

UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG07



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 34 (Thirty-Four) 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: Many contemporary philosophers agree that Karl Popper (1902–1994) was one of the most influential 20th-century thinkers in their field. Most of them, in turn, would contend that the field of science has never been the same since Popper introduced the notion of fallibilism. Clunky though this word is, its insight is profound, namely that science advances not through the effort to prove a theory but instead by doing one’s darndest to disprove it.

Crucially, Popper’s theory was not limited to the world of scientific discovery. It also spilled into political theory, a field he felt compelled to turn to in the mid-1930s. As a 30-something Jewish academic living in interwar Vienna—albeit one whose family had converted to Lutheranism—Popper had grown increasingly anxious over the seemingly irresistible rise of totalitarian states. Less than a year before Nazi Germany’s annexation of Austria, Popper and his wife, Hennie, who hammered out her husband’s drafts on a creaking typewriter, left for Christchurch, where he took a teaching position at the University of New Zealand.

Though exiled to a far-flung corner of the New World, he could not help but dwell on the forces now tearing apart the Old World. In his effort to analyze the logic of totalitarianism, Popper came to the realization that when it came to the ideologies of his own age, there was little new under the sun. Even totalitarianism, an ideology rendered yet more terrifying by advances in science and technology, was not *sui generis*. Instead, its intellectual roots stretched back to antiquity and, of all thinkers, to Plato. In his massive *The Open Society and Its Enemies*—published just before his return to Europe in 1945—Popper in effect identifies Plato not just as the father of western philosophy, but also the father of the forces that had wrought the gulags and the gas chambers.

This assertion still shocks. After all, if you were to construct a baseball lineup of the western world’s foundational thinkers, Plato would almost certainly bat cleanup. Yet Popper, poring over the *Republic* as the world burned, was on to something disturbing about the ancient Athenian’s worldview. And he cared not a whit for Plato’s hallowed reputation; icons be damned. “I consider the destruction of the awe of the Great Names, the Great Intellectual Authorities,” he declared to a friend, “one of the necessary prerequisites of a recuperation of mankind.”

Popper lambastes Plato for inventing a rigidly stratified state, a purified tribal society preferable to the Athenian democracy into which he was born. It is composed of three classes: the guardians, their troops, and the workers. Ruling over this ideal republic were philosopher-kings, who pedaled “noble lies” that justified a hierarchy of social classes.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://theamericanscholar.org/the-popper-principle/>

1. Which of the following best captures the methodological shift involved in Popper’s fallibilism?

- (a) Scientists protect theories from early critical rejection
- (b) Scientists test theories through possible refutation attempts
- (c) Scientists confirm theories through expert agreement alone
- (d) Scientists replace theories through public consensus only

2. Popper turned towards political theory because:

- (a) treated exile as release from European anxieties
- (b) saw totalitarianism as requiring intellectual scrutiny
- (c) made family conversion central to political thought
- (d) used Christchurch to revive ancient philosophy

3. Even in Christchurch, Popper:

- (a) treated New World distance as relief from Europe's collapse
 - (b) shifted attention from ideology to university teaching duties
 - (c) read Plato mainly to recover classical democratic ideals
 - (d) remained absorbed by the forces destroying the Old World
4. What is implied by the statement that totalitarianism was "not sui generis"?
- (a) Modern violence merely repeated ancient political events
 - (b) Older thought supplied roots for modern ideology
 - (c) Technical progress alone explained totalitarian cruelty
 - (d) Plato's era offered remedies against modern states
5. For Popper, destroying the awe of "Great Names" was necessary because:
- (a) classical thinkers had lost relevance after modern warfare
 - (b) mankind needed newer icons to replace inherited traditions
 - (c) reverence could prevent criticism of influential authorities
 - (d) philosophy had become weaker than scientific investigation
6. In Popper's reading, Plato's ideal republic becomes troubling mainly because it:
- (a) organises society through hierarchy and political myths
 - (b) replaces rulers with workers in a classless democracy
 - (c) balances military discipline with equal civic freedom
 - (d) permits social mobility through philosophical education

Passage: The American composer Henry Cowell identified certain shortcomings of Western musical notation. The system could supply "the bare details of the pitch and rhythm of conventional modes," he wrote, "but little else." It failed entirely to "convey a subtle tonal effect of any description," or to accurately notate quarter tones and complex cross-rhythms. Cowell envisioned a more expansive approach to composition: "A notation should express the sound to the eye with as great a degree of graphical perfection as possible." One of his innovations was a diamond-shaped note divisible into sevenths rather than fourths; another appeared as a triangle with a slash through it, dividing notes into thirteenths. Cowell's ideas gained favor among his students at the New School, including the musicians John Cage and Earle Brown, who helped pioneer the contemporary graphic score. Resembling early-Renaissance "eye music"—a form of composition that frequently used color or shape to communicate musical qualities—the graphic score often eschews five-line notation, relying instead on images, symbols, and text. Some graphic scores are relatively prescriptive, stipulating rhythms, dynamics, and melody in a manner not unlike conventional scores. Others, however, leave much to the discretion of the performer. This score, "Migration," composed in 2023 by the Palestinian-American musician Muyassar Kurdi, is one such example.

The pitch, tempo, and time signature of "Migration" are each determined by its performer, as are the direction in which to read the score and the choice of instruments. Kurdi doesn't instruct other musicians on where to begin, though she usually starts here, at الآن, the Arabic word for "now." When Kurdi guided me through the score, she traced a path from this starting point to the cluster of dots beneath the lower arc, demonstrating how she might progress through the piece. This suggestion wasn't binding, however: Musicians can transition to any spot on the score, choosing a route that suits them. For Kurdi, leaving critical decisions up to the musician—and thereby breaking with the tradition that treats performers as mere conduits of a composer's vision—is both an artistic choice and a political one. She describes this democratization of creative control as counteracting "the idea of ownership" and the notion that a piece should be played identically in each performance.

Performers working in the graphic tradition typically come to a score like "Migration" equipped with their own methods of interpretation, but Kurdi also provides several ideas for the musician to work with, including these

three notes arranged on a conventional musical staff. The notes, and the glissando connecting them, signal a pattern of tones for the musician to develop. Placed throughout the score are also three Arabic words. In standard musical notation, words often serve as expression markings that guide the mood of certain sections—think, for instance, of “dolce” or “misterioso.”

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://harpers.org/archive/2026/02/sight-and-sound-olivia-giovetti-graphic-scores/>

7. Which best captures the author’s main concern in the passage?

- (a) To show how Western notation prevented musicians from preserving older forms.
- (b) To show how graphic scores expand notation and shift control toward performers.
- (c) To show how Cowell’s students replaced conventional scores with visual art.
- (d) To show how “Migration” rejects all inherited forms of musical notation.

8. What is suggested by the details of Cowell’s diamond-shaped and triangle-shaped notes?

- (a) Cowell valued visual novelty more than musical discipline.
- (b) Cowell wanted performers to ignore inherited notation.
- (c) Cowell saw old notation as useful only for simple music.
- (d) Cowell tried to make notation capture overlooked sounds.

9. In context, what does Cowell’s phrase “express the sound to the eye” suggest about notation?

- (a) Notation should capture overlooked sound qualities visually
- (b) Notation should simplify music by removing complexity
- (c) Notation should replace listening with visual certainty
- (d) Notation should use images when notes disappear

10. By allowing performers to choose the route, instruments and starting point, Kurdi treats a score as something that:

- (a) fixes meaning through the composer’s authority
- (b) shares creative agency beyond the composer
- (c) rejects inherited notation as musically useless
- (d) limits interpretation to performer traditions

11. Which of the following cannot be inferred about “Migration”?

- (a) Its performance can vary with the musician’s choices.
- (b) Its Arabic words operate only as fixed directions.
- (c) Its score permits more than one reading path.
- (d) Its performer may decide pitch, tempo, and instruments.

12. In the passage, “prescriptive” is closest in meaning to:

- (a) Ornamental
- (b) Suggestive
- (c) Directive
- (d) Improvised

Passage: As Britain reels from Europe’s worst ever heatwave, many households are, for the first time, seriously considering air conditioning. Leftists have often been critical of AC, pointing out that there are cheaper, more ecological ways to combat severe heat. But with decades of underinvestment leaving the UK dismally unprepared to handle further heatwaves, is it time to rethink the progressive position on air con?

Like many new technologies, air conditioning can bring significant benefits but also real harms, contributing to external air temperatures and global emissions. Dogmatically denying these harms, as AC boosters tend to, is unhelpful, but likewise refusing to explore how mechanical air-cooling systems could play a more productive role in progressive climate adaptation is just as blinkered. Fundamental to any leftwing air-conditioning policy must be efficiency. Currently, air con in Britain is installed incredibly inefficiently, in haphazard, one-off spurts, household-by-household with no economies of scale or strategic vision. Much of the technology is ingenious. But, used in isolation, it can become extremely wasteful. Cooling the air inside a building without also taking steps to stop that air from just heating up again is like trying to run a bath with the plug out.

Many British homes overheat simply because they lack good insulation and outside shading. This week my neighbour, struggling in the heat, hung a sheet outside his window to test whether some external shading might stop his bedroom from overheating. He recorded a 17.8C difference between the internal temperature of his unshaded windows and shaded ones – the equivalent of multiple 400W radiators on full blast. Sure, he could install AC, but without first cooling down his windows he'd be throwing money down the drain. And what happens when his air conditioning unit malfunctions, as many are prone to during prolonged heatwaves?

That said, there are specific situations where installing external awnings, shutters or louvres, as is common in hotter European regions such as southern France and Spain, might still not be enough to bring temperatures down during the hottest peaks of the year. In those cases, using a moderate amount of air conditioning is eminently sensible so long as it is in addition to, rather than a substitute for, lower-emissions cooling methods.

Individual air-con units are the bottled water of urban cooling. What we need instead are the equivalent of mains water solutions: shared, available for all, and transformative for public health. It's not that air conditioning should never be used, but that its installation should be centred around a mission of increasing public health rather than private luxury.

Extracted with edits and revisions from:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jun/29/progressive-case-for-air-conditioning-climate-adaptation>

13. The author's central criticism of Britain's present approach to air conditioning is that it treats cooling as:
 - (a) an urgent need rather than a long-term climate concern.
 - (b) a private purchase rather than a planned public system.
 - (c) a technical issue rather than a political disagreement.
 - (d) a comfort choice rather than an emissions problem.

14. The example of the neighbour's sheet outside the window mainly shows that AC may become wasteful when:
 - (a) homes are cooled before heat entry is reduced.
 - (b) residents copy temporary cooling experiments.
 - (c) windows are treated as the only heat source.
 - (d) shading is used without mechanical support.

15. Which statement best reflects the author's view of mechanical air cooling?
 - (a) It is harmful when used after passive measures.
 - (b) It is sensible when passive measures fall short.
 - (c) It is necessary when public systems are absent.
 - (d) It is acceptable when households prefer it.

16. The phrase "bottled water of urban cooling" suggests that individual AC units are:

- (a) useful in a crisis but poor as public provision.
- (b) cheap in theory but unequal in practice.
- (c) modern in design but fragile in heatwaves.
- (d) popular in homes but harmful outdoors.

17. Which position would the author most likely reject?

- (a) AC should follow shading and insulation where possible.
- (b) AC should support public health during severe heat.
- (c) AC should replace passive cooling in hotter periods.
- (d) AC should be planned through efficient systems.

18. The author uses both “dogmatically denying” and “blinkered” to criticise views that:

- (a) defend comfort without considering public need.
- (b) discuss heat without considering older housing.
- (c) favour technology without considering emissions.
- (d) take fixed sides without considering mixed use.

Passage: When most people talk about the media, they describe the content—what is being reported and why they should read it. They often tend to miss other crucial issues. How does any content find an audience? What is the technology that allows mass reproduction of content? What are the costs of running a media platform? What is the revenue model? And how does all of this change in the digital age?

I entered the media through the world of technology. As much by accident as by design, I was at the centre of the key transformations brought about by digitisation. I had started as a mechanical engineer before switching to the study of control systems in power plants for my doctoral thesis at Jawaharlal Nehru University, which I never completed. This led me to work at the National Thermal Power Corporation and, later, at a private consultancy, where I designed systems to acquire digital data and control major power plants. I was, therefore, an early entrant in the digital arena.

While the digital age evolved in various fields, from data-processing and weather prediction to warfare, its public consumption began with the advent of the internet. Initially developed for military and academic purposes, its exponential growth around the turn of the millennium started with Google and Facebook, each of which found different sets of users. After becoming the market leader in search engines, Google expanded significantly with its acquisition, in 2006, of YouTube, assuming control over the largest platform for creating and sharing video content. Facebook, meanwhile, established itself as the place where people built communities, sharing their views, photos and videos—a position it consolidated by later acquiring Instagram and WhatsApp.

The question these transformations posed, and still do, to the media is this: how would the internet change the way news is delivered to the reader, listener or viewer? Or, to restate it, how would people consume news in the digital age? Would the internet make it possible for content creators—either individuals or small organisations—to bypass the major news platforms that control print and television? Or would the legacy media reinvent itself and migrate to the internet, recreating its existing monopoly there?

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://caravanmagazine.in/media/challenges-independent-news-digital-age>

19. The internet becomes important to the author’s discussion because it:

- (a) made older media costs disappear quickly
- (b) separated news delivery from platform control
- (c) turned online media into private engineering

(d) brought digital change into public consumption

20. The author's description of his incomplete doctorate, power-sector work and digital data systems mainly serves to:

- (a) explain why his media career began through technological change rather than journalism alone.
- (b) show that academic institutions failed to prepare him for the digital media revolution.
- (c) establish that industrial digitisation was more important than digital news consumption.
- (d) suggest that media platforms developed from the same systems used in power plants.

21. In the passage, Google and Facebook are presented less as ordinary companies and more as examples of:

- (a) platforms that converted military and academic networks into public institutions.
- (b) digital actors that shaped different routes through which users accessed content.
- (c) organisations that weakened television by offering cheaper forms of journalism.
- (d) corporations that made legacy media irrelevant by replacing print distribution.

22. Why is Google's acquisition of YouTube mentioned alongside Facebook's acquisition of Instagram and WhatsApp?

- (a) To prove that online media grew mainly by replacing older broadcast institutions.
- (b) To show that digital influence expanded through control over major content channels.
- (c) To argue that video, photos and messages became more important than written news.
- (d) To suggest that social media platforms succeeded by imitating search-engine models.

23. Which outcome would best match the second possibility raised in the final paragraph?

- (a) Independent reporters use cheap online tools to reach audiences outside print networks.
- (b) Small organisations build loyal readerships without depending on television platforms.
- (c) Established media companies dominate online news after successfully shifting to the internet.
- (d) Individual creators use digital platforms to publish without older editorial gatekeepers.

24. Which of the following would the author most likely regard as an incomplete way of analysing digital media?

- (a) Studying how internet platforms changed news delivery, audience habits and media control.
- (b) Comparing whether small creators or legacy platforms gained more power online.
- (c) Describing what news outlets publish without examining technology, costs and revenue.
- (d) Asking how search engines and social platforms altered public consumption of news.

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage: The SIPRI Yearbook is known worldwide as an authoritative and independent source for politicians, diplomats, journalists, scholars, students and citizens on armaments, disarmament and international security. It provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, the arms trade and arms production, and armed conflicts, along with efforts to control conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The first edition of the SIPRI Yearbook was released in 1969, with the aim of producing ‘a factual and balanced account of a controversial subject—the arms race and attempts to stop it’. Subsequent editions of the Yearbook have gathered important data on world military spending, the arms trade and nuclear forces, among other topics.

Over the years these data sets have been refined and new data sets added, thereby improving the accuracy of key source materials. Together with SIPRI’s rigorous editorial standards, this continual qualitative improvement in the data makes the SIPRI Yearbook a unique and indispensable reference work.

SIPRI offers a unique platform for researchers from different countries to work in close cooperation. The Institute also hosts guest researchers and interns who work on issues related to SIPRI's research.

SIPRI maintains contacts with other research centres and individual researchers throughout the world. The Institute also cooperates closely with several intergovernmental organizations, notably the United Nations and the European Union, and regularly receives parliamentary, scientific and government delegations as well as visiting researchers. SIPRI’s research agenda is constantly evolving, consistently remaining timely and in high demand.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook>]

25. Which of the following is the correct full form of OPCW, the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention?

- (a) Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- (b) Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Warfare
- (c) Office for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- (d) Organisation for the Protection from Chemical Weapons

26. Which country received 9.7 per cent of all international transfers of major arms during 2021–25, according to SIPRI?

- (a) Saudi Arabia (b) India (c) Qatar (d) Ukraine

27. The 2026 NPT Review Conference was mentioned in the SIPRI Yearbook context. Which earlier Review Conferences also failed to agree on a final outcome document, making 2026 the third such failure in a row?

- (a) 2000 and 2005 (b) 2010 and 2015 (c) 2015 and 2022 (d) 1995 and 2010

28. The SIPRI Yearbook discusses nuclear forces and non-proliferation issues. Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which of the following sets contains only the five recognised nuclear-weapon states?

- (a) United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China
- (b) United States, Russia, India, Japan, France and China
- (c) United States, Russia, Israel, Oman, Pakistan and China
- (d) United States, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan

29. Consider the following statements about the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty:

- I. Article XIV of the CTBT deals with the Treaty’s entry into force.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only I (b) Only II (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

38. Which of the following correctly identifies the organising arrangement of the 1st World Yogasana Sport Championship 2026?

- (a) Yogasana Bharat, World Yogasana and Indian Olympic Association
 (b) Ministry of AYUSH, UNESCO and World Health Organization
 (c) Sports Authority of India, IOC and Olympic Council of Asia
 (d) Morarji Desai Institute, WHO and Asian Yogasana Federation

39. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre, relevant to India's traditional health diplomacy, is located in which Indian city?

- (a) Varanasi (b) Jamnagar (c) Mysuru (d) Rishikesh

40. The 1st World Yogasana Sports Championship 2026 was held in Ahmedabad. The host city is also linked to which UNESCO distinction?

- (a) India's first UNESCO Creative Music City
 (b) India's first UNESCO Biosphere Heritage City
 (c) India's first UNESCO Cultural Landscape City
 (d) India's first UNESCO World Heritage City

41. Which of the following is popularly known as the "father of modern yoga"?

- (a) Tirumalai Krishnamacharya (b) Swami Vivekananda
 (c) Paramahansa Yogananda (d) Sri Aurobindo

42. The 2026 theme of International Day of Yoga is linked with healthy ageing. The United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing covers which period?

- (a) 2016-2025 (b) 2019-2028 (c) 2021-2030 (d) 2022-2032

Passage: The Union government temporarily blocked Telegram to protect the sanctity of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026 re-examination by a single interpretative sleight of hand which compressed an entire intermediary platform into an expression: 'information'.

The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court by stretching the meaning of 'information' under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. The government argued that an online platform like Telegram was an "aggregation" or "compilation" of these units. By reading entire platforms run by companies, which were legal entities by their own nature, under the ambit of 'information' under the Act, the government has effectively weaponised the content-blocking provision.

The High Court, in its June order, endorsed the Centre's view that the blocking power under Section 69A of the IT Act extends beyond individual pieces of content and, having regard to its wide legislative scope, encompasses the software architecture, codebase, databases, and programmatic ecosystem constituting an application. The court concluded that the Centre's reading was in tune with the legislature's intention to confer a broad and technologically neutral meaning upon the expression 'information'.

The Single Judge Bench also agreed that the ban satisfied the proportionality test as Telegram's architectural design, particularly its mass-multiplication features and date-time editing capability, rendered it structurally incapable of preventing misuse during the critical examination window.

Telegram had not accepted the expansive interpretation of the term information while noting that the government, acting through Section 69A, could only block access to specific information and not impose a blanket restriction on an entire intermediary platform.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/analysis-stretching-information-to-include-telegram/article71138263.ece>]

43. Which Supreme Court judgment struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 while upholding the validity of Section 69A and the Blocking Rules, 2009?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (a) Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India | (b) Shreya Singhal v. Union of India |
| (c) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India | (d) People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India |

44. The Information Technology Act, 2000 was influenced by which international model law?

- (a) UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce
- (b) UNIDROIT Principles of International Contracts
- (c) Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements
- (d) OECD Model Convention on Double Taxation

45. Consider the following pairs:

- I. Nepal - TikTok ban linked to social harmony concerns
- II. Sri Lanka - Social media block after Easter Sunday attacks
- III. Russia - Facebook and Instagram ban after Meta was labelled extremist

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

46. Section 69A was inserted into the Information Technology Act, 2000 through which amendment legislation?

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Information Technology Amendment Act, 2008 | (b) Information Technology Rules Act, 2009 |
| (c) Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 | (d) Information Technology Amendment Act, 2021 |

47. Who is commonly credited as the founder of Telegram, the cloud-based instant messaging platform?

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Jan Koum | (b) Pavel Durov |
| (c) Brian Acton | (d) Evan Spiegel |

48. Which case is associated with procedural safeguards for telephone tapping under Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (a) PUCL v. Union of India | (b) Minerva Mills v. Union of India |
| (c) Bennett Coleman v. Union of India | (d) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala |

Passage: The United States released the official text of the memorandum of understanding reached over the weekend with Iran. A senior US administration official read out the 14-point document, which spells out provisions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, easing certain financial restrictions on Iran and sets out expectations for addressing Iran's nuclear program during future technical talks.

Titled the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the document was released after outcry that its text hadn't been released publicly.

This is fundamentally an agreement that allows us to open the Strait of Hormuz immediately, commit the Iranians to destroying the nuclear dust, and then gives us a dial where if the Iranians dial up their good behavior, we respond by dialing up the kind of economic and sanctions relief that can make them a more prosperous country, the senior

US official stated. The memorandum is due to be formally signed Friday, triggering a 60-day-window to negotiate the final terms of a deal. CNN had earlier reported on a draft agreement laying out the terms. The official text released by the US is similar, but with some language differences, and it refers to a “minimum methodology for neutralizing Iran’s stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which the draft did not.

A diplomat who saw it at the G7 summit in France this week confirmed its contents, as did two other diplomatic sources with knowledge of negotiations.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/06/17/middleeast/us-iran-war-mou-text-intl>]

49. Iran has often argued for its right to peaceful nuclear energy under the NPT. Which article of the NPT recognises the right of parties to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes?

- (a) Article IV (b) Article V (c) Article VII (d) Article IX

50. The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran and which Omani exclave?

- (a) Dhofar (b) Musandam (c) Buraimi (d) Dakhiliyah

51. In the law of the sea, the navigational regime generally applicable to straits used for international navigation is known as:

- (a) innocent passage (b) archipelagic passage
(c) cabotage passage (d) transit passage

52. The 2016 Chabahar transit agreement, important for India’s access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, was signed among which three countries?

- (a) India, Iran and Afghanistan (b) India, Iran and Turkmenistan
(c) India, Oman and Afghanistan (d) India, Pakistan and Iran

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Passage: Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits “traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour” and declares that any contravention of this prohibition shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. It is not confined to citizens; it protects every person in India. The prohibition operates against State and private individuals alike, because exploitation may arise from public authority, private domination, debt, custody, deception, or economic dependence. Begar means compulsory labour or service exacted without payment and without real freedom of refusal. Labour is not voluntary merely because the worker remains present or has signed a contract. A contract of service cannot legalise work extracted against the will of the worker. “Other similar forms of forced labour” covers labour resembling begar, trafficking, or coercive exploitation. Force may be physical, legal, or economic.

Where poverty, debt, hunger, social domination, confiscation of documents, threat of eviction, or fear of violence leaves no meaningful choice, the labour may be forced even if some payment is made. Work taken for remuneration below the minimum wage may indicate forced labour where acceptance of such wage results from helplessness, not free consent. Traffic in human beings means treating persons as objects of commercial exploitation. It includes buying, selling, procuring, inducing, taking, detaining, harbouring, or controlling persons for exploitative purposes where law so provides. Consent is not decisive where obtained through deception, coercion, abuse of authority, debt, or vulnerability. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 gives statutory effect to this protection in prostitution-related exploitation.

Section 5 punishes procuring or attempting to procure a person, inducing a person to go from any place, taking or attempting to take a person, causing a person to be taken, or causing or inducing a person to carry on prostitution. Section 6 punishes detaining a person in any brothel, or in or upon any premises where prostitution is carried on, with the statutory intent connected with exploitation. Bonded labour is a direct form of forced labour. It arises when a debt, advance, custom, tradition, social obligation, succession, or economic consideration is used to compel labour or restrict freedom. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 gives concrete effect to Article 23. Section 4 abolishes the bonded labour system and frees every bonded labourer from the obligation to render bonded labour. Section 5 makes void and inoperative every custom, tradition, contract, agreement, or other instrument requiring bonded labour. Section 6 extinguishes the liability to repay bonded debt and bars suits or proceedings for its recovery. Article 23(2) permits the State to impose compulsory service for public purposes. In imposing such service, the State shall not discriminate on grounds only of religion, race, caste, class, or any of them.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/right-against-exploitation/>]

53. Rafiq, a kiln worker from Assam, signs a twelve-month “training-cum-service” contract with Kavach Ceramics in Jaipur after receiving an advance for his sister’s treatment. His wages are paid after deductions for food, tools, and dormitory charges, leaving him below the notified minimum wage. The manager keeps his official identity card and train ticket “for record purposes” and tells him that leaving before repayment would lead to immediate eviction from the dormitory and a police complaint for absconding with company money. Rafiq occasionally visits a nearby market and later signs a renewal form after being promised faster debt adjustment. Is Article 23 likely to be violated?

- (a) No, because Rafiq signed a renewal form and continued working despite having limited movement outside the kiln.
- (b) Yes, because debt pressure, document control, and eviction threats left no meaningful choice despite contract and partial wages.
- (c) No, because the employer made some payment and used repayment conditions linked to an earlier medical advance.
- (d) Yes, because wages below the minimum wage are enough to prove forced labour in a private workplace.

54. Leela's family had borrowed ₹18,000 from a brick-field owner in Vidarbha. After her father died, the owner told Leela that the "family account" had passed to her under village practice. She was required to mould bricks during the season and clean the owner's storage shed during the off-season. Her name was entered in a ledger as "helper against old balance," and she received food, festival clothes, and occasional cash. The owner did not move her to another place, did not sell her services to anyone, and did not confine her in a brothel. Which is the most accurate legal characterisation under the passage?

- (a) It is begar, because the unpaid nature of the work is the main legal feature in the arrangement.
- (b) It is trafficking, because Leela's labour is controlled for commercial benefit through family vulnerability.
- (c) It is bonded labour, because debt, custom, and succession are used to compel labour and restrict freedom.
- (d) It is valid service, because village practice and family debt explain why the work arrangement continued.

55. After severe waterlogging in Waterpur, the municipal commissioner issues an order requiring residents to assist in clearing blocked drains for three mornings. The order says that households from two specified caste-based occupational groups will be called first because they are "traditionally familiar with sanitation work," while others may volunteer later. No wages are offered, but food packets and gloves are provided. Several residents challenge the order, while the municipality argues that the work is for public health and flood control. Is the order valid under Article 23(2)?

- (a) Yes, because emergency drain clearance is a public purpose and the order lasts for three mornings.
- (b) Yes, because compulsory service may be imposed by the State during local civic emergencies.
- (c) No, because unpaid civic service under Article 23(2) is barred when wages are not offered.
- (d) No, because the roster is linked to caste-based selection despite the public purpose involved.

56. Meenakshi and her brother had worked in a small dyeing unit for four years after their mother accepted an advance for medical expenses. A written agreement said that the family would work until the "household balance" was cleared. A local elders' note also recorded that the advance was a "family obligation." After an inquiry, officials release them as bonded labourers. The owner then files a civil suit claiming repayment of the remaining advance, arguing that the release from work does not erase the money debt. What is the most appropriate legal consequence under the passage?

- (a) The suit may proceed because the advance was recorded before the official release order.
- (b) The suit should fail because bonded debt liability is extinguished and recovery is barred.
- (c) The suit may proceed because debt terms are separate from the labour arrangement.
- (d) The suit should fail because the family custom becomes void from the release date.

57. In Pune, the municipal authority issues a neutral emergency order asking residents from flood-hit wards to assist for two hours in distributing relief supplies at a government school. In Variation I, the same work is instead required by a private market association from migrant loaders after their shift, with a warning that refusal may affect future work allotment. In Variation II, the municipal authority provides tea and transport but no wages. In Variation III, the municipal roster includes tenants and shopkeepers from the same flood-hit streets. Which variation most clearly changes the legal outcome under the passage?

- (a) Variation II, because refreshments without wages make the civic service resemble underpaid labour.
- (b) Variation III, because including tenants and shopkeepers makes the roster commercially connected.
- (c) Variation I, because private domination and work-allotment pressure replace State public service.
- (d) Variation II, because absence of wages changes public service into labour resembling begar.

58. Aaliya, a 20-year-old, is contacted by Ramesh, who says that a Hyderabad event company needs "hospitality assistants" for private parties. He pays for her travel and asks her to sign a form stating that she is joining voluntarily. After arrival, she is told that her travel, accommodation, and clothes have created a recoverable balance. She is then made to entertain clients in a premises where prostitution is carried on. When she objects,

Ramesh says she had agreed through messages and cannot leave until the expenses are adjusted. Is Aaliya's consent legally decisive under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because her messages and signed form show prior willingness before the work arrangement changed.
- (b) No, because her consent was affected by deception, expense debt, and vulnerability after relocation.
- (c) Yes, because the expenses were initially paid for travel and accommodation under a work arrangement.
- (d) No, because the later use of premises is enough to outweigh her earlier written consent.

Passage: The doctrines of strict liability and absolute liability are important principles of tort law that impose liability without requiring proof of negligence or wrongful intention. These doctrines are particularly relevant in situations where dangerous or hazardous activities cause harm to persons, property, or the environment. The rule of strict liability, established in *Rylands v. Fletcher*, is based on the principle that a person who introduces and keeps a dangerous thing on his land must bear responsibility if it escapes and causes damage. For strict liability to arise, certain conditions must be satisfied. First, the defendant must have brought or accumulated a dangerous substance or thing on his land, such as toxic chemicals, explosives, gas, or other hazardous materials. Secondly, the dangerous thing must escape from the defendant's land or control and cause damage to another person or property. Thirdly, the defendant must be making a special, extraordinary, or non-natural use of the land that increases the risk of harm to others.

Although strict liability imposes liability without proof of fault, it is subject to certain recognised exceptions. The defendant may avoid liability if the damage was caused by the claimant's own act or negligence. Liability may also be excluded where the damage resulted from an Act of God, meaning a natural event that was unforeseeable and beyond human control. Similarly, the defendant may rely on the defence of an Act of a Stranger if the harm was caused by the unforeseeable act of an independent third party. Another defence is Consent of the Plaintiff (*Volenti Non Fit Injuria*), which applies when the claimant knowingly accepted the risk. In addition, Statutory Authority may serve as a defence where the act causing the damage was authorised by law and carried out without negligence. Indian law developed a stricter doctrine known as absolute liability through the landmark decision in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*. Under this principle, an enterprise engaged in hazardous or inherently dangerous activities owes an absolute and non-delegable duty to ensure that no harm results from such activities. Once harm is caused by a hazardous activity, the enterprise becomes liable irrespective of fault, negligence, or the exercise of reasonable care. Unlike strict liability, no defences are available under the doctrine of absolute liability. Therefore, exceptions such as an act of God, an act of a stranger, the plaintiff's fault, or the plaintiff's consent cannot be used to escape liability. The enterprise is under a mandatory obligation to compensate all victims affected by the hazardous activity. Furthermore, the amount of compensation may depend upon the magnitude of the damage caused and the financial capacity of the enterprise, thereby imposing greater responsibility on larger and more resourceful industries.

[Extracted with edits and revision from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/concept-strict-liability-absolute-liability/>]

59. Sanya AgroTech Ltd. operates a pesticide-formulation unit near Nagpur, where it processes highly toxic vapours as part of its regular production cycle. The company had obtained environmental clearances, installed imported safety valves, conducted monthly inspections, and hired a certified contractor, Darshan Engineering, to replace a pressure sensor in one of the storage tanks. During the repair, a contractor's technician misread the internal pressure level after relying on an older manual gauge, while Sanya's plant supervisor was present but did not interfere because the contractor had specialised expertise. Toxic vapours escaped from the tank, entered a nearby residential school, and caused serious breathing complications among students. Sanya argues that it exercised reasonable care, used certified systems, and that the actual error was committed by the contractor's technician. Is Sanya AgroTech Ltd. liable under the doctrine of absolute liability?

- (a) Yes, because the contractor's mistake shows operational fault connected with Sanya's supervision of the repair work.

- (b) No, because Sanya had obtained clearances, installed safety systems, and relied on certified technical assistance.
- (c) No, because the immediate handling error came from an external technician rather than Sanya's own employee.
- (d) Yes, because the harm arose from hazardous activity, and liability is unaffected by fault, negligence, or reasonable care.

60. Prakriti Metals Pvt. Ltd., a financially strong mining enterprise, operates a hazardous mineral-processing plant in Odisha. A chemical discharge from its plant damages nearby agricultural soil, contaminates a village pond, and forces several families to shift temporarily. In a separate incident, Kavya Solvents, a smaller enterprise with limited assets, releases a similar chemical but the damage is confined to two storage sheds owned by a nearby trader. Both enterprises argue that compensation should be assessed mainly by comparing the quantity of chemical released and the absence of deliberate wrongdoing. Based on the passage, consider the following statements:

- I. The magnitude of damage caused may be relevant while deciding the amount of compensation.
- II. The financial capacity of the enterprise may be considered while fixing responsibility.
- III. The absence of deliberate wrongdoing is the main factor for reducing compensation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one statement is correct.
- (b) Only two statements are correct.
- (c) Only three statements are correct.
- (d) None of the above is correct.

61. Aarav Chemicals stores cylinders of chlorine gas in a fenced industrial shed within its factory premises in Surat. The gas is used in its manufacturing process and is kept under a valid municipal licence. One evening, a newly hired employee, Imran, who had not been properly trained, opened the wrong valve while shifting the cylinders. The gas leaked out of the factory compound and entered the adjoining warehouse of Meera Traders, damaging stored cotton fabric and causing breathing difficulty to two workers. Aarav Chemicals argues that the leak was caused by Imran's negligent handling, and not by any direct act of the company's management. Is Aarav Chemicals liable under the principle of strict liability?

- (a) Yes, because lack of employee training shows negligence, making liability arise from faulty supervision rather than escape of gas.
- (b) No, because the immediate cause was Imran's handling, and the company's management did not release the gas itself.
- (c) Yes, because the company accumulated hazardous gas on its land, and its escape caused damage to another's property.
- (d) No, because the gas was stored for a licensed industrial purpose, and the leak was connected with employee error.

62. Nusrat owns a hill-side cold storage unit in Meghalaya where ammonia-based cooling equipment is installed in a reinforced chamber. The unit is inspected regularly, and no defect is found in the drainage or safety walls. During an unusual night-long cloudburst, the area receives rainfall far beyond the recorded pattern of the region. A sudden landslide caused by the rain diverts a natural stream towards the unit, breaking the outer retaining wall and causing the ammonia chamber to rupture. The leaked substance flows into the neighbouring cardamom plantation owned by Devika, damaging the crop and irrigation pipes. Devika claims that Nusrat should be liable because the harmful substance escaped from her premises and damaged another person's property. Can Nusrat successfully rely on the defence of Act of God?

- (a) Yes, because the damage followed an unforeseeable natural event beyond human control, despite the escape causing property loss.
- (b) No, because any escape of hazardous material from land creating property damage is enough to impose liability.

- (c) Yes, because the rainfall made the storage unit difficult to manage, reducing the degree of care expected from Nusrat.
- (d) No, because the crop damage occurred outside Nusrat's land and involved a dangerous substance from her premises.

63. Raghav runs a small licensed fireworks storage facility on the outskirts of Jaipur. The storage room is locked, guarded, and separated from nearby houses by a safety wall. One night, a group of unidentified thieves enter the premises after cutting the rear fence, disable the alarm, and break open the storage room. While attempting to steal boxes of fireworks, they drop a lit cigarette near the cartons, causing an explosion. The blast damages the boundary wall and several parked vehicles belonging to Farzana, who lives next door. The police report states that Raghav's staff had closed the facility properly and that the intruders were independent outsiders with no connection to the business. Can Raghav rely on the defence of Act of a Stranger?

- (a) No, because fireworks were hazardous materials kept on Raghav's land and later damaged Farzana's vehicles.
- (b) Yes, because the harm was caused by an unforeseeable act of independent outsiders who interfered with the storage.
- (c) No, because the thieves entered through Raghav's fence, making the escape of dangerous material connected with his premises.
- (d) Yes, because the later involvement of independent third parties reduces the importance of Raghav's earlier accumulation of fireworks.

Passage: Promissory estoppel is an equitable doctrine developed to prevent injustice where one party makes a promise and the other party acts upon it. Under ordinary contract law, a promise is generally enforceable only when it is supported by consideration. Section 2(d) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 explains consideration as an act, abstinence or promise done at the desire of the promisor. Section 25 also states that an agreement without consideration is generally void, subject to specific exceptions. Promissory estoppel operates as an equitable exception in suitable cases, because it prevents a promisor from going back on a promise when the promisee has altered his position in reliance on it.

The doctrine applies when one party, by words or conduct, makes a clear and unequivocal promise intended to create or affect a legal relationship. The promisor must know or intend that the promise would be acted upon by the promisee. If the promisee actually acts upon the promise, the promisor may be bound by it, even if there is no formal contract or consideration. The essential requirement is alteration of position by the promisee in reliance on the promise. It is not always necessary to prove monetary loss; it is enough if allowing the promisor to withdraw would be unjust or inequitable.

Promissory estoppel is different from ordinary estoppel under Section 121 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Ordinary estoppel generally prevents a person from denying a representation of existing fact. Promissory estoppel, however, is concerned with a promise or assurance about future conduct. It is based not merely on evidence, but on equity, fairness and good conscience.

The doctrine may also apply against the Government. If the Government makes a clear promise and a citizen acts upon it by changing his position, the Government may be prevented from withdrawing that promise. However, this rule is not unlimited. A government promise cannot be enforced if it is contrary to law, outside statutory power, against public interest, or inconsistent with a change required by public policy. Article 299 of the Constitution requires government contracts to be executed in a prescribed form, but promissory estoppel may still operate as an equitable rule where no unlawful burden is imposed on the State.

The doctrine cannot compel a public authority to act illegally, nor can it prevent the legislature from making or changing law. It also cannot be used when the promise was vague, conditional, unauthorised, or not actually relied

upon. Thus, promissory estoppel balances fairness to the promisee with legality, public interest and lawful exercise of governmental power.

[Extracted with edits and revision from <https://manupatra.com/roundup/376/Articles/The%20Doctrine%20of%20Promissory.pdf>]

64. Zoya, a baker in Cake-Wake Bakers, was promised by a local supermarket chain that they would stock her products for one year if she upgraded her kitchen to meet their food-safety standards. Before making the upgrades, Zoya shared the expected cost with the chain's procurement head, who replied that the upgrade would make her eligible for the annual supply arrangement. Zoya invested her savings into the upgrade, hired additional staff, declined an offer from a major distributor, and printed packaging carrying the supermarket's private label. Two weeks later, the supermarket chain withdrew the arrangement, stating that due to a change in its internal distribution strategy, it could not proceed. Zoya sues, claiming promissory estoppel. Is Zoya's claim likely to succeed?

- (a) No, because the promise was part of a commercial negotiation and Zoya failed to obtain a formal contract as protection.
- (b) No, because the supermarket's internal distribution strategy change gives a commercial reason to withdraw from the arrangement.
- (c) Yes, because Zoya altered her position significantly in reliance on the promise, and withdrawal would be inequitable.
- (d) Yes, because the supermarket's superior commercial position made its assurance enforceable after Zoya acted on it.

65. Vikram, a logistics consultant in Pink Consultancy, negotiated with Apex Logistics for a long-term consultancy arrangement. During the meeting, Apex's head made two written statements: first, "Our company has already filed the mandatory compliance reports for this quarter"; second, "If you design our new route map by next month, we will appoint you as lead consultant for the next two years." Vikram completed the route map, declined smaller consultancy assignments, and later discovered that the compliance reports had not been filed when the statement was made. Apex also refused to appoint him as lead consultant, citing internal restructuring. Which classification is legally accurate?

- (a) Both statements involve promissory estoppel because Vikram relied on them while planning his future career.
- (b) The report statement concerns ordinary estoppel, while the consultant assurance concerns promissory estoppel.
- (c) The report statement concerns promissory estoppel, while the consultant assurance concerns ordinary estoppel.
- (d) Both statements involve ordinary estoppel because they were representations made to influence Vikram's actions.

66. Siddharth Infra secured a written promise from the State of Himgiri that for the next five years, construction firms operating in the newly developed economic zone would be exempt from local water cess. The exemption was announced through an industrial circular and Siddharth Infra began large-scale construction, recruited specialised labour, entered into equipment leases, and reorganised its project pricing based on the exemption. Two years later, the State Legislature enacted a new Water Cess Act mandating payment of the cess by firms in the economic zone, including those that had earlier received exemption assurances. Siddharth Infra invokes promissory estoppel to block the new law. Will the firm succeed?

- (a) Yes, because the firm relied on the government's promise, and the State should not use legislation to defeat an equitable assurance.
- (b) No, because the doctrine cannot prevent the legislature from making or changing law, nor can it compel the State to act illegally.

- (c) No, because absence of an Article 299 contract is a stronger reason than the later Water Cess Act.
 (d) Yes, because the promise was clear and authorised, and the firm had reorganised its business around it.

67. Aaliya Khan, an IT specialist in Winter Company, was told by her firm's manager, "We might consider your transition to the Singapore branch if you perform well and if global project needs arise." The manager also praised her past work and suggested that learning Mandarin could make her profile more suitable for international assignments. Aaliya spent months taking intensive language courses, declined an on-site interview with a competitor, and informed her team that she expected to move overseas. When the firm did not transfer her, she sued, claiming promissory estoppel. Why is her claim likely to fail?

- (a) The promise was too vague and conditional to qualify as a clear and unequivocal promise.
 (b) She failed to prove an exact monetary loss from declining the competitor's interview.
 (c) She made career decisions that were commercially sensible but not tied to a definite assurance.
 (d) Internal transfers involve managerial discretion, making equitable enforcement less suitable here.

68. Nikhil, a contractor, was orally told by a city official, "If you clear the dumping ground site by Friday, we will grant you the contract for the new park." Nikhil used his own heavy equipment, paid workers overtime, and cleared the site before the deadline. Later, the Municipal Corporation refused to grant the contract, stating that the official had no authority to award contracts without committee approval and that the land was under protected conservation status, making park construction legally impermissible. Nikhil argues that the Corporation should be bound because he relied on the official's assurance. Can Nikhil rely on promissory estoppel?

- (a) Yes, because he altered his position by clearing the site after receiving the official assurance.
 (b) Yes, because the official was acting for the Municipal Corporation when he made the promise.
 (c) No, because the doctrine cannot compel a public authority to act illegally or enforce an unauthorised promise.
 (d) No, because an oral assurance from an official requires stronger proof before public liability arises.

Passage: The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 recognises certain defective marriages as void and certain others as voidable. Section 5 prescribes the essential conditions for a valid Hindu marriage. A marriage may be solemnised between two Hindus if neither party has a spouse living at the time of marriage. Both parties must be capable of giving valid consent and must not be affected by unsoundness of mind, a mental disorder making them unfit for marriage and procreation, or recurrent attacks of insanity. The bridegroom must have completed twenty-one years and the bride eighteen years. The parties must not be within prohibited degrees of relationship or be sapindas of each other, unless the custom or usage governing each of them permits such a marriage. However, every breach of Section 5 does not necessarily make the marriage void or voidable.

Section 11 deals with void marriages. A marriage is null and void if it contravenes Section 5(i), Section 5(iv), or Section 5(v). Thus, a marriage is void where either party had a spouse living at the time of marriage, where the parties are within prohibited degrees of relationship, or where they are sapindas of each other without a recognised custom permitting the union. A void marriage is treated as having no legal existence, and either party may seek a decree of nullity. The age condition under Section 5(iii), though mandatory, is not a ground under Section 11 for declaring a marriage void.

Prohibited degrees of relationship cover close relationships by blood, marriage, adoption, full blood, half blood or uterine blood. Sapinda relationship is based on closeness of ancestry, extending up to the third generation through the mother and the fifth generation through the father, with the person concerned counted as the first generation. Such marriages are ordinarily prohibited because the relationship is treated as too close, unless an applicable custom or usage permits them.

Section 12 deals with voidable marriages. Unlike a void marriage, a voidable marriage remains legally effective until annulled by a court at the instance of the aggrieved party. A marriage may be annulled if it has not been consummated owing to the impotence of the respondent. It may also be annulled where the marriage violates

Section 5(ii), or where consent was obtained by force or fraud relating to the nature of the ceremony or any material fact or circumstance concerning the respondent. A marriage is also voidable if the respondent was pregnant by a person other than the petitioner at the time of marriage. These grounds are subject to statutory restrictions, including limitation, knowledge, conduct after discovery, and continuation of marital relations. Section 17 further treats bigamous Hindu marriages as void and attracts criminal liability under the applicable penal law.

[Extracted with edits and revision from <https://lawbhoomi.com/void-and-voidable-marriage-under-hindu-marriage-act/>]

69. Tara was told by both families that a ceremony at Dev's house was only a pre-marriage blessing before the formal wedding. During the ceremony, however, the priest performed the complete marriage rites, and Dev's family later circulated a community notice describing Tara and Dev as married. Tara learnt of this the next morning. She immediately returned to her parents' house, refused to live with Dev, did not resume marital relations, and filed a petition for annulment within three weeks. Dev argues that the marriage cannot be challenged because the ceremony was actually performed and entered in family records. Which classification is most accurate under the passage?

- (a) The marriage is void because fraud relating to the ceremony removes legal existence from the beginning.
- (b) The marriage is valid because the priest performed marriage rites in the presence of both families.
- (c) The marriage is voidable because consent was affected by fraud about the nature of the ceremony.
- (d) The marriage is void because Tara did not continue marital relations after discovering the facts.

70. In the same annulment proceedings, Tara later adds another plea. She claims that Dev had a serious mental condition at the time of marriage, that his family had concealed his earlier treatment, and that after the ceremony he repeatedly failed to understand ordinary marital responsibilities. Dev replies that Tara is only repackaging the earlier fraud claim because the dispute originally arose from the ceremony being represented as a pre-marriage blessing. Tara argues that her new plea is different because it concerns Dev's capacity at the time of marriage, not merely the misleading description of the ceremony. Which conclusion best follows from the passage?

- (a) The plea is not distinct because both allegations arise from deception by Dev's family before marriage.
- (b) The plea is not distinct because concealed medical treatment must be treated only as fraud concerning Dev.
- (c) The plea is distinct because mental capacity at marriage is a separate voidable ground from fraud affecting consent.
- (d) The plea is distinct only if Tara proves that she discovered Dev's condition after filing the first petition.

71. Consider the following three marriage situations under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955:

Statement I: Pranay married Saanvi after executing a notarised separation deed with his first wife, Diya. The deed recorded that Diya would not object to Pranay remarrying, and both families treated the first marriage as "socially over." No decree of divorce had been obtained. Saanvi later sought a declaration that her marriage with Pranay had no legal existence because Diya was living at the time of the second marriage. The marriage between Pranay and Saanvi is void.

Statement II: Harsh, aged twenty years and eleven months, married Nivedita, aged twenty-two years. Their parents had concealed Harsh's exact age from Nivedita's family, though both parties consented to the marriage, neither had a living spouse, and they were not related within prohibited degrees or as sapindas. Nivedita later argued that the marriage should be treated as void because the bridegroom had not completed twenty-one years. The marriage between Harsh and Nivedita is void.

Statement III: Kavisha was told that a ritual being performed with Armaan was a family blessing before engagement, while Armaan's family had arranged the ceremony as a marriage and later represented it as such in community records. After discovering the nature of the ceremony, Kavisha immediately stopped living with Armaan and approached the court for annulment. The marriage between Kavisha and Armaan is voidable.

Which of the above statements correctly classifies the marriage as void or voidable?

- (a) Statement I and II are correct.
- (b) Statement II and III are correct.
- (c) Statement I and III are correct.
- (d) Statement I, II, and III are all correct.

72. Aditi and Kabir wish to marry under Hindu rites. During a family discussion, it is found that Aditi's mother, Nirmala, is the daughter of Shyamlal and Kamla. Kabir's father's mother, Vasudha, is also the daughter of Shyamlal and Kamla. Thus, Nirmala and Vasudha are sisters. Aditi argues that the relationship is distant because Kabir is connected through his father's mother, while Kabir says that Shyamlal and Kamla are still common ancestors within the relevant generational limits. There is no pleaded custom permitting the marriage. Are Aditi and Kabir within sapinda relationship under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because the common ancestors fall within Aditi's third maternal and Kabir's fourth paternal generation.
- (b) Yes, because a shared ancestry through a grandparental line is sufficient for prohibiting the marriage.
- (c) No, because Kabir is linked through his paternal grandmother while Aditi is linked through her mother.
- (d) No, because the common ancestors do not appear in the same numbered generation for both the spouses.

73. Rhea and Manav's marriage was arranged after a short engagement. Before marriage, Rhea had briefly reconciled with her former partner, but her family told Manav that the matter had ended long ago. Two months after the marriage, Rhea gave birth prematurely. Manav initially believed that the child was his because both families said that premature births were common in Rhea's family. Later, medical records and private messages showed that Rhea was already pregnant at the time of marriage and that the child was not Manav's. Rhea argued that Manav had attended the post-marriage medical appointments, accepted gifts at the child's naming ceremony, and delayed filing proceedings while trying to preserve the marriage. Which legal position is most accurate under the passage?

- (a) Manav cannot seek annulment because attending medical appointments shows acceptance of the child.
- (b) Manav can seek annulment because concealment of Rhea's earlier relationship is sufficient by itself.
- (c) Manav's claim succeeds because pregnancy by another person makes the marriage void from inception.
- (d) Manav has a voidable ground, but statutory restrictions on knowledge, delay and conduct remain relevant.

Passage: Sections 29 and 30 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 create statutory presumptions that operate after the prosecution establishes the foundational facts of the case. Under Section 29, where a person is prosecuted for committing, abetting or attempting offences under Sections 3, 5, 7 and 9 of the Act, the Special Court shall presume that such person committed, abetted or attempted the offence, unless the contrary is proved. Under Section 30, where an offence requires a culpable mental state, the Special Court shall presume the existence of such mental state, but the accused may prove that he had no such mental state with respect to the act charged. Culpable mental state includes intention, motive, knowledge of a fact, and belief in, or reason to believe, a fact.

These presumptions are reverse onus provisions because they shift a limited rebuttal burden to the accused once the statutory conditions are satisfied. However, they do not remove the prosecution's initial obligation to establish basic facts bringing the case within POCSO. The status of the victim as a child is a foundational fact, as the Act applies to a person below eighteen years of age. Age may be established through reliable documents such as birth records, school records or medical opinion where documentary proof is unavailable or disputed. Section 34 empowers the Special Court to determine the question of age and record reasons when such issue arises.

Once the Section 29 presumption arises, the accused may rebut it by placing reliable material that makes the prosecution case doubtful or improbable. However, Section 30 contains a specific standard for rebutting the presumption of culpable mental state. It provides that a fact is proved only when the Special Court believes it to exist beyond reasonable doubt, and not merely when its existence is shown by preponderance of probability. Defence material may include contradictions in testimony, absence of opportunity, alibi, contemporaneous documents, or circumstances showing false implication.

Consent of a child is legally irrelevant for offences under POCSO. Therefore, a defence based merely on the child's consent cannot defeat liability if the statutory ingredients are otherwise proved. Section 33 requires the Special

Court to conduct trial in a child-friendly manner, including protection from aggressive questioning and repeated testimony. Section 19 mandates reporting of apprehended or committed offences to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police. The POCSO Rules, 2020 supplement the Act by providing mechanisms for care, protection, assistance and compensation. Together, these provisions strengthen prosecution of child sexual offences while preserving judicial neutrality, fair trial safeguards and the accused's meaningful opportunity to rebut statutory presumptions through reliable evidence placed before the court during trial, without diluting statutory child-protection objectives in practice.

[Extracted with edits and revision from <https://forum.nls.ac.in/slr-forum-blog/rearming-the-pocso-an-analysis-of-the-presumptions-under-the-pocso-act-2012/>]

74. Riya, aged seventeen years and six months, creates a social media profile stating that she is twenty-one years old. She also uses her elder sister's college ID card to enter a cultural festival, where she meets Danish, a twenty-four-year-old photographer. Over the next few weeks, Riya repeatedly tells Danish that she is a final-year college student, sends him edited images of the ID card, and introduces him to friends who also believe she is above eighteen. Danish later develops a physical relationship with her. When Riya's parents file a complaint under POCSO, Danish argues that he honestly believed she was a major and that she had voluntarily represented herself as an adult. What is the legal position?

- (a) Danish may avoid liability because Riya represented herself as a major and voluntarily continued the relationship.
- (b) Danish may rely on his belief about age to contest mental state, but Riya's consent cannot defeat POCSO liability if she was a child.
- (c) Danish may succeed because the use of an adult identity card creates a valid defence against the statutory offence.
- (d) Danish may rely on consent because Riya was close to eighteen and appeared capable of understanding her decision.

75. A fourteen-year-old child, Meher, alleges that Arvind, her music tutor, touched her inappropriately during a closed-door practice session. Arvind admits that he was alone with Meher for twenty minutes but claims that the contact occurred when he adjusted her posture for a performance and that he had no sexual intention, motive, knowledge or reason to believe that his act could be treated as sexual conduct. The prosecution proves Meher's age, the closed-room session, and the physical contact, but Arvind produces CCTV footage from the hallway showing Meher entering and leaving calmly, earlier messages about performance training, and testimony of another student that posture correction was routinely demonstrated in class. Can Arvind rely on absence of culpable mental state under Section 30?

- (a) Yes, because his material is relevant to show absence of the required mental state, though the Special Court will assess whether the statutory standard is met.
- (b) Yes, because calm conduct after the incident makes the allegation weak enough to prevent any presumption from arising under Section 30.
- (c) No, because once physical contact with a child is proved, intention and knowledge are treated as irrelevant to the charge.
- (d) No, because a teacher's professional explanation cannot affect the presumption after the prosecution proves age and contact.

76. Ishan, a fourteen-year-old boy, attends a residential swimming academy. During a counselling session, he tells Saloni, the academy counsellor, that Varun, an assistant coach, had touched him inappropriately during late-evening stretching sessions. Ishan is hesitant to file a complaint because he fears being removed from the team. Saloni informs the academy director, who conducts an internal inquiry, speaks to two senior swimmers, and checks partial CCTV footage from the corridor. Since the footage does not show the stretching room and Ishan's parents ask for quiet handling, the director tells Saloni to wait before informing the police. Varun argues that reporting should be postponed because the academy inquiry has not clearly confirmed the allegation and the child's family is not insisting on a formal complaint. Is Saloni expected to report the matter under the principle stated in the passage?

- (a) Yes, because reporting is required for apprehended or committed POCSO offences, without treating internal confirmation as the controlling test.

- (b) Yes, because reporting becomes proper when the child's disclosure is supported by institutional review and surrounding circumstances.
- (c) No, because the child's parents prefer quiet handling and the academy has already begun an internal fact-checking process.
- (d) No, because corridor footage is inconclusive and reporting may affect Varun before the allegation is tested in trial.

77. Kavya files a complaint under POCSO against Nitin, a dance instructor. Kavya's parents produce a school admission record showing her age as sixteen years and eleven months on the date of the alleged incident. Nitin produces a municipal birth certificate showing that she was eighteen years and two months old. Kavya's parents argue that the school record should be accepted because it was prepared years before the dispute. Nitin argues that the municipal record should be preferred because it appears more formal. The Special Court finds that the age issue directly affects whether POCSO applies and considers whether it should decide the issue itself with reasons. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Special Court may determine Kavya's age when the materials before it create an age dispute.

Statement II: The Special Court should record reasons while deciding the age question arising before it.

Statement III: The age issue may be treated as secondary because the dispute concerns the credibility of two documents.

Statement IV: The age issue is relevant because POCSO protection depends on whether Kavya was a child.

How many statements are true?

- (a) One statement is true.
- (b) Two statements are true.
- (c) Three statements are true.
- (d) Four statements are true.

78. Farhan is prosecuted under POCSO after a twelve-year-old child, Ira, alleges that he repeatedly touched her inappropriately during private tuition sessions. The prosecution proves Ira's age through school records, establishes that Farhan conducted private sessions at his residence, and produces messages fixing the relevant dates. Farhan argues that the prosecution has not proved his guilt beyond doubt at the beginning of trial and therefore no burden can shift to him. He also claims that the presumption is unfair because the child's parents had earlier disputed his tuition fees. Which of the following would most likely follow from the passage, except?

- (a) The presumptions may arise after the prosecution establishes statutory conditions and foundational facts bringing the case within POCSO.
- (b) The accused may carry a limited rebuttal burden once the statutory conditions for the presumptions are satisfied by the prosecution.
- (c) The accused may resist the presumption by relying on reliable defence material after the limited rebuttal burden shifts to him.
- (d) The presumptions may arise because the complaint contains allegations, even before foundational facts connecting the case with POCSO are shown.

Passage: The Supreme Court's 2026 ruling on online gaming and Goods and Services Tax clarified the treatment of real-money gaming within GST framework. The dispute arose because gaming companies claimed that skill-based games should not be taxed like betting or gambling and that GST should apply only to platform fee or commission. The tax authorities argued that where players stake money or money's worth on an uncertain outcome, the activity may fall within betting or gambling for GST purposes. Where participation in an online game is conditioned upon payment or deposit of money or money's worth in the expectation of winning, the distinction between skill and chance becomes irrelevant for GST classification.

Online gaming, fantasy sports, casino activities, lottery, horse racing, betting and gambling involving monetary stakes may be treated as actionable claims connected with betting or gambling. Under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, goods include actionable claims, while Schedule III excludes actionable claims other than specified taxable categories. After the 2023 amendments, online money gaming, betting, casinos, gambling, lottery and horse racing were brought within the taxable framework. The GST Council, functioning under Article 279A of the Constitution, may recommend the taxation structure for such activities.

The valuation issue was central. Gaming companies contended that GST should be levied only on their actual revenue, such as platform fee or commission. The law treats the taxable value of supply of online money gaming as the total amount paid or payable to, or deposited with, the supplier by or on behalf of the player. Therefore, tax may be demanded on the full face value of the stake and not merely on the commission retained by the operator. Any amount returned or refunded by the supplier is not deductible from the value of supply. However, winnings used for further play without withdrawal are not treated as a fresh amount paid or deposited. Thus, tax treatment depends on the statutory valuation rule, not on the operator's net earning.

The ruling also addressed retrospective tax demands. A retrospective tax law is not unconstitutional merely because it affects past transactions. The legislature may clarify, validate or amend tax law retrospectively if it acts within constitutional competence and does not violate constitutional limitations. The Court treated the 2023 amendments as clarificatory or explanatory and upheld retrospective application. Retrospective application allowed tax demands against online gaming companies for earlier periods.

For legal reasoning, commercial labels are not decisive. Calling an activity skill-based entertainment cannot avoid tax liability if statutory ingredients of betting or gambling are satisfied. The ruling also shows that tax law may classify similar economic activities together where the classification has a rational connection with revenue collection and regulation of online betting markets.

[Extracted with edits and revision from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/supreme-court-online-gaming-gst-verdict-retrospective-tax-demand-10711935/>]

79. Prakash Games received GST notices for the period before the 2023 amendments. The company argues that earlier tax demands should fail because, before the amendments, many operators treated skill-based real-money contests as outside the same GST category as betting or gambling. The revenue department responds that the amendments clarified the position of law and can support demands for earlier periods. Investors in the company argue that retrospective demands are unfair because business models and player contracts were designed under the earlier understanding. Which is the most appropriate inference from the passage?

- (a) Retrospective application may stand where the amendments are clarificatory or explanatory in nature.
- (b) Retrospective application may fail because companies relied on earlier commercial understanding.
- (c) Retrospective application may depend on whether player contracts mentioned betting or gambling.
- (d) Retrospective application may be avoided where investors face unexpected financial exposure.

80. Imran joins "FantasyRang," an online fantasy sports platform. He first deposits ₹2,000 and enters a paid cricket contest. He wins ₹9,000 in platform credits that are immediately withdrawable to his bank account. Imran withdraws ₹4,000, leaves ₹5,000 in the platform wallet, and uses that ₹5,000 the next day to join another paid contest without making a bank withdrawal. He also adds ₹700 from his UPI account before entering the second contest. For GST valuation of the second contest, how should the ₹5,000 retained winnings be treated?

- (a) The retained ₹5,000 should be counted because it was used in a later paid contest.
- (b) The retained ₹5,000 should be excluded because it was used without withdrawal.
- (c) The retained ₹5,000 should be deducted because it came from earlier winnings.
- (d) The retained ₹5,000 should depend on the skill element in the earlier contest.

81. Nilofer runs "QuizMint," a real-money trivia platform. During a weekend tournament, players paid ₹2,000 each to enter a prize-linked contest. After complaints about delayed score updates, Nilofer cancelled the final round and returned ₹700 to each player as a "fairness adjustment," while retaining the remaining amount and platform charges. In GST proceedings, she argues that tax should be calculated after reducing the returned amount because

the refund was made before prizes were finally settled and because the platform did not keep that portion. Can Nilofer deduct the refunded amount from the value of supply?

- (a) Yes, because the refund reduced the platform's actual economic receipt from players.
- (b) Yes, because prize settlement was incomplete when the amount was credited back.
- (c) No, because deductibility depends on whether the refund improved player confidence.
- (d) No, because returned or refunded amounts are not deductible from value of supply.

82. Ayesha uses "PlayKart," an online gaming platform. She deposits ₹3,000 in her wallet but does not enter any paid contest, prediction league, lottery, casino game, horse-racing pool or betting arrangement. Due to a technical issue, PlayKart does not immediately return the unused wallet balance and instead issues her a transferable refund claim, under which the platform agrees to pay ₹3,000 after seven days. Ayesha transfers this refund claim to Kabir for ₹2,850. The tax officer seeks GST on the transfer of the refund claim itself, arguing that actionable claims are included within "goods." Which conclusion best follows from the passage?

- (a) The transfer is taxable because the refund claim arose from a gaming platform and was transferred for consideration.
- (b) The transfer is taxable because actionable claims are goods and the platform originally held a player's deposit.
- (c) The transfer is outside supply because it is an actionable claim other than a specified actionable claim.
- (d) The transfer is outside supply because unused wallet balances are not linked with platform revenue.

83. Rihaan operates "TradeMind Arena," an online platform where users first complete free lessons on commodity markets and then enter paid prediction leagues. To join a league, each user deposits ₹1,000 in the platform wallet. The platform deducts ₹80 as a facilitation fee, pools the remaining amount, and awards cash-convertible vouchers to users whose predictions about price movements are closest to actual market data. Rihaan argues that the activity is educational, requires market research, uses transparent scoring, and involves no casino-style randomness. The tax department seeks to classify the paid leagues under GST as online money gaming. Can Rihaan resist GST classification on the ground that the contests are skill-based?

- (a) Yes, because correct predictions require research, judgment and market knowledge rather than chance-based participation.
- (b) Yes, because the platform describes the contests as educational leagues and charges a separate facilitation fee.
- (c) No, because players pay money or money's worth in expectation of winning, making skill-chance distinction irrelevant.
- (d) No, because GST classification depends on the platform's commission model and pool-settlement arrangement.

84. Assertion (A): For online money gaming, GST valuation may be based on the total amount paid or deposited by the player, rather than the platform fee or commission retained by the operator.

Reason (R): Schedule III treats specified actionable claims as activities or transactions which shall be treated neither as supply of goods nor as supply of services.

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

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Directions for Q85 - Q90: Twelve students, Aarna, Brij, Chirag, Diya, Eshan, Farah, Gagan, Hiral, Ishaan, Jatin, Kavya and Lakshya, are the only participants in an inter-college case-study competition. They are from exactly four colleges, namely Nalanda, Takshila, Vidarbha and Ujjain. Each student belongs to exactly one college.

The number of participants from no two colleges is the same.

The following additional information is known:

- (i) Nalanda has exactly one participant more than Takshila, and no college has more participants than Nalanda.
- (ii) Chirag and Gagan are from the same college.
- (iii) Diya, Gagan, Ishaan and Lakshya are from four different colleges.
- (iv) Brij is from the same college as Lakshya.
- (v) Farah, Jatin and Kavya are from the same college, but not from Nalanda.
- (vi) Hiral is not from the college that has exactly two participants. Vidarbha has exactly two participants.
- (vii) Exactly two of Aarna, Brij and Hiral are from the college with the maximum number of participants.

85. Which of the following pairs must belong to the same college?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Aarna and Chirag | (b) Diya and Farah |
| (c) Ishaan and Jatin | (d) Lakshya and Gagan |

86. Which of the following students is definitely from the college having exactly two participants?

- (a) Brij
- (b) Diya
- (c) Farah
- (d) Hiral

87. Which of the following students can be, but need not be, from Ujjain?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) Diya | (b) Brij |
| (c) Farah | (d) Gagan |

88. If Diya is from Takshila, which of the following is definitely true?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Ishaan is from Ujjain. | (b) Lakshya is from Takshila. |
| (c) Brij is from Nalanda. | (d) Hiral is from Vidarbha. |

89. If Ishaan and Kavya are from different colleges, which of the following must be true?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Diya is from Takshila. | (b) Brij is from Ujjain. |
| (c) Farah is from Vidarbha. | (d) Chirag is from Takshila. |

90. The colleges of how many students can be definitely determined?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 8 | (b) 9 |
| (c) 10 | (d) 11 |

Directions for Q.91 – Q.96: Ten members of an extended family, Aarav, Bhumi, Cyrus, Devika, Eshan, Farah, Gagan, Hiral, Ishaan and Jiya, are participating in a strategy event. They are seated in ten houses located on two sides of a straight road. There are five houses on the northern side and five houses on the southern side. The northern-side houses face south, and the southern-side houses face north. Thus, houses in the same column are exactly opposite each other.

The five columns are arranged from west to east. A house on one side is diagonally across from a house on the other side if it lies in the immediately adjacent column on the other side of the road.

The family information is as follows:

Aarav is married to Bhumi. They have three children, Cyrus, Devika and Eshan.

Cyrus is married to Farah, and they have exactly one child, Gagan.

Devika is married to Hiral.

Eshan is unmarried.

Ishaan is Aarav's brother, and Jiya is Ishaan's daughter.

All marriages mentioned are between one male and one female.

Each person belongs to exactly one of four teams: Orion, Vega, Sirius and Zenith. No team is empty.

The following information is known:

- (i) The four teams have different numbers of members.
- (ii) Orion has exactly one member more than Vega, and no team has more members than Orion.
- (iii) Gagan, Gagan's father and both paternal grandparents of Gagan belong to Orion.
- (iv) Gagan's mother, Gagan's unmarried paternal uncle and the daughter of Gagan's granduncle belong to Vega.
- (v) Sirius has fewer members than Vega but more members than Zenith.
- (vi) Devika and her spouse belong to the same team.
- (vii) Gagan's paternal grandfather lives exactly opposite his spouse and has exactly two houses to his west on his own side.
- (viii) Gagan's mother lives immediately west of Gagan's paternal grandmother.
- (ix) Gagan lives exactly opposite his mother.
- (x) The brother of Gagan's paternal grandfather lives immediately west of Gagan.
- (xi) Gagan's father lives immediately east of Gagan's paternal grandfather.
- (xii) Gagan's paternal aunt lives immediately east of Gagan's father.
- (xiii) The spouse of Gagan's paternal aunt lives exactly opposite her.
- (xiv) Gagan's unmarried paternal uncle lives immediately west of Gagan's mother.
- (xv) The daughter of Gagan's granduncle lives on the northern side and is diagonally across from Gagan's paternal aunt.

91. Who lives in the north-east corner house?

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| (a) Devika | (b) Hiral |
| (c) Jiya | (d) Cyrus |

92. Which pair of Orion members lives exactly opposite each other?

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Gagan and Farah | (b) Aarav and Bhumi |
| (c) Cyrus and Jiya | (d) Devika and Hiral |

93. Which team does the person in the south-west corner belong to?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) Orion | (b) Vega |
| (c) Zenith | (d) Sirius |

94. Starting from the house of the only Zenith member, one moves one column east on the same side, then crosses the road to the opposite house, then moves two columns east on that side, and finally crosses the road again. Whose house is reached?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (a) Cyrus | (b) Devika |
| (c) Hiral | (d) Bhumi |

95. How is the person in the south-west corner related to the person in the north-west corner?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Maternal uncle | (b) Paternal uncle |
| (c) Father-in-law | (d) Elder brother |

96. Which of the following statements must be true?

- (a) Every Sirius member lives on the southern side.
- (b) Every Orion member lives on the northern side.
- (c) Exactly two Orion members live on the northern side.
- (d) Every Vega member lives on the northern side.

Directions for Q97 - Q102: Eight persons, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V and W, were sitting around a circular table with eight equally spaced chairs. All of them were facing the centre. There are exactly four married couples among the eight persons. Among them, P, R, V and W are males, while Q, S, T and U are females. Each person wore a dress of one of three colours: Red, Blue and Green.

It is known that any two persons wearing a dress of the same colour neither sit adjacent to each other nor sit opposite each other. Further, any two persons married to each other do not wear a dress of the same colour, do not sit adjacent to each other and do not sit opposite each other.

Further, it is also known that:

- (i) P, who was wearing a Green dress, was sitting opposite T, who was wearing a Blue dress.
- (ii) W, who was wearing a Blue dress, was sitting opposite S.
- (iii) Q, who was wearing a Red dress, was sitting immediately clockwise of P and immediately anticlockwise of R.
- (iv) Q is the spouse of W, while U is the spouse of R.
- (v) V, who was not wearing a Blue dress, is not the spouse of S.

97. Who among the following is definitely sitting adjacent to V?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| (a) P | (b) U |
| (c) Q | (d) S |

98. What is the colour of the dress of the spouse of P?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| (a) Red | (b) Blue |
| (c) Green | (d) Cannot be determined |

99. Both the persons sitting adjacent to which of the following persons are wearing dresses of the same colour?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| (a) P | (b) Q |
| (c) R | (d) V |

100. The spouse of which of the following persons is wearing a Green dress?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| (a) Q | (b) R |
| (c) V | (d) W |

101. Who is sitting immediately clockwise of T?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| (a) U | (b) V |
| (c) S | (d) W |

102. Which of the following statements must be true?

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) P and W are wearing dresses of the same colour. | (b) The spouse of Q is sitting opposite S. |
| (c) V is wearing a Blue dress. | (d) T is sitting adjacent to P. |

Directions for Q103 - Q108: A five-letter word with distinct letters is coded using the following rules:

A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, and so on up to Z = 26.

Only A, E, I, O and U are vowels.

The first alphabetic symbol is obtained by adding the alphabetic positions of the 1st, 3rd and 5th letters of the word. If the sum exceeds 26, keep subtracting 26 until the result lies between 1 and 26.

The second alphabetic symbol is obtained by adding the alphabetic positions of the 2nd and 4th letters of the word. If the sum exceeds 26, keep subtracting 26 until the result lies between 1 and 26.

The numeric part has two digits. The first digit is the number of letters whose alphabetic positions are even. The second digit is the number of vowels placed in odd-numbered positions of the word.

The final alphabetic symbol is obtained from the positive difference between the sum of consonant positions and the sum of vowel positions. If the difference exceeds 26, keep subtracting 26 until the result lies between 1 and 26. If the difference is 0, write Z.

The final code is written as: first alphabetic symbol, second alphabetic symbol, numeric part, final alphabetic symbol.

103. What is the code for PLANE?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) VZ-32-J | (b) VY-31-J |
| (c) UZ-32-K | (d) VZ-22-I |

104. What is the code for CRUDE?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) CV-22-A | (b) CW-22-A |
| (c) CV-21-B | (d) BV-22-A |

105. Which word gives the code SN-20-E?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) TIGER | (b) TIMER |
| (c) RIVET | (d) GRACE |

106. What is the code for FROST?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) OK-31-V | (b) OL-31-V |
| (c) OK-30-U | (d) NK-31-W |

107. Which word has the second alphabetic symbol T and numeric part 22?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) WHALE | (b) CRUDE |
| (c) ROAST | (d) BRICK |

108. Which of the following codes cannot belong to a word having exactly three letters with even alphabetic positions and exactly one vowel in an odd-numbered position?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) QY-31-D | (b) OK-31-V |
| (c) VZ-32-J | (d) GA-31-N |

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]: The Jabalpur Municipal Water Board planned a one-day tanker supply rotation for four localities named Shastri Nagar, Narmada Colony, Vivekanand Ward and Tilak Vihar. Shastri Nagar had 720 households, divided between flat households and independent-house households in the ratio 5:4. Each flat household in Shastri Nagar was entitled to 135 litres, and each independent-house household was entitled to 180 litres. Narmada Colony had 640 households, divided in the ratio 3:5 between flat households and independent-house households. Each flat household there was entitled to 150 litres, and each independent-house household was entitled to 210 litres. Vivekanand Ward had 840 households, divided in the ratio 4:3 between flat households and independent-house households. Each flat household there was entitled to 120 litres, and each independent-house household was entitled to 165 litres. Tilak Vihar had 600 households, divided in the ratio 2:3 between flat households and independent-house households. Each flat household there was entitled to 160 litres, and each independent-house household was entitled to 200 litres. Every tanker was loaded with 6,000 litres, but 8% of the loaded water was lost before delivery due to unavoidable transit loss. The board first calculated the total deliverable requirement of all four localities and then planned tanker trips accordingly.

109. Which of the following is the minimum number of tanker trips required to meet the full water requirement of all four localities?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) 82 trips | (b) 83 trips |
| (c) 84 trips | (d) 85 trips |

110. Which locality had the highest share of independent-house demand in its own total water demand?

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Tilak Vihar | (b) Narmada Colony |
| (c) Shastri Nagar | (d) Vivekanand Ward |

111. If only 72 tanker trips were available, and the board first supplied all flat households fully before distributing the remaining water equally among all independent-house households, what percentage of the original Narmada Colony independent-house quota would each such household receive?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) 72.4% | (b) 65.8% |
| (c) 75.2% | (d) 69.9% |

112. If Vivekanand Ward reduced the flat-household quota by 12.5% and the independent-house quota by 10%, while all other localities remained unchanged, how many fewer tanker trips would be required?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 2 trips | (b) 3 trips |
| (c) 4 trips | (d) 5 trips |

113. If the board did not allow a tanker trip to be split between two localities, how many extra trips would be needed over the pooled requirement, and which locality would have the second-highest surplus delivered water?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) 2 extra trips, Narmada Colony | (b) 1 extra trip, Vivekanand Ward |
| (c) 1 extra trip, Shastri Nagar | (d) 2 extra trips, Tilak Vihar |

114. If delivered water was charged at ₹18 per 100 litres for flat households and ₹12 per 100 litres for independent-house households, but 20% of Narmada Colony's independent-house households did not pay, what was the total collection?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) ₹64,224 | (b) ₹62,880 |
| (c) ₹65,760 | (d) ₹63,540 |

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]: A women's self-help group federation in Chhindwara received a corporate order for three types of festival gift hampers: Basic, Family and Premium. The client required the hampers to be packed in the fixed ratio 5:3:2 respectively. A Basic hamper contained 2 millet packets, 1 pickle jar and 1 cloth bag. A Family hamper contained 3 millet packets, 2 pickle jars, 1 spice box and 2 cloth bags. A Premium hamper contained 4 millet packets, 3 pickle jars, 2 spice boxes and 2 cloth bags. The federation had 1,780 millet packets, 1,120 pickle jars, 760 spice boxes and 980 cloth bags in stock. The component cost was ₹42 per millet packet, ₹75 per pickle jar, ₹60 per spice box and ₹38 per cloth bag. Packing labour cost was ₹18 per Basic hamper, ₹24 per Family hamper and ₹30 per Premium hamper. The selling prices were ₹260 for Basic, ₹520 for Family and ₹760 for Premium. The federation had to maintain the client's ratio exactly while deciding the maximum number of hampers.

115. What is the maximum total number of hampers that can be prepared while maintaining the required ratio?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) 640 hampers | (b) 650 hampers |
| (c) 660 hampers | (d) 625 hampers |

116. After preparing the maximum number of hampers, which unused component had the highest unused value?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (a) Pickle jars | (b) Cloth bags |
| (c) Spice boxes | (d) Millet packets |

117. What is the total profit from the maximum possible order?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) ₹47,980 | (b) ₹51,240 |
| (c) ₹48,675 | (d) ₹49,335 |

118. By how much should the selling price of each Basic hamper be increased so that total profit from Basic hampers becomes equal to total profit from Premium hampers?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) ₹11.40 | (b) ₹12.80 |
| (c) ₹10.60 | (d) ₹13.20 |

119. A transport van can carry 80 Basic hampers, or 55 Family hampers, or 40 Premium hampers in one full trip. Mixed loading is counted proportionately. What is the minimum number of van trips required to transport the maximum possible order?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) 10 trips | (b) 12 trips |
| (c) 11 trips | (d) 13 trips |

120. After completing the maximum ratio-based order, the federation used all leftover pickle jars to make additional Basic hampers. It bought only the extra millet packets and cloth bags required, both at 10% above the original cost. Considering only additional sales, additional purchases and additional labour, what was the additional cash surplus?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) ₹2,840 | (b) ₹2,981 |
| (c) ₹3,060 | (d) ₹2,745 |

Rough Work
