applied and interpreted within a performance-based mindset. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option highlights an assumption that professional endorsement guarantees universal effectiveness. Although this is a kind of generalization, the author does not challenge the legitimacy of experts or their endorsements. The critique is not aimed at whether practices are valid for most people but at how those practices become tools of self-judgment. Thus, while this is a flawed assumption in general reasoning, it is not the type of flaw explored in the passage. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option introduces a flawed dependency on external markers to assess internal growth. While this kind of reasoning could be problematic in certain contexts, it is not central to the author's critique. The passage does not focus on the visibility of progress or observable change but rather on internalized feelings of inadequacy stemming from the pressure to improve. The flaw the author identifies lies in how people evaluate themselves emotionally, not in the absence of public proof of growth. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (b) Designing community spaces where individuals can explore stillness without attaching value to measurable outcomes.

Reference Line: "First there's a laugh of release, then there's a visible softening in the face of the other."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This course of action continues the narrative of structured self-monitoring and promotes the very culture of improvement the author critiques. While wellness routines may appear helpful, framing them as "curated" and focused on "consistent growth" reinforces the mindset of continuous self-assessment and goal-driven living. The author challenges this very idea, suggesting that constant striving may be the problem rather than the solution. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option aligns with the author's core concern: the cultural obsession with progress has turned even emotional and spiritual practices into tasks measured

by output and improvement. The idea of creating spaces that allow for quiet presence, without evaluation or expectations, reflects the author's call to "simply be." The emotional softening the author observes in others when she says she's done with self-improvement suggests that there is deep relief in not being measured. This course of action promotes non-performance-based rest and connection, which is what the author argues for. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Consulting experts regularly to track emotional progress frames emotional well-being as something quantifiable, manageable, and reportable. This reflects the performance mindset the author argues against—treating even mental states as targets for evaluation. The author's concern is that this mindset converts rest, reflection, and healing into activities subject to measurement and judgment. Therefore, this course of action would not reflect the author's values. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Incentivizing mindfulness through structured habit-building places mindfulness within the same achievement-oriented framework that the author finds troubling. It turns an inward, freeing practice into another form of "doing better," where success is tied to frequency, duration, or technique. The author specifically critiques this tendency to turn even peaceful practices into goal-oriented systems. This recommendation would only reinforce the problem the author is trying to address. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

103. Correct answer: (a)

Explanation: Table codes → A @, 2 >, R +, T =, B # → @>+=#.

C1: positions 2 and 4 are 2 and T (not both vowels) → no swap.

C2: first is vowel (A) and last is consonant (B) → both become Ø → Ø>+=Ø.

C3 not applicable after C2.

104. Correct answer: (b)

Explanation: Table codes → C \$, A @, R +, E &, 3 ? → \$@+&?.

C1: 2nd and 2nd-last are A and E (both vowels) → swap their codes → \$&+@?.

C2: first is consonant, last is digit → not applicable.

C3: first consonant (C) and last odd digit (3) → first becomes ∂, last becomes § → ∂&+@§.

105. Correct answer: (b)

Explanation: Table codes → O ~, A @, T =, E &, 4 ^ → ~@=&^.

C1: 2nd and 2nd-last are A and E (both vowels) → swap → ~&=@^.

C2 not applicable (last is digit, not consonant).

C3 not applicable (first is vowel).

106. Correct answer: (d)

Explanation: Table codes → T =, 1 <, O ~, 3 ?, B # → =<~?#.

C1: 2nd is 1 and 2nd-last is 3 (not vowels) → no swap.

C2 not applicable (first not vowel).

C3 not applicable (last is consonant, not an odd digit).

107. Correct answer: (c)

Explanation: Table codes → E &, 1 <, B #, 3 ?, C \$ → &<#?\$.

C1: 2nd is 1 and 2nd-last is 3 (not vowels) → no swap.

C2: first is vowel (E) and last is consonant (C) → both become Ø → Ø<#?Ø.

C3 not applicable after C2.

108. Correct answer: (b)

Explanation: Table codes → T =, 2 >, C \$, 4 ^, 5 _ → =>\$^_.

C1: 2nd is 2 and 2nd-last is 4 (not vowels) → no swap.

C2 not applicable (first not vowel, last not consonant).

C3: first consonant (T) and last odd digit (5) → first becomes ∂, last becomes § → ∂>\$^§.

Section - E : Quantitative Aptitude

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Amount} &= P(1+r/100)^n \\ &= 50,000 \times (1.10)^2 \\ &= 50,000 \times 1.21 = ₹60,500\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Option A} &= 40,000(1-0.02) = ₹39,200 \\ \text{Option B} &= 40,000(1+0.01 \times 2) = ₹40,800 \\ \text{Difference} &= 40,800 - 39,200 = ₹1,600\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{First 9 months on ₹90,000:} \\ I_1 &= 90,000 \times 0.12 \times (9/12) = ₹8,100 \\ \text{Next 6 months on ₹60,000:} \\ I_2 &= 60,000 \times 0.12 \times (6/12) = ₹3,600 \\ \text{Total I} &= 8,100 + 3,600 = ₹11,700\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Half-yearly rate} &= 8\%/2 = 4\% \\ \text{Periods} \\ n &= 1.5 \text{ yr} \times 2 = 3. \\ A &= 60,000(1.04)^3 = 60,000 \times 1.124864 = ₹67,491.84 \\ &\approx ₹67,492\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Quarterly rate} &= 7.5\%/4 = 1.875\% \\ \text{Quarters } n &= 8 \\ A &= 1,20,000(1+0.01875)^8 \\ &\approx 1,20,000 \times 1.16022 \\ &= ₹1,39,226.6 \approx ₹1,39,227\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Time} &= 12 \text{ months} + 8 \text{ months} \\ &= 1 + 8/12 \text{ years.} \\ \text{Interest} &= P(r_1t_1 + r_2t_2) \\ 80,000(0.06 \times 1 + 0.08 \times (8/12)) &= \\ &= 80,000(0.06 + 0.0533) \\ &= 80,000 \times 0.1133 \\ &= ₹9,066.67\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Nihar's rate} &= 1/12 \text{ per day;} \\ \text{Sanya's} &= 1/18 \text{ per day.} \\ \text{Together} &= 1/12 + 1/18 = 5/36 \text{ per day.} \\ \text{In 3 days: } 3 \times 5/36 &= 15/36 = 5/12.\end{aligned}$$

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Kabir's rate} &= 1/10 \text{ per hour;} \\ \text{Mehul's} &= 1/15 \text{ per hour.} \\ \text{Together} &= 1/10 + 1/15 = 1/6 \text{ per hour.} \\ \text{In 2 hours they paint } 2 \times 1/6 &= 1/3. \\ \text{Remaining} &= 1 - 1/3 = 2/3.\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Work done in first 3 days} &= 5/12, \text{ so remaining} = 7/12. \\ \text{Nihar's slowed rate} &= 0.75 \times (1/12) = 1/16 \text{ per day.} \\ \text{Time} &= (7/12) \div (1/16) = (7/12) \times 16 = 112/12 = 28/3 = 9 \frac{1}{3} \text{ days.}\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{After morning: remaining} &= 2/3. \\ \text{Kabir's original rate} &= 1/10 \text{ per hour;} \\ \text{boosted by 20\%} &\Rightarrow 1/10 \times 1.2 = 0.12 = 3/25 \text{ per hour.} \\ \text{Time} &= (2/3) \div (3/25) = (2/3) \times (25/3) = 50/9 \text{ h} = 5 \text{ h} + (5/9)\text{h} = 5 \text{ h } 33 \text{ m } 20 \text{ s.}\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Leak empties in 18 h} &\Rightarrow \text{rate} = -1/18 \text{ tank/h.} \\ \text{Phase 1 (A+B+leak): rate} &= 1/6 + 1/9 - 1/18 = 2/9 \text{ tank/h.} \\ \text{Time to } 5/6 &= (5/6) \div (2/9) = (5/6) \times (9/2) = 15/4 = 3 \text{ h } 45 \text{ m.} \\ \text{Phase 2 (A+leak): rate} &= 1/6 - 1/18 = 1/9 \text{ tank/h.} \\ \text{Remaining} &= 1/6. \\ \text{Time} &= (1/6) \div (1/9) = 3/2 = 1 \text{ h } 30 \text{ m.} \\ \text{Total} &= 3 \text{ h } 45 \text{ m} + 1 \text{ h } 30 \text{ m} = 5 \text{ h } 15 \text{ m.}\end{aligned}$$

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

Explanation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Remaining after Wed} &= 7/12. \\ \text{At 75\% speed: rate} &= 1/16 \text{ per day} \Rightarrow \text{time} = (7/12) \times 16 = 28/3 = 9 \frac{1}{3} \text{ days} = 9 \text{ days } 8 \text{ h.} \\ \text{At 80\% speed: rate} &= 0.8 \times (1/12) = 1/15 \text{ per day} \Rightarrow \\ \text{time} &= (7/12) \times 15 = 105/12 = 8.75 \text{ days} = 8 \text{ days } 18 \text{ h.} \\ \text{Difference} &= (9 \text{ d } 8 \text{ h}) - (8 \text{ d } 18 \text{ h}) = 14 \text{ hours earlier.}\end{aligned}$$

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