

## CLAT MOCK 02

### ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

1. **Correct Answer :** (b) The artwork assigns moral and narrative roles through bodily representation.

**Reference Line:** “The mosaic cycle at San Marco does not merely represent difference; it distributes capacities across bodies.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not treat bodily difference as a merely decorative or neutral visual feature. The word “distributes” indicates that the mosaic actively organises power, sanctity, violence, and possible transformation through different bodies. A neutral arrangement would not carry such moral or narrative weight. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because the passage argues that the mosaic assigns different functions to different bodies: Mark’s body receives sanctity and endurance, the Muslim captors receive restrained violence and possible conversion, and the Black executioner receives concentrated harm. This shows that bodily representation is used to create a hierarchy of roles within the visual narrative. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that all figures possess equal sacred potential. The Muslim captors are placed within a possible conversion narrative, but the Black executioner is positioned as the focal site of imminent violence. The passage emphasises unequal distribution of capacities, not equal access to transformation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage repeatedly connects religious meaning with visible bodily features. Mark’s body, the Muslim captors’ bodies, and the Black executioner’s body are all interpreted through their visual and narrative functions. The passage therefore shows that religious meaning is produced through bodily representation, not separated from it. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. **Correct Answer :** (d) They remain threatening yet narratively available for Christian assimilation.

**Reference Line:** “Though they bind and threaten, their violence is restrained, preserving their place within a narrative of possible conversion.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the captors are not represented as harmless or passive figures. The passage clearly states that they “bind and threaten,” which means they participate in coercion and danger. However, their violence is limited, and that limitation keeps them distinct from the executioner’s more concentrated violence. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not interpret the captors mainly as political symbols. Their importance lies in their role within a Christian visual narrative that allows adversaries to be converted or assimilated. The contrast with the Black executioner is religious and narrative, not primarily political or administrative. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the captors do not embody sacred violence. Their violence is restrained, and the passage does not elevate their aggression into a sacred function. The scene instead reserves concentrated imminent harm for the Black executioner, while the captors remain adversarial but potentially transformable. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because the passage describes the captors as threatening but not finally excluded from the Christian sacred order. Their restrained violence allows them to remain within a narrative of possible conversion, unlike the executioner, whose body becomes the focal point of harm. This distinction is central to the passage’s argument about visual hierarchy. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

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

**Reference Line:** “The system distributes capacities; it also reveals their contingency.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because “contingency” in the passage refers to the idea that the assigned roles of bodies are not completely fixed or inevitable. The executioner’s upward glance and halted motion briefly disturb his assigned role as the sole bearer of violence. Therefore, “certainty,” meaning fixedness or inevitability, is the strongest opposite in this context. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because “hostility” refers to aggression, opposition, or enmity, not to fixedness. Although hostility appears in the passage through adversarial figures, it does not oppose the meaning of “contingency.” The word “contingency” concerns instability and conditionality, not emotional or physical aggression. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because “visibility” refers to being seen or made visually apparent. The passage is certainly about visual representation, but “contingency” does not mean invisibility or lack of perception. The opposite required here is something that indicates permanence or inevitability, which visibility does not convey. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because “fragility” suggests weakness, vulnerability, or the possibility of breaking. While contingency may involve instability, fragility is not its opposite; in fact, it may sometimes overlap with it. The passage needs a word that contrasts with uncertainty and conditionality, making “certainty” the better answer. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**4. Correct Answer :** (c) It briefly unsettles the fixed role assigned to his body.

**Reference Line:** “The executioner’s upward glance and the halted motion of his strike place him, however briefly, within the same sacred field that halts the violence.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say that the executioner undergoes conversion. His upward glance places him momentarily within the sacred field, but this does not amount to a complete religious transformation. The passage uses this detail to suggest ambiguity and instability, not a confirmed change of faith. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because violence is not entirely removed from the scene. The executioner still holds the position of imminent harm, and the blow is only halted, not erased from the visual structure. The passage’s point is that violence is interrupted and complicated, not wholly eliminated. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is correct because the executioner is visually assigned the role of concentrated violence, but his upward glance and suspended strike make that role less absolute. By being briefly placed within the sacred field, he becomes more than a fixed symbol of harm. The moment reveals that the visual order distributes roles but cannot seal them completely. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the executioner does not control the sacred event. The sacred field is described as the force that halts the violence, while the executioner is caught within that interruption. The passage therefore presents him as affected by sacred power, not as its controller. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**5. Correct Answer :** (a) A body where violence is gathered into a legible visual role.

**Reference Line:** “In doing so, the image trains viewers to recognise certain bodies as channels of grace, others as capable of transformation and still others as the site where violence coheres.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because the phrase means that violence becomes visually concentrated and intelligible through a particular body. The passage explains that some bodies are treated as channels of grace, some as capable of transformation, and some as the place where violence gathers meaning. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say that violence becomes purified or sacred through the body. The body is made to carry concentrated violence, not to morally elevate or sanctify it. This changes the negative visual role into a positive spiritual one. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that violence is shared equally across all figures. It argues that violence is distributed unequally and made to gather around certain marked bodies. Therefore, this option weakens the central idea of concentration. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the phrase does not mean that violence disappears from the artwork. On the contrary, violence becomes more visible because it is organised around a particular body. The visual structure retains violence by locating it in a specific figure. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**6. Correct Answer :** (d) It demonstrates a recurring pattern of displacing brutality onto darkened figures.

**Reference Line:** “Solomon’s virtue is preserved while the brutality of infanticide is displaced onto the darkened executioner.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the Chartres example shows the opposite of what the option claims. The executioner is distinguished by black polychromy, and the violent act of cutting the child is visually associated with him. The passage uses this example to demonstrate how marked bodies are made to carry concentrated violence. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say that medieval artists condemned Solomon's judgement. Rather, it says that Solomon's virtue is preserved while the brutality implied by his command is displaced onto the executioner. The focus is not criticism of Solomon but the visual transfer of violence away from him. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the Chartres example is not presented as a purely legal interpretation of justice. Although the scene concerns judgement, the passage analyses it as part of a wider religious and visual system of bodily role assignment. The legal dimension is secondary to the symbolic distribution of virtue and violence. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because the Chartres example repeats and expands the pattern identified in San Marco. A figure of authority or virtue remains visually protected, while the darkened executioner becomes the bearer of imminent brutality. This supports the passage's broader claim that such role distribution recurs across medieval visual culture. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**7. Correct Answer :** (c) Madna is marked as marginal, bypassed by speed, importance, and attention.

**Reference Line:** "By the fastest train Madna was eighteen hours away from Delhi, but of course the fastest train simply shrieked its way through it."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) The word "shrieked" does create an image of noise, but the passage does not describe Madna itself as noisy or industrial. The noise belongs to the train, and the train's refusal to stop suggests neglect rather than local character. This option misreads the sound image as a description of the town, whereas the line is actually about Madna's marginal position. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The line does show that Madna is far from Delhi, but the emphasis is not merely on the difficulty of reaching it. The contrast is between the "fastest train" and the town it passes without stopping, suggesting that Madna is outside the circuit of speed and significance. The idea of rural travel is present only indirectly and does not capture the deeper implication of being bypassed. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The sentence implies that Madna exists on the route but is not important enough to interrupt the fastest train's movement. The phrase "simply shrieked its way through it" gives Madna a sense of being overlooked by modern speed, official attention, and urban priorities. This makes the town appear peripheral to the world Agastya is leaving behind. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage gives no indication that Madna is dangerous or that trains avoid stopping there because of fear or risk. The fastest train passes through because of its speed and route, not because the town is unsafe. This option invents a reason that is not supported by either the imagery or the narrative context. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**8. Correct Answer :** (a) He seeks temporary escape from discomfort, transition, and social exposure.

**Reference Line:** "As the train that did stop at Madna slipped out of New Delhi Agastya waved to his uncle and then locked himself in the toilet to smoke some more marijuana."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) Agastya's action occurs at the moment of departure from Delhi, when he is moving from a familiar urban world into an uncertain posting. Locking himself away and smoking marijuana suggests withdrawal, unease, and a need for temporary mental escape. It reveals emotional evasion rather than readiness for the new life awaiting him in Madna. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Although the act of smoking marijuana may seem rebellious, the passage does not present it as a conscious protest against official discipline or family authority. His uncle is only mentioned as someone he waves goodbye to, not as a figure he is resisting. The scene is private and inward-looking, so rebellion is too strong and external a reading. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The engineer enters the narrative after the reference line, during the train conversation that follows. Therefore, Agastya's locking himself in the toilet cannot logically be explained as an attempt to avoid the engineer. This option misplaces the sequence of events and attributes to Agastya a motive that the passage does not provide. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Nothing in Agastya's conduct suggests confidence, celebration, or enthusiasm about Madna. His private retreat and drug use point instead to discomfort, passivity, and psychological escape. His later uncertainty about spending months in the hinterland further weakens the claim that he is confident about the appointment. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

9. **Correct Answer :** (c) He doubts official status unless it matches a familiar external stereotype.

**Reference Line:** "'Excuse me, IAS? You are an IAS? You don't look like an IAS officer.' He eyed him doubtfully."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) The engineer does not appreciate cultural mixture or emotional detachment; rather, he appears unsettled by Agastya's name, appearance, and identity. His questioning shows discomfort with ambiguity, not respect for complexity. This option wrongly treats the engineer as open-minded when the passage presents him as suspicious and judgmental. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The engineer's comment that Agastya does not "even look Bengali" does not mean he considers Bengalis naturally suited for administration. His remark is part of a larger pattern of categorising Agastya through appearance and community markers. The option exaggerates a passing comment into a claim about administrative superiority, which the passage never supports. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The engineer doubts Agastya's IAS identity because Agastya does not fit his expected image of an officer. His judgment is not based on Agastya's competence or qualification, but on how he looks and sounds to him. This reveals a social habit of validating status only when it matches familiar stereotypes of authority. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The tone of the engineer's response is doubtful, intrusive, and almost accusatory, not respectful. He does not express admiration for the IAS or for Agastya's achievement. Instead, he challenges Agastya's identity because it does not correspond to his preconceived idea of what an IAS officer should look like. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. **Correct Answer :** (b) He occupies an unsettled identity, neither fully rooted nor strongly driven.

**Reference Line:** "Agastya was only half-Bengali. His mother had been Goanese, a Catholic. He hardly remembered her, she had died of meningitis when he had been less than three. He was athlete-thin and bearded. He had no devouring interests, and until he came to Madna, very little ambition."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) The passage states that Agastya's mother was Goanese and Catholic, but it does not say that he consciously rejected her religion or background. His weak connection to her is explained by her early death and his lack of memory, not by deliberate refusal. This option mistakes emotional distance for active rejection. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage presents Agastya as culturally mixed, partly disconnected from his mother's background, and lacking strong ambition or defining interests. These details together create a portrait of someone not firmly anchored in identity, purpose, or social role. His arrival in Madna therefore becomes a movement into uncertainty for a character already marked by inner looseness. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The line directly states that Agastya had "very little ambition" until he came to Madna. This contradicts the idea that bureaucratic service has already shaped him into an ambitious person. The passage instead presents him as an unlikely or hesitant entrant into official life, not as someone energised by administrative identity. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage clearly says that Agastya "hardly remembered" his mother because she died when he was very young. Therefore, it cannot be argued that he defines himself strongly through her culture. Her background is part of his biography, but it is not shown as a living, remembered source of identity for him. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. **Correct Answer :** (a) Agastya recognises the hinterland as scenery but lacks lived contact with it.

**Reference Line:** "Hundreds of kilometres of a familiar yet unknown landscape, seen countless times through train windows, but never experienced — his life till then had been profoundly urban."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because the phrase suggests a gap between visual recognition and actual experience. Agastya has repeatedly seen such landscapes from train windows, but he has never truly lived within or understood that world.

The answer captures his urban distance from the hinterland without reducing it to fear, memory, or dislike. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not show Agastya as someone who understands rural society from within. The phrase says the landscape was seen many times but “never experienced,” which means his knowledge is partial and external. Dislike of physical appearance is also not the main issue. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because it exaggerates the passage’s later references to rural crisis and violence. The phrase “familiar yet unknown landscape” itself concerns Agastya’s distance from lived rural experience, not a claim that rural life is always dangerous. The word “always” makes the option too absolute. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest personal memory or emotional inheritance connected to the hinterland. Agastya’s relation to it is that of an urban observer who has seen it from trains but has not inhabited it. The option wrongly turns visual familiarity into personal recollection. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

12. **Correct Answer :** (a) Rural places existed for Agastya as mediated reports of crisis.

**Reference Line:** “To him, these places had been, at best, names out of newspapers, where floods and caste wars occurred, and entire Harijan families were murdered, where some prime minister took his helicopter just after a calamity, or just before the elections.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because the phrase suggests that Agastya knew such places only through news reports, disasters, caste violence, political visits, and election-time attention. They were not lived realities for him but distant names associated with public crisis. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the phrase does not present rural places as charming travel objects. Although some towns look nice from the train window, “names out of newspapers” refers to mediated knowledge through news and crisis. This option ignores the darker associations in the line. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the phrase does not indicate personal memory or emotional belonging. Agastya has not lived in these places and does not know them as homes. They exist for him through reports and headlines, not intimate recollection. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the phrase does not show administrative ambition. Agastya is going to Madna, but the line describes his earlier urban distance from the hinterland. The places are linked with crisis and political spectacle, not personal career desire. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. **Correct Answer :** (d) Stronger materialism is linked to weaker cosmic relevance.

**Reference Line:** “In a recent, as-yet-unpublished study, my student and I found that the more strongly our research participants accepted the core facts of scientific materialism — for example, that the only reality is that which is physical and material — the less they felt as though their own lives matter to the universe.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the study does not say that stronger materialism weakens practical purpose. The passage clearly separates purpose from existential mattering and even says many secular Westerners can secure purpose through career, family, craft, or community life. The study concerns whether people feel their lives matter to the universe, not whether they lose ordinary sources of purpose. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the study does not connect materialism with weaker logical coherence. Coherence refers to the ability to make sense of experience and predict what happens next. The passage does not suggest that materialists lose this ability. The study is about cosmic relevance or existential mattering, not rational understanding. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the study does not compare religious people with materialists in terms of ambition. It does not claim that stronger religiosity produces stronger practical goals or worldly achievement. The author’s finding is limited to the link between acceptance of scientific materialism and a weaker feeling that one’s life matters to the universe. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because it accurately reflects the study without overstating causation. The passage says that participants who accepted scientific materialism more strongly felt less that their lives mattered to the universe. Therefore, stronger materialism is linked to weaker cosmic relevance or existential mattering. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

14. **Correct Answer :** (b) Cosmic significance can outweigh order and personal direction.

**Reference Line:** “Even more problematically, according to a study by Vlad Costin and Vivian Vignoles, existential mattering is not merely one of the three ingredients needed for a meaningful life, it’s the most important one.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option directly conflicts with the hierarchy presented in the passage. Coherence is one ingredient of meaning, but the cited study does not treat it as the decisive or superior one. The passage specifically elevates existential mattering above coherence and purpose in determining overall meaning. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option accurately draws the central inference from the cited finding. If existential mattering is the most important ingredient, then cosmic significance may matter more than coherence, order, or personal direction. The option captures the author’s deeper concern that a life can seem purposeful yet still feel meaningless if it appears irrelevant to the universe. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option wrongly makes religious belief a necessary condition for purpose. The passage itself gives secular examples of purpose, including career, marriage, family, craft, and community contribution. The study concerns the importance of existential mattering, not the claim that purpose exists only through religion. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option reverses the emphasis of the passage. Predictability belongs to coherence, but Costin and Vignoles’ finding places existential mattering above coherence. Therefore, the option incorrectly treats predictability as more important than cosmic relevance, which the passage does not support. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. **Correct Answer :** (a) Personification

**Reference Line:** “...humans are nothing more than complex molecular machines shaped by our genes’ desire to replicate.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because genes do not literally possess desire, intention, or conscious will. The author gives them a human-like motive to explain evolutionary pressure in vivid terms. This is personification because a non-human biological process is described as if it had intention. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because a simile requires an explicit comparison using words such as “like” or “as.” The phrase does not compare genes to something else through stated resemblance. It attributes desire to genes, which makes personification more accurate. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because apostrophe involves addressing an absent, dead, abstract, or non-human entity. The author does not speak to the genes as listeners. Instead, he describes them as if they had desire. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because an oxymoron combines contradictory terms. The phrase does not join two opposite ideas in a compact expression. Its effect comes from giving intention to genes, not from placing contradictions together. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

16. **Correct Answer :** (d) Refining a skill through repeated practice and attention.

**Reference Line:** “...honing a craft such as pottery or baking bread; or becoming a leader or otherwise valuable member of your community.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the word “honing” does not refer to displaying a skill for cosmic importance. The passage discusses craft as a source of purpose, not as a way to prove universal significance. This option wrongly merges purpose with existential mattering. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because honing is not mechanical repetition without value. It implies improvement, care, and gradual mastery. The passage uses it to show that ordinary skills can become meaningful when pursued with purpose. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because honing does not mean inheriting a skill passively. It requires effort, discipline, and practice. The passage’s examples of craft suggest active cultivation rather than effortless possession. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because “honing” means sharpening, improving, or refining a skill through practice. In the passage, pottery and baking bread are examples of purposeful activities that gain meaning through sustained effort and development. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

17. **Correct Answer :** (c) They may secure purpose yet struggle with cosmic significance.

**Reference Line:** “Many secular Westerners manage to procure the first two kinds of meaning, as I had through my academic career. But that third form of meaning presents a real problem for those of us who don’t believe in God, but do believe in the evolutionary tenet that humans are nothing more than complex molecular machines shaped by our genes’ desire to replicate.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option incorrectly assumes that secular Westerners reject the purpose itself. The passage, however, clearly states that many of them are able to obtain the first two forms of meaning, including purpose through careers, family, craft, or community roles. The real difficulty arises only when they confront the question of whether their lives matter in the universe. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option wrongly shifts the author’s concern from existential mattering to coherence. The passage does not suggest that secular Westerners are unable to make sense of experience or predict events in ordinary life. Their problem is not a lack of intelligibility but the deeper difficulty of feeling cosmically significant without belief in God. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option correctly reflects the author’s central concern. The author accepts that secular Westerners may possess coherence and purpose, yet argues that existential mattering becomes difficult for those who view humans as material organisms shaped by evolutionary processes. The option captures this tension between practical meaning and cosmic significance. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option overstates the author’s argument by suggesting that religion is presented as the only source of purpose. The passage does not deny that non-religious people can find purpose in work, family, craft, or community life. The author’s concern is narrower: secular materialism may weaken one’s belief that life matters to the universe. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. **Correct Answer :** (a) A disorienting experience where events resist ordinary sense-making.

**Reference Line:** “To see what it’s like to lack coherence, watch any David Lynch film.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because the reference to David Lynch films is used to illustrate what a lack of coherence feels like. Such films are associated with disorientation, uncertainty, and resistance to ordinary narrative sense-making. The allusion helps the reader understand coherence by imagining its absence. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the allusion is not used as a scientific example. It does not demonstrate experimental verification or accurate prediction. It is a cultural reference meant to evoke confusion and lack of intelligible order. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the reference has nothing to do with religious experience or cosmic value. The passage uses it while explaining coherence, not existential mattering. This option wrongly shifts the allusion into a different category of meaning. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the allusion is not mainly comic and does not connect confusion with ambition. It points to a state where events feel hard to understand or predict. The function is explanatory, not humorous or career-related. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. **Correct Answer :** (a) To set aside free-will debates and examine limits on social power

**Reference Line:** “The subject of this Essay is not the so-called Liberty of the Will... but Civil, or Social Liberty: the nature and limits of the power which can be legitimately exercised by society over the individual.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is correct because the author begins by excluding the philosophical debate about free will from the scope of the essay. He clarifies that his concern is civil or social liberty, meaning the limits of power that society may legitimately exercise over the individual. The option accurately captures this shift from metaphysical liberty to social and political restraint. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the opening distinction is not meant to prove that rulers always act against citizens. The author later discusses rulers as historically dangerous, but the purpose of this sentence is to define the subject of the essay. It separates civil liberty from free will, rather than making an absolute claim about political rulers. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the author does not defend inheritance-based governments. In fact, he later presents inherited or conquest-based authority as a form of power that required limitation. The passage treats such

authority with caution, not approval. Therefore, this option reverses the author's attitude toward inherited rule. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the author does not say liberty has no relevance beyond philosophy. He only states that his essay is not about the philosophical problem of free will. His focus is on liberty as a social and political question involving the individual and society. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. **Correct Answer :** (d) It is indirectly present in many disputes without explicit formulation

**Reference Line:** "A question seldom stated, and hardly ever discussed, in general terms, but which profoundly influences the practical controversies of the age by its latent presence..."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option directly contradicts the passage. The author does not say that the question has disappeared; instead, he says it profoundly influences the controversies of the age. Its presence is hidden, not absent. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option wrongly confines the issue to the ancient world. Although the author refers to historical struggles, he also says the question is likely to become vital in the future. Therefore, it is not merely an obsolete concern of earlier societies. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option misunderstands the author's argument. The author's point is precisely that an issue may be rarely discussed in abstract terms yet still deeply affect practical politics. The question is theoretical in formulation but highly practical in consequence. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The word "latent" suggests that the question operates beneath the surface of public debate. The author means that even when people do not openly discuss the limits of social power, this issue silently shapes many political disputes. Thus, the controversy is practically influential despite being rarely expressed in general terms. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

21. **Correct Answer :** (c) It was historically centred on limiting political rulers' power

**Reference Line:** "By liberty, was meant protection against the tyranny of the political rulers." / "The aim, therefore, of patriots was to set limits to the power which the ruler should suffer to exercise over the community."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is historically inconsistent with the passage. The author states that the struggle is visible in the earliest familiar portions of history, especially Greece, Rome, and England. Therefore, it did not arise only after modern democratic institutions became dominant. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option misidentifies the nature of the conflict. The passage discusses subjects, governments, rulers, and political power, not private domestic or family-based disputes. The conflict is public and institutional rather than personal or familial. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option correctly captures the author's historical interpretation. In earlier times, liberty meant protection against the tyranny of rulers and the setting of limits on governmental power. Thus, the struggle was mainly about restraining political authority over the governed. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is too absolute and unsupported. The author mentions popular governments of Greece only as exceptions to the general conception of rulers as antagonistic to the people. He does not suggest that the struggle ended with those governments. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. **Correct Answer :** (b) They were structurally opposed to the interests of the governed

**Reference Line:** "The rulers were conceived... as in a necessarily antagonistic position to the people whom they ruled."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option confuses historical existence with political legitimacy. The author says rulers derived authority from inheritance or conquest, but he does not treat that origin as morally valid. Instead, the passage presents such power as requiring caution and restraint. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option correctly reflects the author's argument. The rulers were seen as occupying a position naturally opposed to the people because they did not depend on the governed for authority. This explains why liberty was understood as protection from their potential tyranny. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option weakens the author's warning about authority. The passage does not say that inherited customs made rulers harmless; rather, it says rulers' power was necessary but highly dangerous. Their authority required active limitation, not passive reliance on tradition. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option directly contradicts the passage. The author expressly states that such rulers did not hold power at the pleasure of the governed. Therefore, they were not indirectly chosen through popular approval or consent. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

23. **Correct Answer :** (a) A protector may become predatory if his power remains unchecked

**Reference Line:** “But as the king of the vultures would be no less bent upon preying on the flock than any of the minor harpies, it was indispensable to be in a perpetual attitude of defence against his beak and claws.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option correctly interprets the metaphor. The ruler may be needed to restrain smaller threats, but his superior power also makes him capable of exploiting the community. The image therefore warns that protective authority can itself become oppressive without limits. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option misreads the metaphor. The author actually says that a stronger “animal of prey” was considered necessary to restrain lesser predators. The danger lies not in weakness but in excessive and unchecked strength. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option exaggerates the author’s argument. The passage does not advocate rejecting government altogether; it accepts that authority may be necessary to prevent social disorder. The author’s concern is limitation, not abolition. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option distorts the balance of the passage. The author says rulers may use their power against subjects as well as against external enemies. The metaphor specifically highlights the internal danger posed by the ruler himself. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

24. **Correct Answer :** (c) Authority needs restraint.

**Reference Line:** “Their power was regarded as necessary, but also as highly dangerous; as a weapon which they would attempt to use against their subjects, no less than against external enemies.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not describe rulers as morally superior. In fact, it warns that rulers may use their power against their own subjects. The author’s concern is not the moral greatness of rulers, but the danger of unchecked authority. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the author does not argue that the government must be abolished. He recognises that some authority may be necessary to prevent disorder and protect the community. The passage supports limiting political power, not removing government completely. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is correct because the author accepts that political authority may be needed to maintain order, but he also warns that such authority can become oppressive if left unchecked. The phrase “necessary” shows why power exists, while “highly dangerous” shows why it must be limited. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because the passage does not say foreign enemies are worse than domestic rulers. It says rulers may use power against subjects as well as external enemies. The key issue is that internal authority can itself become dangerous. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

25. **Correct Answer :** (d) Reporters Without Borders

**Explanation:** Reporters Without Borders is the organisation that publishes the World Press Freedom Index and assesses the condition of journalism across countries. The other options may sound connected to media or journalism, but they are not the recognised body responsible for this index. The question asks for the organisation behind the ranking, not a general media group or monitoring label. Therefore, option (d) correctly identifies the institution associated with the index. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

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

**Explanation:** The World Press Freedom Index evaluates 180 countries and measures five key areas: economic, legal, security, political, and social conditions affecting journalism. Statement III is incorrect because the index does not rank countries only on the basis of legal protections. It uses a broader set of conditions to assess the overall environment for journalism.

27. **Correct Answer :** (a) 151st

**Explanation:** India held the 151st position in the World Press Freedom Index 2025 before moving to a lower position in the 2026 ranking. This makes 151st the correct previous-year rank. Option (b) gives a nearby but inaccurate rank,

while option (c) wrongly places India much closer to its 2026 position. Option (d) represents the later ranking, not the 2025 position. Since the question asks for India's rank in 2025, option (a) is correct.

28. **Correct Answer :** (c) Niger

**Explanation:** Niger saw the largest drop in the 2026 press freedom ranking among the countries discussed. Its fall was more severe than Saudi Arabia's, which also faced criticism but recorded a smaller decline. Syria cannot be the answer because its placement improved after political change. Burkina Faso is included as a regional distractor, but it is not identified as the country with the biggest fall. Thus, Niger correctly matches the country with the steepest decline.

29. **Correct Answer :** (a) It represents media companies

**Explanation:** Reporters Without Borders is not a representative body of media companies. It works as an international non-profit organisation focused on defending and promoting freedom of information. The other options are accurate because the organisation was founded in Montpellier, has its international headquarters in Paris, and enjoys consultative status with major international bodies. Therefore, the only incorrect statement is that it represents media companies, as that wrongly describes its institutional character and role.

30. **Correct Answer :** (c) For the first time, over half the assessed countries fall into difficult or very serious categories.

**Explanation:** The World Press Freedom Index 2026 highlights a major decline in global press conditions because, for the first time, more than half of the assessed countries are placed in the difficult or very serious category. This indicates that press freedom challenges are no longer limited to a few countries but have become widespread across the world. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

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

**Explanation:** All three statements are correct. Statement I is correct because the General Assembly appoints the UN Secretary-General. Statement II is also correct because this appointment is made upon the recommendation of the Security Council, as provided under Article 97 of the UN Charter. Statement III is correct because the five Permanent Members of the Security Council play a major role in the recommendation stage, as any one of them can effectively block a candidate through their veto power. Therefore, the correct answer is (d) All I, II and III, not (c) Only II and III.

32. **Correct Answer :** (c) chief administrative officer

**Explanation:** Article 97 identifies the UN Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization. This phrase defines the Secretary-General's formal administrative role within the United Nations system. The other options may sound official, but they do not match the exact designation used for the post. The question tests the constitutional description of the office, not its broader political influence or diplomatic responsibilities. Therefore, option (c) gives the accurate designation. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

33. **Correct Answer :** (b) eight times

**Explanation:** India has served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council eight times. This reflects India's long engagement with the United Nations and its repeated participation in the Council's temporary membership structure. Option (a), option (c), and option (d) give incorrect counts and therefore do not match India's recorded participation. The question asks for the number of India's terms as a non-permanent member, making eight times the accurate answer. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

34. **Correct Answer :** (d) 1945

**Explanation:** The formal beginning of the United Nations is placed in 1945, making it one of the most important institutions created in the post-war international order. Options (a), (b), and (c) mention nearby years, but they do not identify the correct year of institutional creation. The question asks for the specific year associated with the start of the organisation. Therefore, 1945 is the accurate response. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

35. **Correct Answer :** (b) Canada

**Explanation:** The G4 grouping consists of Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan. These countries support reform of the UN Security Council and seek greater representation in its permanent membership structure. Canada is an important international actor, but it is not one of the G4 countries. Since Brazil, Germany, and Japan are members of the grouping, they cannot be selected. The only option that names a country outside the G4 framework is Canada. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

36. **Correct Answer :** (c) The P5 can block a candidate through veto during the recommendation stage.

**Explanation:** The Security Council must recommend a candidate before appointment, which gives the P5 strong influence. Since China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the US hold veto power, any one of them can prevent a candidate from moving forward. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

37. **Correct Answer :** (b) Speaker or Chairman

**Explanation:** Under the defection framework, the deciding power rests with the presiding authority of the concerned legislative chamber. In Lok Sabha, this role belongs to the Speaker, while in an upper house, it belongs to the Chairman. The same principle applies to state legislatures, including Vidhan Sabha, through the appropriate presiding authority. Options (a), (c), and (d) wrongly shift this power to executive, judicial, or advisory bodies. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer in this question.

38. **Correct Answer :** (c) Article 102(2)

**Explanation:** Article 102(2) is the relevant provision because it lists constitutional grounds affecting membership of either House of Parliament and also connects parliamentary disqualification with the Tenth Schedule. This means that defection-related disqualification is constitutionally linked through this Article. Article 100 concerns voting, Article 101 concerns vacation of seats, and Article 103 concerns decision on certain membership questions. Since the question asks for the provision covering these disqualification grounds, option (c) is correct.

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

**Explanation:** Statements I, II and III are correct. The Tenth Schedule was added through the Constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985 to deal with political defections. A legislator's defection can weaken the electoral mandate because the voter's choice is changed after the election. The Supreme Court, in *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu*, upheld the validity of the Tenth Schedule and recognised its importance in maintaining democratic stability. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

40. **Correct Answer :** (b) It penalises lawmakers for leaving party discipline after election.

**Explanation:** The Anti-Defection Law is meant to protect representative accountability after voters choose candidates under party banners. It discourages lawmakers from deserting their political organisation or disobeying binding legislative instructions for personal or strategic benefit. Option (b) captures this purpose because it links party discipline with a legal consequence. Option (a) concerns ministerial protection, option (c) wrongly gives governors the deciding role, and option (d) presents the opposite idea.

41. **Correct Answer :** (d) Parliament may amend the Constitution, but it cannot alter or destroy its essential constitutional features.

**Explanation:** The *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment created a constitutional balance between Parliament's power to amend and the need to protect the Constitution's essential identity. The Court accepted that amendments are necessary for change, but held that such power cannot be used to damage the Constitution's core framework. Features like democracy, rule of law, judicial review, and constitutional supremacy must remain protected. Therefore, option (d) correctly explains the meaning and importance of the basic structure doctrine.

42. **Correct Answer :** (a) Patna Bird Sanctuary, Bakhira Bird Sanctuary, Haiderpur wetland and Upper Ganga river are among the Ramsar wetlands in Uttar Pradesh.

**Explanation:** Uttar Pradesh has several Ramsar wetlands, and the given group correctly includes Patna Bird Sanctuary, Bakhira Bird Sanctuary, Haiderpur wetland and Upper Ganga river. The other options mix wetlands from different states with Uttar Pradesh sites, making them inaccurate. Chilika Lake, Loktak Lake, Wular Lake, Sambhar Lake, Bhoj Wetland and Deepor Beel are important wetlands, but they are not located in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

43. **Correct Answer :** (d) 1982

**Explanation:** India joined the international wetlands protection framework in 1982. This year is important because it marks India's formal participation in a global effort to conserve wetlands and encourage their sustainable use. Options (a), (b), and (c) mention earlier years, but they do not match the correct year of India's association with this environmental agreement. Since the question asks for the specific year of India's participation, option (d) gives the accurate answer.

44. **Correct Answer :** (c) Only I and III

**Explanation:** Statements I and III are correct. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary is located in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, and it is known as an important freshwater habitat supporting 249 bird species, including winter migratory birds from the Central Asian Flyway. Statement II is incorrect because it is Uttar Pradesh's 12th Ramsar Wetland Site, not India's 12th Ramsar Wetland Site. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

45. **Correct Answer :** (b) February 2

**Explanation:** February 2 is the accurate date because the annual international observance on wetlands is linked to this calendar day. It is used to remind people about conservation, sustainable use, biodiversity protection and the importance of water-rich habitats. Options (a), (c), and (d) are nearby dates, but they do not correspond to the recognised observance in environmental studies globally. Therefore, when the question asks for the correct calendar date, option (b) is the answer. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

46. **Correct Answer :** (c) Kutch district

**Explanation:** Kutch district is the correct answer because Chhari-Dhand is situated in this Gujarat district. The question asks for the district location, not the state, conservation status, or bird-related importance of the wetland. Patan, Botad, and Dahod are also districts of Gujarat, but they are not connected with this particular wetland. Therefore, option (c) accurately identifies the geographical location asked in the question. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer for this question here.

47. **Correct Answer :** (a) Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage

**Explanation:** The focus for 2026 connects wetland conservation with inherited knowledge systems used by communities over generations. It highlights how cultural practices, local experience and indigenous understanding can support careful protection and management of wetland ecosystems. Option (a) is accurate because it gives the officially adopted theme. Options (b), (c), and (d) are reasonable environmental ideas, but they do not capture the specific emphasis on cultural heritage and traditional ecological wisdom. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

48. **Correct Answer :** (d) The upper limit was raised from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women.

**Explanation:** The 2021 amendment increased the permissible gestational limit from 20 weeks to 24 weeks for specific categories of women. These categories include rape survivors, victims of incest, minors, and women with disabilities. The change was not a blanket removal of all limits, nor was it meant only for ordinary pregnancies. Therefore, option (d) correctly explains the key change introduced through the amendment.

49. **Correct Answer :** (d) State of Jammu and Kashmir

**Explanation:** The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 applied across India, but one territory was specifically kept outside its reach at the time of enactment. The correct answer is State of Jammu and Kashmir because the law did not originally operate there. The other options name Indian states, but they were not the exception mentioned in relation to this legislation. Therefore, option (d) correctly identifies the excluded territory. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer in this question.

50. **Correct Answer :** (b) Guardian consent

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:** When the pregnant woman is below eighteen years of age, termination cannot be carried out only on her own consent. The law requires the written consent of her guardian because a minor is treated as needing legally recognised adult support for such a medical decision. Therefore, guardian consent is the correct answer.

51. **Correct Answer :** (b) Two practitioners

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:** The amended framework allows termination up to 20 weeks on the opinion of one registered medical practitioner. For specified categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks, the opinion of two registered medical practitioners is generally required. Therefore, two practitioners is the correct answer.

52. **Correct Answer :** (c) Section 5

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:** Section 5 creates an emergency exception to the ordinary statutory requirements. It allows the requirements of Sections 3 and 4 to be relaxed when a registered medical practitioner acts in good faith and considers termination immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman. Therefore, Section 5 is the correct answer.

53. **Correct Answer :** (b) Neha may be liable because false statements communicated to others injured Riya's reputation.

**Reference Line:** "Defamation means an injury to the reputation of a person caused by a false statement communicated to others."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly assumes that reputation can be protected only when physical or direct financial assault is shown. The reference line clearly treats injury to reputation by a false statement communicated to others as defamation. Therefore, absence of bodily harm does not defeat Riya's claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses the reference words "false statements," "communicated to others," and "injured reputation." Neha's emails were sent to third-party event managers, contained false allegations, and affected Riya's professional standing. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Communication to selected industry managers is still communication to persons other than the plaintiff. Publication in defamation does not require a newspaper or public broadcast; targeted third-party communication may be sufficient. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Liability does not depend on every recipient further repeating the allegation. The defamatory statement was already communicated to third persons when Neha emailed the event managers, and reputational injury followed from that communication. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

54. **Correct Answer :** (a) Dr. Farah succeeds because the statement lowers her estimation among right-thinking society members.

**Reference Line:** "A statement is defamatory if it lowers a person in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses "lowers" and "right-thinking members of society," matching the reference line. A false allegation that a doctor fabricates diagnostic reports attacks professional integrity and would naturally lower her estimation among reasonable members of society. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Defamatory meaning does not depend on vulgar or abusive language. Even professionally worded statements can be defamatory if they falsely accuse a person of dishonesty and lower reputation in society. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Allegations of professional dishonesty can seriously injure reputation. Defamation is not confined to personal insults; it includes statements that reduce social or professional esteem among right-thinking persons. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The law does not require every reader to testify that their respect was lowered. The test is whether the statement tends to lower the person in the estimation of right-thinking members generally, judged objectively from the statement and circumstances. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

55. **Correct Answer :** (c) Poster is libel, while spoken allegation is slander due to permanent and transient forms.

**Reference Line:** "Libel refers to defamation in permanent form, such as writing, printing, photographs, pictures, films, signs or caricatures, while slander refers to defamation in transient form, such as spoken words or gestures."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats both acts as slander merely because the dispute arose during an election campaign. The printed poster is in permanent form and therefore falls within libel, even if the original oral statement may be slander. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Memory of spoken words does not convert them into permanent form. The reference line distinguishes actual permanent forms like writing, printing, photographs, signs and films from transient forms like spoken words or gestures. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly applies the permanent-transient distinction in the reference line. Kabir's printed poster with Meera's photograph is libel, while his oral statement to students is slander because it was communicated through spoken words. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Election campaigns do not create unlimited licence to make false personal accusations. Defamatory statements may remain actionable if they falsely injure reputation, even when made in a political or electoral setting. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

56. **Correct Answer :** (d) Arman succeeds because the false statement caused contempt and social avoidance.

**Reference Line:** "A defamatory statement is one which tends to expose a person to hatred, contempt or ridicule, or causes the person to be shunned or avoided by society."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly makes abusive language essential. A statement may be defamatory if it exposes a person to hatred, contempt or ridicule, or causes the person to be shunned or avoided by society. The principal's false allegation of examination theft clearly affects Arman's social and professional standing. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The informal setting of an alumni meeting does not prevent defamation. If a false statement is communicated to others and harms reputation, the fact that it was made at a non-official gathering does not provide automatic protection. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Defamation protects reputation, not merely body or property. Arman need not prove physical injury or property damage when the statement exposes him to contempt and causes social avoidance. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses "contempt" and "social avoidance," matching the reference line. The false allegation that Arman stole examination papers caused alumni to distance themselves from him, making the statement defamatory in effect. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

57. **Correct Answer :** (c) Defamation fails generally because original statement was communicated only to Ajay, not third person.

**Reference Line:** "Publication means communication to a third person; if the statement is communicated only to the plaintiff, there is generally no defamation."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats communication to the plaintiff alone as publication. The reference line clearly states that publication means communication to a third person, and if the statement is communicated only to the plaintiff, there is generally no defamation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Ajay's own forwarding of the letter cannot automatically make the employer's original act a defamatory publication. The key issue is whether the defendant communicated the statement to a third person, not whether the plaintiff later disclosed it. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses "communicated only to Ajay" and "not third person," matching the reference line. Since Mr. Sen sent the sealed letter only to Ajay, the publication requirement is generally missing on the original facts. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: False workplace allegations may be defamatory if published to others, but publication remains an essential requirement. The passage does not create an automatic exception for workplace accusations communicated only to the plaintiff. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

58. **Correct Answer :** (b) Journalist may rely on truth and fair comment if facts are true and opinion is honest.

**Reference Line:** "The main defences to defamation are truth, fair comment and privilege."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option directly contradicts the reference line, which lists truth as one of the main defences to defamation. If the factual allegations are true and properly supported, truth may defeat civil liability depending on the legal context. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses "truth" and "fair comment," matching the reference line. Verified public records may support the factual defence, while an honest opinion on municipal ethics can fall within fair comment if it concerns public interest and is not maliciously fabricated. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Public officials are not immune from criticism about public duties or municipal contracts. Defamation law protects reputation, but it also recognises defences such as truth and fair comment, particularly where public interest is involved. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Privilege is an important defence, but it is not the only one. The reference line expressly identifies truth, fair comment and privilege as the main defences, so excluding truth and fair comment is legally incorrect. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

59. **Correct Answer :** (a) Amina may seek damages, injunction, apology, retraction, and appropriate criminal consequences.

**Reference Line:** “Remedies for defamation include damages, injunctions, apology, retraction and criminal punishment.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line by recognising damages, injunction, apology, retraction, and criminal consequences as possible remedies for defamation. Since the article is false, reputationally harmful, and still being circulated despite proof of falsity, Amina may seek both compensatory and preventive relief, along with correction-based remedies. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly limits defamation remedies to damages alone. The reference line expressly includes injunctions, which may be relevant where false defamatory material continues to circulate and causes ongoing reputational harm. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats apology as the only available remedy. The reference line includes apology and retraction, but also recognises damages, injunctions, and criminal punishment. Therefore, monetary compensation is not excluded merely because apology is possible. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Criminal punishment may be available in appropriate cases, but it is not the only remedy. The reference line clearly recognises civil remedies such as damages and injunctions, along with apology and retraction. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

60. **Correct Answer :** (a) Contract is voidable at the aggrieved party’s option due to affected consent.

**Reference Line:** “Where consent is obtained through coercion, undue influence, fraud or misrepresentation, the contract becomes voidable under Section 2(i) at the option of the aggrieved party, who may rescind or affirm the contract.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses “voidable,” “aggrieved party,” and the idea of consent obtained through coercion, fraud or misrepresentation. The founder’s consent was affected by false approval claims and threats, so the contract may be rescinded or affirmed at the founder’s option. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Signature is evidence of assent, but it is not conclusive proof of free consent. If the signature was obtained by coercion, fraud, or misrepresentation, the law allows the aggrieved party to challenge the contract. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats every false statement as making the agreement void from inception. The reference line states that consent obtained through fraud or misrepresentation generally makes the contract voidable, not automatically void. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The existence of threats or false statements may have other consequences, but the contractual remedy is not excluded. The aggrieved party may rescind or affirm the contract where consent was improperly obtained. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

61. **Correct Answer :** (c) Agreement is void because both parties shared a mistake of fact about existence.

**Reference Line:** “A bilateral mistake of fact makes the agreement void, while a unilateral mistake generally does not.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option treats the issue as unilateral disappointment, but the facts show both parties were mistaken about the existence of the coin. The reference line states that a bilateral mistake of fact makes the agreement void. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: General risk assumption cannot be presumed where both parties contracted on the shared factual belief that the subject matter existed. The destruction of the coin before agreement goes to an essential fact underlying the transaction. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses “bilateral mistake of fact” and “agreement void,” matching the reference line. Both parties believed the coin existed, but it had already been destroyed, so the agreement lacks the factual foundation necessary for enforcement. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The result is not merely voidable at the seller’s option. A bilateral mistake of fact makes the agreement void, meaning neither party can enforce it as a valid contract on the mistaken basis. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

62. **Correct Answer :** (d) Contract is void because absence of consensus ad idem prevents real agreement.

**Reference Line:** “Absence of consensus ad idem makes the agreement void.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: Merely using broad words like “all rights” does not prove genuine agreement if the parties attached materially different meanings to duration, territory, and formats. The issue is not the existence of words but absence of the same understanding. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Disagreement about essential rights can directly affect consent. If one party means a limited licence and the other means permanent worldwide exploitation across formats, the parties may not have agreed to the same thing in the same sense. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The problem is not later regret over a bad bargain. The defect existed at formation because the parties understood the core rights differently. Such absence of consensus ad idem makes the agreement void, not merely voidable for dissatisfaction. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses “absence of consensus ad idem” and “agreement void,” matching the reference line. Since the author and publisher did not share the same understanding of the rights transferred, real consent was missing. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

63. **Correct Answer :** (c) Contract is void because parties did not agree in the same sense.

**Reference Line:** “Section 13 defines consent as a situation where two or more persons agree upon the same thing in the same sense.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: Merely using the same ship name does not prove real consent where two ships with the same name existed and each party had a different shipment in mind. The reference line requires agreement upon the same thing in the same sense, not merely similarity of words. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Price and quantity may be important terms, but they cannot cure a fundamental difference about the subject matter itself. If the buyer and seller meant different shipments, the essential meeting of minds is absent despite agreement on quantity and price. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly reflects the requirement that parties must agree upon the same thing in the same sense. Since the buyer intended one shipment and the seller intended another, there was no consensus ad idem, and the agreement cannot be treated as a valid contract. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The issue is not that one party later disliked the quality, but that both parties originally understood the subject matter differently. Such absence of real consent makes the agreement void, not merely voidable at one party’s later preference. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

64. **Correct Answer :** (d) Agreement is questionable because valid contracts require free consent of parties.

**Reference Line:** “Free consent is one of the essential conditions of a valid contract under Section 10 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats signature and consideration as sufficient in every case. The reference line makes free consent an essential condition of a valid contract, so an agreement signed under pressure, deception, or fear cannot be enforced merely because formal elements appear complete. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Fear can affect consent even in property or commercial dealings if it causes a party to enter into an agreement that would otherwise not have been made. The nature of the transaction does not exclude the requirement of free consent. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Competence is important, but it is not the only condition. Even competent parties must give free consent for a valid enforceable contract. Therefore, the landowners' challenge cannot be rejected merely because they were competent adults. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses the principle that free consent is an essential condition of a valid contract. Since the landowners signed after being misled about imminent demolition, the enforceability of the agreement becomes legally doubtful. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

65. **Correct Answer :** (b) Consent was not free because fraud or misrepresentation can affect consent.

**Reference Line:** "Section 14 explains that consent is free when it is not caused by coercion, undue influence, fraud, misrepresentation or mistake."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly restricts defective consent to physical force alone. The reference line clearly includes coercion, undue influence, fraud, misrepresentation, and mistake as factors affecting free consent. Therefore, deception can vitiate consent even without physical force. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line by recognising that fraud or misrepresentation can prevent consent from being free. The dealer's concealment of the expert report and false description of the painting directly affected Meera's decision to sell. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Low price by itself may not always invalidate an agreement, but here the low price resulted from deception about the painting's nature and value. The legal defect lies in the dealer's conduct affecting consent, not merely in the bargain being disadvantageous. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Unsoundness of mind concerns contractual capacity, not the full range of free-consent defects. Even a competent person's consent may be affected by fraud, misrepresentation, coercion, undue influence, or mistake. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

66. **Correct Answer :** (c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

**Reference Line:** "Mistake of Indian law is not excusable, but mistake of foreign law is treated as mistake of fact."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: Assertion (A) is true because the reference line clearly states that mistake of Indian law is not excusable. However, Reason (R) is false because it wrongly says that mistake of Indian law is treated like mistake of foreign law. The reference line draws the opposite distinction between Indian law and foreign law. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly assumes that both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true. While the assertion correctly states that misunderstanding Indian law generally cannot be used to avoid contractual consequences, the reason incorrectly treats mistake of Indian law and mistake of foreign law alike. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: Assertion (A) is true because mistake of Indian law is not excusable under the stated principle. Reason (R) is false because mistake of foreign law alone is treated as mistake of fact, whereas mistake of Indian law is not excusable. Therefore, the assertion stands, but the reason misstates the legal distinction. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Assertion (A) is not false because it accurately reflects the rule that mistake of Indian law is not excusable. Reason (R) is also not true because it wrongly says Indian law and foreign law mistakes are treated in the same manner. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

67. **Correct Answer :** (c) Liability may arise because the act knowingly diminished the property's utility.

**Reference Line:** "It is committed when a person intentionally, or with knowledge that his act is likely to cause wrongful loss or damage, causes destruction of any property or makes any change in it which destroys or diminishes its value, utility or usefulness."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly assumes that permanent destruction or theft is necessary. The reference line covers not only destruction but also any change that diminishes the value, utility, or usefulness of property. Removing batteries and wiring made the generator unusable for a week, which directly reduced its utility. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Personal gain is not necessary where the act causes wrongful loss or damage by reducing the property's utility. Karan's lack of benefit does not matter if he intentionally interfered with the generator and made it temporarily useless. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses "knowingly diminished" and "utility," matching the reference line. Karan changed the condition of the generator by removing essential parts, and the property's usefulness was reduced even though the generator itself was not destroyed. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Complete destruction is not required under the stated principle. The offence may arise even where the property remains physically intact but its value, utility, or usefulness is diminished by intentional or knowing conduct. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

68. **Correct Answer :** (d) Liability may arise because intentional acts can prevent even co-owners from enjoying property.

**Reference Line:** "In simple terms, mischief means an intentional act which prevents another person, the public, or even a co-owner from enjoying the benefit of property."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats co-ownership as a licence to destroy common property. The reference line expressly includes acts that prevent even a co-owner from enjoying the benefit of property. Sameer's co-ownership does not justify burning the crop. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The absence of personal profit does not defeat liability. The legal concern is intentional interference with property benefit, including wrongful loss or damage, not whether Sameer personally gained money from burning the crop. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Joint cultivation does not remove legal protection from wrongful destruction. The passage specifically recognises that even a co-owner may be prevented from enjoying property, so jointly cultivated crops can be relevant to the offence. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses the reference idea that an intentional act may prevent "even a co-owner" from enjoying the benefit of property. Sameer's conduct damaged jointly enjoyed crops and deprived the other brother of property benefit. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

69. **Correct Answer :** (a) Liability may arise because the offence can concern public property without personal gain.

**Reference Line:** "The offence may relate to public or private property, and it is not necessary that the accused should personally gain from the act."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses "public property" and "without personal gain," matching the reference line. The traffic-control panel belonged to a public authority, and the protestors' lack of financial benefit does not defeat liability where they intentionally damaged its usefulness. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Public property is not excluded from the offence merely because administrative remedies may also exist. The reference line clearly states that the offence may relate to public or private property, so damage to a public traffic-control panel can be legally relevant. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Theft is not required. The offence concerns destruction, damage, or reduction in value, utility, or usefulness of property. The protestors did not need to take the panel away for liability to arise. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Personal profit is unnecessary under the reference line. The protestors may be liable if they intentionally damaged public property, even without selling the damaged panel or gaining any money. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

70. **Correct Answer :** (b) Dev may be liable because one must not use property to injure another's property.

**Reference Line:** "It is based on the principle sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas, meaning that one must use one's property in such a manner as not to injure the property of others."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats ownership as absolute permission to harm neighbouring property. The reference line states that one must use one's property in such a manner as not to injure the property of others. Dev's ownership of his plot does not justify knowingly diverting harmful runoff. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses the reference principle that one must not use property to injure another's property. Dev's act began on his own land, but its intended or known effect damaged Anita's nursery, making the principle directly applicable. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Physical entry is not necessary if Dev used his property in a way that caused injury to another's property. The harm occurred through chemical runoff, and the principle focuses on injurious use, not only trespassory entry. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Dev need not personally remove plants for liability to arise. The wrongful act may consist of causing damage or reduction in usefulness through indirect means, such as knowingly diverting chemicals toward another's property. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**71. Correct Answer :** (d) Liability may arise because intentional damage reduced the buses' utility and usefulness.

**Reference Line:** "The essential ingredients of mischief are intention or knowledge to cause wrongful loss or damage, actual destruction or damage to property, and reduction in the value, utility or usefulness of that property."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly insists on visible destruction. The reference line includes actual damage to property and reduction in value, utility, or usefulness. Engine seizure caused by sugar in fuel tanks is damage even if the buses were not visibly burnt or dismantled. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Temporary loss of use can still reduce utility or usefulness. The buses were unusable for several days and required repairs, which satisfies the idea of property damage and reduction in usefulness. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Permanent removal from the depot is not required. The offence can arise where property remains in place but is damaged or made less useful through intentional or knowing conduct. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses "intentional damage," "utility," and "usefulness," matching the reference line. The leader intended wrongful loss, the buses suffered engine damage, and their operational usefulness was reduced. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**72. Correct Answer :** (a) Liability fails because absence of intention or knowledge ordinarily prevents the offence.

**Reference Line:** "Mens rea is important because an act done without intention or knowledge will not ordinarily amount to mischief."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses "absence of intention or knowledge," matching the reference line. Nisha handled the model normally and had no reason to know that ordinary movement would likely damage it, so the required mental element is missing on these facts. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly converts every accidental property damage into a punishable offence. The reference line makes mens rea important and states that acts done without intention or knowledge will not ordinarily amount to the offence. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Fragility of property does not automatically impose criminal liability on a person unaware of the risk. Criminal responsibility depends on intention or knowledge, not merely on the unfortunate fact that damage occurred. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Written forgiveness is not the basis for determining whether the offence is made out. The key issue is whether Nisha acted with intention or knowledge likely to cause wrongful loss or damage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**73. Correct Answer :** (d) Guardian may be removed for abuse of trust, neglect, conflict of interest, or insolvency.

**Reference Line:** "Guardians may be removed under Section 39 for abuse of trust, neglect, incapacity, ill-treatment, conflict of interest or insolvency, and guardianship ceases under Section 41 by death, removal, discharge, majority or specified marriage."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats property misuse as irrelevant. The reference line includes abuse of trust, neglect, conflict of interest, and insolvency as grounds for removal. Misusing the minor's shop and income directly concerns guardianship accountability. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Physical ill-treatment is not the only ground for removal. The reference line lists several independent grounds, including abuse of trust, neglect, conflict of interest, incapacity, and insolvency. Therefore, the grandmother need not prove physical cruelty alone. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: A guardian's voluntary admission is not required before removal. The court can examine accounts, conduct, conflicts, and misuse of property to determine whether statutory grounds for removal exist. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses "abuse of trust," "neglect," "conflict of interest," and "insolvency," matching the reference line. Leasing the shop to his own company at undervalue and using the minor's income for personal debts strongly supports removal. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**74. Correct Answer :** (c) Court framework applies because it regulates appointment, duties, property protection, and welfare.

**Reference Line:** "The Act introduced a uniform procedural framework for appointment and declaration of guardians, protection of the person and property of minors, regulation of powers, duties and liabilities of guardians, safeguards against misuse of a minor's property, and ensuring that the welfare of the minor remains the guiding principle."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats guardianship as an entirely informal family matter. The reference line clearly recognises a uniform procedural framework for appointment and declaration of guardians, protection of the minor's person and property, and regulation of duties and liabilities. Therefore, family elders cannot displace the statutory process where court intervention is necessary. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option incorrectly separates property protection from guardianship proceedings. The reference line specifically includes safeguards against misuse of a minor's property as part of the Act's framework. Therefore, property-related concerns strengthen, rather than weaken, the need for structured guardianship supervision. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly reflects the reference line by mentioning appointment, duties, property protection, and welfare. The dispute involves both personal care and management of the minor's education fund, so the statutory framework is the proper route for ensuring accountability and welfare. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: School authorities may require clarity for administrative purposes, but they cannot replace the court's guardianship function. The appointment or declaration of a guardian must follow the legal framework, not institutional convenience. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**75. Correct Answer :** (a) Rhea remains a minor because she has not attained majority, ordinarily eighteen years.

**Reference Line:** "A 'minor' under Section 4 means a person who has not attained majority, ordinarily 18 years."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line's standard that a minor is a person who has not attained majority, ordinarily eighteen years. Rhea is 17 years and 10 months old, so her income or maturity does not by itself remove her from the protective scope of guardianship law. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Earning income may show ability or responsibility, but it does not automatically change legal majority. The statutory focus is whether the person has attained majority, ordinarily eighteen years, not whether the person has begun earning independently. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Personal maturity cannot replace the legal age threshold. Guardianship law uses a defined legal standard for minority, and courts cannot treat subjective maturity as equivalent to attainment of majority. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: The minor's complete inability to understand property matters is not required for the definition to apply. A person may be intelligent and capable, yet still legally remain a minor until the age requirement is satisfied. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**76. Correct Answer :** (d) Mehl may be guardian if he has care of person, property, or both.

**Reference Line:** "Section 4 defines a guardian as a person having care of the person of a minor, the property of a minor, or both, while a ward is the minor for whose person or property there is a guardian."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly links guardianship with ownership. A guardian may care for or manage the minor's property, but ownership remains with the minor. Guardianship does not require permanent ownership of the ward's property. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option artificially limits guardianship to personal care only. The reference line expressly includes care of the person, property, or both. Managing school admissions and property can both fall within guardianship depending on the court's order. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option states the opposite of the reference line. A person may have care of the minor's person, property, or both, so combined responsibility is not legally impossible. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line's wording that a guardian may have care of the person of a minor, the property of a minor, or both. Since Mehul is handling both personal welfare and property management, he may fall within the statutory description. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**77. Correct Answer :** (b) Appointment should depend on whether such order is necessary for the minor's welfare.

**Reference Line:** "Section 7 empowers the Court to appoint or declare a guardian if such order is necessary for the welfare of the minor."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: Seniority within the family does not automatically determine guardianship. The reference line makes necessity for the welfare of the minor the controlling condition for appointment or declaration, not the relative's age or status. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line's requirement that appointment or declaration must be necessary for the welfare of the minor. If both parents are caring for the child properly, the court must examine whether the grandfather's appointment is genuinely required. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Divorce does not automatically allow any relative to replace living and functioning parents. The court's power must be exercised only when the order is necessary for the minor's welfare, not merely because a relative requests control. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Disagreement over schooling may be relevant, but it does not automatically prove incapacity or justify guardianship transfer. The court must assess necessity from the child's welfare perspective rather than treat every parental disagreement as sufficient. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**78. Correct Answer :** (c) Welfare, age, religion, character, capacity, kinship, past relationship, and intelligent preference.

**Reference Line:** "Section 17 is the most important provision, requiring the Court to consider the minor's welfare, age, sex, religion, proposed guardian's character and capacity, nearness of kin, wishes of deceased parent, previous relationship, and intelligent preference of the minor."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: Financial capacity may be relevant, but it is not the only factor. The reference line requires a broader inquiry into welfare, age, sex, religion, character and capacity, kinship, previous relationship, and the minor's intelligent preference. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Nearness of kin is relevant, but it does not automatically override all other factors. The child's welfare and intelligent preference, along with the proposed guardian's character, capacity, and previous relationship, must also be considered. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option accurately captures the multiple factors listed in the reference line. Sara's preference, her aunt's previous care, the child's health and education, and the proposed guardian's character and capacity all form part of the welfare-based inquiry. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Guardianship is not limited to property questions. The reference line includes personal factors such as age, sex, religion, previous relationship, and intelligent preference, showing that personal welfare is central. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**79. Correct Answer :** (d) Lina fails under Article 19 because those six freedoms are guaranteed to Indian citizens.

**Reference Line:** "Article 19 is part of the fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution of India and guarantees six freedoms to Indian citizens."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly treats every fundamental right as equally available to citizens and foreign nationals. The reference line specifically states that Article 19 guarantees six freedoms to Indian citizens, so Lina cannot claim those six freedoms merely by being present in India. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Residence or study in India does not automatically convert Article 19 freedoms into rights available to a foreign national. The reference line links Article 19 freedoms to Indian citizens, so Lina's status as a resident student is not enough. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option goes too far by denying all constitutional protection to foreign nationals. The issue is only Article 19, which is citizen-specific; other protections may still be available depending on the right invoked. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line's phrase that Article 19 guarantees six freedoms to Indian citizens. Since Lina is not an Indian citizen, her claim to the six Article 19 freedoms fails on that specific constitutional ground. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**80. Correct Answer :** (b) The student's expression is protected because speech includes oral, written, electronic, symbolic, and digital forms.

**Reference Line:** "The freedom of speech and expression enables citizens to express opinions through oral, written, electronic, symbolic or digital means."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly excludes digital and symbolic communication from constitutional expression. The reference line expressly includes electronic, symbolic, and digital means, so a satirical video using captions, cartoons, and visual symbols can fall within protected expression. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly uses the reference words "oral, written, electronic, symbolic or digital means." The student's video combines digital publication, visual symbolism, and spoken commentary, making it a form of expression rather than an unprotected act merely because it embarrasses the municipality. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: Criticism of government or public authorities is not automatically excluded from free speech. Democratic expression includes the ability to question public bodies, subject only to constitutionally valid restrictions. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Constitutional expression is not confined to newspapers or traditional print media. The reference line includes digital means, so online publication can be protected if it otherwise falls within free speech. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**81. Correct Answer :** (c) The journalist is correct because speech includes press freedom and the right to know.

**Reference Line:** "It includes propagation of ideas, criticism of government, freedom of the press, right to know, right to silence, right to reply, and the right to fly the national flag with dignity."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option wrongly separates public-health information from constitutional speech concerns. The reference line includes the right to know, and access to information about public hospital shortages can be connected with accountability and informed public debate. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: The reference line specifically includes freedom of the press within the scope of speech and expression. Therefore, the State cannot claim that press activity is wholly outside Article 19 merely because the report is critical. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: This option directly uses "freedom of the press" and "right to know," matching the reference line. The journalist's request for public-health data and publication of a critical report fall within recognised facets of speech and expression, subject to lawful restrictions. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Free speech would be hollow if it protected only non-critical reporting. The reference line includes criticism of government as a facet of speech, so criticism by itself is not a ground to deny protection. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**82. Correct Answer :** (a) Restriction may be valid because Article 19 rights are subject to reasonable grounds like public order and incitement.

**Reference Line:** "Clauses (2) to (6) permit the State to impose reasonable restrictions in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offence, and general public interest."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Correct: This option directly uses the reference line's grounds of public order and incitement to an offence. The organiser's messages about sticks, obstruction of ambulances, and confrontation create risks beyond peaceful assembly, so a route restriction and weapon prohibition may be constitutionally defensible if reasonable. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Merely describing an event as peaceful does not make all conduct immune from regulation. The State may impose reasonable restrictions when the facts show public order concerns or incitement risks. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option contradicts the reference line, which expressly mentions public order and incitement to an offence as grounds for restriction. Article 19 rights are important, but they are not absolute. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: A valid restriction need not take the form of a permanent district-wide ban. In fact, a tailored route restriction may be more reasonable than a blanket prohibition if it addresses the specific risk without destroying the right. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

83. **Correct Answer :** (d) It is suspect because restrictions must be reasonable, proportionate, fair, and preserve the right's essence.

**Reference Line:** "The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that such restrictions must be reasonable, proportionate, fair, and must not destroy the essence of the right itself."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: This option treats public order as a licence for complete suspension of expression. The reference line requires restrictions to be reasonable, proportionate, fair, and not destructive of the right's essence, so total bans require strict justification. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: Proportionality remains central even where the State invokes public safety. The State must choose measures that address the risk without unnecessarily destroying peaceful speech, assembly, and political communication. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Incorrect: The validity of the restriction does not depend only on whether the State admits absence of unlawful conduct. Even if some incidents occurred, the breadth, duration, fairness, and proportionality of the restriction must still be examined. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Correct: This option directly uses "reasonable, proportionate, fair" and "not destroy the essence of the right," matching the reference line. A one-year blanket ban on speeches, meetings, and pamphlets across every city appears to destroy rather than regulate the right. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

84. **Correct Answer :** (c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

**Reference Line:** "The freedoms of movement and residence promote national integration, subject to tribal protection, public safety and health, as seen in Ebrahim Vazir Mavat."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

Option (a) Incorrect: Assertion (A) is true because the reference line expressly states that the freedoms of movement and residence promote national integration. However, Reason (R) is false because the same reference line says these freedoms are subject to tribal protection, public safety and health. Therefore, these freedoms are not absolute, and the reason cannot explain the assertion. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option wrongly assumes that both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true. While the assertion correctly reflects the national-integration function of movement and residence rights, the reason contradicts the reference line by describing these freedoms as absolute. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Correct: Assertion (A) is accurate because freedom of movement and residence enables citizens to travel, settle, and participate across the country, thereby supporting national integration. Reason (R) is false because the reference line clearly recognises permissible limits based on tribal protection, public safety and health. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Incorrect: Assertion (A) is not false because it directly follows the reference line. Reason (R) is also not true because the freedoms of movement and residence are not unlimited; they may be regulated for recognised interests such as tribal protection, public safety and health. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**85. Correct Answer :** (c) Digital enrolment has already solved worker identification across States and employment categories.

**Reference Line:** “At present, only around 31 crore of 94 crore workers are on the e-Shram portal, whose integration with ESIC is still in its early stages in many States.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is consistent with the author’s concern that insured or formally visible workers may be easier to identify. The passage suggests that workers already connected to institutional systems may receive benefits more readily. It does not claim that insurance-linked systems are useless or irrelevant. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option reflects the author’s concern about implementation and coordination between welfare databases. If integration remains incomplete, vulnerable workers may face difficulty in receiving benefits. The passage supports the idea that administrative arrangements matter for actual access. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option contradicts the author’s statement that only a portion of workers are registered on e-Shram and that ESIC integration is still at an early stage in many States. If enrollment and integration remain incomplete, identification cannot be said to be already solved. The word “already” makes the claim absolute and incompatible with the passage. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is compatible with the author’s broader reasoning about improving access. The passage later recommends taking healthcare to workers rather than expecting them to navigate institutional barriers. Workplace outreach could reduce problems caused by incomplete registration and weak integration. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**86. Correct Answer :** (b) Establish women-responsive camps offering appropriate staff, privacy, timings, and accessible locations nearby.

**Reference Line:** “Annual check-ups for women also warrant specific medical staff needs whereas many ESIC camps are crowded and dominated by men.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option would create an additional barrier for the very workers whose access the author is worried about. The passage refers to women working in domestic work or home-based garment units who may not have a clear employer. Requiring employer certificates would make the scheme less accessible for such women. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option best responds to the author’s concern about gender-sensitive implementation. The passage indicates that women may require specific medical staff and that male-dominated, crowded camps may discourage access. Staff, privacy, suitable timings, and nearby locations would address these practical barriers together. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option focuses on diagnostic uniformity but does not adequately address access barriers faced by women workers. Hospitals may be distant, overcrowded, or difficult to visit during working hours. The author’s concern is not only whether tests are standardised, but whether women can practically use the service. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option shifts attention away from the healthcare access problem identified in the passage. Factory inspections may assist formal factory workers but would not help many home-based or domestic women workers. The author’s concern is about making check-ups usable for women outside conventional workplaces. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**87. Correct Answer :** (d) Referred workers often skip follow-up when repeat visits reduce daily income substantially.

**Reference Line:** “An ESIC facility may also refer a worker to another centre if it lacks the resources for specific tests, leading to repeat visits and added time and cost.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option points to a possible advantage of annual camps for registered workers. It does not support the author’s concern that referrals and repeat visits can create hidden burdens. Quick digital reports may even reduce inconvenience for some beneficiaries. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option may show an administrative improvement, but it does not address the burden of referral-based visits. Publishing waiting times does not remove travel, wage loss, or the need to visit multiple facilities. It also does not show that workers abandon treatment because of these burdens. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option concerns senior managers using private preventive care, which is outside the vulnerable worker context of the passage. The author is discussing workers who face lost wages and added costs when ESIC facilities cannot provide tests. Reimbursement for senior managers does not strengthen that concern. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option strengthens the author's reasoning by showing that repeat visits can reduce the scheme's practical effectiveness. If referred workers skip follow-up because their income suffers, free screening may not lead to meaningful care. It supports the author's view that hidden costs remain a serious access barrier. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**88. Correct Answer :** (a) The author treats serious access gaps as enough to infer the scheme will not meaningfully improve delivery.

**Reference Line:** "Otherwise, any scheme of this nature will not improve upon the already deficient system."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option correctly identifies the flaw in the author's final reasoning. The passage lists several serious access gaps, including incomplete registration, gender-specific barriers, lost wages, repeat visits, and disease coverage gaps. However, the author then makes a broad claim that the scheme will not meaningfully improve the deficient system. This may be too sweeping because the passage itself suggests that some insured workers may still benefit from the programme. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option attributes a claim to the author that the passage does not make. The author separately discusses insured workers and workers in hazardous conditions, but does not suggest that both categories are identical across all employment settings. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option reverses the author's actual position. The author's criticism is that legal provisions and formal schemes do not automatically ensure practical healthcare access for workers. The passage distinguishes obligations on paper from actual delivery. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option misrepresents the author's reasoning about finance. The passage states that the ESI fund is well-endowed, while the concerns relate mainly to access barriers, staffing, referrals, lost wages, and institutional capacity. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**89. Correct Answer :** (c) A worker-health scheme is inadequate if it overlooks illnesses closely connected to actual working conditions.

**Reference Line:** "The new programme focuses predominantly on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension."

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option exaggerates the author's position and is not required for the argument. The author does not claim that diabetes and hypertension are irrelevant to vulnerable workers. The criticism is that the scheme is incomplete because it neglects other occupation-linked risks. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option contradicts the author's reasoning. The author points out that heat-related illnesses are not explicitly recognised under the ESI Act, suggesting that recognition may itself be inadequate. The argument requires broader coverage, not restriction to already recognised diseases. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option supplies the hidden belief needed for the author's criticism to work. The author objects to the scheme's narrow disease focus because many workers face risks arising from their occupations. That objection depends on the belief that worker-health policy should address illnesses linked to working conditions. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is too absolute and unnecessary for the author's reasoning. The author does not require the scheme to eliminate every workplace-related medical risk. The criticism is that the scheme should be better aligned with actual occupational risks. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

**90. Correct Answer :** (b) Strong financing alone cannot guarantee adequate staffing, infrastructure, and clinical delivery.

**Reference Line:** "The new programme will be financed through the well-endowed ESI fund, although the government is still shoring up the number of beds and doctors available via PMJAY-empanelled facilities."

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

- (a) This option goes beyond the passage and introduces an unsupported comparison. The author mentions PMJAY-empanelled facilities but does not state that they provide inferior care compared with ESIC facilities. The word “necessarily” makes the claim much stronger than the evidence allows. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) This option is the strongest conclusion because it captures the contrast between available funds and limited delivery capacity. The passage shows that a well-endowed fund does not automatically create enough beds, doctors, or functioning facilities. Effective healthcare delivery requires institutional capacity in addition to money. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.
- (c) This option contradicts the reasoning in the passage. The mention of ongoing efforts to increase beds and doctors indicates that planning and capacity-building remain necessary. A large corpus may support implementation, but it does not remove administrative challenges. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) This option is an excessive conclusion not supported by the passage. The author does not argue that treatment should be delayed until every district reaches minimum staffing standards. The concern is that capacity gaps must be addressed so that the programme functions effectively. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. **Correct Answer :** (b) A large renewable fleet can still require balancing arrangements beyond capacity addition.

**Reference Line:** “This challenge is particularly relevant for India, where renewable sources account for 53% (283 gigawatts) of the total installed power generation capacity of 532 GW.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

- (a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not state that conventional power must disappear before operational problems arise. The author suggests that difficulties are already relevant because renewables form a large share of installed capacity. The concern is linked to the present stage of transition, not to a future condition where conventional power is entirely absent. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) This option is correct because the author uses India’s large renewable capacity to show that capacity addition alone is not sufficient. The passage implies that a renewable-heavy system needs arrangements that can handle irregular generation patterns. The author’s concern is not merely whether India can build renewable plants, but whether the grid can manage their output effectively. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.
- (c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not predict that wind power will dominate India’s renewable mix. The passage only says that solar power is currently the largest source within the renewable energy mix. It provides no comparative future trend between wind and solar generation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) This option is incorrect because it contradicts the author’s concern about grid reliability. The author presents high renewable capacity as a reason why the challenge is serious, not as proof that supply is secure. Installed capacity does not necessarily mean electricity is available whenever demand arises. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. **Correct Answer :** (c) They must preserve usable energy for a later point of electricity demand.

**Reference Line:** “Energy storage refers to systems that can store excess renewable electricity during periods of high generation and discharge it when demand rises but power generation remains low.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

- (a) This option is incorrect because the passage does not discuss imported minerals or supply chains. Although some battery technologies may depend on minerals, that point is outside the given passage. A statement cannot be treated as necessarily true when it relies on information not provided by the author. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) This option is incorrect because the passage does not claim that storage replaces every other method of grid management. The author presents storage as critical, but not as the only possible support for grid reliability. Other mechanisms are not discussed, so their complete replacement cannot be inferred. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) This option is correct because the passage defines storage through the idea of holding electricity for later use. Energy storage works by taking surplus power during high generation and releasing it when demand rises. Without preserving usable energy for a later point, such a system would not perform the function described by the author. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.
- (d) This option is incorrect because the passage says solar power drops to zero after sunset. Storage may help provide electricity after sunset, but it does not make solar plants generate electricity at that time. The option confuses stored electricity with fresh solar generation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. **Correct Answer :** (d) Flexible demand programmes can reliably shift consumption toward renewable-rich hours.

**Reference Line:** “This is where deploying systems that ‘store’ energy becomes critical, and where India has fallen short so far.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because it strengthens rather than weakens the author’s view. If LFP batteries are becoming cheaper, battery storage becomes more practical for grid-scale deployment. This supports the idea that India should build more storage instead of reducing the need for it. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because it explains the usefulness of pumped hydro storage. If stored water can generate power through turbines, it reinforces the author’s claim that storage can help manage supply gaps. The option does not show that storage is unnecessary or less important. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because political attractiveness of solar power does not address the timing mismatch. Solar projects may be popular and still create operational concerns because their output is intermittent. The author’s argument concerns grid management, not public approval or political appeal. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because it challenges the assumption that storage is the main way to address renewable intermittency. If consumption can be shifted toward hours when renewable power is abundant, the mismatch between supply and demand becomes less severe. This would reduce the force of the author’s claim that storage deployment is critical. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

94. **Correct Answer :** (c) A large facility may sit idle whenever its essential input disappears.

Reference Lines: “Solar power alone contributes over 150 GW, making it the largest source in the renewable energy mix.” / “Solar power generation drops to zero after sunset...”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because it discusses cost and component scarcity rather than electricity availability. The paradox in the passage is not about whether solar technology is affordable or expensive. It is about how a major source of installed capacity can still fail to supply electricity during certain hours. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because it shifts the issue to environmental effects of manufacturing and disposal. The passage does not examine lifecycle emissions of renewable energy equipment. The contradiction to be resolved concerns solar capacity being large while generation may be absent after sunset. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is correct because it supplies the hidden fact that makes both claims compatible. Solar power can be a large part of installed capacity, but it depends on sunlight as an essential input. When sunlight disappears after sunset, that capacity cannot produce electricity at that time. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because voter behaviour and political priorities are outside the passage. The author’s concern is technical and operational rather than electoral. A change in public support would not explain why solar power can be both large in capacity and unavailable after sunset. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. **Correct Answer :** (b) The grid may struggle to absorb rising renewable power without operational strain.

**Reference Line:** “This widening gap is raising concerns over whether the grid will be able to efficiently absorb and manage the rising share of renewable power in the years ahead.”

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because the passage suggests that battery technology becomes more relevant as renewable capacity rises. The author discusses BESS and LFP batteries as important storage technologies. A larger renewable share would likely increase attention to storage chemistry rather than make it irrelevant. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is correct because it captures the consequence of storage deployment lagging behind renewable growth. If storage does not expand adequately, the grid may find it harder to manage renewable power that varies by time and weather. The passage frames this widening gap as a concern for efficient absorption and management of renewable electricity. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that electricity demand will permanently decline. Demand is presented as something that does not always align with renewable generation. The author’s concern is about mismatch, not about demand disappearing because generation is variable. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because pumped hydro storage does not remove the need for renewable generation. It stores energy and releases it later, but it does not create the original renewable electricity by itself. The passage treats storage as a support for renewable expansion, not as a replacement for renewable projects. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. **Correct Answer :** (d) A granary stores excess grain after harvest because fields produce little later while people still need food.

**Reference Line:** “At its core, energy storage systems convert electricity from renewable sources such as solar and wind, when it is available, into forms that can be stored.”

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Explanation:**

(a) This option is incorrect because it deals with expanding infrastructure in response to rising demand. The school is increasing classroom capacity, but it is not saving an excess resource from one period for later use. The author’s reasoning is based on storing surplus supply when available and using it when supply falls. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because the clinic is solving a delay problem by increasing staff availability. The issue is not that nurses are available in surplus at one time and unavailable later. The reasoning does not involve preserving an excess resource during one period to meet need in another period. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is incorrect because it is based on consumer preference and marketing adaptation. The retailer is changing appearance to match customer tastes, not managing irregular supply over time. The passage’s logic depends on storing something when it is available and using it when natural availability declines. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is correct because it follows the same logical structure as the author’s reasoning. In both cases, supply is abundant during one period but insufficient during a later period when demand continues. The solution is to store the surplus during the period of availability and release or use it during the period of shortage. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

**Explanation for Q.97 – Q.102:**

The speaker arrangement can be solved first. The condition says that the speaker scheduled immediately after Zoya appears in the 10:30 slot. Since the 10:30 slot is Slot 3, Zoya must be in the slot immediately before it, i.e., Slot 2. Now, Arjun is not scheduled on Monday and is also not scheduled in the last slot. Since Slots 1 and 2 are on Monday and Slot 4 is the last slot, Arjun must be in Slot 3. The remaining two speakers are Dev and Mira, and the condition says Dev is scheduled earlier in the week than Mira. Therefore, Dev must be in Slot 1, and Mira must be in Slot 4.

Now the formats can be placed. The Interview is on the same day as Dev’s session but is not in the first slot. Since Dev is in Slot 1 on Monday, the only other Monday slot is Slot 2, so Slot 2 must be Interview. The Lab Demo is scheduled after the Interview but before the Townhall. Since Slot 2 is Interview, Lab Demo and Townhall must come after Slot 2. The Townhall cannot be in the 10:30 slot, so Townhall cannot be Slot 3. Therefore, Townhall must be Slot 4, and Lab Demo must be Slot 3. The only remaining format, Briefing, must be assigned to Slot 1.

Final arrangement:

Slot	Time	Speaker	Format
Slot 1	Mon 7 Sept, 09:00	Dev	Briefing
Slot 2	Mon 7 Sept, 14:00	Zoya	Interview
Slot 3	Tue 8 Sept, 10:30	Arjun	Lab Demo
Slot 4	Thu 10 Sept, 12:00	Mira	Townhall

97. **Correct Answer :** (c) Arjun

98. **Correct Answer :** (a) Dev is scheduled on Monday at 09:00.

99. **Correct Answer :** (b) Interview

100. **Correct Answer :** (c) Arjun

101. **Correct Answer :** (c) Arjun — Lab Demo

102. **Correct Answer :** (a) Slot 1: Dev–Briefing; Slot 2: Zoya–Interview; Slot 3: Arjun–Lab Demo; Slot 4: Mira–Townhall

**Explanation for Q.103 – Q.108:**

The subject arrangement can be fixed first. The Artificial Intelligence Ethics lecture is fixed on Tuesday. Since Constitutional Law was held immediately after Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Constitutional Law must be on Wednesday. The Thursday lecture is fixed as Urban Planning, and the Friday lecture is fixed as Climate Policy. Therefore, the only remaining subject, Public Finance, must be on Monday.

Now the speaker arrangement can be solved. Nisha delivered the final lecture, so Nisha must be on Friday. Kavya lectured immediately after Manav, and Kavya did not teach Artificial Intelligence Ethics. Omkar also did not teach Artificial Intelligence Ethics. Therefore, Omkar cannot be on Tuesday. Since the Tuesday slot cannot go to Kavya or Omkar, Manav must be on Tuesday, and Kavya must be on Wednesday. The remaining speakers are Riya and Omkar for Monday and Thursday. Since Riya lectured earlier than Omkar, Riya must be on Monday, and Omkar must be on Thursday.

Final arrangement:

Day	Speaker	Subject
Monday	Riya	Public Finance
Tuesday	Manav	Artificial Intelligence Ethics
Wednesday	Kavya	Constitutional Law
Thursday	Omkar	Urban Planning
Friday	Nisha	Climate Policy

103. **Correct Answer :** (b) Manav, Artificial Intelligence Ethics

104. **Correct Answer :** (c) Kavya on Constitutional Law

105. **Correct Answer :** (a) Public Finance, Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Constitutional Law, Urban Planning, Climate Policy

106. **Correct Answer :** (c) Nisha was the most popular speaker and her Friday lecture produced the highest attendance. (a) This does not strongly weaken the director's reasoning. The fact that one lecture was difficult does not show that the scheduling sequence failed to contribute to overall engagement or attendance. Incorrect.

(b) This has some weakening value because better facilities may affect attendance or comfort. However, it explains only two days and does not directly challenge the director's broader causal claim as strongly as speaker popularity does. Incorrect.

(c) This most strongly undermines the director's argument because it provides a clear alternative explanation for the observed success. If the highest attendance was caused by Nisha's popularity rather than the subject sequence, then the director's causal claim becomes weaker. Correct.

(d) This does not undermine the director's argument. Faculty preference for placing technical subjects earlier may support the practicality of the director's proposed pattern, though it does not prove its effectiveness. Incorrect.

107. **Correct Answer :** (b) Whether similar subject sequencing improved attendance in earlier lecture series.

(a) This is somewhat relevant, but it is too narrow. The director's proposal concerns the effect of a full-week subject sequence, not merely student preference for lectures before lunch. Incorrect.

(b) This is the most useful evidence because it directly tests whether the same scheduling principle has worked in comparable situations. If similar sequencing improved outcomes earlier, the proposal becomes stronger; if not, it becomes weaker. Correct.

(c) This is not useful for evaluating the proposal. Mentioning the lectures in an annual report relates to documentation, not whether the scheduling sequence improved attendance or engagement. Incorrect.

(d) This may be administratively relevant, but it does not directly test whether the proposed subject-ordering principle caused better academic outcomes. Incorrect.

108. **Correct Answer :** (b) He assumes that a successful sequence was the cause of the success.

(a) This is not the main flaw. The director's claim is not primarily about preparation time for different subjects, but about whether the observed sequence caused the successful outcome. Incorrect.

(b) This is the best explanation of the flaw. The director notices that the week was successful and that a particular scheduling sequence was followed, then assumes that the sequence caused the success without ruling out other possible causes. Correct.

(c) This is factually irrelevant to the reasoning flaw. Public Finance being taught before Tuesday is part of the arrangement, but it does not explain why the director's argument is logically weak. Incorrect.

(d) This misrepresents the argument. The director does not base his proposal on faculty convenience; he claims that the sequence helped attendance and engagement. Incorrect.

109. **Correct Answer :** (b) 5,04,000

**Explanation:** Cases disposed in 2024 are computed for each High Court as (cases filed  $\times$  disposal rate).

Allahabad:  $1,80,000 \times 60\% = 1,08,000$ .

Madras:  $1,50,000 \times 75\% = 1,12,500$ .

Bombay:  $1,65,000 \times 80\% = 1,32,000$ .

Karnataka:  $1,20,000 \times 70\% = 84,000$ .

Calcutta:  $1,35,000 \times 50\% = 67,500$ .

Adding the five:  $1,08,000 + 1,12,500 + 1,32,000 + 84,000 + 67,500 = 5,04,000$ .

110. **Correct Answer :** (b) 21,600

**Explanation:** Cases filed in 2025 total  $7,50,000 \times 1.20 = 9,00,000$ .

Madras share in 2025 is 18%, so Madras filed =  $9,00,000 \times 18\% = 1,62,000$ ; Madras disposed in 2025 =  $1,62,000 \times 80\% = 1,29,600$ .

Allahabad disposed in 2024 = 1,08,000 (from Q1 working).

The required difference =  $1,29,600 - 1,08,000 = 21,600$ .

111. **Correct Answer :** (a) 11 : 15

**Explanation:** Bombay pending 2024 = filed – disposed =  $1,65,000 - 1,32,000 = 33,000$ .

Karnataka filed 2025 =  $9,00,000 \times 20\% = 1,80,000$ ; Karnataka disposed 2025 =  $1,80,000 \times 75\% = 1,35,000$ ; pending 2025 =  $1,80,000 - 1,35,000 = 45,000$ .

Ratio =  $33,000 : 45,000 = 11 : 15$  after dividing both by 3,000.

112. **Correct Answer :** (b) An increase of 70%

**Explanation:** Calcutta disposed in 2024 =  $1,35,000 \times 50\% = 67,500$ .

Calcutta filed 2025 =  $9,00,000 \times 17\% = 1,53,000$ ; disposed 2025 =  $1,53,000 \times 75\% = 1,14,750$ .

Percentage change =  $(1,14,750 - 67,500) / 67,500 \times 100 = 47,250 / 67,500 \times 100 = 70\%$ .

113. **Correct Answer :** (c) 5 : 3

**Explanation:** Karnataka filed 2025 = 1,80,000 and Bombay filed 2025 =  $9,00,000 \times 20\% = 1,80,000$ ; their sum = 3,60,000.

Karnataka disposed 2024 = 84,000 and Bombay disposed 2024 = 1,32,000; their sum = 2,16,000.

Ratio =  $3,60,000 : 2,16,000$ .

Dividing both by 72,000 gives 5 : 3.

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

**Explanation:** Pending in each year = filed – disposed in that year.

The change for each High Court is: Allahabad  $72,000 \rightarrow 78,750 (+6,750)$ ; Madras  $37,500 \rightarrow 32,400 (-5,100)$ ; Bombay  $33,000 \rightarrow 45,000 (+12,000)$ ; Karnataka  $36,000 \rightarrow 45,000 (+9,000)$ ; Calcutta  $67,500 \rightarrow 38,250 (-29,250)$ .

The highest absolute increase belongs to Bombay at +12,000.

115. **Correct Answer :** (c) ₹34.56 crore

**Explanation:** Category-wise gross revenue is: Electronics  $₹240 \times 35\% = ₹84$  crore; Apparel  $₹240 \times 30\% = ₹72$  crore; Home Furnishing  $₹240 \times 20\% = ₹48$  crore; Books  $₹240 \times 15\% = ₹36$  crore.

Applying the stated profit margins, profit is: Electronics  $₹84 \times 8\% = ₹6.72$  crore; Apparel  $₹72 \times 18\% = ₹12.96$  crore; Home Furnishing  $₹48 \times 22\% = ₹10.56$  crore; Books  $₹36 \times 12\% = ₹4.32$  crore.

Total profit =  $6.72 + 12.96 + 10.56 + 4.32 = ₹34.56$  crore.

116. **Correct Answer :** (c) ₹12 crore

**Explanation:** Apparel revenue is ₹72 crore ( $₹240 \times 30\%$ ).

Home Furnishing revenue is ₹48 crore ( $₹240 \times 20\%$ ) and Books revenue is ₹36 crore ( $₹240 \times 15\%$ ); their combined total is ₹84 crore.

Apparel falls short of this combined total by  $₹84 - ₹72 = ₹12$  crore.

117. **Correct Answer :** (c) 4.8 lakh

**Explanation:** Apparel gross revenue = ₹72 crore = ₹72,00,00,000.

Average selling price per Apparel unit = ₹1,500.

Units sold =  $72,00,00,000 / 1,500 = 4,80,000$  units = 4.8 lakh.

118. **Correct Answer :** (c) ₹19.08 crore

**Explanation:** Returns are: Electronics  $₹84 \times 5\% = ₹4.20$  crore; Apparel  $₹72 \times 12\% = ₹8.64$  crore; Home Furnishing  $₹48 \times 4\% = ₹1.92$  crore; Books  $₹36 \times 2\% = ₹0.72$  crore.

Total returns =  $4.20 + 8.64 + 1.92 + 0.72 = ₹15.48$  crore.

Total profit (from Q7 working) = ₹34.56 crore.

Excess of profit over returns =  $34.56 - 15.48 = ₹19.08$  crore.

119. **Correct Answer :** (c) 14.4%

**Explanation:** The weighted average profit margin is the total profit expressed as a percentage of total gross revenue.

Total profit (from Q7 working) = ₹34.56 crore; total gross revenue = ₹240 crore.

Weighted average profit margin =  $34.56 / 240 \times 100 = 14.4\%$ .

120. **Correct Answer :** (b) ₹75.60 crore

**Explanation:** Electronics gross revenue = ₹84 crore.

The original return rate is 5%, giving returns of ₹4.20 crore.

If this return rate doubles to 10%, returns become  $₹84 \times 10\% = ₹8.40$  crore.

New net revenue from Electronics =  $₹84 - ₹8.40 = ₹75.60$  crore.