

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

1. **Correct Answer :** (a) One constructs home; the other reveals rupture.

Reference Line: “If the Pavilion explores how we construct home, Malani reveals what lingers when it is fractured or lost.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option correctly presents the central contrast made in the passage. The Pavilion is associated with constructing home through material practices, while Malani’s exhibition reveals what remains after home is broken or lost. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not connect the two exhibitions through Venice or through rejection of memory. Venice is only the exhibition location, while home and rupture form the deeper link. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the Pavilion does not reject craft; it strongly depends on soil, thread, bamboo, fibre, papier-mâché, and clay. Malani also uses technology, but the contrast is not craft versus technology. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because memory is not merely decorative in the passage. It is treated as emotionally complex, fragile, and connected with belonging, loss, and fracture. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. **Correct Answer :** (b) The artists use inherited forms to question continuity and disappearance.

Reference Line: “Working with soil and thread, bamboo, natural fibre, and papier-mâché, their practices are rooted in India’s material traditions that span millennia, yet their questions are urgently contemporary: as time passes, what of our home remains?”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not present tradition as closed, static, or merely archival. The artists do not use older material practices simply to preserve national identity in a fixed form. Instead, they use those traditions to ask difficult contemporary questions about memory, loss, survival, and belonging. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option correctly captures the inference drawn from the curator’s note. The passage suggests that ancient materials are not used only for craft value but as tools for examining what survives across time and what disappears. The artists therefore convert inherited forms into a language of questioning rather than mere preservation. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage directly connects artistic materials with home, memory, and belonging. Soil, thread, bamboo, natural fibre, and papier-mâché are not neutral objects but carriers of cultural and emotional meaning. The entire curatorial argument depends on the link between material practice and memory. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is misleading because the passage does not create an opposition between historical craft and modern interpretation. The artists are rooted in material traditions, but their questions are described as urgently contemporary. This means craft and modern thought operate together rather than one being preferred over the other. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

3. **Correct Answer :** (a) Principal

Reference Line: “In one of the Biennale’s most powerful collateral exhibitions, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art brings Nalini Malani’s *Of Woman Born to Venice*.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is correct because “collateral” in this context means accompanying, associated, or supplementary to the main exhibition framework. Its closest antonym is “principal,” which means main or primary. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because “supplementary” is close in meaning to “collateral.” It suggests something additional or accompanying, not something opposite in meaning. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because “associated” also supports the meaning of “collateral.” A collateral exhibition is connected with the larger Biennale setting, so this is not an antonym. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because “parallel” can suggest something running alongside another event or idea. That meaning is closer to collateral than opposite to it. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. Correct Answer : (c) It links earthly material with human presence and remembrance.

Reference Line: “If Balasubramanian goes back to the soil, ‘humus’ in Latin, from which derives the word ‘human’, recording everything outdoors, from fallen leaves to animal footsteps...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not reduce the work to mere nature without interpretation. Instead, the reference to soil is layered with etymological, human, and memorial significance. The work is reflective, not merely organic. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the recorded traces—fallen leaves and animal footsteps—are not presented as meaningless accidents. They help show how the material world stores presence, passage, and memory. The emphasis is on significance, not randomness. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is correct because the passage deliberately connects “humus” with “human,” making soil more than a physical medium. It becomes a way of thinking about embodiment, memory, and the traces of living existence. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not separate material practice from thought. On the contrary, it presents Balasubramanian’s work as a union of material engagement and conceptual reflection. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. Correct Answer : (b) Indian artists reinterpret home through memory, materiality, and rupture.

Reference Line: “Jaffer’s curatorial note states that each of ‘the five artists evoke home through material and making.’”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because Venice is the exhibition venue, not the main subject of the passage. The passage does not focus on Venice’s cultural imagination or its symbolic importance. Its central concern is how Indian artists represent home, memory, belonging, and loss through different artistic forms. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option correctly captures the central theme of the passage. The Pavilion artists use material practices to evoke home, while Malani’s work expands the discussion toward fracture, loss, and unresolved memory. The answer brings together materiality, belonging, and rupture without reducing the passage to one narrow idea. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because institutional patronage is mentioned only as contextual information. The support of cultural institutions and patrons helps situate the exhibition, but it does not determine the passage’s central argument. The focus remains on artistic meaning and thematic interpretation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because mythology appears only in the discussion of Nalini Malani’s work. The broader passage continues to foreground craft, material traditions, home, memory, and belonging. It would be inaccurate to say that mythology replaces craft as the dominant basis of Indian art. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

6. Correct Answer : (c) Traditional building knowledge survives as a critique of modern uniformity.

Reference Line: “And Waqif, who has been working with bamboo for almost 30 years, reflects on the broader shift towards standardised (pakka) construction models and diminishing visibility of traditional architectural methods.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not praise standardised construction. The reference line suggests concern over the diminishing visibility of traditional architectural methods. Therefore, standardised construction is presented as a force that may erase or marginalise older material cultures. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because Waqif’s long engagement with bamboo proves its continuing artistic and cultural relevance. The passage presents bamboo as a meaningful medium through which architectural memory and traditional methods can be reconsidered. It is not shown as irrelevant or obsolete. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option correctly follows from the passage’s discussion of Waqif. His bamboo practice is not merely about material experimentation; it reflects on the loss of traditional architectural visibility in the face of standardised construction. The work therefore becomes a critique of modern uniformity and cultural erasure. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not describe bamboo as merely ornamental or decorative. Waqif's use of bamboo is connected with traditional architectural methods and changing construction models. The artistic practice carries cultural, architectural, and critical significance. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

7. Correct Answer : (c) Conventional continuity is inadequate for deeper rural resilience.

Reference Line: "The policy paper produced by the Co-operative party... calls for 'a shift in perspective, not a doubling down of the status quo'."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option wrongly reduces the criticism to a minor administrative problem, as though the existing system only needs better coordination. The phrase "shift in perspective" indicates a deeper objection to the present framework. The passage does not merely demand improved statistics or technical management. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option contradicts the passage because the concern about food security arises partly from dependence on unstable external conditions. The passage supports stronger domestic agricultural resilience through co-operatives. It does not suggest that increasing imports is the preferred solution. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option correctly captures the implied criticism that continuing with the present approach is insufficient. The phrase "not a doubling down of the status quo" shows dissatisfaction with conventional continuity. The policy paper therefore advocates structural change rather than superficial adjustment. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option exaggerates the argument by suggesting that co-operatives must completely replace private agricultural enterprise. The passage supports expansion and recognition of co-operatives, not the abolition of other business models. Its argument is reformist and resilience-oriented, not absolutist. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

8. Correct Answer : (d) As structural tools linking resilience with democratic control.

Reference Line: "They create the conditions for shorter, more resilient supply networks, and for greater retention of value within rural economies. And in doing so, they align economic resilience with democratic ownership."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option misplaces the passage's emphasis by treating co-operatives as mechanisms for protecting supermarket interests. Although the Co-operative Group is mentioned later, the main argument concerns farmers, supply networks, and rural economies. The passage does not frame co-operatives as retail-pricing instruments. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is partially tempting because the passage refers to crises such as the Middle East conflict. However, the role of co-operatives is not limited to emergency situations. They are presented as long-term structural arrangements for making farming more resilient. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option misreads the passage because co-operatives are directly connected with farm-level economic problems. The passage mentions input costs, shared risk, collective investment, and value retention. These are practical economic concerns, not abstract political ideas detached from farming. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option correctly reflects the author's stance that co-operatives combine economic strength with democratic ownership. The passage presents them as institutions that can make supply chains shorter and rural economies more stable. It also shows that farmers gain a stronger voice in how value is created and retained. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

9. Correct Answer : (a) While being directly confronted by serious disruptions.

Reference Line: "Agricultural co-operatives could 'unleash growth' in the UK and improve national food security in the face of crises such as the Middle East conflict by 'improving the resilience of UK farms'..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option correctly captures the contextual meaning of the phrase "in the face of crises." The phrase means when confronted by, or despite, serious difficulties and disruptions. In the passage, the Middle East conflict is used as an example of an external crisis that may affect food security and farming resilience. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the phrase does not mean avoiding external pressure altogether. Rather, it means dealing with crises while they exist or while their effects are being felt. The passage suggests that co-operatives may help farms endure such pressures, not escape them completely. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option wrongly treats crises as making farming permanently impossible. The passage does not suggest that agriculture becomes unworkable during crises. Instead, it argues that co-operatives can strengthen farms and food systems during difficult external conditions. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option misreads the timing implied by the phrase. “In the face of crises” does not mean before instability begins; it means during or while confronting instability. The passage speaks of responding to existing or possible crises through improved resilience. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. **Correct Answer :** (a) Stronger capacity to withstand market pressures.

Reference Line: “It says co-ops, which enable farmers to pool resources, share risk and invest collectively, can help ‘reduce exposure to volatile input markets’...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option correctly identifies the causal link implied in the passage. When farmers pool resources, share risk, and invest collectively, they become less exposed to unstable market conditions. The passage therefore suggests that co-operatives improve farmers’ ability to endure economic pressure. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option overstates the passage’s argument by claiming complete elimination of import dependence. The passage expresses concern about imported food, but it does not promise total self-sufficiency. Co-operatives are presented as improving resilience, not as removing every external dependency. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option wrongly introduces state procurement as the central solution. The passage focuses on farmer-led collective organisation, shared risk, and democratic ownership. It does not argue that agricultural security should depend exclusively on government purchase systems. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is too extreme because co-operatives do not necessarily eliminate private farm ownership. Farmers may retain individual ownership while cooperating in selling, investing, or managing risk. The passage supports collective strength, not compulsory disappearance of private property. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. **Correct Answer :** (d) Current presence remains significant but still expandable.

Reference Line: “There are an estimated 526 agricultural co-operatives in the UK, generating an income of more than £9bn... However, the report says there is ‘significant room for expansion’...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is inconsistent with the passage because the figures show that co-operatives already have a meaningful presence in British agriculture. The mention of 526 co-operatives and income above £9bn indicates substantial existing activity. Therefore, they cannot be described as almost absent. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option reverses the passage’s position by suggesting that co-operatives have no remaining scope for growth. The report expressly states that there is “significant room for expansion.” The existing scale is presented as a foundation for further development, not as a completed limit. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option misstates the status of Defra’s role. The passage says the forthcoming Farming Roadmap presents an opportunity to formalise commitment. It does not state that Defra has already completed a long-term co-operative expansion plan. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option accurately balances both aspects of the passage. Co-operatives already contribute significantly to UK agriculture, but the report still identifies scope for expansion. The correct answer therefore captures the nuanced position rather than treating the sector as either absent or complete. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

12. **Correct Answer :** (c) Metaphor

Reference Line: “Agricultural co-operatives could ‘unleash growth’ in the UK and improve national food security...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Hyperbole refers to deliberate exaggeration for emphasis, but the phrase “unleash growth” does not mainly exaggerate beyond possibility. It does not claim that growth will become impossibly large or unrealistic. The expression instead imagines growth as something restrained that can be released. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Personification gives human qualities to non-human things, but “unleash growth” does not clearly make growth behave like a human being. The word “unleash” suggests releasing a force, not giving growth human intention or emotion. Therefore, personification is not the most accurate figure of speech here. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Metaphor is the correct figure of speech because “growth” is treated as if it were a restrained force capable of being released. The passage does not mean that growth is literally tied up or physically unleashed. The expression figuratively presents co-operatives as capable of activating hidden economic potential. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Irony occurs when the intended meaning differs from the literal or stated meaning, often creating contrast. In this phrase, the passage uses “unleash growth” positively and directly. There is no opposite meaning or hidden contradiction in the author’s usage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. **Correct Answer :** (b) It shows whether athletic effort remains internally controlled and sustainable.

Reference Line: “its stability – accumulation, or lack thereof – reveals the sustainability of that rate of energy flux, revealing whether the athlete’s body is fundamentally in control or out of control.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that lactate measurement eliminates the role of coaching judgment. The athlete and coach still interpret the lactate reading and decide whether the next repetition should be faster or slower. The method is therefore based on informed decision-making, not on a fully automatic replacement of human expertise. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because the author presents lactate stability as a sign of whether the athlete’s body can sustain a given rate of energy use. If lactate remains stable, the body is managing the effort; if it accumulates excessively, the effort may be unsustainable. The option correctly captures the author’s implicit view that lactate reveals internal physiological control. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not reject heart rate as useless or irrelevant. It states that heart rate is more established but sometimes less reliable, which means it still remains a useful marker when interpreted carefully. The option exaggerates the comparison between lactate and heart rate and turns a qualified observation into an absolute claim. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because lactate-guided training is not designed to help athletes avoid hard work. The passage says the method helps athletes perform intense work at precise intensities without compromising future sessions. It promotes sustainable difficulty and intelligent workload management, not avoidance of demanding training. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

14. **Correct Answer :** (a) Biomarkers help athletes calibrate sustainable endurance performance.

Reference Line: “More and more athletes are relying on this biomarker, along with heart rate – a more established but sometimes less reliable marker of physiological strain – to guide the precise speeds and intensities at which they perform their individual training.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is correct because the passage mainly explains how lactate and heart rate are used to regulate training intensity with precision. The author focuses on how athletes adjust speed based on internal markers of strain. The broader idea is that modern endurance training increasingly depends on measurable feedback to improve sustainable performance. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not attribute success to Scandinavian athletes merely training harder. The “Norwegian Method” is mentioned only as a label for a measurement-based training approach pioneered by Scandinavian athletes. The author’s emphasis is on scientific calibration and feedback, not on national superiority or greater effort alone. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say glucose breakdown should be stopped. It states that lactate is produced when glucose is broken down for rapid energy in muscle cells. The usefulness of lactate lies in its ability to indicate energy combustion, not in preventing glucose metabolism. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not claim that heart rate directly measures cellular energy combustion. Rather, lactate is described as a tighter proxy for internal energy combustion, while heart rate is described as a more established but sometimes less reliable marker. The option misattributes the function of lactate to heart rate. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. **Correct Answer :** (d) A measurable substitute for internal cellular activity.

Reference Line: “The rate that it appears and disappears in the blood is a tight proxy for the internal rate of energy combustion in the cells.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because “proxy” does not mean a direct cause of tiredness or exhaustion. The passage does not describe lactate as the factor that produces fatigue. It treats lactate as an indicator of what is happening inside the cells. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because “proxy” does not mean a training command or fixed instruction. Lactate readings may help athletes adjust pace, but the word itself refers to an indirect indicator. The passage also supports individualised training, not one pace for all athletes. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not present lactate as a harmful waste product that prevents glucose use. It describes lactate as the product of glucose breakdown and as something measured to understand energy use. The option adds an unsupported biological claim. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because “proxy” means a substitute indicator used to understand something not directly observed. Here, the rate at which lactate appears and disappears in blood reflects the internal rate of cellular energy combustion. Therefore, lactate functions as a measurable substitute for internal cellular activity. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

16. **Correct Answer :** (c) The athlete is producing greater external output for the same internal strain.

Reference Line: “If the athlete is continuously doing their intervals to control their blood lactate at 3.2 mmol/L, and the speeds that elicit this level go from 3:07/km down to 3:05/km down to 3:03/km, the success of the prescription is obvious.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the athlete is not ignoring physiological control; the athlete is maintaining it through the lactate target. The passage’s example shows that faster running becomes meaningful precisely because lactate remains controlled. Pace is not replacing internal monitoring but is being interpreted through it. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because unchanged lactate does not automatically mean reduced training intensity. The athlete is actually running faster while maintaining the same internal lactate level. This indicates improved efficiency or adaptation, not a lowering of training demand. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is correct because the same lactate value represents a similar level of internal physiological strain, while the faster pace represents improved external performance. The author treats this as evidence that the training prescription is working. The athlete is therefore producing more speed without increasing the measured internal cost. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that external speed alone becomes sufficient. The improvement is visible only because lactate is being measured and held constant across different speeds. Biomarkers remain central to understanding whether the faster pace is genuinely sustainable. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

17. **Correct Answer :** (b) They interrupt selected repetitions to test blood and recalibrate pace.

Reference Line: “It’s not uncommon for elite distance runners to pause every few reps in a session to take a blood sample to calibrate their paces, speeding up or slowing down for the next few reps, even by just a few seconds, depending on what the test reveals.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not support the idea of identical target paces for all runners. It emphasises that each athlete has precise intensities suited to their own physiological response. Universal pacing would undermine the passage’s central idea of individual calibration. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because the passage explicitly describes elite runners pausing after some repetitions to take blood samples. The purpose of doing so is to adjust their pace for the next repetitions, even by a few seconds. This answer accurately includes both the practice and the reason behind it. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not state that outdoor running or actual training sessions are replaced by laboratory tests. The testing is carried out during the session itself, making it part of the training process. The method integrates measurement into performance rather than replacing performance with testing. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say that heart-rate readings are abandoned after lactate testing begins. It states that athletes rely on lactate along with heart rate, though heart rate may be less reliable at

times. The option contradicts the combined use of physiological markers described in the passage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. Correct Answer : (a) Dogmatically

Reference Line: “This approach to training, often referred to as the ‘Norwegian Method’ for its Scandinavian pioneers in distance running and triathlon, can be seen more agnostically and simply as an engineering approach.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is correct because “agnostically” in the passage means viewing the method without rigid attachment to its label, origin, or doctrine. “Dogmatically” means approaching something with fixed belief and inflexible commitment. Since the passage encourages a neutral, engineering-based view, “dogmatically” is the closest opposite. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because “neutrally” is close to the contextual meaning of “agnostically,” not its antonym. The author uses the word to suggest that the training method can be understood without overemphasising its Norwegian label. Therefore, this word supports the intended meaning rather than opposing it. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because “experimentally” does not oppose “agnostically” in the context of the passage. The method itself relies on testing, measurement, and adjustment, which makes an experimental attitude compatible with the passage’s argument. It does not express rigid attachment or doctrinal certainty. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because “technically” is closely related to the passage’s description of the method as an engineering approach. It reflects the structured and scientific nature of the training system. Since it aligns with the author’s framing, it cannot be the antonym of “agnostically.” Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. Correct Answer : (b) China’s rise has made many countries shift allegiance.

Reference Line: “But over the decades, with China’s growing economic stature and international profile, countries have largely shifted their allegiance, often in hopes of receiving other material benefits from associating with Beijing.”

(a) This option is not the strongest evidence because Taiwan’s financial assistance explains why some countries may have supported Taiwan historically. However, the question asks for evidence showing why Eswatini’s present recognition of Taiwan may face future pressure. Past financial support does not directly explain the current diplomatic pressure created by China’s growing influence. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because the passage directly links China’s growing economic and international power with the diplomatic shift of many countries away from Taiwan. This evidence supports the idea that Eswatini’s continuing recognition of Taiwan may become difficult to sustain. It shows that material benefits and Beijing’s global stature can influence diplomatic choices. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not state that Eswatini recognised Taiwan at the time of independence. Even if its ties date back to 1968, the relevant issue is not the origin of recognition but whether such recognition can survive China’s present pressure. Therefore, this option does not provide the best evidence for future vulnerability. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because earlier American support for Taiwan explains the Cold War background of Taiwan’s recognition. It does not directly support the claim that Eswatini may face future pressure. The future pressure arises mainly from China’s growing diplomatic, economic, and strategic influence, not from America’s earlier position. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. Correct Answer : (b) China’s innovation drive began only after Nvidia faced restrictions.

Reference Line: “Whether that would have happened regardless, though, is also worth debating. China has stressed the importance of technological innovations for years now, and companies like Huawei have witnessed a continued rise, despite restrictions in the US in the last decade or so.”

(a) This option is not the answer because the author presents this as a view that Huang had argued, namely that restricting Nvidia’s sales may unintentionally help China develop domestic chips. The author does not fully reject this possibility, though he qualifies it by saying China’s innovation push may have existed independently. Therefore, the author would not most likely disagree with this statement. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because the author clearly suggests that China’s focus on technological innovation did not begin only after Nvidia faced restrictions. The passage states that China has stressed technological innovation for years and that Huawei continued to rise despite US restrictions. Thus, the author would disagree with the claim that China’s innovation drive started only because of Nvidia-related restrictions. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage directly supports the idea that Nvidia had strong commercial interests in China. It mentions that Huang's firm had "considerable interests" in selling to China. Since this statement is consistent with the passage, it cannot be the view the author would most likely disagree with. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage expressly states that companies like Huawei have witnessed continued growth despite US restrictions over the last decade or so. This statement supports the author's point that China's technological development was already underway. Therefore, the author would agree with this statement, not disagree with it. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. Correct Answer : (b) Chip access carried status and strategic sensitivity.

Reference Line: "The Financial Times reported last August that Chinese officials were also 'insulted' by comments from US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick... He had said, 'We don't sell them (China) our best stuff, not our second-best stuff, not even our third-best,' in reference to Nvidia's H20 chips."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage suggests the issue went beyond ordinary commerce. The reported sense of insult indicates that the chip question had symbolic and strategic significance, not merely pricing or trade-related disagreement. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because the reaction described in the passage shows that chip sales were not treated as neutral transactions. The language attributed to Lutnick and the response it triggered suggest concerns of hierarchy, prestige, and strategic power. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because Eswatini's Taiwan recognition appears elsewhere in the passage and is unrelated to the specific reaction to Lutnick's comments on Nvidia chips. The option falsely merges two separate contexts. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage explicitly says Huang's firm had considerable interests in selling to China. The problem described is diplomatic and strategic friction, not disappearance of Nvidia's commercial interest. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. Correct Answer : (a) Changing a company's formal location may not erase deeper strategic suspicion.

Reference Line: "While Chinese companies have relocated to Singapore in the past to circumvent US restrictions and state interference (what China calls 'Singapore-washing'), this ultimately did not help Manus."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is correct because the passage uses the Manus example to show that formal relocation or symbolic distancing from a company's roots does not necessarily remove the strategic concerns attached to its origin. The phrase "this ultimately did not help Manus" directly supports the inference that structural suspicion may survive surface-level corporate rebranding or relocation. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage suggests the opposite. It explicitly states that relocation to Singapore did not ultimately solve the deeper problem in Manus's case. Therefore, the option turns a failed workaround into a guaranteed shield, which is not supported by the text. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say regulators look only at formal registration or declared geography. In fact, the discussion of "Singapore-washing" implies that policymakers and states may look beyond appearance to underlying origin, influence, and strategic interest. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not claim that symbolic separation from a company's roots ensures the success of cross-border acquisitions. The Manus example is used precisely to show that such distancing may fail when broader political and security concerns remain active. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

23. Correct Answer : (a) China views the matter as strategically important.

Reference Line: "As the Taiwan issue continues gaining currency, with China increasingly engaging in military manoeuvres and fiery rhetoric around the island, it remains to be seen how sustainable the posture of countries like Eswatini will be. China's response also points to the high priority it attaches to the issue."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is correct because the passage directly links China's military manoeuvres, strong rhetoric, and diplomatic response with the seriousness it assigns to the Taiwan issue. The phrase "high priority" indicates that Beijing treats the matter as strategically important, not incidental. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not portray Taiwan as a minor symbolic dispute for China. On the contrary, the references to military manoeuvres and fiery rhetoric show a high level of political and strategic intensity. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage suggests that recognition of Taiwan is not treated as ordinary diplomacy. The author presents China's posture as unusually serious, reflecting geopolitical stakes that go beyond routine recognition politics. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not imply passivity on China's part. Instead, it shows China actively responding and signalling that the issue matters deeply to it. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

24. **Correct Answer :** (c) China treated the order as a routine market issue only.

Reference Line: "In many ways, the Meta-Manus deal signed in December 2025 was unusual — it involved an American company purchasing a Chinese-origin one, with the said Chinese-origin company strongly attempting to break from its roots." / "China invoked its potential 'industrial security and development interests' for the order."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option is not the correct answer because it accurately reflects the passage's description of the Meta-Manus transaction. The author clearly states that the deal involved an American company purchasing a Chinese-origin company. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is not the correct answer because the passage expressly states that the Chinese-origin company was strongly attempting to break from its roots. That effort to distance itself is part of what makes the deal unusual. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is the correct answer because the passage does not present China's order as a narrow pricing or competition matter. Instead, it says China invoked "industrial security and development interests," showing that the issue involved broader strategic concerns. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is not the correct answer because the author explicitly characterises the Meta-Manus deal as unusual. This description appears directly in the passage and is central to the discussion. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

25. **Correct Answer :** (c) one-third

Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the Bill seeks to provide one-third reservation for women in representative institutions. The focus is on ensuring a fixed share for women once the required seat reorganisation process is completed. Options (a), (b), and (d) give different proportions that do not match the intended quota. The measure does not aim at one-fourth, one-half, or one-fifth reservation. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer in this context for women's representation.

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

Explanation: Statements I and II are correct because the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and it seeks to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Statement III is incorrect because the Bill provides for readjustment of parliamentary and assembly constituencies by the Delimitation Commission.

27. **Correct Answer :** (d) Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam

Explanation: The correct answer is option (d) because The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 is popularly known as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam. The other options use similar words related to women and public life, but they are not the recognised name of this constitutional amendment. The question tests identification of the proper popular title attached to the amendment, rather than a broad understanding of women's representation or legislative reform.

28. **Correct Answer :** (c) Article 334A allows reservation before Census and delimitation are completed.

Explanation: Option (c) is incorrect because Article 334A does not allow women's reservation to begin before the Census and delimitation processes are completed. The legal arrangement makes implementation conditional on delimitation after the Census. This means the reservation would not operate immediately after enactment. Options (a), (b), and (d) correctly reflect the delayed and conditional nature of implementation. Therefore, option (c) contradicts the given legal position and is the correct answer.

29. **Correct Answer :** (d) Article 170

Explanation:

Article 170 deals with the composition of the Legislative Assemblies of States. It provides the framework for the number of seats in State Legislative Assemblies and the territorial constituencies from which members are elected. Therefore, if a question refers to changes connected with State Assembly seats and related reservation references, Article 170 is the most appropriate provision.

30. **Correct Answer :** (a) Redrawing electoral areas and allocating seats for legislative bodies

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because delimitation involves defining electoral areas and allocating seats for representative institutions. It is concerned with how constituencies are formed and how representation is territorially organised. Options (b), (c), and (d) deal with voter list preparation, identity cards, booth supervision, security, expenditure review, and election disputes. These are not the meaning of delimitation. The term specifically refers to constituency boundaries and seat allocation. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

31. **Correct Answer :** (c) Artemis II carried four astronauts: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen.

Explanation: Option (c) is correct because it accurately identifies the four astronauts carried by Artemis II: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen. The other options are close distractors because they keep most of the crew list and mission setting unchanged, but each replaces one correct astronaut with another name. Option (a) wrongly includes Michael Collins, option (b) wrongly includes Jessica Meir, and option (d) wrongly includes Alan Shepard. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

32. **Correct Answer :** (a) NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because NISAR expands to NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, a joint mission developed by ISRO and NASA for advanced Earth observation. It uses L-band and S-band microwave imaging to study land, ice, ecosystems, oceans, and surface deformation. Options (b), (c), and (d) replace the technical word "Synthetic" with similar-sounding alternatives, but those are not the accepted expansion of NISAR. Therefore, option (a) accurately identifies the satellite mission's full name and is the correct answer.

33. **Correct Answer :** (d) lunar flyby

Explanation: Option (d) is correct because Artemis II functioned as a lunar flyby mission, focusing on validating systems needed for upcoming lunar exploration stages. It involved sending astronauts around the Moon without attempting a landing, thereby allowing NASA to assess spacecraft systems, crew safety, and operational readiness. Options (a), (b), and (c) represent mission types that differ from this purpose. Hence, lunar flyby is the accurate classification.

34. **Correct Answer :** (c) 2022

Explanation: Option (c) is correct because NASA's Artemis I mission began in 2022 from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It was an uncrewed mission, making it different from Artemis II, which involved astronauts. Options (a), (b), and (d) are incorrect because they give years other than the actual launch year. The question focuses only on the year of the mission's beginning, so 2022 correctly identifies the relevant timeline. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

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

Explanation: Statement I is correct because India became the 27th country to sign the Artemis Accords in June 2023. Statement II is correct because the Artemis Accords were established in 2020 as non-binding principles for peaceful and cooperative civil space exploration, including activities relating to the Moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids. Statement III is incorrect because India was not the 17th country; it was the 27th country to sign the Artemis Accords.

36. **Correct Answer :** (d) 9 days, 1 hour, 32 minutes

Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the recorded duration of Artemis II was 9 days, 1 hour, and 32 minutes. This figure represents the full period between its launch on 1 April 2026 and splashdown on 10 April 2026. The other options appear similar, but each one alters a key part of the timing by changing the day, hour, or minute value. Hence, only option (d) accurately gives the mission's total duration.

37. **Correct Answer :** (d) 107th

Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the martyrdom anniversary observed on 13 April 2026 corresponds to 107 years since the incident of 1919. The calculation is based on the difference between the year of the event and the year

of observation. Options (a), (b), and (c) are incorrect because they either underestimate or overestimate the number of years elapsed. Therefore, 107th correctly represents the anniversary observed in 2026 and aligns with the historical timeline.

38. **Correct Answer :** (a) Rabindranath Tagore

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Rabindranath Tagore renounced the knighthood conferred upon him by the British as a protest following the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. This act symbolised moral resistance and deep disapproval of colonial actions. Options (b), (c), and (d) include prominent freedom leaders, but they are not associated with giving up this specific honour. The question requires identification of the individual linked with this symbolic renunciation. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

39. **Correct Answer :** (d) Satyapal and Saifuddin Kitchlew

Explanation: Option (d) is correct because Satyapal and Saifuddin Kitchlew were the two leaders whose arrest and deportation triggered public protest before the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. Their detention created anger among local residents and contributed to the gathering at Jallianwala Bagh. Options (a), (b), and (c) mention important freedom fighters, but they were not the leaders linked with this immediate cause. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

40. **Correct Answer :** (b) Rowlatt Act, 1919

Explanation: The public meeting at Jallianwala Bagh was connected with protests against the Rowlatt Act, 1919, which allowed detention without trial and placed severe restrictions on civil liberties. The gathering also reflected public anger over the arrest of nationalist leaders such as Dr. Satyapal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.

41. **Correct Answer :** (c) Hunter Commission

Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the Hunter Commission was appointed by the British Government to investigate the events that followed the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. It collected evidence and submitted its findings in 1920, condemning General Dyer's actions. However, it did not recommend any strict penal consequences. Options (a), (b), and (d) refer to other commissions formed for different administrative or constitutional purposes, and they are not related to this inquiry. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

42. **Correct Answer :** (a) AYUSH

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because AYUSH represents India's traditional systems of medicine, including Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, and was recognised by New Zealand as a symbolic diplomatic gesture. This recognition carried cultural and strategic importance in bilateral engagement. Options (b), (c), and (d) refer to international organisations or frameworks unrelated to traditional medicine systems. Therefore, AYUSH is the correct answer as it uniquely reflects India's indigenous healthcare traditions.

43. **Correct Answer :** (b) Oceania

Explanation: Option (b) is correct because New Zealand is part of the Oceania region, where it is identified as India's second-largest trading partner. This regional classification includes Australia and Pacific island countries, making Oceania the relevant grouping for this trade relationship. Options (a), (c), and (d) are incorrect because New Zealand does not belong to Asia, Europe, or Africa. Therefore, the correct regional context for this partnership is Oceania.

44. **Correct Answer :** (a) Information technology software services

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because information technology software services are not part of the excluded product categories under tariff liberalisation. The exclusions mainly include goods such as dairy items, agricultural commodities, metals like copper and aluminium, as well as sensitive sectors like arms and ammunition. Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect because they represent categories that are specifically kept outside tariff liberalisation to protect domestic industries. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

45. **Correct Answer :** (c) tariff rate quota

Explanation: Option (c) is correct because tariff rate quota refers to a system where a limited quantity of goods can be imported at reduced or zero duty, after which higher tariffs may apply. It is used for a very small share of products with restrictions such as minimum import price and seasonal conditions. Options (a), (b), and (d) describe other forms of tariff changes, but they do not involve quantity-based limits. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

46. **Correct Answer :** (a) Pact removing tariffs quotas barriers on most goods services trade

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because a Free Trade Agreement involves countries agreeing to remove or significantly reduce tariffs, quotas, and other trade barriers across a broad range of goods and services. It also supports investment flows and wider market access between participating nations. Option (b) describes a limited arrangement covering selected products, while options (c) and (d) refer to unrelated areas such as migration and currency management. Hence, option (a) correctly defines this economic agreement.

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

Explanation: Statements I, II and III are correct. OPEC was founded by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, and the UAE joined in 1967. The oil embargo came later, in 1973, against countries including the United States and the Netherlands for supporting Israel during the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, the UAE's entry into OPEC happened before the embargo, making all three statements correct

48. **Correct Answer :** (b) Seven Sisters

Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Seven Sisters was the term used for Western multinational oil companies that dominated the global petroleum industry before OPEC was formed. These companies influenced prices paid to oil-producing nations, reducing the bargaining power of producer states. OPEC was created to counter this dominance by coordinating petroleum policies among its members and helping them secure stable returns. Options (a), (c), and (d) are generic phrases and not the recognised historical label.

49. **Correct Answer :** (a) Russia

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Russia was the leading non-OPEC producer associated with the creation of OPEC+ in 2016. The wider alliance brought together OPEC members and ten major producers outside OPEC to coordinate petroleum policy more broadly. Options (b), (c), and (d) mention significant energy-producing countries, but they were not identified as the leader of this wider producer grouping. Therefore, Russia is the accurate answer for the country leading the non-OPEC side of OPEC+ in this context.

50. **Correct Answer :** (c) OPEC is an organisation of petroleum-exporting countries founded in Baghdad in September 1960 to coordinate oil policies.

Explanation: Option (c) is correct because OPEC stands for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. It was founded in September 1960 at the Baghdad Conference in Iraq. Its main purpose is to coordinate petroleum policies among member countries and help stabilise oil markets. Options (a), (b), and (d) are incorrect because they wrongly describe OPEC as a gas-importing group, an oil-consuming trade bloc, or a financial alliance for renewable energy.

51. **Correct Answer :** (c) 59%

Explanation: OPEC+ is a wider grouping that includes the members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) along with major non-OPEC oil-producing countries such as Russia. As per the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), OPEC+ countries together accounted for approximately 59% of global oil production in 2022, which was about 48 million barrels per day. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

52. **Correct Answer :** (a) Canada

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Canada is not part of the OPEC+ grouping. The alliance includes OPEC members along with countries such as Mexico, Kazakhstan, Russia, Oman, and others that coordinate petroleum production policies. Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect because Mexico, Kazakhstan, and Russia are all included in the broader OPEC+ framework. Therefore, Canada stands out as the only country listed that does not belong to this cooperative energy grouping.

53. **Correct Answer :** (b) The Supreme Court must entertain if a genuine fundamental rights violation is shown, because Article 32 is itself a fundamental right.

Reference Line: "Since Article 32 is a fundamental right, the Supreme Court generally cannot refuse to entertain a petition where a genuine violation of fundamental rights is shown."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This incorrectly equates Article 32 with the discretionary nature of Article 226. The reference line states the Supreme Court generally cannot refuse where a genuine fundamental rights violation is shown, so workload alone cannot convert a guaranteed remedy into discretion. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses “cannot refuse to entertain” and “genuine violation of fundamental rights,” matching the reference line’s words. The petition alleges liberty violation, and Article 32 is the constitutional route to the Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reference line makes clear that Article 32 exists to enforce fundamental rights before the Supreme Court. Saying liberty writs are available only under Article 226 contradicts the very scope of Article 32 described in the passage. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage states the Supreme Court may issue five writs, including Habeas Corpus. Therefore, claiming the Supreme Court lacks power to issue Habeas Corpus is inconsistent with the stated principle. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

54. **Correct Answer :** (a) Petition maintainable because Article 226 empowers High Courts to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights and other legal rights.

Reference Line: “Article 226, on the other hand, empowers the High Courts to issue writs not only for enforcement of fundamental rights but also for other legal rights.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses “not only for enforcement of fundamental rights but also for other legal rights,” matching the reference line. The student’s claim is of a legal/statutory entitlement, which falls within the wider scope of Article 226. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line expressly contradicts this by stating Article 226 extends beyond fundamental rights to other legal rights. Therefore, the High Court is not confined to FR-only writ relief. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reference line makes no such requirement that Article 226 relief must be anchored in Article 21. It explicitly allows writs for other legal rights, so adding an artificial FR condition is wrong. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage recognises High Courts’ writ power under Article 226; it is not exclusive to the Supreme Court. Universities can be subject to writs depending on their statutory character, so this absolute denial is inconsistent with the described scope. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

55. **Correct Answer :** (c) High Court power cannot be suspended during emergency, so Article 226 petitions remain maintainable even during emergency.

Reference Line: “Unlike Article 32, the power under Article 226 cannot be suspended during an emergency.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The reference line explicitly rejects automatic suspension of Article 226. Therefore, the State’s claim that emergency suspends all writ jurisdiction is inconsistent with the passage principle. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Article 226 is not described as a fundamental right, and the reference line says it cannot be suspended during emergency. Making its survival conditional on a separate order misstates the passage’s distinction. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “cannot be suspended during an emergency,” matching the reference line. Hence, the High Court’s Article 226 power remains available despite the emergency, even though other mechanisms may be affected differently. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The reference line does not carve out liberty writs from Article 226 during emergency; it states the power under Article 226 cannot be suspended. Creating a subject-matter split contradicts the stated rule. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

56. **Correct Answer :** (b) High Court may refuse because Article 226 is discretionary, unlike Article 32 where Supreme Court generally cannot refuse when FR violation shown.

Reference Line: “It is a constitutional remedy, not a fundamental right, and the High Court has discretion whether to entertain a petition.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The reference line says Article 226 is a constitutional remedy, not a fundamental right, so it is not automatically mandatory to entertain every petition. This option incorrectly treats Article 226 as a guaranteed fundamental right like Article 32. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses “High Court has discretion whether to entertain,” matching the reference line. It also correctly contrasts the discretionary nature of Article 226 with Article 32’s near-guaranteed enforcement for genuine FR violations. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reference line expressly states there is discretion; therefore, alternate remedy and factual complexity can influence whether the High Court entertains the petition. Claiming “no discretion” contradicts the passage principle. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The passage states Article 226 extends to “other legal rights” too, so service-rule rights can be covered. Therefore, the High Court’s refusal cannot be justified by saying it lacks jurisdiction over legal rights altogether. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

57. **Correct Answer :** (d) Article 32 enforcement may be suspended during a national emergency under Article 359, even though Article 32 is fundamental right.

Reference Line: “Since Article 32 is a fundamental right, the Supreme Court generally cannot refuse to entertain a petition where a genuine violation of fundamental rights is shown. However, its enforcement may be suspended during a national emergency under Article 359.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The reference line explicitly states that enforcement of Article 32 may be suspended during a national emergency under Article 359. Therefore, calling it never affectable contradicts the passage’s stated constitutional limitation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line says enforcement “may be suspended” under Article 359, not that Article 32 is automatically suspended in every emergency in all respects. This option overstates the effect and treats it as universal, which the reference line does not claim. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The reference line’s suspension point is about Article 32 enforcement, not High Courts. The passage separately says Article 226 cannot be suspended during emergency, so this option reverses the stated distinction. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “enforcement may be suspended during a national emergency under Article 359,” matching the reference line. It correctly acknowledges Article 32’s status while recognising the emergency-time enforcement constraint described. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

58. **Correct Answer :** (b) Petition can lie because Article 32 may be invoked against private individuals in certain circumstances where fundamental rights are implicated.

Reference Line: “While PUDR v. Union of India recognised that it may, in certain circumstances, also be invoked against private individuals where fundamental rights are implicated.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This treats Article 32 as barred against private parties in every situation. The reference line expressly recognises that Article 32 may, in certain circumstances, be invoked against private individuals when fundamental rights are implicated, so an absolute bar is inconsistent with the principle. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses “invoked against private individuals” and “where fundamental rights are implicated,” matching the reference line. The facts allege coercion, confinement, and threats, which can implicate fundamental rights even though the respondent is a private employer. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Even if an employment relationship exists, the allegations go beyond a mere contract claim and can implicate fundamental rights. The reference line supports Article 32’s use where fundamental rights are implicated, so this blanket “never” statement is too broad. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The reference line does not make exhaustion of civil remedies a strict precondition. Article 32 is framed as a direct remedy for enforcement of fundamental rights, and the principle recognises maintainability against private individuals in certain circumstances. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

59. **Correct Answer :** (c) Arvind is liable because intending harm to Bhaskar, but by the same act killing Chitra, transfers intention to actual victim.

Reference Line: “The Doctrine of Transfer of Malice, also known as transmigration of malice, means that when a person intends to cause harm to one individual but, by the same act, causes harm or death to another, the original criminal intention is legally transferred to the actual victim.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly assumes that criminal intention remains permanently attached only to the originally targeted person. The reference line specifically states that when a person intends harm to one individual but, by the same act, causes harm or death to another, the original criminal intention is legally transferred to the actual victim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Arvind may also have attempted to kill Bhaskar, but that does not prevent liability for Chitra's death when the same act caused the fatal result. The doctrine exists precisely to avoid reducing liability merely because the actual victim differed from the intended victim. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses the reference idea that intention against one person is transferred when, by the same act, another person is harmed or killed. Arvind intended to kill Bhaskar, and the same bullet killed Chitra, making the transferred intention doctrine applicable. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The unintended identity of the victim does not automatically break the chain between mens rea and consequence. The reference line preserves that connection by transferring the guilty intention from the intended victim to the actual victim where the same act causes the result. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

60. **Correct Answer :** (d) Meenal is liable because causing another's death while intending likely death keeps the offence of same description as intended death.

Reference Line: "In Indian law, the doctrine is recognised through Section 301 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which provides that if a person, by doing anything which he intends or knows to be likely to cause death, causes the death of another person whose death he neither intended nor knew himself to be likely to cause, the offence is of the same description as it would have been if the intended person had died."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option ignores the statutory idea that the offence remains of the same description even where the actual death was neither intended nor known to be likely. Meenal's intention to cause death through poison does not disappear simply because Tara consumed the drink instead of Raghav. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Mistaken consumption does not remove liability when the accused intentionally created a death-causing act. The reference line covers precisely the situation where death is caused to a person whose death was not intended or known to be likely. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The facts do not show mere carelessness; they show an intentional act of poisoning directed at causing death. Transfer of malice prevents such conduct from being reduced to negligence merely because the actual victim differed from the intended victim. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses "intends or knows to be likely to cause death" and "offence is of the same description," reflecting the reference line. Meenal intended death by poisoning, and Tara's unintended death remains legally connected to that intention. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

61. **Correct Answer :** (a) Rohit remains liable because guilty mind does not fail merely because harm falls upon an unintended person.

Reference Line: "The doctrine rests on the principle that a guilty mind (mens rea) does not fail merely because the harm falls upon an unintended person."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses the reference words "guilty mind does not fail" and "unintended person." Rohit's mens rea against Sameer remains legally relevant when the same act causes Nisha's fatal injury, because the doctrine prevents liability from failing due to mistaken victim identity. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly demands an exact match between intention and the actual victim's identity. The reference line states that mens rea does not fail merely because harm falls on an unintended person, so the mismatch does not by itself defeat liability. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Knowledge of Nisha's precise presence is not necessary where the doctrine transfers the guilty intention attached to the act. The key point is that Rohit intentionally committed a harmful act, and the harm fell upon another person by the same act. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The doctrine is not limited to firearms or poison. The reference line speaks generally of mens rea and harm falling upon an unintended person, so a rod can also attract the doctrine if the legal elements are satisfied. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

62. **Correct Answer :** (c) Doctrine does not apply because the actual act is materially different from intended assault, resulting instead in property damage.

Reference Line: "It does not apply where the actual act is materially different from the intended offence, as in R v. Pembleton (1874), where an intended assault resulted instead in property damage."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option makes the doctrine unlimited, but the reference line clearly states that it does not apply where the actual act is materially different from the intended offence. Intent to injure a person cannot automatically transfer to unintended property damage. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Property damage is not automatically included within an intention to assault a person. The reference line specifically gives the example of intended assault resulting in property damage as a situation where the doctrine does not apply. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses "materially different" and "intended assault resulted instead in property damage," matching the reference line. Since Faiz intended personal injury but caused only property damage, the transferred malice doctrine does not operate in the same way. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The doctrine is not limited only to murder; it may apply to other legally connected harms. The reason it fails here is not because the original offence was assault, but because the actual result property damage is materially different from the intended personal harm. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

63. **Correct Answer :** (b) Prosecution must prove act causing death, intention or knowledge likely to cause death, different victim, and direct attribution.

Reference Line: "The essential elements are: there must be an act causing death, the offender must possess intention or knowledge likely to cause death, the actual victim must be different from the intended victim, and the death must be directly attributable to the offender's act."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Motive, public outrage, rivalry, and confession may be evidentiary facts, but they are not the essential elements stated in the reference line. The doctrine requires a causal and mental-element link, not merely proof of hostility or public reaction. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly reproduces the reference line's four requirements: an act causing death, intention or knowledge likely to cause death, a different actual victim, and direct attribution to the offender's act. These elements properly structure the prosecution's burden. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option wrongly removes intention and victim difference, both of which are expressly included in the reference line. Transfer of malice is not a strict-liability rule; it depends on the offender's guilty mind and causal link to the actual death. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The doctrine applies precisely when the actual victim is different from the intended victim. Requiring the same victim to be harmed would destroy the doctrine's purpose and contradict the reference line's express element of victim difference. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

64. **Correct Answer :** (d) Sahil remains liable because offenders cannot avoid punishment simply because the act affected someone other than intended target.

Reference Line: "It ensures that an offender does not escape liability simply because the result of the act affected someone other than the intended target."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Mistaken identity does not automatically cancel criminal intention when the accused intentionally commits a harmful act. The reference line specifically prevents an offender from escaping liability merely because the result affected someone other than the intended target. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly reduces liability to a lesser mistaken assault despite fatal injury. Where the accused intended a deadly attack and the death results from the same act, the doctrine prevents escape based only on victim mismatch. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Provocation by Aman is not necessary for transferred malice. The relevant inquiry is whether Sahil committed the harmful act with the required intention and whether the result affected someone other than the intended target. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses the reference idea that an offender does not escape liability merely because the act affected someone other than the intended target. Sahil's mistaken identification of Aman as Pratap does not erase the guilty intention behind the stabbing. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

65. **Correct Answer :** (c) Kavya succeeds because daughter by birth becomes coparcener in her own right like the son.
Reference Line: "It declares that the daughter of a coparcener shall by birth become a coparcener in her own right in the same manner as the son."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats marriage as ending the daughter's coparcenary status. The reference line states that the daughter becomes a coparcener "by birth" and "in her own right," which means her entitlement is not dependent on remaining unmarried or residing in the natal home. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Kavya's claim is not dependent on her brothers' consent or a voluntary family settlement. The reference line creates a legal status by birth, placing the daughter in the same position as the son. Therefore, family approval cannot be treated as the source of her right. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses the reference words "daughter by birth," "coparcener in her own right," and "like the son." Kavya's status arises from law and not from marriage, residence, or permission from male coparceners. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option repeats the old discriminatory approach that the amendment intended to remove. The reference line expressly equates daughter and son in coparcenary by birth, so no written permission from the father is required. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

66. **Correct Answer :** (d) Meera succeeds because women receive equal rights in agricultural land after deletion of the exclusion.

Reference Line: "By deleting this provision, the amendment ensured that women would also receive equal rights in agricultural land, which is especially significant in rural India."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option relies on the older exclusionary position, but the reference line states that deletion of the provision ensured equal rights in agricultural land. Therefore, the sons cannot rely on prior gender-biased treatment to exclude Meera. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line does not require agricultural land to be converted before women can claim equal rights. The point of the amendment was to extend equality to agricultural land itself, especially because such land is economically significant in rural India. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option artificially restricts daughters' rights to non-agricultural property. The reference line expressly includes agricultural land, so excluding farmland would defeat the reform's purpose. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses "women would also receive equal rights in agricultural land," matching the reference line. Since Meera is claiming a share in agricultural land after the deletion of the exclusion, her claim is supported by the stated principle. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

67. **Correct Answer :** (a) Ananya succeeds because only partitions through registered partition deed or court decree are recognised.

Reference Line: "The amendment also introduced an important safeguard in Section 6(5) by recognising only those partitions that are effected through a registered partition deed or a court decree."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses "registered partition deed" and "court decree," matching the reference line. The safeguard was introduced to prevent false partition claims from defeating daughters' rights, so unregistered oral claims and informal notes cannot automatically bar Ananya's claim. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option gives legal effect to any oral arrangement, which is precisely what the safeguard seeks to prevent. The reference line recognises only partitions effected through a registered deed or court decree, not every alleged family understanding. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Handwritten notes by elders are not equivalent to a court decree or registered partition deed. The reference line sets a formal threshold to avoid fraudulent or conveniently alleged partitions. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Ananya need not first secure an admission of fabrication if the alleged partition lacks the legally recognised form. The reference line itself makes registered deed or court decree the decisive safeguard. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

68. **Correct Answer :** (b) Ritika has same rights and liabilities, including demand for partition and disposal of share.

Reference Line: “She now has the same rights and liabilities in the Hindu Undivided Family property, including the right to demand partition, dispose of her share, and inherit as a coparcener.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly postpones Ritika’s rights until her father’s death. The reference line states she has the same rights and liabilities in HUF property, including the right to demand partition, which is not merely a future succession claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses “same rights and liabilities,” “demand partition,” and “dispose of her share,” matching the reference line. Ritika’s status is substantive, not symbolic, and includes the normal incidents of coparcenary. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option reflects the pre-amendment inequality that confined daughters largely to maintenance-related claims. The reference line confirms that daughters now hold full coparcenary rights and liabilities in HUF property. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Ritika’s rights do not depend on voluntary entry in family accounts by the manager. The reference line recognises her legal rights directly, including partition and disposal of share. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

69. **Correct Answer :** (d) Nisha is correct because amendment placed daughters on same legal footing as sons in joint family property.

Reference Line: “The main objective of the amendment was to place daughters on the same legal footing as sons in joint family property.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats daughters’ rights as charitable or discretionary. The reference line states that the amendment’s main objective was to place daughters on the same legal footing as sons, which means equality as a matter of law, not favour. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The priest’s approach reduces daughters’ entitlement to voluntary gifts and tradition-based accommodation. The reference line makes clear that the reform’s objective was legal equality in joint family property, not symbolic generosity. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The amendment was designed to reform the Mitakshara coparcenary framework itself. Therefore, family consensus or refusal cannot override the statutory objective of placing daughters on the same legal footing as sons. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “same legal footing as sons in joint family property,” matching the reference line. Nisha’s claim correctly treats the amendment as an equality-based reform rather than a discretionary settlement mechanism. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

70. **Correct Answer :** (c) It made key changes through omission of Section 4(2) and substitution of Section 6.

Reference Line: “The two most significant statutory changes were the omission of Section 4(2) and the substitution of Section 6 of the 1956 Act. Earlier, Section 4(2) had excluded certain agricultural land from the operation of the Hindu Succession Act, allowing states to continue gender-biased rules in agricultural property. By deleting this provision, the amendment ensured that women would also receive equal rights in agricultural land, which is especially significant in rural India.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly confines the amendment to maintenance. The reference line identifies the omission of Section 4(2) and substitution of Section 6 as the two most significant statutory changes, both of which directly concern property and coparcenary rights. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The amendment was not merely procedural. The reference line points to major statutory restructuring, especially the substitution of Section 6, which changed daughters’ substantive coparcenary rights. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

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Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “omission of Section 4(2)” and “substitution of Section 6,” matching the reference line. These changes explain both agricultural land equality and daughters’ coparcenary status by birth. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The amendment did not abolish succession or replace it with discretionary settlements. It reformed the statutory framework to create a more equal succession regime within Hindu law. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

71. Correct Answer : (a)

Reference Line: “Overall, the 2005 Amendment significantly transformed Hindu women’s property rights by improving economic security, reducing discrimination in family property structures, strengthening their litigation rights, and advancing the constitutional promise of gender equality.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: The assertion is true because the reference line expressly states that the 2005 Amendment “significantly transformed Hindu women’s property rights” by reducing discrimination in family property structures and strengthening litigation rights. The reason is also true because the same reference line connects this transformation with improving economic security and advancing constitutional gender equality. Since the reason explains why the amendment transformed women’s property rights, it is the correct explanation of the assertion. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Although both the assertion and reason are true, this option wrongly denies the explanatory link between them. The reference line directly connects the transformation of women’s property rights with economic security, reduced discrimination, litigation strength, and constitutional gender equality. Therefore, the reason is not merely related; it explains the assertion. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The assertion is true, but the reason is not false. The reference line clearly states that the amendment improved economic security, reduced discrimination, and advanced the constitutional promise of gender equality. Since the reason accurately reflects the reference line, this option cannot be correct. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The assertion is not false because the reference line expressly says the amendment “significantly transformed Hindu women’s property rights.” Since both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason explains the assertion, this option is incorrect. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

72. Correct Answer : (d) The agreement is void ab initio because a minor’s agreement is completely void from the beginning.

Reference Line: “The legal position regarding minors was settled in Mohiri Bibi v. Dharmodas Ghosh, where the Privy Council held that a minor’s agreement is void ab initio, that is, completely void from the beginning.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: The minor’s understanding of the transaction does not convert incapacity into contractual competence. The reference line states that a minor’s agreement is void ab initio, meaning the agreement has no enforceable existence from the beginning. Therefore, Raghav’s apparent maturity or voluntary signature cannot create personal contractual liability. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats the agreement as voidable. A voidable agreement is valid unless avoided, but the reference line makes a minor’s agreement void ab initio, meaning it is completely void from inception and cannot be affirmed merely by later choice. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The lender’s honest belief does not alter the minor’s legal incapacity. The rule protects minors even where the other party failed to verify age or believed the minor was competent. The agreement remains void from the beginning. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “void ab initio” and “completely void from the beginning,” matching the reference line. Since Raghav was a minor when he executed the loan agreement, he cannot be made personally liable under that agreement. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

73. Correct Answer : (c) Anika succeeds because estoppel does not apply against a minor even after false representation of majority.

Reference Line: “The law of estoppel does not apply against a minor, and he may plead minority even if he falsely represented himself as a major.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly converts false representation into contractual capacity. The reference line expressly states that estoppel does not apply against a minor, and the minor may plead minority even after falsely representing majority. Therefore, Anika does not become fully bound merely because she lied about age. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Reliance by the dealer may create sympathy, but it does not override the protective rule of minority. The reference line directly rejects estoppel against a minor, even where the minor falsely represented himself or herself as a major. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “estoppel does not apply against a minor” and “falsely represented himself as a major,” matching the reference line. Anika may therefore plead minority despite her misrepresentation, although restitutionary questions may separately arise depending on benefit retained. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The reference line does not require payment of double price before pleading minority. Any possible restoration of benefit is a separate equitable matter, but the minor’s right to plead minority is not conditional on such punitive repayment. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

74. Correct Answer : (c) Hostel owner can claim reimbursement from minor’s estate for necessities supplied to minor or dependants.

Reference Line: “Under Section 68 of the Indian Contract Act, a person supplying necessities to a minor or his dependants is entitled to reimbursement from the minor’s estate.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Although a minor’s agreement is generally void, the law separately protects suppliers of necessities. The reference line expressly permits reimbursement from the minor’s estate where necessities are supplied. Therefore, the hostel owner’s claim is not defeated merely because Kabir is a minor. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line allows reimbursement from the minor’s estate, not personal contractual liability against the minor. The distinction is important because Section 68 does not make the minor personally bound as an ordinary contracting party. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “reimbursement from the minor’s estate” and “necessaries supplied to minor,” matching the reference line. Basic lodging, food, and education-related support may qualify as necessities depending on Kabir’s condition in life and existing supply. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Ratification of a void minor’s agreement is generally not possible without fresh consideration, but this question concerns reimbursement for necessities. The reference line itself creates a statutory reimbursement route from the estate, independent of later ratification. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

75. Correct Answer : (a) Lease may be valid because competence depends on understanding and rational judgment at contracting time.

Reference Line: “A person of unsound mind, under Section 12, is competent only when, at the time of contracting, he is capable of understanding the contract and forming a rational judgment as to its effect on his interests.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses “at the time of contracting,” “capable of understanding,” and “forming a rational judgment,” matching the reference line. Since Mohan understood the lease and its effect during a lucid interval, the transaction may be treated as valid despite his general condition. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option states an absolute rule that persons usually of unsound mind can never contract. The reference line creates a time-specific test: competence exists when the person can understand and form rational judgment at the time of contracting. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Family objection does not automatically invalidate a contract if Mohan satisfied the statutory mental-capacity test when he signed it. The relevant inquiry is his understanding and rational judgment, not later dissatisfaction among relatives. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The reference line does not require prior court appointment of a guardian for every valid transaction during a lucid interval. The test is functional and time-based: whether the person could understand and judge the contract’s effect on his interests. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

76. Correct Answer : (d) Priya succeeds because where a guardian is appointed by court, minority continues till 21 years.

Reference Line: “Under Section 3 of the Indian Majority Act, 1875, a person below 18 years is a minor, though where a guardian is appointed by the court, minority continues till 21 years.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option states the ordinary rule but ignores the exception in the reference line. Where a guardian is appointed by the court, minority continues till 21 years, so merely crossing 18 does not necessarily create contractual capacity. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line connects court-appointed guardianship with continuation of minority till 21 years. Therefore, the builder cannot treat guardianship as irrelevant to contractual competence in respect of Priya’s status. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The issue is not simply whether the guardian signed separately; the threshold question is Priya’s competence to contract. The reference line indicates that she remains a minor until 21 in the court-appointed guardian situation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “where a guardian is appointed by the court, minority continues till 21 years,” matching the reference line. Since Priya was 20 and under such guardianship, her agreement can be challenged on the ground of minority. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

77. Correct Answer : (c) Trader may be incompetent because persons disqualified by law are also not competent to contract.

Reference Line: “Besides minors and persons of unsound mind, persons disqualified by law are also incompetent.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly limits contractual capacity to age and soundness of mind. The reference line expressly adds that persons disqualified by law are also incompetent, so age and mental capacity do not exhaust the inquiry. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Foreign persons may ordinarily contract, but the passage identifies alien enemies during wartime as a category of legal disqualification. Therefore, wartime status can affect contractual competence despite the transaction being commercial. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “persons disqualified by law are also incompetent,” matching the reference line. Since the trader’s enemy status may place him within a legally disqualified category, the Indian merchant’s objection raises a valid competency issue. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Uncertainty or unlawful consideration may affect validity, but the present issue is statutory or legal disqualification. The reference line makes disqualification by law an independent ground of incompetence, separate from price certainty or consideration. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

78. Correct Answer : (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

Reference Line: “These include alien enemies, whose wartime contracts are void; convicts, during imprisonment; insolvents, in respect of property under insolvency proceedings; and foreign sovereigns and diplomats, who enjoy contractual immunity unless they submit to the jurisdiction of Indian courts.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but the reason does not explain the assertion. The assertion concerns contractual immunity of foreign sovereigns and diplomats unless they submit to Indian jurisdiction, while the reason refers to separate categories of legal disqualification, namely convicts and insolvents. Since the reason is merely another example from the same legal category and not the basis of diplomatic immunity, this option is not correct. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: Assertion (A) is true because the reference line expressly states that foreign sovereigns and diplomats enjoy contractual immunity unless they submit to the jurisdiction of Indian courts. Reason (R) is also true because convicts during imprisonment and insolvents regarding property under insolvency proceedings are mentioned as persons disqualified by law. However, Reason (R) does not explain why foreign sovereigns and diplomats enjoy immunity; it only states other examples of incapacity or disqualification. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The assertion is true, but the reason is not false. The reference line clearly includes convicts during imprisonment and insolvents in respect of property under insolvency proceedings among persons affected by legal disqualification. Therefore, this option wrongly treats a correct reason as false. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The assertion is not false because the reference line directly recognises contractual immunity of foreign sovereigns and diplomats unless they submit to Indian courts' jurisdiction. Since both the assertion and reason are true, this option cannot be accepted. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

79. **Correct Answer :** (a) Her claim may succeed because tortious liability arises independently of agreement and protects bodily integrity.

Reference Line: "Unlike contractual liability, tortious liability arises independently of agreement and is imposed by law for the protection of rights such as bodily integrity, property, liberty, and reputation."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses "arises independently of agreement" and "bodily integrity," matching the reference line. The visitor's claim is not based on the delivery contract but on a legal duty imposed by law to avoid causing foreseeable bodily harm to others. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats contractual privity as a necessary condition for tort claims. The reference line clearly distinguishes tortious liability from contractual liability and states that it can arise independently of agreement. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Consideration is a contractual concept and is not required for tortious protection of bodily integrity. The visitor's right not to be injured by careless handling of heavy parcels exists independently of any payment. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Assignment of contractual rights is irrelevant because the visitor's claim is not dependent on the sender's contract. Tort law imposes duties by law for protection of persons and property, even where no agreement exists between plaintiff and defendant. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

80. **Correct Answer :** (c) It is negligence because the restaurant failed to exercise reasonable care and caused harm.

Reference Line: "Negligence arises where a person fails to exercise reasonable care and causes harm to another."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Trespass involves direct and unlawful interference with land or person, not every injury occurring on someone's premises. The customer entered lawfully, and the complaint concerns careless maintenance of a wet floor. Therefore, negligence is the more accurate characterisation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Defamation concerns false statements published to third parties that injure reputation. A slip-and-fall injury does not become defamation merely because it may later affect the restaurant's public image. The relevant legal issue is lack of reasonable care. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses "failed to exercise reasonable care" and "caused harm," matching the reference line. The restaurant's omission to put a warning sign after mopping creates a classic negligence issue based on foreseeable physical injury. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Malicious prosecution concerns wrongful institution of proceedings without reasonable and probable cause, with malice and favourable termination. Here, the customer is the injured claimant, and the dispute concerns unsafe conditions, not malicious legal proceedings. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

81. **Correct Answer :** (d) It is defamation because false statements published to third parties injured reputation.

Reference Line: "Defamation consists of false statements published to third parties which injure reputation, and in *SNM Abdi v Prafulla Kumar Mahanta*, damages were awarded for defamatory allegations."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly confines tort protection to physical safety. The passage expressly recognises reputation as a protected interest and identifies defamation as the tort dealing with false statements injuring reputation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Trespass involves direct unlawful interference with land or person. A false newspaper report may harm professional reputation, but it does not amount to direct physical interference with the clinic building. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Nuisance concerns unreasonable interference with use or enjoyment of land. While appointments were cancelled, the core wrong is reputational injury from false publication, not interference with land use. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “false statements,” “published to third parties,” and “injured reputation,” matching the reference line. The newspaper’s unverified publication caused reputational injury, making defamation the appropriate tort classification. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

82. Correct Answer : (d) Wrongful act, legal duty, breach of duty, and damage caused by breach must be shown.

Reference Line: “Its essential elements are a wrongful act or omission, existence of a legal duty owed by the defendant to the plaintiff, breach of that duty, and damage or injury caused by such breach.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option imports requirements that are not part of the stated tort elements. A written agreement and fixed damages belong more naturally to contract, while criminal conviction is not required for civil tort liability. The reference line focuses on wrongful act, duty, breach, and damage, not intention or criminal guilt. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Motive and personal hostility may be relevant in some intentional torts, but they are not the general essential elements stated in the passage. The customer’s claim depends on duty, breach, and injury caused by unsafe conduct, not on proving malice or repeated public complaints. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Injury alone is not sufficient in the general structure described. The reference line requires a wrongful act or omission, legal duty, breach, and damage caused by breach. Without these links, tort liability would become automatic for every unfortunate injury. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “wrongful act,” “legal duty,” “breach of duty,” and “damage caused by breach,” matching the reference line. The customer must connect the unsecured sheets to the shopkeeper’s legal duty and the injury suffered. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

83. Correct Answer : (b) It is nuisance because there is unlawful and unreasonable interference with land enjoyment.

Reference Line: “Nuisance refers to unlawful and unreasonable interference with the use or enjoyment of land, whether private or public, as illustrated by *Fay v Prentice*, where actionable interference arose from water flowing from neighbouring property.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: Defamation protects reputation against false published statements, not enjoyment of land from water discharge. The neighbour’s complaint is about physical interference with property use, not reputational injury caused by publication. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses “unlawful and unreasonable interference” and “enjoyment of land,” matching the reference line. The repeated flow of dirty water from one property to another closely resembles the kind of interference identified in the passage. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Malicious prosecution concerns abuse of legal proceedings instituted without reasonable and probable cause. The neighbour filing a case does not make the factory’s conduct malicious prosecution; the underlying wrong alleged is nuisance. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The reference line makes clear that tortious nuisance can arise without a contract between landowners. Duties relating to unreasonable interference with land use are imposed by law, not dependent on prior agreements. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

84. Correct Answer : (c) The claim fits tort because tort is a civil wrong usually remedied by unliquidated damages.

Reference Line: “A tort is a civil wrong recognised by law for which the usual remedy is unliquidated damages.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly assumes that civil liability always requires a contractual relationship. The reference line defines tort as a civil wrong recognised by law, and tortious claims may arise independently where legal rights are injured. Since Ritika claims property damage caused by wrongful conduct, absence of contract does not by itself defeat the claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option confuses contractual compensation with tortious damages. Unliquidated damages are not pre-fixed by agreement; they are assessed by the court after considering the injury suffered. Ritika need not show a pre-agreed compensation clause to maintain a tort claim. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “civil wrong” and “unliquidated damages,” matching the reference line. The claim concerns property damage caused by a legally wrongful act, and the usual tort remedy would be court-assessed damages rather than a fixed contractual sum. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Damage to property can support civil liability even without a criminal conviction. Tort law operates as a civil system of redress and does not depend on prior criminal prosecution. Therefore, the absence of conviction does not eliminate Ritika's possible remedy. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

85. Correct Answer : (a) Nigerian marriages now negotiate local obligations through broader global influences.

Reference Line: "In developing countries such as Nigeria, where family structures have historically been rooted in collectivist values and strong kinship ties, the effects of globalisation are particularly noticeable."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) The passage suggests that Nigerian family life is shaped by inherited collectivist values as well as newer global influences. The author does not claim that one has completely replaced the other. Instead, the passage indicates that married adults must operate within a changing social environment where both tradition and global exposure matter. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option goes beyond the author's claim by suggesting that Nigerian families have abandoned kinship duties. The passage only states that globalisation has made its effects noticeable in societies with strong kinship structures. A noticeable effect does not mean total rejection of older obligations. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option wrongly makes technology the exclusive foundation of marital stability. The passage discusses digital communication, but it also considers gender roles, employment, decision making, and conflict resolution. The author's view is broader than technological dependence alone. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option exaggerates the role of professional systems in Nigerian family life. The passage says that alternative methods such as counselling and online resources have emerged, not that they govern every dispute. It also does not suggest that traditional mechanisms have disappeared completely. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer : (b) Couples should redistribute household authority when economic responsibilities become shared.

Reference Line: "As more women participate in the workforce, families increasingly adopt dual-income structures, which require couples to renegotiate household responsibilities and decision-making roles."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) This option favours preserving older hierarchies even when family conditions have changed. The passage indicates that failure to adjust to changing roles can produce marital tension. Keeping inherited hierarchies unchanged may intensify the very conflict the author identifies. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author suggests that dual-income households create a need to reconsider domestic responsibilities and decision-making roles. When both spouses participate economically, older divisions of authority may no longer suit family realities. This option captures the practical adjustment required by the changing structure of marriage. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option shifts decision-making responsibility away from spouses to relatives. Although the passage recognises the role of extended family in traditional conflict resolution, the issue here concerns role adjustment within marriage. The author's reasoning points toward negotiation between partners rather than outside control over household duties. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option encourages avoidance of difficult conversations about marital roles. The passage implies that unresolved role expectations can become a source of tension between spouses. Postponing discussion would not address the need for renegotiation created by dual-income family structures. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer : (c) Heavy messaging with shared rituals often improves trust after disputes.

Reference Line: "Studies have shown that excessive reliance on digital communication can lead to misunderstandings, reduced emotional intimacy, and weakened relational bonds between spouses."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option does not weaken the author's concern because it shows a limitation of technology. If poor networks delay important conversations, digital dependence may create further strain between spouses. Such evidence would make the author's caution about technology more persuasive rather than less persuasive. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option strengthens the author's concern by showing another possible harm of digital platforms. Unrealistic comparisons between spouses can increase dissatisfaction and emotional distance. This supports the broader idea that technology may create pressure within marital relationships. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author's concern depends on the idea that heavy use of digital communication may reduce intimacy and weaken marital bonds. This option presents a situation where frequent messaging, when connected with shared relational practices, improves trust after conflict. It therefore challenges the idea that high digital communication necessarily harms marital quality. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option explains why some spouses may use brief digital messages frequently. However, preference for convenience does not show that such communication deepens intimacy or prevents misunderstanding. It addresses practical communication habits rather than the quality of marital bonds. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer : (d) Community mediators may be legally barred from marital disputes nationwide.

Reference Line: "However, globalisation has introduced alternative conflict resolution mechanisms such as professional counselling, online relationship resources, and self-help platforms."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) This option is consistent with the author's discussion of online relationship resources. If such resources are available, couples may seek guidance before involving relatives or community figures. The option fits the passage's idea that globalisation has created additional ways of handling marital conflict. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option can reasonably follow from the emergence of professional counselling. Counselling may reduce the exclusive influence of elders by offering a different form of guidance. The passage does not say this always happens, but the implication is compatible with the author's argument. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option aligns with the mention of self-help platforms. Such platforms may encourage spouses to manage disagreements privately or independently before turning to community mediation. This is consistent with the passage's contrast between traditional mediation and newer alternatives. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option introduces a legal prohibition that is absent from the passage. The author only says that new alternatives have been introduced through globalisation. There is no claim that elders or community mediators are legally prevented from participating in marital dispute resolution. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer : (a) It previews the dimensions through which later analysis develops systematically.

Reference Line: "These transformations have altered traditional family roles, communication patterns, and expectations among married couples."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) The statement introduces the main areas that the passage later examines in detail. The author subsequently discusses communication patterns, changing gender roles, role expectations, and conflict resolution methods. This makes the statement a structural guide for the reader rather than a final conclusion. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option wrongly gives migration exclusive importance in the author's reasoning. The passage mentions migration as one of several global forces, but it does not make migration the sole cause of domestic change. Technology, economic restructuring, education, employment, and cultural exposure are also part of the author's explanation. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option misrepresents the author's treatment of culture. The passage actually highlights Nigerian collectivist values and kinship ties as important background factors. Rather than rejecting cultural diversity, the author uses it to explain why globalisation has noticeable effects in Nigeria. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option attaches the statement to a much narrower point about counselling. The statement appears before the detailed discussion of conflict resolution and covers several areas of family transformation. It does not suggest that counselling reforms alone can restore harmony in marriages. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer : (c) Globalisation requires adaptive judgement because family effects remain complex and mixed.

Reference Line: "Consequently, globalisation presents both opportunities and challenges for maintaining healthy family relationships."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option is too optimistic and absolute. The passage recognises that digital tools can help spouses communicate, especially across distance. However, it also warns that excessive reliance on such tools may reduce emotional depth and weaken relational bonds. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is too extreme because the author does not say women's employment destroys kinship systems. The passage only states that increased female workforce participation may require renegotiation of household roles.

Conflict may arise where traditional expectations persist, but destruction of kinship systems is not established. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option best captures the balanced conclusion that follows from the passage. The author presents globalisation as neither wholly beneficial nor wholly harmful for family relationships. Its effects depend on how couples respond to changes in communication, gender roles, expectations, and conflict resolution. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option narrows globalisation to geographical separation and professional migration. The passage discusses many other effects, including social values, employment, technology, gender expectations, and conflict resolution. Therefore, globalization's relevance is much broader than spouses living apart for work. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. **Correct Answer :** (a) Debt pressure can turn fiscal restraint into gendered labour and care burdens.

Reference Line: "As governments cut back public spending to accommodate rising debt costs, women, who are overrepresented in sectors such as education and care, are more likely to lose their jobs – and then to shoulder additional caring duties as the state retreats."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) This option captures the central reasoning of the passage because the author connects debt pressure with reduced public expenditure. The passage then shows that women are harmed both through job losses in social sectors and through increased unpaid care responsibilities. The wording reflects the larger argument that fiscal restraint is not socially neutral when women depend heavily on affected sectors. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option gives excessive importance to regional conflict and introduces institutional collapse as the key concern. The passage says the conflict may worsen debt pressure through higher energy costs, fertiliser costs, and interest rates. It does not claim that temporary instability necessarily destroys institutions in developing countries. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option shifts the focus toward creditor caution and future financial exclusion. The passage is not primarily concerned with whether debtor countries lose access to credit after delayed repayment. Its central focus is the unequal effect of debt-servicing pressure on women's employment, income, and care duties. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option reverses the direction of the author's reasoning. The passage does not argue that welfare spending weakens workforce participation. Instead, it suggests that social spending helps sustain women's employment and reduces the unpaid care burden that women may otherwise carry. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. **Correct Answer :** (d) Health losses are confined to women whose incomes decline under debt stress.

Reference Line: "In general, moving from a moderate to a high debt-servicing burden – measured as a share of a country's exports – causes on average a 17% decline in women's income per capita, the report finds, while men's income is unchanged. Life expectancy tends to decline for women and men."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) This option is consistent with the passage because life expectancy declines even though men's income remains unchanged. This suggests that debt-related harm may operate through public services, health systems, food costs, or welfare reduction rather than income alone. It therefore fits the broader idea that wellbeing can worsen through non-income channels. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option can be accepted because the passage separates men's income from men's life expectancy. Men's average income is described as unchanged, but their life expectancy still tends to decline. This implies that stable income figures do not necessarily protect a group from wider welfare harm. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option follows from the distinction between income effects and life-expectancy effects. Women face the sharper income decline, but the decline in life expectancy affects both women and men. Thus, social harm may extend beyond the group experiencing the most visible earnings loss. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option must be false because the passage says life expectancy declines for both women and men. At the same time, it states that men's income remains unchanged while women's income declines. Therefore, harm to health or survival cannot be limited only to women whose income falls. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

93. **Correct Answer :** (b) Import-dependent debtor states faced higher energy bills and refinancing costs.

Reference Line: "The conflict is likely to exacerbate that situation as energy and fertiliser costs rise and global interest rates increase."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option weakens the urgency of the author's concern for at least some debtor states. If commodity-exporting countries gain revenue from favourable prices, they may have more fiscal room rather than less. The passage's concern is about rising costs and interest rates worsening debt stress, not revenue gains easing it. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option supports the author's concern because it shows that debtor states are facing the very pressures identified in the passage. Higher energy bills increase import costs, while higher refinancing costs make debt management more difficult. These combined pressures make it more likely that governments will be forced into harsher fiscal choices. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is only superficially related to government spending choices. Postponing festivals may indicate minor fiscal adjustment, but it does not show that conflict has increased energy costs, fertiliser prices, or borrowing costs. It also says social services were not cut, which does not reinforce the warning about severe fiscal trade-offs. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option does not sufficiently support the claim that conflict worsens debt pressure. Extending maturities may reduce immediate repayment strain even if the total amount owed remains unchanged. The option also does not establish that conflict has raised the economic costs identified in the passage. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. **Correct Answer :** (a) The surveyed countries saw debt-service burdens rise substantially before 2022.

Reference Line: "The report finds that, between the early 2010s and 2022, debt-servicing burdens in the 85 developing countries studied almost doubled."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option must be incorrect if the hypothetical evidence is accepted. A broadly stable debt-service burden cannot be reconciled with the claim that such burdens rose substantially during the same period. Since the passage says the burden almost doubled, the hypothetical would undermine that established fact. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option concerns the time span and scope of the research, not the trend found within that research. Even if debt-service pressure stayed stable, the researchers could still have studied developing-country data across several decades. The hypothetical challenges the finding about change over time, not the existence or duration of the dataset. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option concerns a possible effect of instability on borrowing costs. The hypothetical only addresses whether debt-service pressure rose from the early 2010s to 2022. It does not prove that wider instability cannot raise borrowing costs later or in a separate situation. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option concerns the developmental impact of women's income. Whether debt-service burdens rose, fell, or stayed stable does not determine whether women's earnings produce wider development benefits. The hypothetical does not address household welfare, labour participation, or gender-based development outcomes. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. **Correct Answer :** (d) Repayment negotiations must exclude social concerns during fiscal crises.

Reference Line:

"De Croo suggested creditor countries could consider linking debt relief to commitments to avoid spending cuts that disproportionately hit women."

"Achieving gender equality is one of the UN's 17 sustainable development goals."

"Helping women to have an income, to have a job, has a very high development outcome, and it actually has a higher development outcome than providing men with an income."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option can be inferred because the passage suggests that debt relief may be tied to commitments protecting women from harmful spending cuts. Such a proposal implies that debt discussions need not be limited to repayment calculations alone. They may also be used to preserve social priorities in debtor countries facing fiscal stress. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option can be inferred from the passage's reference to gender equality as one of the UN's sustainable development goals. That framing presents gender equality as a matter of development policy rather than merely a private or domestic concern. The passage links women's employment, income, and care burdens to broader national progress. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option follows from De Croo's claim that helping women obtain income and jobs has a high development outcome. The passage treats women's income as having consequences beyond individual earnings. It implies that women's economic participation contributes to prosperity, welfare, and long-term development. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option cannot be inferred because it contradicts the policy direction suggested in the passage. The author does not argue that repayment negotiations should exclude social concerns during fiscal crises. On the contrary, the passage suggests that creditor countries may consider gender-sensitive commitments while discussing debt relief. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

96. **Correct Answer :** (c) Easing repayment pressure now may strengthen a debtor's capacity to repay later.

Reference Line: "Let's have a discussion on making sure how you actually preserve your path towards prosperity and towards repaying those debts."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option does not capture a paradox because increased lender influence after expanded credit access is not surprising or self-contradictory. A borrower who depends more on credit may naturally become more exposed to lender preferences or conditions. The statement may be plausible, but it does not reflect the passage's deeper tension between debt relief and future repayment capacity. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option states an ordinary fiscal trade-off rather than a paradox. If a government raises public spending now, it may have less available fiscal space later, especially when revenues are limited. This outcome follows logically from the action and does not reveal an apparently contradictory truth. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option captures the paradox because easing repayment pressure appears, at first, to reduce what creditors may recover in the immediate period. However, the passage suggests that preserving a country's path toward prosperity may improve its ability to repay debts over time. The deeper truth is that demanding less in the short term may make repayment more sustainable in the long term. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option expresses a policy consequence rather than a paradox. The passage does suggest that protecting women's earnings may require governments to reconsider spending choices. However, revising fiscal priorities to protect a vulnerable group is not illogical, self-contradictory, or surprising in the required sense. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. **Correct Answer :** (b) Signs become interpretable only when their practical use is placed within a life-context.

Reference Line: "The meaning of a language comes through its contextual use, and these uses are always rooted in a particular form of life."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option focuses on academic disagreement rather than the deeper basis of meaning. The passage mentions competing theories, but disagreement among researchers is not the foundation of the author's reasoning. The author's claim rests on shared practice and form of life, not on scholarly conflict. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option supplies the hidden premise needed for the author's conclusion to hold. The author moves from the idea that meaning depends on contextual use to the claim that alien signals may remain unintelligible. That movement works only if signs require a life-context for interpretation. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option introduces biological inaccessibility as the main problem. The passage discusses biology as one possible aspect of the form of life, but it does not make biology the necessary barrier. The author's concern is broader and includes perception, interaction, behaviour, and practice. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option contradicts the author's central reasoning. The passage suggests that detecting regularities in signals may still leave meaning unknown. Treating statistical repetition as sufficient would weaken, rather than support, the author's conclusion. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. **Correct Answer :** (a) To show that meaning arises where living patterns and expression become intertwined.

Reference Line: "It is 'something that is not reducible either to biological life or to language,' suggests the philosopher Mladen Dolar; rather it is 'something that is formed between the two, in their intertwining, their chiasmus.'"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option captures the function of Dolar's statement in the author's reasoning. Dolar is cited to explain that form of life is not merely biological life and not merely language. It helps the author present meaning as emerging from the interaction between lived existence and communicative practice. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option wrongly makes biology the decisive factor in interpretation. Dolar's statement expressly resists reducing the form of life to biological life alone. The author uses the quotation to expand the idea, not to make biological similarity the controlling condition. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option misreads the author's purpose in citing disagreement about Wittgenstein. The passage admits philosophical disagreement, but it does not conclude that the concept is useless. Dolar's view is used to clarify the idea of form of life, not to abandon inquiry into communication. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option moves against the passage's larger philosophical position. The author is sceptical of treating alien signals as a problem solvable by formal structure alone. Dolar's interpretation supports contextual meaning, not the reduction of communication to equations. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. **Correct Answer :** (d) A ritual chant cannot be understood through repetition alone because its force depends on ceremonial use.

Reference Line: "To imagine a language means to imagine a form of life."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option concerns inaccurate representation rather than contextual meaning. The map fails because its information no longer matches the physical landscape. The problem is not that outsiders lack access to a practice that gives the map meaning. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option focuses on disagreement among interpreters rather than the conditions that produce meaning. Judicial disagreement may arise even when everyone shares the same legal culture. The author's reasoning is about the absence of a shared form of life, not merely competing interpretations. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option concerns imperfect translation between already meaningful languages. The poem is understood to some extent before translation begins. The author's argument is more fundamental because alien signals may remain unintelligible even before translation is possible. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option matches the logical structure of the author's argument. In both cases, observable patterns are insufficient unless one understands the practice that gives those patterns significance. The chant, like the alien signal, becomes meaningful only within a form of life or communal setting. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

100. **Correct Answer :** (c) A greeting phrase conveys honour in one ceremony but mockery in another social practice.

Reference Line: "Words are not just handed to us with a fixed meaning; we are ongoing players in the creative social game that is linguistic communication."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option shows repetition but not meaning. A signal may recur in a stable pattern without revealing how it is used or what it signifies. The passage separates detectable regularity from linguistic understanding. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option may appear relevant because it deals with meaning, but it leans toward preservation rather than use. A dictionary records meanings, yet the passage emphasizes living communal practice. A stored definition does not prove that meaning is independent of changing usage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option supports the author's view by showing that the same expression may carry different meanings in different practices. The meaning does not lie permanently inside the phrase itself. It depends on how a community uses the expression within a particular setting. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option describes a controlled naming system within a laboratory. It shows that labels can function consistently in a limited practice, but it does not support the broader claim about shifting meaning across contexts. It is too narrow to establish the author's philosophical point. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. **Correct Answer :** (a) Connect transmissions with alien conduct, surroundings, responses, and recurring situations.

Reference Line: "For our purposes, however, we can say that a form of life consists of the way a being perceives, interacts, and behaves in its environment."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option follows the author's account of form of life. Since meaning is connected with perception, interaction, behaviour, and environment, researchers should study signals alongside alien activity. Such an approach would make interpretation more faithful to the passage's reasoning. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option gives excessive importance to mathematical elegance. The passage does not reject mathematical analysis, but it warns that structure alone may not produce meaning. A neat model can organize data without explaining the practical use of signs. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option treats consensus as the main test of interpretation. The passage opens with the possibility that many theories may exist without producing understanding. Agreement among researchers may be useful, but it cannot replace contextual grounding in the alien form of life. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option conflicts with the author's emphasis on environment and practice. Treating the signal as self-contained removes the background that may make it meaningful. The author's reasoning suggests that interpretation requires more than formal internal analysis. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. **Correct Answer :** (b) Shared physical regularities may let unlike beings create common references through demonstration.

Reference Line: "If we and the aliens do not share a compatible form of life, then it's unlikely we'll ever understand each other, even if we can detect patterns in one another's signals."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option attacks uncertainty around terminology rather than the reasoning itself. A concept may be debated and still remain useful for philosophical analysis. The passage's argument does not collapse simply because scholars disagree about Wittgenstein's intended meaning. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option offers the strongest challenge to the author's sceptical conclusion. It accepts that shared context matters, but argues that such context may be built through common features of the physical universe. This weakens the claim that lack of an initial compatible form of life makes understanding unlikely. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option appeals to human capability but does not address the author's main concern. The passage already imagines clever people working for years without success. More instruments and larger teams may improve analysis, but they do not guarantee access to the practices behind the signals. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option rests on an unsupported expectation about alien communication. The passage gives no reason to assume that advanced beings would communicate in human-like ways. It avoids the central issue of whether meaning requires shared practices or compatible forms of life. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

103. **Correct Answer :** (d) Public attention must be limited enough for one risk narrative to displace another.

Reference Line: "According to critics, it benefits AI companies to keep you fixated on the apocalypse because it distracts from the very real damage they're already doing to the world."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option concerns investor reward, which belongs to a separate part of the passage dealing with stock prices and perceived technological power. The criticism in this question is about distraction from current harms, not about whether investors financially reward such warnings. The use of "every company" also makes the option too absolute and beyond the author's claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The argument does not require experts to unanimously reject the possibility of AI-related cybersecurity risks. The author's criticism may still hold even if some technical risks are genuine, because the issue is how those risks are framed for public attention. Expert unanimity is not needed to establish that a future-oriented narrative can overshadow present accountability. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage does not assume that regulators possess complete technical knowledge of all AI systems. In fact, the author suggests that complexity may make companies appear unusually powerful and necessary. The distraction argument only requires that attention can be shifted away from existing harms, not that regulators already know everything about AI. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The criticism in the passage depends on the idea that attention given to future catastrophe may reduce attention given to present harms. If public and regulatory attention were unlimited, then discussion of future danger would not necessarily weaken scrutiny of existing damage. This option supplies the required condition for the author's concern about distraction to make logical sense. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

104. **Correct Answer :** (b) The debate shifts from measured security concerns to dramatic consumer panic.

Reference Line: "Some breathless observers warned that Mythos will soon force you to replace every piece of technology in your life, down to your WiFi-enabled microwave, to protect from the digital madness."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This option concerns regulatory authority, which appears in a different part of the passage. The line about replacing household technology is focused on public alarm and exaggerated consumer fear, not on rule-making power. Although fear may influence regulation in the broader argument, that is not the specific outcome suggested by this reference line. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The quoted line uses exaggerated imagery to show how discussion of AI risk may become sensational rather than measured. The reference to replacing every piece of technology, even a WiFi-enabled microwave, signals panic rather than careful security analysis. This option captures the implied consequence of such extreme commentary on public understanding. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option shifts the focus to investor expectations, which are not the concern of the microwave example. The passage separately discusses stock prices, but this particular reference is about dramatic warnings reaching ordinary consumers. The phrase “every unreleased AI model” is also too sweeping and unsupported by the passage. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not suggest that dramatic observer claims remove expert disagreement. In fact, the author states that some security experts doubt the claims, which means expert skepticism remains present. Consumer panic and expert evaluation are separate matters in the passage’s reasoning. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

105. **Correct Answer :** (a) Anthropic paired public alarm with organised repair efforts before exploitation occurred.

Reference Line: “It also announced a new partnership with more than 40 companies and groups in an ‘urgent attempt’ to patch vulnerabilities before hackers get a chance.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The reference line indicates that Anthropic announced both the danger and a coordinated attempt to fix vulnerabilities. The phrase “before hackers get a chance” shows that the effort was presented as preventive rather than merely reactive. This inference remains within the passage because it does not claim that Anthropic’s motives were purely noble or purely strategic. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The passage nowhere says that Anthropic admitted weak performance by its model. On the contrary, the company claims that Mythos surpassed human experts in finding serious vulnerabilities. Independent testing is not discussed in this reference line, so the option adds information not supported by the passage. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option contradicts the preventive nature of the partnership announcement. The passage says the vulnerabilities were being patched before hackers had the opportunity to exploit them. It does not state that all discovered weaknesses had already been weaponised or used in attacks. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not mention any order from regulators regarding Anthropic’s cooperation with private organisations. The line instead says that Anthropic announced a partnership with more than 40 companies and groups. This option introduces official compulsion and termination of cooperation, neither of which appears in the passage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

106. **Correct Answer :** (c) It equates consumer indulgence with technology posing systemic public risks.

Reference Line: “You don’t hear McDonald’s announcing that it’s created a burger so terrifyingly delicious that it would be unethical to grill it for the public.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option misstates the author’s broader position. The author does not assume that market incentives cannot influence corporate safety language; rather, the author is concerned that market incentives may shape such language. The food-company comparison is about the oddity of frightening product promotion, not a denial of financial motives. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option refers to expert doubt, but the McDonald’s comparison does not rely on expert disagreement. The author uses the food-company example to show the unusual nature of a company publicly presenting its own product as dangerous. Whether security experts believe Anthropic’s claims is a separate issue from whether the analogy itself is logically appropriate. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author’s comparison is rhetorically sharp, but the two cases being compared are not equivalent. A food product described as too delicious concerns consumer appeal, while an AI system capable of finding vulnerabilities may involve broader cybersecurity and national security consequences. Because the analogy compares unlike categories of risk, it may weaken the author’s reasoning. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option concerns the later partnership discussion, not the food-company comparison. It may be true that repair partnerships can reduce real vulnerabilities, but that does not identify the weakness in the burger analogy. The flaw being tested is the mismatch between consumer-food marketing and technological public-risk claims. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

107. **Correct Answer :** (a) Corporate safety warnings deserve acceptance without examining commercial incentives.

Reference Line: "Tech leaders say they're just warning us about an inevitable future, and safety is a top priority whether it's now or later."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The author would most likely reject the idea that company warnings should be accepted without scrutiny. The passage contrasts tech leaders' stated safety motives with critics' suspicion that such warnings may serve corporate interests. The author's tone indicates that commercial incentives must be considered when evaluating these claims. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This statement is compatible with the author's reasoning. The passage does not deny that future risks may be discussed, but it criticises how such discussion may distract from present harms. The author's argument depends on the possibility that future-risk narratives and current accountability concerns exist at the same time. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option aligns with the author's concern about fear and dependence. The passage suggests that when people feel outmatched by AI, they may view the companies themselves as the only capable actors. That perception can make private firms appear necessary in political and regulatory debates. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option also fits the author's view. A company may appear responsible by announcing safety measures while also gaining authority and public trust from doing so. The passage's treatment of Anthropic's partnership leaves room for this dual interpretation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

108. **Correct Answer :** (d) Lawmakers delayed binding rules after accepting firms as the only workable safeguard.

Reference Line: "And it encourages a narrative that regulators must stand aside, because these AI companies are the only ones who can stop the bad guys and build this technology responsibly."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option supports the seriousness of the cybersecurity vulnerabilities, but it does not address regulatory deference. If flaws are genuinely severe, governments might respond with stronger oversight rather than weaker oversight. The option therefore strengthens Anthropic's technical credibility more than the author's argument about regulators standing aside. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option concerns consumer reaction rather than regulatory conduct. Fewer smart-appliance purchases may show that alarming reports influenced public behaviour, but it does not show that lawmakers deferred to AI companies. The author's specific concern here is about institutional authority, not ordinary consumer caution. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option suggests that competitors may believe Anthropic gained publicity from its restricted model. That may support a broader claim about attention-seeking, but it does not establish that regulators are stepping back. The regulatory-deference argument requires evidence about lawmakers or oversight bodies, which this option does not provide. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option strongly supports the author's concern because it shows lawmakers stepping back after accepting the companies' claimed indispensability. The author argues that catastrophic AI narratives can make regulators believe private firms are the only realistic safeguards. Evidence of delayed binding rules would strengthen that concern by showing the feared policy consequence occurring. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

109. **Correct Answer :** (b) 38.75%

Step 1: Each ratio part = $7,200 \div 24 = ₹300$ crore. Revenues M = 1,500; R = 2,100; S = 1,200; T = 2,400 (all in ₹ crore).

Step 2: Compute each division's profit margin (profit \div revenue \times 100). M's expenses = $3/5$ of revenue, so profit fraction = $2/5 \rightarrow 40\%$. R's profit fraction = $3/10 \rightarrow 30\%$. S's profit fraction = $1/2 \rightarrow 50\%$. T's profit fraction = $7/20 \rightarrow 35\%$.

Step 3: Add the four margins: $40 + 30 + 50 + 35 = 155$.

Step 4: Divide by 4: $155 \div 4 = 38.75\%$.

Step 5: Verify each margin against its corresponding ratio. The simple average is 38.75%.

110. **Correct Answer :** (d) ₹1,772.88 crore

2027

Step 1: Compute revenues $M = 1,500$; $R = 2,100$; $S = 1,200$; $T = 2,400$.

Step 2: Compute profits $M = 1,500 \times 2/5 = 600$; $R = 2,100 \times 3/10 = 630$; $S = 1,200 \times 1/2 = 600$; $T = 2,400 \times 7/20 = 840$.

Step 3: Total profit = $600 + 630 + 600 + 840 = ₹2,670$ crore.

Step 4: Tax @ 30% = $0.30 \times 2,670 = ₹801$ crore.

Step 5: Surcharge @ 12% on the tax amount = $0.12 \times 801 = ₹96.12$ crore.

Step 6: Total deduction = $801 + 96.12 = ₹897.12$ crore.

Step 7: Post-tax-and-surcharge profit = $2,670 - 897.12 = ₹1,772.88$ crore.

111. Correct Answer : (a) 30.00%

Step 1: Compute T's profit = $2,400 \times 7/20 = ₹840$ crore.

Step 2: Compute M's profit = $1,500 \times 2/5 = ₹600$ crore.

Step 3: Compute S's profit = $1,200 \times 1/2 = ₹600$ crore.

Step 4: Combined profit of M and S = $600 + 600 = ₹1,200$ crore.

Step 5: Shortfall of T relative to $(M + S) = 1,200 - 840 = ₹360$ crore.

Step 6: Express as a percentage of the combined $(M + S)$ profit: $360 \div 1,200 \times 100 = 30.00\%$. Hence T falls short of $(M + S)$ by exactly 30%.

112. Correct Answer : (c) 45.16%

Step 1: Compute 2024–25 revenues $M = 1,500 \times 1.20 = 1,800$; $R = 2,100 \times 1.10 = 2,310$; $S = 1,200 \times 1.25 = 1,500$; $T = 2,400 \times 1.15 = 2,760$ (all in ₹ crore).

Step 2: Compute 2024–25 profits using the unchanged expense-to-revenue ratios $M = 1,800 \times 2/5 = 720$; $R = 2,310 \times 3/10 = 693$; $S = 1,500 \times 1/2 = 750$; $T = 2,760 \times 7/20 = 966$.

Step 3: Total 2024–25 profit = $720 + 693 + 750 + 966 = ₹3,129$ crore.

Step 4: Combined profit of M and R = $720 + 693 = ₹1,413$ crore.

Step 5: Required percentage = $1,413 \div 3,129 \times 100 = 45.1582... \% \approx 45.16\%$.

113. Correct Answer : (b) 17.19%

Step 1: From earlier work, total profit in 2023–24 = ₹2,670 crore.

Step 2: Compute new revenues for 2024–25 (above).

Step 3: Compute profits $M = 720$; $R = 693$; $S = 750$; $T = 966$.

Step 4: Total 2024–25 profit = 3,129.

Step 5: Increase = $3,129 - 2,670 = ₹459$ crore.

Step 6: Percentage increase = $459 \div 2,670 \times 100 = 17.1910... \% \approx 17.19\%$.

114. Correct Answer : (a) ₹3,222 crore

Step 1: Revenues in 2024–25 are unchanged from Q4: $M = 1,800$; $R = 2,310$; $S = 1,500$; $T = 2,760$.

Step 2: M's profit retains its old ratio $(2/5)$: $M = 1,800 \times 2/5 = ₹720$ crore.

Step 3: S's profit retains its old ratio $(1/2)$: $S = 1,500 \times 1/2 = ₹750$ crore.

Step 4: Under the revised 3 : 5 expense-to-revenue ratio, R's new profit fraction = $2/5$; new R profit = $2,310 \times 2/5 = ₹924$ crore.

Step 5: Under the revised 7 : 10 expense-to-revenue ratio, T's new profit fraction = $3/10$; new T profit = $2,760 \times 3/10 = ₹828$ crore.

Step 6: New total profit = $720 + 924 + 750 + 828 = ₹3,222$ crore.

115. Correct Answer : (c) 24.00%

Step 1: Voter turnout = 80% of 9,00,000 = 7,20,000 votes cast.

Step 2: Voters who did NOT turn out = $9,00,000 - 7,20,000 = 1,80,000$.

Step 3: Invalid votes = 5% of 7,20,000 = 36,000.

Step 4: Combined uncounted voters = $1,80,000 + 36,000 = 2,16,000$.

Step 5: Required percentage = $2,16,000 \div 9,00,000 \times 100 = 24.00\%$.

116. Correct Answer : (a) 12,600

Step 1: Total votes cast = 80% of 9,00,000 = 7,20,000.

Step 2: Valid votes = 95% of 7,20,000 = 6,84,000.

Step 3: Anant's valid votes = 35% of 6,84,000 = 2,39,400.

Step 4: Absolute-majority threshold = more than 35% of total cast = $0.35 \times 7,20,000 = 2,52,000$.

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Step 5: Shortfall = $2,52,000 - 2,39,400 = 12,600$ votes.

117. **Correct Answer :** (d) 60.00%

Step 1: Cast = 7,20,000; Valid = 6,84,000.

Step 2: Vote counts A = 35% = 2,39,400; B = 25% = 1,71,000; C = 22% = 1,50,480; D = 18% = 1,23,120.

Step 3: Identify the bottom two: Chetan (1,50,480) and Diya (1,23,120). Combined = 2,73,600.

Step 4: Identify the runner-up: Bhavna with 1,71,000 votes.

Step 5: Excess of bottom-two combined over runner-up = $2,73,600 - 1,71,000 = 1,02,600$.

Step 6: Required percentage = $1,02,600 \div 1,71,000 \times 100 = 60.00\%$ exactly.

118. **Correct Answer :** (b) 20,520

Step 1: Cast = 7,20,000.

Step 2: Valid = 6,84,000.

Step 3: The third-placed candidate by vote share is Chetan with 22% of valid votes = 1,50,480.

Step 4: The runner-up is Bhavna with 25% of valid votes = 1,71,000.

Step 5: Gap = $1,71,000 - 1,50,480 = 20,520$ votes.

119. **Correct Answer :** (a) 50,616

Step 1: Cast = 7,20,000; Valid = 6,84,000.

Step 2: Original counts A = 2,39,400; B = 1,71,000; C = 1,50,480; D = 1,23,120.

Step 3: Votes shifted from A to C = $8\% \times 2,39,400 = 19,152$. New A = $2,39,400 - 19,152 = 2,20,248$; New C = $1,50,480 + 19,152 = 1,69,632$.

Step 4: Votes shifted from B to D = $5\% \times 1,71,000 = 8,550$. New B = $1,71,000 - 8,550 = 1,62,450$; New D = $1,23,120 + 8,550 = 1,31,670$.

Step 5: Sorted descending A = 2,20,248, C = 1,69,632, B = 1,62,450, D = 1,31,670. Anant remains the winner; Chetan is the new runner-up.

Step 6: Margin = $2,20,248 - 1,69,632 = 50,616$ votes.

120. **Correct Answer :** (c) ₹3,00,96,000

Step 1: Valid = 6,84,000.

Step 2: Counts A = 2,39,400; B = 1,71,000; C = 1,50,480; D = 1,23,120.

Step 3: Deputy-Mayor threshold = 20% of valid = 1,36,800.

Step 4: Excess over threshold (negative excess counted as zero): A = $2,39,400 - 1,36,800 = 1,02,600$; B = $1,71,000 - 1,36,800 = 34,200$; C = $1,50,480 - 1,36,800 = 13,680$; D = below threshold, excess = 0.

Step 5: Stipend per candidate = excess \times ₹200. A = ₹2,05,20,000; B = ₹68,40,000; C = ₹27,36,000; D = ₹0.

Step 6: Total = $2,05,20,000 + 68,40,000 + 27,36,000 + 0 = ₹3,00,96,000$.