

UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

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QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG04



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 36 (Thirty-Six) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You shall enter your Admit Card No. on the first page of the QB at the start of the test.
3. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response Sheet with the fresh QB.
5. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
6. The QB for the Undergraduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every Right Answer secures 1 mark. Every Wrong Answer results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
7. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the test.
8. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2PM

Section A: English Language

Passage: Two paragraphs ago, I used the words ‘leap’ and ‘jump’. But we see the ‘leaps’ only when lexicographers, looking back, chop up a word’s history into meanings for their dictionaries. Words change meaning gradually, as a small number of speakers use them in a new way, and they in turn cause others to do so. This is how words can change meaning so totally and utterly; mostly, they do so in steps too small to notice.

Again, no chaos results. Every time a word changed meaning, it could have theoretically left a hole in the lexicon for the meaning it had left behind. But in each case, another word filled its place: in fact, the ones I have used above (pliable, obedient, amiable, lively, gay, healthy, plump and so on). For useful concepts, it seems, the lexicon abhors a vacuum. (I don’t know how we did without hangry so long in English, because I spent about a third of every day hangry. But sure enough, someone coined it.) There are several predictable ways that words change meaning. Some people insist that nauseous means only ‘causing nausea’. But going from cause to experiencer is a common semantic shift, just as many words can be used in both active and agentless constructions (consider I broke the dishwasher and The dishwasher broke). Yet true confusion is rare. For nauseous’s old meaning we have nauseating.

Words also weaken with frequent use: The Lego Movie (2014) was on to something with its song ‘Everything Is Awesome’, because Americans really do use this word rather a lot. Once powerful, it can now be used for anything even slightly good, as in This burrito is awesome. It can even be near-meaningless, as in Steven Pinker’s lovely example: ‘If you could pass the guacamole, that would be awesome.’ But do we really lack ways of communicating that we’re impressed by something? No language does, and English-speakers are spoiled for choice from the likes of incredible, fantastic, stupendous and brilliant. (All of which have changed from their etymological meanings of ‘unbelievable’, ‘like a fantasy’, ‘inducing stupor’ and ‘shiny, reflective’, by the way.) When those get overused (and all are in danger of that), people coin new ones still: sick, amazeballs.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://aeon.co/essays/why-language-might-be-the-optimal-self-regulating-system>]

1. In the light of the passage, why does the author reject the idea of sudden “leaps” in word history?
 - (a) Because dictionaries impose retrospective divisions.
 - (b) Because speakers consciously preserve older meanings.
 - (c) Because meanings never change across generations.
 - (d) Because lexicons follow strict scientific stages.
2. What does the phrase “the lexicon abhors a vacuum” most nearly mean in the passage?
 - (a) Language prevents all semantic change.
 - (b) Dictionaries restore every lost meaning.
 - (c) Useful meanings find substitute expressions.
 - (d) Speakers reject all unfamiliar words.
3. Which statement is NOT true in the context of the passage?
 - (a) Semantic shifts may follow common patterns.
 - (b) Old meanings always remain irreplaceable.
 - (c) Confusion is uncommon in actual usage.
 - (d) New expressions may replace weakened words.
4. In the passage, what does the phrase “chop up” most nearly mean?
 - (a) To remove outdated meanings from a word’s history.

- (b) To divide continuous change into separate meanings.
- (c) To prove that old meanings were always incorrect.
- (d) To arrange word origins into scientific stages.

5. Why does the author discuss the word “awesome”?

- (a) To show weakening through overuse
- (b) To defend fixed dictionary meanings
- (c) To reject informal modern expressions
- (d) To prove English lacks alternatives

6. Which word best captures the author’s stance toward anxieties about semantic change?

- (a) Prescriptive
- (b) Reassuring
- (c) Fatalistic
- (d) Nostalgic

Passage: An ignorant mind is precisely not a spotless, empty vessel, but one that’s filled with the clutter of irrelevant or misleading life experiences, theories, facts, intuitions, strategies, algorithms, heuristics, metaphors, and hunches that regrettably have the look and feel of useful and accurate knowledge. This clutter is an unfortunate by-product of one of our greatest strengths as a species. We are unbridled pattern recognizers and profligate theorizers. Often, our theories are good enough to get us through the day, or at least to an age when we can procreate. But our genius for creative storytelling, combined with our inability to detect our own ignorance, can sometimes lead to situations that are embarrassing, unfortunate, or downright dangerous—especially in a technologically advanced, complex democratic society that occasionally invests mistaken popular beliefs with immense destructive power (See: crisis, financial; war, Iraq). As the humorist Josh Billings once put it, “It ain’t what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.” (Ironically, one thing many people “know” about this quote is that it was first uttered by Mark Twain or Will Rogers—which just ain’t so.)

Because of the way we are built, and because of the way we learn from our environment, we are all engines of misbelief. And the better we understand how our wonderful yet kludge-ridden, Rube Goldberg engine works, the better we—as individuals and as a society—can harness it to navigate toward a more objective understanding of the truth.

Some of our deepest intuitions about the world go all the way back to our cradles. Before their second birthday, babies know that two solid objects cannot co-exist in the same space. They know that objects continue to exist when out of sight, and fall if left unsupported. They know that people can get up and move around as autonomous beings, but that the computer sitting on the desk cannot. But not all of our earliest intuitions are so sound. Very young children also carry misbeliefs that they will harbor, to some degree, for the rest of their lives. Their thinking, for example, is marked by a strong tendency to falsely ascribe intentions, functions, and purposes to organisms.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://psmag.com/social-justice/confident-idiots-92793/>]

7. Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Ignorance is merely an absence of organised learning.
- (b) Childhood intuitions mostly guarantee reliable adult judgment.
- (c) Misleading beliefs often appear like dependable knowledge.
- (d) Collective belief safely protects societies from error.

8. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (a) Misbelief arises only when people lack environmental learning.
- (b) Misbelief often grows from cognition and learned experience.
- (c) Misbelief is mainly caused by deliberate social deception.
- (d) Misbelief disappears when intuition becomes emotionally strong.

9. In the passage, the word “profligate” most nearly means:
- (a) Excessively abundant in forming speculative explanations.
 - (b) Carefully restrained in accepting unfamiliar arguments.
 - (c) Morally corrupt in rejecting factual evidence.
 - (d) Technically precise in developing scientific theories.
10. If humans overcome their inability to detect their own ignorance, they will most likely:
- (a) abandon all intuitive knowledge as inherently dangerous.
 - (b) treat every popular belief as democratically valid.
 - (c) depend only on childhood instincts for truth.
 - (d) become less vulnerable to confident false beliefs.
11. For the author, understanding the mind’s “engine” is important because it:
- (a) proves every inherited intuition has practical value.
 - (b) helps redirect flawed cognition toward objective truth.
 - (c) removes the need for democratic social judgment.
 - (d) converts creative storytelling into scientific certainty.
12. Which evidence does the author use to show that early intuition is mixed rather than wholly reliable?
- (a) Popular myths gain force when democracies empower them.
 - (b) Adults invent theories that sometimes create public danger.
 - (c) Babies distinguish agents from objects in simple settings.
 - (d) Children grasp object rules yet misread purposes in organisms.

Passage: Canada is to become the first non-European country to attend a meeting of the European Political Community when the prime minister, Mark Carney, joins Monday’s summit of the 48-plus nation grouping in Yerevan, Armenia. Carney has said he is determined to build a new network of trade and diplomatic alliances after the loss of US markets under Donald Trump. His presence will also represent a show of western support for Armenia in its efforts to distance itself from Russia at a time when Washington’s approach to Moscow’s opponents, such as Ukraine, is at best ambiguous. Canadian diplomats have rejected suggestions Ottawa might seek EU membership.

Trump’s plan to pull more than 5,000 troops out of Germany over the next year and the economic impact on western economies of a prolonged US-Iran conflict will be among the main subjects of discussion in Yerevan. Armenia shares a border with Iran, but unlike neighbouring Azerbaijan has not alleged Iranian missiles have landed in its territory. Yerevan was chosen to host the EPC – an institution championed by the French president, Emmanuel Macron, and which also includes the UK – to give Armenia a chance to showcase its strengthening links with Europe, and so continue its slow decoupling from Russia, its former backer.

Armenia’s prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, has pursued a policy of diversification that in practice is slowly drawing his country into the European ambit. His Civil Contract party is facing parliamentary elections in June, and is seeking a big win so he can continue efforts to make a peace with Azerbaijan. Pashinyan faces three opposition parties more sympathetic to Russia.

European leaders will have to walk a fine line in Yerevan. As they hold what looks like a pre-election rally for Pashinyan, they must also have a bigger conversation about building a more robust and less polarised Armenia. The country itself deserves full European attention. It is on the verge of a painful but transformative peace agreement with Baku that will lead to the reopening of its two long borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey, which

have been closed since the 1990s. The country also has a historic opportunity to loosen its overdependence on Moscow as the war in Ukraine continues to distract and drain Russia.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/03/canada-first-non-european-nation-epc-summit-mark-carney-allies-trump>]

13. Which statement best explains Canada’s purpose in joining the EPC summit?

- (a) It seeks EU membership through symbolic participation.
- (b) It wants new alliances beyond weakened US market dependence.
- (c) It plans to replace Washington in Europe’s defence strategy.
- (d) It intends to use Armenia mainly for regional military leverage.

14. What figure of speech is used in the phrase “walk a fine line” in the passage?

- (a) Simile
- (b) Metaphor
- (c) Hyperbole
- (d) Personification

15. What does the author imply about European leaders’ role in Armenia?

- (a) They must support reform without deepening domestic polarisation.
- (b) They must avoid involvement until Armenia’s elections conclude.
- (c) They must openly campaign against all pro-Russian parties.
- (d) They must prioritise military deterrence over political stability.

16. What is the author’s likely view of Pashinyan’s policy of diversification?

- (a) It is mainly an electoral tactic without diplomatic consequence.
- (b) It preserves Armenia’s dependence on Moscow through neutrality.
- (c) It gradually places Armenia within Europe’s strategic orbit.
- (d) It rejects peace with Azerbaijan to satisfy western leaders.

17. What does the author mean by calling the possible peace with Baku “painful but transformative”?

- (a) It will strengthen Russia while weakening Armenia’s borders.
- (b) It will end all regional disputes without domestic difficulty.
- (c) It will isolate Armenia from both Azerbaijan and Turkey.
- (d) It may be difficult but could reshape Armenia’s future.

18. What does the phrase “historic opportunity” suggest in the passage?

- (a) A symbolic event with no practical consequence
- (b) A temporary alliance arranged only for elections
- (c) A rare chance to alter Armenia’s dependence
- (d) A completed break from all Russian influence

Passage: What might begin as a small sensation quickly spirals. Intrusive thoughts pulled from our memory centers burst into our consciousness. Images of meatball sandwiches. The smell of bread. The imagined taste of a cork-like food pellet. The motivational and emotional areas of our brain infuse the need to eat with a nonverbal imperative that feels so powerful it eclipses all else. Our prefrontal cortex kicks into gear, considering how we might obtain food. (If we are in a dangerous situation like a war zone, we weigh how much danger we are willing to risk to get it.) Then we mobilize our sensory and motor areas. We steal a chicken, attempt to spear a fish in a pond, raid the work refrigerator, or hurl our body against a metal grate, hoping to get a taste of a food pellet. So by exciting the hunger neurons in those mice, Lowell catalyzed a storm of neural activity that spread to the cerebral cortex and other higher-order processing centers, leading directly to a chain of complex goal-directed behaviors (ineffective though they turned out to be). It also drove home for Lowell just how much we still have to learn. Sure, we managed to have the brain say ‘Go eat,’ he says. But that’s not really an explanation. How does that actually work?

To answer that question, Lowell has teamed up with Mark Andermann, a neuroscientist who studies how motivation shapes perception (and who also happens to occupy the office next to his at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center). Together they are following known parts of the neural hunger circuits into uncharted parts of the brain, in some cases activating one neuron at a time to methodically trace new connections through areas so primitive that we share them with lizards. Their work could have important implications for public health. More than 1.9 billion adults worldwide are overweight and more than 650 million are obese, a condition correlated with a wide range of chronic health conditions, including diabetes, fatty liver disease, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Understanding the circuits involved could shed new light on the factors that have caused those numbers to skyrocket in recent years.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2024/01/02/1084713/how-does-hunger-work-appetite/>

19. Which of the following is the most appropriate antonym of "eclipses" in the passage?
- (a) Diminishes the force of competing bodily signals
 - (b) Intensifies the urgency of instinctive impulses
 - (c) Restores attention toward other mental concerns
 - (d) Replaces rational judgment with sensory craving
20. Which statement best highlights the central idea of the passage?
- (a) Hunger merely produces vivid food memories.
 - (b) Hunger depends only on primitive instincts.
 - (c) Hunger eliminates every rational calculation.
 - (d) Hunger creates a coordinated neural pursuit.
21. Which word is closest in meaning to "catalyzed" as used in the passage?
- (a) Restricted
 - (b) Triggered
 - (c) Measured
 - (d) Interrupted
22. What most clearly characterises Lowell and Andermann's research method?
- (a) They replace neural experiments with obesity statistics alone.
 - (b) They trace hunger pathways through careful neuron-level mapping.
 - (c) They study only conscious food choices in adult humans.
 - (d) They focus mainly on lung disease caused by overeating.
23. What can be inferred from the passage's statement that making the brain say "Go eat" is not really an explanation?
- (a) Behaviour cannot be studied through neural activation.
 - (b) Hunger neurons are irrelevant to eating behaviour.
 - (c) Scientific causation ends when action is produced.
 - (d) A command differs from its underlying mechanism.
24. What is the one-word substitution for a research scientist who studies the brain, nervous system, and neural mechanisms?
- (a) Neurologist
 - (b) Psychologist
 - (c) Neuroscientist
 - (d) Biochemist

Passage: Ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a Bill to increase the strength of judges in the Supreme Court. The increase in the number of Judges will allow the Supreme Court to function more efficiently and effectively, ensuring speedy justice. While Justice Rajesh Bindal retired in April, Justices J K Maheshwari and Pankaj Mithal are set to retire in June, Justice Sanjay Karol will retire in August, and Justice Satish Sharma will retire in November this year. The working strength of the Supreme Court of India was, however, restricted to 15 Judges by the Cabinet, excluding the Chief Justice of India, till the end of 1979, when the restriction was withdrawn at the request of the Chief Justice of India. The official release stated that the increase would enable the Supreme Court to function “more efficiently and effectively” and reduce pendency. As of 30 April, total pendency in the top court stood at 92,823 cases, per data on the National Judicial Data Grid. The 229th Report, authored under Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, argued that adding judges alone was insufficient to address pendency or access. Instead, it recommended a Constitution Bench at Delhi for constitutional matters, with four regional classification benches at Delhi, Chennai or Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai to dispose of appellate matters from the High Courts. This proposal was rejected by a Full Court of the Supreme Court on 18 February 2010. The Court found “no justification” for sittings outside Delhi.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/died-everest-hyderabad-techie-family-leave-body-there-10710674/?ref=infinite>]

36. Before the 2026 proposal, when was the Supreme Court’s judge strength last increased?

- (a) 2008 (b) 2014 (c) 2019 (d) 2021

37. After the proposed increase in the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court of India, the government stated that additional expenditure would be required for judges’ salaries, supporting staff, court infrastructure and related facilities. According to the official statement, from which fund will this expenditure be met?

- (a) Contingency Fund of India (b) Consolidated Fund of India
(c) National Investment Fund (d) Public Account of India

38. Consider the following statements about the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act and its amendments:

- I. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 fixed the maximum number of judges excluding the CJI.
II. The 2019 amendment increased the number of judges from 30 to 33 excluding the CJI.
III. The 2026 proposal increases the number of judges to 38 excluding the CJI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Only I and II (d) All I, II and III

39. Which constitutional article provides for the establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court of India?

- (a) Article 123 (b) Article 124 (c) Article 130 (d) Article 143

40. Which institution has the power to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges by law?

- (a) Parliament (b) Law Commission of India
(c) Supreme Court Registry (d) Election Commission of India

41. Under the Constitution of India, which statement correctly describes the removal process of a Judge of the Supreme Court?

- (a) The President may remove a Supreme Court Judge on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India alone.
(b) Parliament may remove a Supreme Court Judge by a simple majority after an in-house inquiry report.
(c) The President may remove a Supreme Court Judge after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a special majority.
(d) The Supreme Court collegium may remove a Judge if it finds misconduct or incapacity after inquiry.

Passage: Mission Drishti, the world’s first satellite developed by Bengaluru based space startup. Mission Drishti integrated approach addresses long-standing limitations of conventional systems and enables more reliable and consistent data acquisition across diverse environmental conditions.

Mission Drishti marks our first mission and the culmination of over five years of sustained R&D to develop this breakthrough technology. With the satellite now successfully in orbit, our immediate focus is on completing its commissioning. Following its successful deployment and commissioning initial imagery is expected to be delivered to customers in the coming weeks. The satellite has already generated significant interest from government and commercial stakeholders internationally, seeking access to high-quality, high-frequency data. The sustained effort over the last five to six years on confidence-building, capacity-building and the commercialisation of India’s private space technology ecosystem is now showing tangible results.

As more Indian space companies demonstrate their capabilities through real missions and engagement with global customers, confidence in India’s space ecosystem will continue to strengthen, creating greater demand both in India and overseas. Mission Drishti supports use cases across defence, agriculture, disaster management, maritime monitoring, and infrastructure planning. The satellite is expected to complement India’s broader initiatives, including the active 29 Earth Observation satellites outlined in ISRO’s recent annual report. “The world today demands faster, sharper, and more persistent eyes in the sky. With enhanced resolution and performance, our satellite marks a significant leap in unlocking richer, more detailed analytical intelligence. Optical imagery, which uses visible and infrared light—much like a regular camera—provides detailed visual images that capture colour and appearance.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/galaxeye-launches-mission-drishti-indias-largest-privately-developed-earth-observation-satellite/article70934749.ece>]

42. Which sensor combination is carried by Mission Drishti on a single platform?
 (a) SAR and MSI (b) GPS and IRNSS
 (c) LIDAR and sonar (d) Seismometer and magnetometer
43. Mission Drishti is described as the world’s first satellite to combine two imaging capabilities on one platform?
 (a) Optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar imaging
 (b) Thermal and gravitational-wave sensor imaging
 (c) Navigation and satellite-internet based imaging
 (d) Seismic and ocean-current sensor imaging
44. Consider the following statements about Mission Drishti:
 I. It is GalaxEye’s first satellite mission.
 II. It combines MSI and SAR on a single platform.
 III. It was launched as a crewed mission to the International Space Station.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 (a) Only I and III (b) Only II and III (c) Only I and II (d) All I, II and III
45. Vikram-1, being developed by Skyroot Aerospace, is mainly associated with which objective?
 (a) Private orbital satellite launch (b) Lunar sample return mission
 (c) Crewed space station docking (d) Deep sea communication network
46. Dhruva Space’s Project Garud is mainly linked with which private-sector space capability?
 (a) 500 kg-class satellite platform (b) 500 kg-class crewed moon module
 (c) 500 kg-class ocean-floor robot (d) 500 kg-class Mars flight tester

47. Which of the following is incorrect about OptoSAR imagery in Mission Drishti?

- (a) It combines two sensor streams on one platform.
- (b) It supports all-weather and day-night observation.
- (c) It depends only on visible light for Earth imaging.
- (d) It gives aligned data useful for analysis-ready products.

Passage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s tour to the UAE had a multi-pronged agenda. Much of the visit had been planned last year, including the India-Nordic Summit that had to be cancelled after the 2025 Pahalgam attack and conflict. It came amid a new push for India-Europe ties that have been forged at a time of growing concern over superpower behaviour — from Russia’s attacks on Ukraine and the U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran to China’s coercive economic measures — all of which challenge the international rules-based order. The India-EFTA trade agreement, which came into force last year, and the India-EU FTA, to be ratified/signed later this year, reflect a shared desire to diversify supply chains and markets, particularly with Nordic countries, where bilateral trade with India remains below \$20 billion. Finally, the visit came days after Mr. Modi’s new austerity push for foreign currency and energy conservation. Discussions in the UAE on long-term Strategic Petroleum Reserves, and in Europe and at the Nordic-India Summit on the “Green Strategic Partnerships”, were aimed to advance collaboration on energy security. Each of Mr. Modi’s stops included robust conversations on the Ukraine and Iran conflicts, bilateral and multilateral talks. There was also a focus on AI governance and critical mineral initiatives. The Nordic countries focused on maritime cooperation and scientific collaboration in the Arctic, which has been hit by climate change. While the visits yielded few concrete outcomes or actual trade deals, the bonhomie and awards conferred on Mr. Modi, indicated expectations of deeper India-Europe collaboration. The engagement will be strengthened as he travels in June for the G-7 outreach summit in France and a bilateral visit to Slovakia, and later this year for the India-EU FTA signing in Brussels.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/home-and-abroad-on-the-prime-ministers-five-nation-diplomatic-tour/article71011302.ece>]

48. Which entities were linked with the proposed 8-Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster in India?

- (a) G42, MBZUAI and C-DAC
- (b) ISRO, NASA and ESA
- (c) DRDO, HAL and Boeing
- (d) UGC, AICTE and NCERT

49. Which agreement was signed between ISPRL and ADNOC during PM Modi’s UAE visit?

- (a) Strategic Collaboration Agreement on petroleum reserves
- (b) Strategic Collaboration Agreement on nuclear reactors
- (c) Strategic Collaboration Agreement on river navigation
- (d) Strategic Collaboration Agreement on cyber courts

50. The 3rd India-Nordic Summit was held in which city?

- (a) Oslo
- (b) Stockholm
- (c) Copenhagen
- (d) Helsinki

51. Which of the following is correct about Nordic leaders at the 2026 summit?

- (a) Leaders of Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Sweden joined PM Modi.
- (b) Leaders of France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Italy joined PM Modi.
- (c) Leaders of Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand joined PM Modi.
- (d) Leaders of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Brazil and South Africa joined PM Modi.

52. The proposed Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar was linked to an MoU with Drydocks World and skill development in ship repair.

Which Indian company was associated with this maritime cooperation initiative?

- (a) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- (b) Garden Reach Shipbuilders

(c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

(d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Passage: A tort is a civil wrong committed by one person against another, which results in legal liability. It arises when a wrongful act or omission causes injury, loss, or damage to another person’s legally protected interest. The word “tort” is derived from the French word *tort*, meaning wrong, and the Latin word *tortum*, meaning twisted or wrong. Tortious liability is different from contractual liability because it does not arise from an agreement between parties, but from a duty imposed by law. The primary remedy in tort law is compensation in the form of monetary damages, though courts may also grant injunctions to prevent further harm.

The nature of tortious liability is explained through two theories. The Law of Tort theory, propounded by Professor Winfield and supported by Pollock, treats tort law as flexible and capable of growth. According to this theory, any unjustifiable harm caused to another person may amount to a tort unless lawful justification is shown. It allows courts to recognise new torts as society changes. The development of negligence and strict liability in *Rylands v. Fletcher* shows this flexibility. In India, the Supreme Court in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* adopted a similar approach by evolving the principle of absolute liability for hazardous industries. On the other hand, the Law of Torts or pigeon-hole theory, supported by Salmond, treats tort law as a fixed collection of recognised wrongs such as trespass, defamation, assault and negligence. If a wrong does not fit into an existing category, no liability arises. Indian courts follow a balanced approach by recognising traditional torts while allowing new remedies where justice requires, as seen in *Lala Punnalal v. Kasthurichand Ramaji*.

The essential elements of tortious liability include duty of care, breach of duty, damage or injury, and causation. The defendant must owe a legal duty to the claimant, breach that duty through an act or omission, and such breach must cause legally recognised harm. Two important maxims are *damnum sine injuria* and *injuria sine damno*. *Damnum sine injuria* means damage without legal injury, where no action lies. *Injuria sine damno* means legal injury without actual damage, where action lies because a legal right is violated.

Tort law also recognises vicarious liability, where an employer may be liable for the wrongful acts of an employee done in the course of employment, as held in *Pushpabai Purshottam Udeshi v. Ranjit Ginning and Pressing Co.* Important defences include *volenti non fit injuria*, illegality, necessity and statutory authority. Modern tort law also includes strict liability and absolute liability. Strict liability applies where dangerous things escape and cause harm, while absolute liability under Indian law imposes liability on hazardous enterprises without allowing exceptions.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Abk/Law-of-Torts/chapter1.htm>]

53. A local gym installs loud industrial speakers facing a neighbouring clinic and plays promotional music at high volume throughout consultation hours. Patients begin leaving the clinic because doctors cannot conduct examinations properly, and the clinic loses appointments. The gym argues that it never entered the clinic and did not damage any physical object. The clinic argues that interference with the use of premises and business functioning harmed its legally protected interests.

Which statement is most defensible?

- (a) The gym avoids liability because no physical object inside the clinic was broken.
- (b) The gym avoids liability because advertising activity can never create civil wrongs.
- (c) The clinic may sue only if every patient gives written evidence of discomfort.
- (d) The clinic may claim liability if wrongful conduct caused protected legal harm.

54. A factory repeatedly releases untreated chemical water into a small stream passing through a farmer’s land. The farmer’s crops are damaged, and he also proves that continuing discharge will make the next season’s crop impossible. The factory offers to pay once for the already damaged crops but refuses to stop the discharge. The farmer seeks compensation for present loss and an order preventing further discharge.

Which remedy-related position best follows?

- (a) The farmer cannot claim compensation because injunction is the only tort remedy.
- (b) The farmer cannot seek injunction because monetary damages exhaust all remedies.
- (c) The farmer may seek damages and also injunction to prevent further harm.
- (d) The farmer may claim remedy only if the factory admits intentional pollution.

55. A residents' association hires a private decorator to place temporary metal arches at a colony entrance. The decorator fixes the arches loosely, ignores repeated warnings about strong winds, and leaves sharp rods exposed near the walkway. During an evening function, an arch collapses and injures a passer-by who had no contract with the decorator or association. The decorator argues that without a contractual relationship, no legal liability can arise. The passer-by claims that a civil wrong causing injury can itself create liability.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) The decorator avoids liability because no written agreement existed with the passer-by.
- (b) The decorator may be liable because a civil wrong causing injury creates liability.
- (c) The decorator avoids liability because only criminal wrongs create legal consequences.
- (d) The decorator may be liable only if the passer-by paid entry charges.

56. A logistics company instructs its driver to deliver medicines urgently to a hospital using the company van. While taking the assigned route during working hours, the driver negligently jumps a red light and hits a motorcyclist. The company argues that it should not be liable because the driver alone controlled the vehicle. The injured motorcyclist argues that the driver's wrongful act occurred while performing assigned employment duties.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) The company avoids liability because employers never answer for employees' negligence.
- (b) The company avoids liability because vehicle control remained only with the driver.
- (c) The company is liable only if it specifically ordered the red-light violation.
- (d) The company may be liable for an employee's wrongful act during employment.

57. A private school organises a science fair and allows visitors to use a staircase with a broken railing despite earlier complaints from staff. During the fair, a parent leans lightly on the railing, falls, and suffers serious injury. The school argues that accidents sometimes happen and that injury alone should not create liability. The parent argues that the school owed a duty, breached it by ignoring the broken railing, and that breach caused recognised harm.

Which answer best applies?

- (a) The parent fails because injury alone can never be legally relevant.
- (b) The parent may succeed if duty, breach, causation and damage are shown.
- (c) The school avoids liability because visitors assumed all premises-related risks.
- (d) The school is liable only if it personally intended the parent's fall.

58. A municipal contractor leaves an open trench on a public footpath at night without warning signs or barricades. A pedestrian falls into it and suffers a fracture. The contractor argues that he had no contract with the pedestrian and owed duties only to the municipality that hired him. The pedestrian argues that liability can arise from a duty imposed by law to avoid causing foreseeable injury to persons using the footpath.

Which conclusion is legally strongest?

- (a) The pedestrian may succeed because liability may arise from a legal duty.
- (b) The pedestrian must fail because only contractual duties create civil responsibility.
- (c) The contractor avoids liability because public-path users are not contracting parties.
- (d) The contractor is liable only if the municipality first admits contractual breach.

59. Assertion (A): Absolute liability under Indian law is stricter than strict liability when harm is caused by hazardous enterprises.

Reason (R): Absolute liability imposes liability without allowing exceptions, while strict liability applies where dangerous things escape and cause harm.

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Passage: The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 is based on the constitutional responsibility of the State to protect children and ensure their welfare. Articles 15(3), 39(e), 39(f), 45 and 47 of the Constitution provide the foundation for safeguarding children from exploitation and ensuring their healthy development. The Act also reflects India's international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by India in 1992. It was introduced after serious national debate on juvenile crimes, especially after the Nirbhaya case, but its central focus remains rehabilitation, reform and the best interest of the child.

The Juvenile Justice Board is constituted under Section 4 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 by the State Government for every district or group of districts. The Board consists of a Principal Magistrate and two social workers, one of whom must be a woman. The Principal Magistrate must be a Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate of First Class with at least three years' experience, while the social workers must have experience in child welfare, education or health, or professional qualification in child psychology, psychiatry, sociology or law. This composition combines judicial authority with social welfare expertise.

The Act prescribes strict eligibility standards for Board members. A person guilty of human rights or child rights violations, convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, removed from government service, or involved in child abuse, child labour or immoral acts cannot be appointed. The State Government must provide induction training within 60 days of appointment so that members are sensitised to child rights, child-friendly procedure and the statutory framework.

The Juvenile Justice Board has exclusive jurisdiction over children in conflict with law. It conducts inquiries, records evidence, summons witnesses and passes rehabilitation-oriented orders. Under Section 15, where a child between sixteen and eighteen years is alleged to have committed a heinous offence, the Board conducts a preliminary assessment of the child's mental and physical capacity, understanding of consequences and circumstances of the offence, within three months.

Proceedings before the Board must be child-friendly and non-intimidating. The Board ensures participation of parents or guardians, access to legal aid, interpreter services where necessary, social investigation reports within 15 days, and individual care and rehabilitation plans. It also inspects observation homes and special homes, prevents children from being kept in police lock-ups or adult jails, and transfers children needing care and protection to the competent committee. Children who turn eighteen during inquiry, and adults arrested for offences committed while they were below eighteen, continue to receive juvenile protection during the inquiry.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://csic.org.in/child-rights/>]

60. Karan is accused of an offence allegedly committed when he was 17 years and 8 months old. Due to delay in investigation, he is arrested after turning 19. The prosecution argues that because he is now an adult, the ordinary criminal process must apply fully. Karan argues that the relevant protection continues because the alleged offence was committed while he was below eighteen. The court must decide whether his present age defeats juvenile protection during inquiry.

Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) Karan continues to receive juvenile protection during inquiry for the earlier offence.
- (b) Karan loses protection because age on arrest always controls juvenile treatment.

- (c) Karan loses protection because delay by police converts him into adult accused.
- (d) Karan continues protection only if prosecution voluntarily agrees to juvenile treatment.

61. A 17-year-old is alleged to have committed a heinous offence during a planned attack. The police ask that he be transferred immediately for adult-style trial, arguing that age above sixteen is enough. The defence argues that the Board must first assess his mental and physical capacity, understanding of consequences, and surrounding circumstances, and that this assessment must ordinarily be completed within the prescribed period.

Which course is legally correct?

- (a) Immediate transfer is proper because every child above sixteen must face adult trial.
- (b) Immediate transfer is proper because heinous allegation removes all assessment requirements.
- (c) Board inquiry is unnecessary because police opinion replaces judicial assessment.
- (d) Preliminary assessment is required before deciding further course in the case.

62. A 14-year-old boy is accused of participating in a group assault outside a sports stadium. The local criminal court decides to proceed with the matter as an ordinary criminal trial because several adults were also accused in the same incident. The child's lawyer objects, arguing that the child must be dealt with by the specialised juvenile forum because allegations against adults cannot remove exclusive juvenile jurisdiction over a child in conflict with law.

Which answer best applies?

- (a) Ordinary court jurisdiction prevails because adults are also accused in same incident.
- (b) Ordinary court jurisdiction prevails because group assault excludes juvenile protection.
- (c) Juvenile forum jurisdiction applies because it is exclusive for such children.
- (d) Juvenile forum jurisdiction applies only if all accused persons are below eighteen.

63. A State Government constitutes a Juvenile Justice Board consisting of one Judicial Magistrate First Class and two retired police officers. No social worker is appointed, and no woman member is included. A child rights organisation challenges the constitution of the Board, arguing that the law requires judicial authority to be combined with social welfare expertise, including at least one woman social worker. The State argues that police experience is enough for juvenile matters.

Which conclusion is legally sound?

- (a) The Board is defective because it lacks two social workers, including one woman.
- (b) The Board is valid because police officers may replace all social workers.
- (c) The Board is valid because one Magistrate alone can constitute the Board.
- (d) The Board is defective only if the Magistrate lacks criminal trial experience.

64. A 15-year-old student is accused of damaging school property during a violent quarrel. Local residents demand that he be sent to adult prison to "teach others a lesson." The school counsellor submits that the child has no previous record, needs anger-management counselling, and may benefit from supervised education and community service. The authority must decide whether the juvenile framework should be guided by punishment alone or by reformative considerations.

Which statement is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) Adult-style punishment should prevail because public anger outweighs child welfare.
- (b) Imprisonment must follow because property damage always defeats rehabilitation.
- (c) Public deterrence alone should control because reform is irrelevant after misconduct.
- (d) Rehabilitation and reform should remain central despite the seriousness of concern.

65. A 13-year-old boy is found working late nights at a roadside eatery and is also accused of stealing food packets from nearby shops. The police propose treating him as an ordinary offender because the shopkeepers are angry and want quick punishment. A child welfare volunteer argues that the legal framework for juveniles is rooted in

the State's constitutional responsibility to protect children and ensure their welfare, especially where exploitation and neglect may also be involved.

Which approach best reflects the governing principle?

- (a) The boy should be treated only as an offender because shopkeepers suffered loss.
- (b) The State must consider child protection and welfare while dealing with him.
- (c) The boy should be punished as adult because work experience shows maturity.
- (d) The State may ignore welfare concerns where repeated petty theft is alleged.

Passage: Consideration is defined under Section 2(d) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 as an act, abstinence or promise done at the desire of the promisor by the promisee or any other person. In simple terms, consideration means something of value given or promised by one party to another in exchange for a promise or performance. It forms the basis of a contract, and without valid consideration, a contract may become invalid or unenforceable. Consideration ensures that the agreement is legally binding and reflects a mutual exchange of value between the parties.

For consideration to be valid, it must move at the desire of the promisor. An act done voluntarily or without the promisor's request does not amount to valid consideration. Consideration may be furnished by the promisee or by any other person, as recognised in *Chinnaya v. Ramaya*. It may also be past, present or future. Past consideration refers to an act already done, present consideration is exchanged at the time of contract, and future consideration consists of a promise to do something later. Consideration may take the form of an act, abstinence or promise, meaning that a party may do something, refrain from doing something, or promise to act in future.

Consideration need not be adequate, but it must have some value in the eyes of law. Courts generally do not examine whether the consideration is equal in value, unless inadequacy is relevant to determine fraud, coercion, misrepresentation or absence of free consent. Consideration must also be real, genuine and not illusory. It should not be impossible, uncertain or merely pretended. Further, consideration must be lawful. Under Section 24, if the consideration or object is unlawful, opposed to public policy, immoral or prohibited by law, the agreement becomes void.

Performance of a pre-existing legal duty is not valid consideration for a new promise. Similarly, a mere promise to pay less than the amount due is generally not valid consideration. However, exceptions exist, such as part-payment by a third party, compromise of a disputed claim, payment before time, promissory estoppel, and consideration for charitable purposes. Section 25 provides that agreements without consideration are generally void, but they are valid when made in writing out of natural love and affection between close relatives, when they promise compensation for past voluntary services, or when they promise payment of a time-barred debt. Thus, valid consideration is essential for enforceability, fairness and certainty in contractual relationships.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://legistify.com/learn/consideration-in-contract-law/>]

66. Meera is organising a college cultural fest and urgently asks Kabir to arrange sound equipment because the vendor has cancelled. She says she will pay him ₹18,000 if he secures the equipment before evening. Kabir contacts suppliers, pays an advance from his own pocket, and gets the equipment installed before the event starts. After the programme, Meera refuses payment, saying Kabir only helped as a friend and did not give "money consideration" directly to her.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) Kabir cannot recover because friendly assistance can never support contractual liability.
- (b) Kabir can recover because his act was done at Meera's desire.
- (c) Kabir cannot recover because consideration must always be direct money payment.
- (d) Kabir can recover only if the supplier personally demanded payment from Meera.

67. Raghav notices that his neighbour Tara's garden wall looks weak while Tara is out of town. Without contacting her, he hires workers and repairs the wall. When Tara returns, Raghav demands ₹35,000, saying she has benefited from the repair. Tara replies that she never requested the work, never authorised him, and had already planned to replace the wall differently. Raghav argues that useful work should always be treated as consideration for payment. Which answer best applies?

- (a) Raghav succeeds because useful work always creates consideration for payment.
- (b) Raghav succeeds because Tara received benefit from the repaired garden wall.
- (c) Tara succeeds because voluntary work does not become valid consideration.
- (d) Tara succeeds only if the repaired wall later collapses or causes damage.

68. An elderly aunt promises to transfer a small shop to her niece Anya if Anya's brother pays the aunt's pending medical bills. The brother pays the bills directly to the hospital after the aunt's clear request. Later, the aunt refuses to execute the transfer, arguing that Anya herself gave nothing and therefore there is no consideration supporting the promise made in Anya's favour. Anya says the promised benefit can be supported by value furnished through another person.

Which conclusion is correct?

- (a) Anya can rely on consideration furnished by her brother for the promise.
- (b) Anya cannot rely on it because only the promisee can ever provide value.
- (c) Aunt succeeds because hospital payment is irrelevant to property promises.
- (d) Aunt succeeds only if Anya's brother later seeks refund from hospital.

69. A retired collector sells an old painting to a young art teacher for ₹5,000. Months later, his relatives discover that the painting may be worth ₹4 lakh and sue to cancel the sale only on the ground that the price was too low. The teacher proves that the collector negotiated freely, understood the sale, and there was no pressure, deception, or mistake shown. The relatives argue that unequal price by itself destroys consideration.

Which answer is most defensible?

- (a) Relatives succeed because courts always require exact equality of exchange.
- (b) Relatives succeed because low price automatically proves absence of consent.
- (c) Teacher succeeds because consideration need not be adequate if it has value.
- (d) Teacher succeeds only if the painting is later valued below ₹5,000.

70. A film producer promises to pay Leena "a suitable reward someday" if her social media post helps his trailer become popular. Leena posts the trailer, but the producer later refuses payment. In court, she admits there was no agreed amount, no method of calculating the reward, no timeline, and no objective standard for deciding what "suitable" meant. The producer argues that the promise was too vague to create real consideration. Leena says any optimistic promise should be enough.

What is the proper view?

- (a) Leena succeeds because every promotional post automatically creates enforceable value.
- (b) Leena succeeds because vague praise is enough to fix payment obligations.
- (c) Producer succeeds because uncertainty affects contractual consideration.
- (d) Producer succeeds because the promised reward was uncertain and illusory.

71. Assertion (A): An agreement becomes void if its consideration or object is unlawful, immoral, opposed to public policy, or prohibited by law.

Reason (R): Such an agreement remains enforceable if the parties freely consented to it and received some value in return.

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

72. Two brothers, after a family reconciliation, sign a written document in which the elder brother promises to pay the younger ₹3 lakh out of affection and to settle long-standing family tension. Both are close relatives, and the document is signed and attested. Later, the elder brother refuses, arguing that no service, money, or fresh benefit was given by the younger brother in return. The younger brother argues that some agreements without consideration may still be valid under recognised exceptions.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) Younger brother may succeed because written affection-based promises between close relatives can be valid.
- (b) Younger brother cannot succeed because every agreement without consideration is absolutely void.
- (c) Elder brother succeeds because family affection can never have any legal effect.
- (d) Elder brother succeeds only if the younger brother first proves business loss.

Passage: Copyright ownership determines who is legally entitled to exercise rights over a work. Ownership is distinct from authorship. While the author is generally the creator of the work, the copyright owner may be different in cases such as works created under employment, commissioned works, or government works. Section 17 of the Copyright Act lays down the rule of first ownership and its exceptions. As a general rule, the author is the first owner of copyright, but ownership may vest in an employer, commissioning party, or government depending on the nature and circumstances of creation.

The rights of a copyright owner are broadly classified into economic rights and moral rights. Economic rights are mainly concerned with commercial exploitation of the work, while moral rights protect the personal and reputational connection between the author and the work. Section 14 of the Copyright Act, 1957 recognises economic rights and allows the owner to control how the work is used in the market. These rights include the right to reproduce the work, issue copies to the public, communicate the work to the public, perform the work in public, adapt the work, translate the work, and assign or license the work.

The right of reproduction is the most fundamental right, as it prevents unauthorised copying, printing, photocopying, recording, electronic storage, or digital duplication of the work. The right to issue copies enables the owner to distribute the work by sale, rental, lease, or transfer. The right to communicate the work to the public covers broadcasting, streaming, webcasting, and other electronic modes. Public performance rights protect literary, dramatic, and musical works when performed in theatres, concerts, or public events. Adaptation allows conversion of a work into another form, such as a novel into a film, while translation gives the owner control over linguistic versions of the work. Assignment and licensing allow commercial exploitation through publishing, film, music, and digital contracts.

Moral rights are recognised under Section 57 and generally remain with the author even after economic rights are assigned. The right of paternity allows the author to claim authorship and prevent false attribution. The right of integrity protects the work from distortion, mutilation, or modification that harms the author's honour or reputation. The right of retraction reflects respect for creative conscience in limited circumstances. Copyright rights are enforced through civil and criminal remedies, including injunctions, damages, account of profits, delivery of infringing copies, fines, and imprisonment. However, these rights are not absolute, as fair dealing permits use for private study, research, criticism, review, reporting of current events, and education.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://thelegalschool.in/blog/section-17-of-copyright-act>]

73. A documentary filmmaker is engaged by a State tourism department to create a film promoting heritage sites. The department provides the script outline, locations, archival material, budget, and official approvals. After delivery, the filmmaker uploads the film on a private streaming platform and claims first ownership merely because he directed and edited it. The department objects, saying ownership may vest differently where the work is created under specific institutional arrangements.

Which answer best applies?

- (a) The filmmaker must own it because the person handling camera direction always owns copyright.
- (b) The department cannot own it unless every official personally contributed creative scenes.
- (c) The filmmaker must own it because institutional funding never affects copyright ownership.
- (d) The department may own it if the circumstances bring the work within an exception.

74. A publishing company hires Naina as a full-time illustrator. Her appointment letter states that artwork created during assigned projects will be used in the company's educational books. During office hours, using company software and under editorial instructions, she designs a series of science diagrams. Later, she claims that because she personally drew the diagrams, she alone can license them to another publisher. The company says creation and ownership may differ depending on how the work was produced.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) Naina alone owns the diagrams because personal creativity always defeats employment terms.
- (b) The company may own them because ownership may differ from authorship in employment.
- (c) Naina alone owns them because copyright law protects only the actual creator always.
- (d) The company may own them only if Naina's name is removed from all books.

75. A small theatre group buys one copy of a newly published play and then records the script as an audiobook, sells printed copies to drama schools, and uploads a paid video performance online. The group says buying one copy gave it freedom to exploit the work commercially. The publisher argues that the owner controls market uses such as reproduction, public communication, performance, adaptation, translation, and licensing.

Which statement is legally strongest?

- (a) The owner can control commercial use of the work through economic rights.
- (b) The group can exploit it because buying one copy transfers all copyright.
- (c) The owner loses control once a physical copy enters public circulation.
- (d) The group can exploit it if the performance increases the play's popularity.

76. A coaching institute purchases a single licensed digital textbook for its library computer. To reduce student costs, the administrator uploads the file to a shared drive, emails copies to all enrolled students, and prints spiral-bound versions for classroom circulation. The institute argues that it paid for one copy and did not alter the text. The publisher says copying, electronic storage, and multiple printed reproductions without permission affect a fundamental owner's right.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) The institute is safe because the words were not changed in copied versions.
- (b) The institute is safe because one lawful purchase permits unlimited student copies.
- (c) The publisher may object because unauthorised duplication affects reproduction rights.
- (d) The publisher may object only if the institute sells copies outside the campus.

77. A poet assigns the commercial publishing rights in her poetry collection to a media house. Years later, the media house releases an edited version with vulgar insertions and attributes those changes to the poet in promotional material. The poet objects, saying the edits damage her literary reputation even though she had assigned economic rights. The media house argues that after assignment, the author has no personal connection with the work.

Which answer best reflects the legal position?

- (a) The poet loses all claims because economic assignment ends every authorial protection.
- (b) The poet may object because moral rights can remain with the author.
- (c) The media house succeeds because reputation is irrelevant after commercial transfer.
- (d) The poet may object only if she buys back the economic rights first.

78. A university professor quotes two short paragraphs from a recent legal commentary in lecture slides, identifies the author, and uses them to explain a doctrinal disagreement in a closed classroom discussion. The publisher

objects that any use without permission is automatically infringement. The professor says the use was limited, attributed, and for teaching and critical discussion, not commercial resale.

Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) Publisher succeeds because copyright rights are absolute against all classroom uses.
- (b) Professor fails because criticism and education never justify limited copying.
- (c) Publisher succeeds unless the entire book is purchased by every student.
- (d) Professor may rely on fair dealing because limited educational criticism is permitted.

Passage: A legal heir is a person who is lawfully entitled to inherit the movable and immovable property of a deceased person under the applicable succession law. Legal heirs may include the spouse, children, parents, siblings and other relatives, depending on the personal law governing the deceased. Legal heirship becomes especially important when a person dies intestate, meaning without leaving a valid will. In such cases, the property is distributed strictly according to statutory rules of succession, and the deceased has no control over distribution after death.

India does not follow one uniform succession law for all citizens. The identity and share of legal heirs are governed by different laws, including the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the Indian Succession Act, 1925, Muslim Personal Law, and the Special Marriage Act, 1954. The Hindu Succession Act applies to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs and followers of Arya Samaj. In the case of a Hindu male dying intestate, Class I heirs such as widow, sons, daughters, mother, and children of predeceased sons or daughters inherit first and equally. If there are no Class I heirs, the property passes to Class II heirs such as father, siblings, grandparents, uncles and aunts. If no Class I or Class II heirs exist, agnates inherit first, followed by cognates, and finally the property goes to the Government by escheat.

For a Hindu female, Section 14 recognises her property as absolute property. If she dies intestate, her property first devolves upon her sons, daughters, children of predeceased children and husband, then upon the heirs of the husband, then her parents, then heirs of the father and finally heirs of the mother. A special rule applies where property inherited from her parents reverts to her father's heirs if she dies without children.

Under Muslim law, heirs are mainly classified as sharers, residuaries and distant kindred. Sharers receive fixed shares, residuaries inherit the remaining property, and distant kindred inherit only when no sharers or residuaries exist. Meher payable to the wife is treated as a priority debt before inheritance. Among Christians, succession is governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. If the deceased leaves a spouse and children, the spouse gets one-third and the remaining two-thirds go to the children. If there are no children, the spouse gets one-half and the rest goes to kindred. Under the Special Marriage Act, succession is governed by the Indian Succession Act, ensuring uniform inheritance rights in civil or interfaith marriages.

Legal heirs have the right to inherit property, receive their lawful share, contest a will affected by fraud or coercion, and access estate-related information. They are also responsible for settling debts, taxes, legal formalities, and ensuring fair distribution of the estate. Legal heirship is determined by identifying the applicable personal law, collecting documents such as the death certificate and family details, obtaining a legal heir or succession certificate, calculating shares, and distributing the estate after settling liabilities.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://lawbhoomi.com/who-are-legal-heirs-of-a-deceased-person-in-india/>]

79. After Prakash's death, a neighbour produces a will allegedly giving her all his property. Prakash's children suspect that the document was signed when he was heavily medicated and under pressure from the neighbour, who controlled access to him in his last months. The neighbour refuses to share estate papers, saying legal heirs lose all rights once any will is produced. The children seek estate information and challenge the document's validity.

Which answer is most accurate?

- (a) The children may seek information and contest a will affected by pressure.
- (b) The children lose all rights once any document is called a will.
- (c) The neighbour need not disclose anything because heirs have no estate rights.
- (d) The children can object only if the neighbour admits the document is false.

80. Nandan dies intestate without a spouse, children, mother, father, siblings, grandparents, uncles, or aunts. Two relatives then come forward: one is connected through the male line, while another is connected through a mixed line involving a female relative. The local authority immediately claims the property for the Government, saying there are no close relatives. The relatives argue that remote succession categories must be examined before the State can take the estate.

Which position is correct?

- (a) Government takes immediately once close family members are absent.
- (b) Government takes first because remote relatives have no succession relevance.
- (c) Mixed-line relatives always inherit before male-line relatives.
- (d) Remote heir categories must be considered before escheat.

81. Suresh, a Hindu male, dies intestate. He has no widow, child, mother, or descendants of any predeceased child. His father and sister are alive, while a distant cousin from his paternal side also claims the estate, arguing that he continued the family surname and helped manage ancestral rituals. The father and sister argue that wider relatives cannot jump ahead when heirs in the next recognised category are available.

How should the estate devolve?

- (a) The cousin inherits first because he continued the family surname.
- (b) The cousin inherits first because ritual assistance creates priority.
- (c) The father and sister inherit before wider remote relatives.
- (d) The property goes directly to Government because no widow exists.

82. Mahesh, a Hindu male, dies without a will, leaving behind his widow Kavita, one son, one daughter, and his mother. His younger brother claims that as the senior surviving male from Mahesh's parental family, he must receive a share before the daughter and mother. The widow objects and says the closer family category must take first and share equally. The brother says female relatives receive only after male relatives exhaust the estate.

Which conclusion is legally sound?

- (a) Widow, son, daughter, and mother inherit first and equally.
- (b) Brother inherits first because male relatives have priority over daughters.
- (c) Brother shares equally because all blood relatives inherit simultaneously.
- (d) Daughter is excluded because only widow and son inherit immediately.

83. Leela dies suddenly without executing any registered or handwritten testamentary document. During her lifetime, she often told relatives that one nephew was helpful and deserved her savings, but she never completed any formal arrangement. After her death, that nephew claims the entire estate based on those conversations. Leela's close family members argue that because she left no valid will, distribution cannot follow informal wishes and must proceed according to the statutory order.

Which answer best applies?

- (a) The nephew receives everything because oral appreciation controls succession.
- (b) The nephew receives everything if two relatives confirm Leela's statements.
- (c) The family members fail because intestacy gives no one legal entitlement.
- (d) The estate must be distributed by statutory rules because no valid will exists.

84. Arjun dies leaving a flat, bank deposits, and some jewellery. His friend Sameer produces messages in which Arjun once said that Sameer was "like family" and should be looked after. Arjun's widow, daughter, and mother

claim that inheritance must be decided according to the succession law applicable to Arjun, not personal affection expressed casually. Sameer argues that emotional closeness should make him an heir because Arjun trusted him more than some relatives.

Which conclusion is most accurate?

- (a) Sameer inherits because personal affection can replace succession rules.
- (b) The statutory heirs inherit because entitlement depends on applicable succession law.
- (c) Sameer inherits if he proves that Arjun trusted him during lifetime.
- (d) The statutory heirs fail because movable property follows friendship preference.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Passage: The control of the production of wealth is the control of human life itself.

Most planners who have seriously considered the practical aspects of their task have little doubt that a directed economy must be run on more or less dictatorial lines. That the complex system of interrelated activities, if it is to be consciously directed at all, must be directed by a single staff of experts, and that ultimate responsibility and power must rest in the hands of a commander-in-chief whose actions must not be fettered by democratic procedure, is too obvious a consequence of underlying ideas of central planning not to command fairly general assent. The consolation our planners offer us is that this authoritarian direction will apply “only” to economic matters. One of the most prominent economic planners, Stuart Chase, assures us, for instance, that in a planned society “political democracy can remain if it confines itself to all but economic matters. Such assurances are usually accompanied by the suggestion that, by giving up freedom in what are, or ought to be, the less important aspects of our lives, we shall obtain greater freedom in the pursuit of higher values. On this ground people who abhor the idea of a political dictatorship often clamor for a dictator in the economic field.

The arguments used appeal to our best instincts and often attract the finest minds. If planning really did free us from the less important cares and so made it easier to render our existence one of plain living and high thinking, who would wish to belittle such an ideal? If our economic activities really concerned only the inferior or even more sordid sides of life, of course we ought to endeavor by all means to find a way to relieve ourselves from the excessive care for material ends and, leaving them to be cared for by some piece of utilitarian machinery, set our minds free for the higher things of life.

Unfortunately, the assurance people derive from this belief that the power which is exercised over economic life is a power over matters of secondary importance only, and which makes them take lightly the threat to the freedom of our economic pursuits, is altogether unwarranted. It is largely a consequence of the erroneous belief that there are purely economic ends separate from the other ends of life. Yet, apart from the pathological case of the miser, there is no such thing. The ultimate ends of the activities of reasonable beings are never economic. Strictly speaking, there is no “economic motive” but only economic factors conditioning our striving for other ends. What in ordinary language is misleadingly called the “economic motive” means merely the desire for general opportunity, the desire for power to achieve unspecified ends.

Extracted from: *The Road to Serfdom* by F. A. Hayek

85. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the author’s view of wealth?

- (a) Wealth corrupts citizens by making them ignore intellectual and moral pursuits.
- (b) Wealth should be treated as the principal measure of social advancement.
- (c) Wealth matters because it enlarges the range of purposes people may pursue.
- (d) Wealth is valuable only when it is distributed by public institutions fairly.

86. If democratic debate could effectively supervise every major decision in a centrally planned economy, which claim in the passage must be incorrect?

- (a) Some supporters of planning are moved by admirable social and moral intentions.
- (b) Human beings usually seek material resources for purposes beyond possession.
- (c) Economic questions often appear less important than moral or intellectual questions.
- (d) Central direction requires final authority insulated from ordinary democratic checks.

87. What is the role of the statement, “The arguments used appeal to our best instincts,” in the passage?

- (a) It introduces statistical evidence about the success of economic coordination.
- (b) It acknowledges the moral appeal of planning before challenging its consequences.

- (c) It concludes that noble intentions are sufficient to preserve political liberty.
- (d) It proves that planning is supported only by emotionally immature citizens.

88. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's objection to separating economic and political control?

- (a) Industrial experts disagreed frequently about forecasts and production targets.
- (b) Wealthy individuals sometimes used money to influence political campaigns.
- (c) Economic boards made plans, but elected bodies could revise them freely.
- (d) Citizens disliked taxes, although they continued supporting public welfare.

89. Some people reject political dictatorship but still demand dictatorship in the economic field. Which of the following best resolves this apparent paradox?

- (a) They view expert control as useful only during brief periods of economic disruption.
- (b) They condemn private wealth while still desiring rapid expansion of national output.
- (c) They regard public voting as proper only when citizens share economic priorities.
- (d) They treat economic control as limited to lesser matters, leaving higher freedoms intact.

90. Which of the following is the strongest counter-argument to the author's claim about economic ends?

- (a) Political leaders may use economic promises to gain electoral popularity.
- (b) People may value equal material security as an independent social objective.
- (c) Misers may accumulate money without any identifiable future personal project.
- (d) Economic scarcity may force citizens to prioritise food, shelter, and safety.

Passage: Days ahead of the upcoming talks between the Centre and Ladakh's civil society organisations, the rifts in the Apex Body, Leh (ABL) have widened in the wake of its decision to accept the resignation of its founding chairman Thupstan Chhewang, which had been pending for months. Amid growing differences within the ABL, Chhewang had resigned as its chairman in July last year, citing health concerns. His resignation was earlier neither accepted nor rejected by the ABL leadership, which finally decided to accept it early this month.

The ABL and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) are the umbrella organisations of various civil society bodies in the Leh and Kargil regions, respectively. They are also part of the High-Powered Committee (HPC), headed by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, which has convened a meeting on May 22. The HPC has been examining various demands raised by the Ladakh representatives. While the ABL leadership has accused Chhewang of toeing the BJP line, the cracks in the organisation is likely to give the BJP-led Centre the upper hand in the talks. While Chhewang and ABL co-chairman Chering Lakruk had long been at loggerheads, the latest flashpoint between them is the civil society bodies' opposition to the proposed "privatisation" of the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD).

Chhewang has castigated the ABL's stance on the issue, claiming that it fell outside the latter's mandate. "He (Chhewang) was saying that LPDD is not our issue and we should not raise it but all others thought its is important to safeguard the interests of Ladakh. Since his stand seems pro-government, all the members said that we should accept his resignation.

Both the ABL and the KDA have been up in arms against any proposal by the Ladakh administration to "privatise" the power sector in the region. They have held that if the proposal to form a joint venture between the LPDD (49% share) and the Rural Electrification Corporation (51% share), is implemented, it will "worsen" the unemployment problem in the Union Territory, lead to increase in power tariff, and "compromise national and strategic security interests". In a letter to Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, they have called for scrapping of the proposal.

A former BJP MP from Ladakh, Chhewang has questioned his removal from the ABL, asking how he could be ousted when he was the founding chairman of the body. He has also questioned the ABL's functioning, saying that the talks between the Centre and the Ladakh representatives have hit a dead end. The people are left with two options – either to intensify the agitation for their demands or enter negotiations and accept whatever proposals the government may eventually be willing to offer.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/in-may-22-ladakh-talks-why-cracks-in-key-leh-body-give-centre-upper-hand-10696205/>]

91. Which of the following must be true for internal divisions within a representative civil society body to affect upcoming negotiations?

- (a) Resignation disputes among participating bodies decide the committee's entire agenda.
- (b) Administrative proposals from participating bodies are automatically accepted fully.
- (c) Coordinated positions among participating bodies carry weight in the committee process.
- (d) Internal procedures of participating bodies are identical across the two regions.

92. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the concern raised against the proposed power-sector arrangement?

- (a) Some residents believe improved metering systems may reduce technical losses in distant areas.
- (b) Similar arrangements in remote regions reduced local hiring and shifted tariff control away locally.
- (c) Officials describe the arrangement as restructuring rather than a complete departmental transfer.
- (d) The proposed partner has previously supported rural electrification in difficult terrain.

93. Which of the following must necessarily be false according to the passage?

- (a) The resignation remained institutionally unresolved before being accepted at a later stage.
- (b) The leadership eventually changed the pending status of the submitted resignation.
- (c) The formal acceptance followed a period during which no decision had been taken.
- (d) The organisation had already taken a final decision when the resignation was first submitted.

94. Which of the following is the most reasonable outcome of treating the LPDD issue as falling within the civil society body's concerns?

- (a) A proposed administrative arrangement became legally invalid without further official review.
- (b) A regional public concern ceased to matter once separated from constitutional demands.
- (c) A dispute over organisational scope became linked to confidence in a member's institutional role.
- (d) A technical policy disagreement required cancellation of the scheduled committee meeting.

95. A person argues that he could not properly be removed from an organisation because he was its founding chairman. Which of the following best identifies the flaw in this reasoning?

- (a) It treats a delayed procedural response as proof that no resignation could ever exist.
- (b) It assumes that disagreement over one policy issue settles every internal organisational dispute.
- (c) It treats participation in formal talks as acceptance of all future proposals.
- (d) It assumes that a person's role in establishing an institution prevents later action by that institution.

96. Which assumption underlies the view that people must either intensify agitation or negotiate and accept whatever proposals are eventually offered?

- (a) Public agitation is certain to secure all pending demands without further negotiation.
- (b) The power-sector disagreement is the sole cause of the current negotiation difficulty.
- (c) The committee has already converted the representatives' demands into final decisions.
- (d) Continuing talks while rejecting inadequate offers is not a practically available middle course.

Passage: On an afternoon in Chandigarh, a man stands motionless beside a parked scooter, his head tilted at an angle. Passersby slow down, stare, and reach for their phones. Within hours, the clip is everywhere—WhatsApp groups, Instagram reels, Facebook, X—circulating with a caption: “zombie drug”. The footage shows a delivery worker frozen in place for close to two hours. His eyes appear vacant, his body indifferent to the honking around him. Residents call the police, who take him into custody and send him for a medical examination. No toxicology report is made public. Authorities issue an assurance that a complaint has been received, action taken, the situation “under control”.

Online, the response is anything but controlled. Speculation fills the vacuum of official silence. Commentators link the scene to xylazine, a veterinary sedative that has, in parts of the United States, been found mixed with opioids such as fentanyl. There, it has earned the moniker “zombie drug” for the limp, dissociative state it induces.

Punjab, already burdened by decades of substance abuse, finds itself cast in a cinematic nightmare. Weeks later, in Ludhiana, another video surfaced. On a public road, a young man and a young woman appear slumped and unresponsive, motionless amid the bustle. Eyewitnesses describe them as “zombie-like”. The clip spreads with questions: where are the police? What has the AAP government done to deliver on its promise of a drug-free Punjab?

A 2018 national survey by the AIIMS National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, whose findings were published in 2019, estimated that more than 2.3 crore Indians use opioids, with the Punjab–Haryana belt among the most affected regions. Unlike in Chandigarh, where authorities acknowledged the incident, the Ludhiana episode is met with silence. No official clarification follows. The police continue to announce routine seizures under their “war against drugs” campaign, but this shared moment remains unaddressed.

Similar viral videos have since surfaced from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Together, these episodes, separated by weeks, have fed a national unease. They arrive in a region marked by its struggle with narcotics, where intoxicants have devastated families. But the imported label of “zombie drug”, with imagery from American streets, transforms these local scenes into signs of an invading epidemic. The science, so far, tells a different story. Despite the viral claims, there is no confirmed forensic evidence of xylazine entering India’s drug supply. Health and narcotics authorities have not verified any such outbreak. The figures captured in the viral videos may instead reflect realities—alcohol mixed with medication, opioid dependence, untreated mental health conditions, or overdoses of painkillers. According to experts, clinical literature, including studies in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, shows that such states are more often the result of poly-substance use than any single drug.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/zombie-drug-panic-india-viral-videos-punjab-crisis/article70888387.ece>]

97. All of the following can be inferred, except:

Which of the following cannot be reasonably inferred from the author’s discussion of the online reaction?

- (a) Public uncertainty expanded when institutional communication remained limited.
- (b) Visual familiarity became a substitute for confirmed clinical diagnosis.
- (c) Administrative restraint conclusively established deliberate official concealment.
- (d) Rumour acquired force because the factual record remained incomplete.

98. Which of the following must necessarily be true from the Chandigarh incident described in the passage?

- (a) The observed immobility was medically traced to a veterinary sedative.
- (b) The public record lacked disclosed laboratory confirmation of any consumed substance.
- (c) The examination disproved every possibility of intoxication or overdose.
- (d) The police response eliminated all uncertainty about the incident.

99. Which of the following is least likely to be the purpose of the author's reference to the AIIMS survey?
- (a) To indicate that opioid use forms a serious background to the public anxiety shown in the passage.
 - (b) To demonstrate that the individuals shown in the circulated videos consumed the same opioid.
 - (c) To explain why drug-related imagery may appear credible in regions associated with narcotics.
 - (d) To suggest that the viral panic arises within a real social problem rather than in a vacuum.
100. Which of the following most closely parallels the author's reasoning about the "zombie drug" label?
- (a) Several images of students fainting are labelled as signs of a foreign virus; later, laboratory tests confirm the virus, and doctors accept the original public suspicion as accurate.
 - (b) Several students faint during an event, and doctors examine them before any public claim is made; the final diagnosis is then announced only after laboratory verification.
 - (c) Several images of students fainting are labelled as signs of a foreign virus; however, no tests confirm the virus, and doctors identify heat exhaustion as a more plausible cause.
 - (d) Several students faint after returning from abroad, and doctors immediately test them for a foreign virus because their travel history creates a medically relevant suspicion.
101. Which of the following would be the most appropriate course of action in response to the situation described?
- (a) Avoid acknowledging such incidents publicly because any response may intensify the spread of speculation.
 - (b) Use the phrase "zombie-like" in official warnings because it reflects the language used by eyewitnesses.
 - (c) Frame the incidents primarily as a regional failure because the visuals emerged from an affected area.
 - (d) Treat the viral description as a public signal requiring careful verification rather than immediate confirmation.
102. Which of the following is the strongest conclusion supported by the passage?
- (a) Every motionless person in public is probably affected by mixed substance use.
 - (b) Foreign drug epidemics cannot ever develop within Indian social conditions.
 - (c) Public understanding should follow clinical verification rather than dramatic viral naming.
 - (d) Widely shared videos are useless for initiating any official investigation.

Passage: A new political mandate in Tamil Nadu arrives at a time when climate risks are no longer distant projections but lived realities. From rising heat to coastal vulnerability, the urgency to embed climate action into governance has never been clearer. This political transition offers an opportunity to accelerate the State's climate action response.

Tamil Nadu is among the most climate vulnerable States of India. Increasing sea-levels, frequent cyclones, heatwaves, water stress and rapid urbanisation exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, making the transition of climate action into policy and implementation an absolute necessity.

In the past, Tamil Nadu has enacted several policies to manage climate risks. The government has introduced various programmes such as the Climate Change mission, Coastal Restoration Mission and the Green Tamil Nadu mission, in addition to the creation of institutions such as the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) and the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation. Further, the Governing Council on Climate Change, a high-level body with experts headed by the CM, is a first-of-its-kind State-level body designed to provide strategic policy direction, and accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Some of the key initiatives under the Climate Change Mission have been the establishment of climate resilient villages as a pilot in 11 districts; district-level decarbonisation plans; carbon-neutral hubs; bio-fencing; climate-resilient green temples; green schools; and the Green Fellows programme. The role of the State Planning Commission cannot be ignored here for it was instrumental in conceiving many targeted studies across a spectrum of priority areas, which fed into both policy and implementation processes.

On the financial side, Tamil Nadu pioneered the launch of the first State-owned Green Climate Fund with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore to support clean energy transition, mobility and water security. Besides this, the State has been successful in acquiring significant funding from the World Bank and other multilateral agencies to execute the TN-Shore Mission focused on building coastal resilience.

All these measures have placed Tamil Nadu as a forerunner in climate action. Furthermore, institutions such as the TNGCC can be leveraged to attract private capital to achieve climate action goals. It could translate ambition into opportunity at scale and create the next generation of industrial winners. The new regime should not only look to sustain current initiatives to shape better outcomes but also be innovative in putting together forward-looking policies. It must also ensure inclusive decision making in order to create an enabling environment.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/boosting-climate-action-in-tamil-nadu/article71003559.ece>]

103. Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?

- (a) Coastal exposure requires Tamil Nadu to seek international loans before pursuing local implementation.
- (b) Industrial policy requires Tamil Nadu to treat climate programmes mainly as business incentives.
- (c) Climate risks require Tamil Nadu to convert prior institutional preparation into deeper governance action.
- (d) Urban expansion requires Tamil Nadu to shift responsibility from State bodies to local communities.

104. The author's recommendation to continue existing initiatives while developing new policies depends most on which assumption?

- (a) External financiers will favour Tamil Nadu's climate plans over comparable State proposals.
- (b) Existing climate mechanisms retain enough value to merit refinement rather than replacement.
- (c) Coastal projects can ease heat, water stress and urban pressures via spillovers.
- (d) Green industries will expand faster when public consultation is kept outside implementation.

105. What is the role of the reference to the State Planning Commission in the author's reasoning?

- (a) To establish that climate finance is secondary to expert-led administrative assessments.
- (b) To suggest that district projects should be separated from wider State planning.
- (c) To imply that environmental programmes can function without specialised climate institutions.
- (d) To indicate that climate policy was connected with prior studies and implementation design.

106. Which of the following is most likely to weaken the author's optimism about attracting private capital through climate institutions?

- (a) Investors avoid climate platforms where revenue models remain uncertain despite strong public objectives.
- (b) District officials receive training to monitor adaptation indicators across selected vulnerable blocks.
- (c) Coastal restoration programmes gain technical support from agencies with prior resilience experience.
- (d) Schools and temples adopt low-cost greening practices through community-led voluntary participation.

107. Based on the author's reasoning, which course of action would be most appropriate?

- (a) Allocate climate spending mainly to short-term projects with easily measurable public outcomes.
- (b) Link affected groups, experts, finance channels and agencies through participatory mechanisms.
- (c) Replace current missions with one technology-focused authority for climate investment decisions.
- (d) Transfer adaptation planning fully to local groups without State-level coordination structures.

108. Assertion (A): The author presents Tamil Nadu's climate finance measures as evidence of material support for climate action.

Reason (R): The Green Climate Fund was created entirely through private-sector contributions without State ownership.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R does not correctly explain A.
- (c) A is true, but R is not supported by the passage.
- (d) A is not supported by the passage, but R is true.

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]:

The Mumbai Tigers, a professional franchise in the Indian Premier Cricket League, played a total of 12 matches during the league stage of the most recent season. The team's top order during the league stage consisted of five batsmen Aman, Bharat, Chirag, Devraj, and Eshaan each of whom played a fixed number of league matches and contributed to the team's batting performance.

Aman appeared in all 12 matches, accumulated 540 runs across these matches, faced exactly 450 deliveries, and scored 3 fifties and 1 century during the league stage. Bharat played in only 10 of the 12 matches (he was absent due to injury for the remaining two matches), his batting average across the 10 matches he played was 52 runs per match, he faced 400 deliveries, and he scored 4 fifties and no centuries. Chirag, regarded as the team's most reliable batsman, played in all 12 matches with a batting average of 38 runs per match, faced 380 deliveries, and scored 2 fifties and 1 century.

Devraj played in only 8 of the 12 matches with a batting average of 60 runs per match across these 8 matches, faced 320 deliveries, and scored 1 fifty and 2 centuries. Eshaan played in 11 of the 12 matches, scored a total of 495 runs across these 11 matches, faced 450 deliveries, and scored 4 fifties and no centuries during the league stage. (Note: a batsman's "batting average" is computed as $\text{total runs} \div \text{total innings played}$; the batsman's "strike rate" is computed as $\text{total runs} \div \text{total deliveries faced} \times 100$.)

109. What is the combined batting strike rate of the five top-order batsmen, calculated across all deliveries they collectively faced and all runs they collectively scored, rounded to two decimal places?

- (a) 118.20 (b) 121.40 (c) 123.80 (d) 124.55

110. Each batsman is awarded a Performance Index of 1 point for every fifty scored and 3 points for every century scored. Additionally, every batsman receives a 0.5-point bonus for each match he played in excess of 10 league matches. What is the combined Performance Index of all five top-order batsmen?

- (a) 26.5 (b) 28.5 (c) 30.5 (d) 32.0

111. What is the difference between the highest and the lowest individual strike rates among the five top-order batsmen during the league stage, rounded to two decimal places?

- (a) 40.00 (b) 35.50 (c) 30.20 (d) 25.80

112. Compute the weighted average of the five batsmen's individual batting averages, where the weight assigned to each batsman is the number of deliveries he faced. Round to two decimal places.

- (a) 45.20 (b) 46.85 (c) 47.47 (d) 48.30

113. Considering only those three batsmen who played 11 or 12 matches in the league stage, what is the combined batting average of these three batsmen taken together (i.e., their total runs divided by their total innings played)?

- (a) 38.40 (b) 40.20 (c) 41.50 (d) 42.60

114. In the playoffs that followed the league stage, three players received additional matches: Bharat played 4 more matches scoring a total of 320 runs, Devraj played 4 more matches scoring a total of 360 runs, and Chirag played 4 more matches scoring a total of 240 runs. After including playoff statistics, what is the difference between the highest and the lowest season batting averages among these three batsmen?

- (a) 24.00 (b) 26.50 (c) 28.75 (d) 31.20

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]:

A modern metro station in Bengaluru has an escalator connecting the ground-floor concourse to the upper-level platform. When the escalator is switched off and remains stationary, exactly 60 visible steps are seen between the bottom and the top of the escalator. When operational, the escalator moves upward (from bottom to top) at a uniform speed.

Two regular commuters, Anand and Bhairav, often climb this escalator while it is in motion.

Anand walks up the moving escalator at his usual uniform pace of 4 steps per second and reaches the top after taking exactly 40 steps in total. Bhairav, who walks faster than Anand, climbs the same moving escalator at a uniform pace of 6 steps per second and reaches the top after taking exactly 45 steps in total.

115. A new commuter, Daksh, walks up the same moving escalator at a uniform pace of 8 steps per second. How many steps does Daksh take to reach the top?

- (a) 36 (b) 42 (c) 48 (d) 54

116. Suppose another commuter, Esha, walks up the same moving escalator at a uniform pace and is observed to step on exactly 30 escalator steps before reaching the top. What is Esha's walking speed in steps per second?

- (a) 1.5 (b) 2.0 (c) 2.5 (d) 3.0

117. Anand and Bhairav step onto the bottom of the moving escalator at the same instant and start walking up at their respective paces. By the time Bhairav reaches the top, how many more steps does Anand still need to take in order to reach the top himself?

- (a) 4 (b) 6 (c) 8 (d) 10

118. Anand decides to walk down the moving escalator (which continues to move upward) at his usual pace of 4 steps per second. How many steps will he have to take to reach the bottom of the escalator?

- (a) 120 (b) 150 (c) 180 (d) 210

119. Yet another commuter, Farhan, walks up the same moving escalator at a uniform pace and is observed to take exactly 50 steps before reaching the top. What is Farhan's walking speed in steps per second?

- (a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 15

120. Anand and Bhairav simultaneously step onto the top of the moving escalator (which continues to move upward) and both walk down at their respective usual paces (4 steps/sec for Anand, 6 steps/sec for Bhairav). By how many seconds does Bhairav reach the bottom before Anand?

- (a) 9 sec (b) 11 sec (c) 13 sec (d) 15 sec

Rough Work
