

UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

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QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG02

AILET MOCK - 2

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 minutes)

Maximum Marks: 150

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 150 (One hundred and Fifty) Multiple Choice Questions across 36 (Thirty Six) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You shall enter your Admit Card No. on the first page of the QB at the start of the test.
3. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response Sheet with the fresh QB.
5. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
6. The QB for the Undergraduate Programme is for 150 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

I. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate response.

Passage: Before dawn, the birder is already in place, standing at the edge of a marsh so still he could be mistaken for a post. He listens before he looks. One call from the reeds, one dark stroke across the water, one flicker of movement against the whitening sky, and he is already sorting possibilities the rest of us would miss entirely. To him, the world is a field of distinctions. He has spent years training himself to notice what other people pass through.

We still talk about expertise as though it must arrive with credentials attached. We trust the institutional badge and professional title. Yet some of the most exacting experts are amateurs in the old sense of the word: people driven first by love, then by habit, then by discipline. Their authority comes from repetition. They return to the same things until they begin to see structure where others see background. They do not skim. They stay.

That staying can look ridiculous. Obsessive people are easy to parody. They care too much and talk too long. But follow an obsession long enough, and the joke changes. Excess becomes craft, even service. Amateur expertise sharpens memory and teaches pattern recognition; it preserves fragile knowledge that institutions can ignore until it is nearly gone. The person who memorizes migration routes or maps back roads is doing more than indulging a private fixation—they are refusing to let things disappear simply because they fall outside the usual measures of importance. Modern life encourages us to know a little about a great many things and then move on. Platforms reward reaction more than return. To care intensely about one narrow subject is to reject the idea that value must be broad, immediate, or easily monetized. So while fixation can seem bizarre, it is also to resist the thinning of attention that modern life demands.

None of this makes obsession pure or harmless. It can isolate. It can distort proportion. It can become a refuge from other kinds of life. The line between devotion and compulsion is not always clean, and the best stories about obsessive people do not pretend otherwise. What they show instead is that sustained attention changes the person who gives it. Sometimes that change produces beauty. Sometimes it produces trouble. Often it produces both.

What links the stories in this list is not mere quirk but consequence. Each one begins with a narrow subject and opens onto something larger; private devotion spilling outward into public value. Read together, these pieces offer a defense of depth: of learning for its own sake and deciding that one small corner of the world deserves to be known, properly.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://longreads.com/2026/06/18/reading-list-amateur-experts/>

1. What is the central concern raised in the passage regarding modern expertise?

- (a) Credentials can obscure knowledge earned through sustained attention
- (b) Institutions fail because formal experts lack all lived experience
- (c) Amateur authority matters only after public certification
- (d) Expertise becomes valid when private interest replaces discipline

2. Which of the following best explains the birder's role in the passage?

- (a) He shows how instinct can substitute for repeated practice
- (b) He embodies perception refined through disciplined attention
- (c) He proves that amateur knowledge must become institutional
- (d) He represents obsession detached from any larger consequence

3. Based on the passage, how does amateur authority mainly develop?

- (a) Through personal attachment that later receives institutional endorsement
- (b) Through professional habits that eventually replace private devotion
- (c) Through repeated return that converts unnoticed detail into structure
- (d) Through broad exposure that prevents attention from becoming obsessive

4. Why does the author say “the joke changes” when obsession continues?

- (a) Obsession becomes harmless once it receives public admiration
- (b) Ridicule fades because amateurs eventually gain credentials
- (c) Excess becomes valuable only when it is monetized
- (d) Fixation may mature into craft and service

5. The phrase “thinning of attention” in the passage refers to:

- (a) A decline in sensory accuracy caused by excessive observation
- (b) A cultural drift toward quick reaction rather than sustained return
- (c) A narrowing of expertise caused by professional specialization
- (d) A loss of institutional interest in formally unrecorded knowledge

6. Which assumption would most weaken the author’s defence of amateur expertise?

- (a) Modern platforms often reward quick reactions
- (b) Obsession can sometimes distort personal proportion
- (c) Narrow devotion rarely preserves neglected knowledge
- (d) Institutions may overlook fragile knowledge initially

7. Which statement would the author most likely agree with?

- (a) Broad familiarity becomes valuable only when monetized
- (b) Obsession is defensible because it never distorts proportion
- (c) Institutions are incapable of producing genuine expertise
- (d) Sustained private attention can acquire public consequence

8. What is the author’s final defence of obsessive attention?

- (a) Obsession becomes defensible only when it acquires public utility
- (b) Narrow devotion is valuable because it protects institutional memory
- (c) Depth matters chiefly when it prevents personal distortion
- (d) A small subject may deserve careful knowledge for its own sake

II. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate response.

Passage: Scientists have created a digital reconstruction of the world’s most endangered marine mammal, preserving its anatomy in three dimensions to aid research and conservation efforts as the species teeters on the brink of extinction. The project digitised the skeleton of a female vaquita, a small porpoise found only in Mexico’s northern Gulf of California, using a combination of medical imaging, ultra-high-resolution micro-CT scans and photography. Researchers have made the imaging freely available online to ensure that the complete skeleton – of which only a few are thought to exist – can be studied by scientists around the world without risking damage to the rare and fragile physical specimens. We want to influence conservation and awareness of the vaquita, but what it boils down to is open access datasets for biodiversity. There’s this whole web [of information] that can be shared to study biodiversity, conservation, evolution – there’s so many things that can come from one dataset.

A 1997 survey reported about 600 vaquitas in the wild. Today, the WWF estimates there are between seven and 10, making it the rarest marine mammal on Earth. Its decline has been driven by bycatch in gillnets used by illegal fisheries targeting totoaba, a large fish whose bladder commands high prices on international hidden markets. The research team, led by Florida Atlantic University, San Diego Natural History Museum, SeaWorld California and NOAA Fisheries, based the project on a complete female skeleton collected in 1966. The study, published in the journal *Marine Mammal Science*, combined hospital-grade CT scanning with microscopic CT imaging capable of revealing structures smaller than the width of a human hair. Thousands of scan slices were then assembled into three-dimensional models of every bone. The techniques allowed researchers to create a highly detailed model, from the overall skeleton down to microscopic bone structures. Because vaquita skeletons are so rare, access to them is limited. Knaub said the imaging

could be used to produce accurate replicas for museum exhibits and classrooms, helping introduce more people to the species.

Advances in imaging technology over the past decade have increased efforts to digitise museum collections. Digitised projects such as oVert in the US and Ozboneviz in Australia aim to make rare specimens accessible to researchers worldwide, removing the need to rely on photographs or gain permission to examine delicate originals. There's a lot of people who don't have access to museum specimens, or museums are wary of loaning out specimens because of how fragile or rare they are. The vaquita was only recognised as a species in 1958. Growing to about 5ft in length, it is the smallest member of the whale, dolphin and porpoise family and is distinguished by dark markings around its eyes and mouth.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/20/vaquita-porpoise-worlds-rarest-skeleton-preserved-digital-imaging-aoe>

9. What is the primary purpose of the vaquita reconstruction project?

- (a) To replace conservation fieldwork with anatomical modelling
- (b) To turn a rare physical specimen into a shared research resource
- (c) To prove that museum replicas can restore endangered populations
- (d) To classify the vaquita mainly through public exhibition material

10. Which concern is mainly addressed through open online imaging?

- (a) Fragile specimens being difficult to examine without risking damage
- (b) Researchers lacking interest in physical museum collections
- (c) Digital datasets making original skeletons scientifically irrelevant
- (d) Classroom replicas limiting access to professional researchers

11. What does the population comparison from 1997 to today indicate?

- (a) The living population has collapsed toward near-extinction scarcity.
- (b) Skeleton scarcity explains the fall in population estimates.
- (c) Species recognition caused the later conservation crisis.
- (d) Museum access limits make the vaquita seem rarer than it is.

12. What is the immediate human-linked cause of vaquita decline?

- (a) Scientific removal of rare skeletons from the Gulf of California
- (b) Incidental capture in gillnets meant for illegal totoaba fishing
- (c) Public demand for vaquita replicas in museum and classroom settings
- (d) Reduced conservation attention caused by digital reconstruction

13. Why is the totoaba market relevant to vaquita conservation?

- (a) It turns demand for another species into a vaquita threat
- (b) It shows specimen collection caused the vaquita's decline
- (c) It makes classroom replicas commercially necessary
- (d) It proves vaquitas are hunted for their own bladders

14. What is most reasonably implied by the vaquita being "only recognised as a species in 1958"?

- (a) Its decline began after illegal fisheries first appeared.
- (b) Its scientific recognition came relatively late in time.
- (c) Its identity still depends on classroom replicas.
- (d) Its species status rests on complete skeletons alone.

15. What does the statement about "so many things" coming from one dataset suggest?

- (a) Open biodiversity data can support multiple lines of scientific and conservation inquiry.
- (b) A single dataset can remove the need for action against illegal fishing practices.
- (c) Digital information makes the original skeleton scientifically irrelevant after scanning.

(d) Biodiversity research becomes useful only when it produces museum exhibition material.

16. What educational benefit does Knaub associate with imaging?

- (a) It shifts conservation education away from public awareness
- (b) It confines vaquita learning to researchers with museum permission
- (c) It enables accurate replicas that introduce the species safely
- (d) It makes physical museums unnecessary for biodiversity teaching

17. Why is the 1966 female skeleton significant in the project?

- (a) It was selected because the vaquita had not yet been recognised as a species.
- (b) It proved that current vaquita population estimates depend on old skeleton counts.
- (c) It became a rare complete basis for present anatomical reconstruction.
- (d) It showed that museum specimens are useful only after public display begins.

18. Which statement best captures the vaquita's biological and geographical specificity in the passage?

- (a) A Gulf porpoise with dark facial markings.
- (b) A rare museum skeleton with classroom replicas.
- (c) A totoaba-like fish with hidden-market value.
- (d) A large ocean whale with worldwide distribution.

III. Read the book descriptions for three different books and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate response.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis	The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss
In <i>The Hobbit</i> , J.R.R. Tolkien tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, a quiet hobbit who is unexpectedly drawn into an adventurous journey with a group of dwarves seeking to reclaim their lost kingdom. Along the way, Bilbo encounters trolls, goblins, elves, dragons, and other extraordinary creatures that test his courage and resourcefulness. Through these experiences, he discovers strengths he never knew he possessed. Tolkien combines rich imagination with themes of friendship, bravery, and personal growth. The novel serves as both an exciting adventure and an introduction to the larger world of Middle-earth, making it a timeless classic of fantasy literature.	In <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> , C.S. Lewis tells the story of four siblings who discover the magical land of Narnia through an ordinary wardrobe. They soon find themselves involved in a struggle between the White Witch, who has plunged the land into endless winter, and Aslan, the noble lion who represents hope and justice. As the children face difficult choices, they learn lessons about courage, responsibility, and forgiveness. Lewis combines fantasy with moral themes, creating a memorable story that explores the triumph of good over evil through imagination and adventure.	In <i>The Name of the Wind</i> , Patrick Rothfuss recounts the life of Kvothe, a gifted musician, scholar, and magician whose remarkable achievements have become legendary. Narrating his own story, Kvothe describes his childhood hardships, education at a prestigious university, and relentless search for the mysterious beings responsible for his family's death. Rothfuss blends magic, music, folklore, and philosophy into a carefully developed fantasy world. Through themes of knowledge, ambition, memory, and identity, the novel explores the making of a legend while questioning the difference between truth and reputation.

19. According to Tolkien's portrayal of Bilbo, adventure primarily serves to:

- (a) reveal untested capacities through encounters beyond ordinary comfort
- (b) detach Middle-earth's imaginative setting from inner transformation
- (c) replace shared struggle with self-contained heroic independence
- (d) preserve Bilbo's quiet nature from disruptive moral experience

20. From Lewis's narrative, one may reasonably infer that Narnia's conflict:

- (a) makes imagination superior to ethical responsibility.

- (b) treats evil as merely seasonal inconvenience.
- (c) reduces justice to ordinary childhood obedience.
- (d) externalizes moral struggle through magical opposition.

21. The phrase “making of a legend” most nearly suggests:

- (a) public fame secured independently of memory or narration
- (b) identity fixed before hardship gives it narrative shape
- (c) inherited giftedness replacing experience as the basis of reputation
- (d) reputation formed through narrated hardship, memory, and achievement

22. In the context of the passage, consider the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R), and select the appropriate option:

Assertion (A): Kvothe’s story is not presented merely as a list of legendary achievements.

Reason (R): His self-narration links achievement with memory, identity, truth, and reputation.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) does not explain (A).
- (b) (A) is false, but (R) is true.
- (c) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) explains (A).
- (d) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

23. Which contrast between Bilbo and Kvothe is best supported by the passage?

- (a) Bilbo questions truth; Kvothe avoids remembered identity.
- (b) Bilbo rejects hardship; Kvothe escapes personal history.
- (c) Bilbo seeks public fame; Kvothe prefers domestic peace.
- (d) Bilbo discovers strength; Kvothe examines legend and reputation.

24. If Rothfuss responded to Tolkien’s focus on Bilbo’s growth, he would most likely add that:

- (a) fantasy should avoid philosophical reflection.
- (b) identity is shaped by memory and reputation.
- (c) legends require escape from personal history.
- (d) courage matters only without intellectual ambition.

25. Which statement best captures the different narrative functions of fantasy in all three works?

- (a) Quest reveals growth; conflict tests ethics; narration probes legend.
- (b) Quest prevents growth; conflict avoids ethics; narration erases legend.
- (c) Quest builds setting; conflict gives spectacle; narration proves inheritance.
- (d) Quest rejects trial; conflict removes choice; narration denies memory.

26. According to the passage, which novel most directly questions public image?

- (a) The Hobbit, through Bilbo’s discovery of hidden courage
- (b) The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, through Aslan’s justice
- (c) The Name of the Wind, through truth and reputation
- (d) The Hobbit, through Middle-earth’s larger imaginative world

27. Which statement best represents a common concern across the three books?

- (a) Fantasy examines how character is shaped through experience, choice, and narration.
- (b) Fantasy treats magical danger as separate from inner or moral development.
- (c) Fantasy presents reputation as more reliable than truth and personal memory.
- (d) Fantasy depends on removing ordinary human concerns from imagined worlds.

IV. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate response.

Passage: Being a human is hard. We know the sorts of choices we ought to make, and we earnestly intend to make them, but when the time comes, we don’t. We want to lose weight, but we eat a sundae. We want to get in shape, but we sit on the couch. We want to save money, but we buy a plane ticket to Italy.

Funnily enough, scientists can't agree why this is.

The dominant idea in psychology and popular culture alike is that we have a part of our brain that is rational and knows what's good for us, and another part that's impulsive and wants bad things. They struggle on and on and eventually the rational part gets tired and gives in. Game over. It's a depressing picture. What you might not have heard, though, is that in recent years a competing model has emerged from the field of addiction studies. In this conception, the human brain doesn't have two warring parts, but one unitary system that prioritizes immediately rewarding options over those that pay off later. The struggle, then, isn't really between good and bad, but between the future and the present. And what's exciting about this way of looking at things is that not only does this explain why some people can, and do, win the battle against temptation, but it also gives the rest of us a strategy for how we can do the same. Of course, if we're going to talk about self-control, we have to talk about Stanford psychologist Walter Mischel, who in the late 1960s and early '70s famously gave 4-year-olds the choice between one snack-treat right away or two in fifteen minutes. When, years later, Mischel checked in on the participants in the so-called Marshmallow Test, he found that those who had waited did better in life in all sorts of ways. He concluded that they must possess a stable mental aptitude with which to beat back urges. In other words, willpower.

About three decades later, another psychologist, Roy Baumeister at Case Western Reserve University, developed ego-depletion theory to explain why people who try to do the right thing often wind up failing. He explained that, like a muscle, willpower eventually gets depleted and stops working. This willpower-as-muscle idea has been incredibly influential both in the field of psychology and in the popular culture. Just about every self-help book is based on it; in 2011, Baumeister co-authored his own best seller on it. In the last few years, however, a replication crisis has been ripping through social psychology, and ego depletion hasn't fared well.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thecut.com/2017/01/to-change-your-life-learn-how-to-trust-your-future-self.html>

28. Which of the following best captures the passage's opening claim about human behaviour?

- (a) Moral knowledge routinely guarantees disciplined action.
- (b) Human failure often arises despite knowing the better course.
- (c) Temptation matters only when people lack future goals.
- (d) Sincere intentions usually remove present-moment conflict.

29. What is the function of the examples of sundae, couch, and plane ticket?

- (a) They distinguish moral failure from ordinary preference
- (b) They show future goals vanish when pleasure becomes available
- (c) They prove that behavioural failure follows from ignorance
- (d) They make the gap between intention and action concrete

30. What does the phrase "Game over" imply in the older psychological model?

- (a) Rational control collapses once it is imagined as exhausted
- (b) Impulse weakens after reason identifies the better course
- (c) Temptation disappears when self-control first begins
- (d) The older model rejects inner conflict as a false picture

31. Which assumption underlies the newer addiction-studies model of self-control?

- (a) Moral knowledge fails only when people misunderstand future goals.
- (b) Rational and impulsive brain parts must keep defeating each other.
- (c) Children who delay rewards necessarily retain lifelong willpower.
- (d) Present rewards can outweigh future benefits within one decision system.

32. Which statement best captures the difference between Mischel's inference and Baumeister's later theory?

- (a) Mischel treats willpower as a stable aptitude, while Baumeister treats it as a depletable resource.

- (b) Mischel denies that urges exist, while Baumeister treats temptation as childhood conditioning.
- (c) Mischel explains failure through addiction, while Baumeister rejects psychological explanation.
- (d) Mischel treats self-control as impossible, while Baumeister treats it as permanently fixed.

33. Which best describes the movement of the passage before it discusses Mischel and Baumeister?

- (a) It moves from everyday self-control failures to competing scientific explanations.
- (b) It moves from laboratory proof to the conclusion that temptation has no structure.
- (c) It moves from addiction studies to a rejection of all psychological testing.
- (d) It moves from childhood success to proof that self-help theories cannot be questioned.

34. What did Mischel infer from the Marshmallow Test results?

- (a) Immediate rewards lacked real appeal for children who waited
- (b) Later success depended on avoiding all present pleasures
- (c) Waiting reflected a stable capacity to resist immediate urges
- (d) Self-control was caused by depletion of temptation itself

35. What does the “willpower-as-muscle” idea suggest?

- (a) Correct knowledge prevents later behavioural failure
- (b) Repeated self-control can deplete the capacity to resist
- (c) Childhood waiting permanently removes future temptation
- (d) Temptation weakens because willpower remains stable

36. What is implied by saying ego depletion “hasn’t fared well”?

- (a) Its self-help popularity replaced scientific testing
- (b) Its claim became irrelevant before replication attempts
- (c) Replication problems have weakened confidence in the theory
- (d) It displaced Mischel’s work by becoming more accepted

V. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate response.

Passage: Life in the California Gold Rush was notoriously hardscrabble and lacking in the comforts of home. But, as anthropologist and archaeologist Cyler Conrad writes, one perk was an abundance of exotic animals to gawk at or even keep as pets. He focuses specifically on monkeys and parrots.

With the start of the Gold Rush in 1849, Conrad writes, San Francisco almost instantly turned into a significant global port, with people and goods flowing in from around the world. Along with more prosaic creatures bound for miners’ dinner plates, the arriving ships brought entertainment in the form of exotic creatures. For example, one voyage from El Realejo, Nicaragua, in 1850 brought fifty parrots and five monkeys to the city.

Conrad notes that, since miners arrived in California from many places, some may have been familiar with tropical animals already. But a large portion came from the eastern United States and most likely knew of monkeys only from stories, or perhaps a visiting circus.

In California, some enterprising individuals put monkeys on display, charging for a look at their antics. At least one hand organ player outfitted his monkey with a red jacket—apparently an early instance of a type of street entertainment that spread across American cities by the early twentieth century. As one observer described the scene in 1850, “the melodious strains of the instrument never failed to arouse the enthusiasm of the homesick, whilst the tricks of the monkey served to amuse the leisure of the rough miners who were incapable of entering into the feelings inspired by his music.”

An 1856 drawing of a popular San Francisco saloon known as the Cobweb Palace depicts a crowd of humans joined by two dogs, a pig, a parrot, and six monkeys—at least two of whom seem to be doing mischievous battle with men in the crowd.

More monkeys pop up in the Gold Rush historical record; for example, in lost-pet ads, an 1852 lawsuit over a stolen pet monkey and fox, and stories in newspapers from 1854 describing someone “parading about leading a horse attached to a soda wagon, a diminutive monkey perched on the back of the animal.” There were also many advertisements seeking the return of lost parrots, which were apparently both highly valued and capable escape artists. However, Conrad writes, these don’t seem to have been the ancestors of the wild parrots who now call San Francisco home. Those probably arrived as part of a different wave of interest in exotic pets later on.

The long-distance voyages required to arrive in San Francisco and the gold fields, the unfamiliar food, signs, smells, and weather, the lack of family, and the lack of an established social network, suggest that the Gold Rush populace relied on animals—regardless of type—for their bond and companionship,” Conrad writes. “Animals filled a void created by the often-overwhelming experience of the Gold Rush era, and it was the exoticness of the time that enabled the exoticization of these human-animal interactions.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://daily.jstor.org/miners-and-monkeys/>

37. What does the passage most strongly suggest about San Francisco after 1849?

- (a) It became a mining settlement insulated from maritime exchange
- (b) It developed into a port where global commerce reshaped social life
- (c) It remained dependent mainly on animals intended for miners’ food
- (d) It attracted migrants but restricted unfamiliar public entertainments

38. Why does the passage distinguish “prosaic creatures” from exotic animals?

- (a) To separate animals valued for subsistence from those valued for spectacle
- (b) To imply exotic creatures were economically useless in mining camps
- (c) To show miners treated all animals mainly as substitutes for family
- (d) To argue imported animals had no role beyond shipboard trade

39. What can be inferred about many miners from the eastern United States?

- (a) They arrived with established habits of keeping tropical pets
- (b) They regarded monkeys as ordinary animals from daily experience
- (c) They encountered monkeys mainly through mediated or imagined knowledge
- (d) They rejected exotic animals because such animals lacked practical use

40. The hand organ player’s monkey is important because it shows that:

- (a) miners responded to music only when animals were absent
- (b) animal performance displaced all other forms of Gold Rush entertainment
- (c) exotic animals were valued mainly as private household companions
- (d) exotic animals could be turned into organized public performance

41. The Cobweb Palace drawing is used mainly to indicate that:

- (a) animals occupied human social spaces in visibly disorderly ways
- (b) saloons used animals only as decorative background objects
- (c) monkeys in Gold Rush California were always trained and controlled
- (d) parrots were more central than monkeys to saloon entertainment

42. What do lost-pet ads, lawsuits, and newspaper stories collectively suggest?

- (a) exotic animals became invisible after their first arrival
- (b) exotic animal ownership was treated as legally impossible
- (c) exotic animals entered personal, legal, and public life
- (d) exotic animals were valued only when attached to commerce

43. Which statement best captures Conrad’s explanation for human-animal bonds in the Gold Rush?

- (a) Animals became valuable only because they were visually unfamiliar

- (b) Exotic animals replaced ordinary animals as sources of survival
- (c) Miners used animals to avoid forming human relationships entirely
- (d) Animals helped migrants negotiate loneliness, instability, and displacement

VI. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate response.

Passage: First, there's the cultural conditioning around terms like creative practice or creative expression. We might automatically assume that those terms refer to oil painters who spend their time working on canvases, in overalls with paint splashes all over them. When I visualize a person who represents creative expression, I think of a woman in a warehouse loft in New York City who is preparing for an art show at a bougie gallery. These conceptualizations aren't necessarily wrong, but [the terms] don't represent only these types of people.

Now let's get into the reasons why you may not feel connected to the terms creativity, creative practice, or creative expression. Maybe you had an art teacher in elementary school who criticized your drawing, so you internalized the idea that you're a "bad" artist. Maybe your grandmother tried to teach you to knit, but you never got the hang of it, so you gave up on creative hobbies altogether. Maybe your upbringing didn't allow for much experimentation or play, so you've never even tried to be creative. Our experiences as children inform so much of our perception of self as adults, so if we didn't have a champion as a kid, or we never got the opportunity to explore, we may not even know our preferred form of creative expression.

But all humans are creative. Creativity is not just making oil paintings that hang in galleries across the world. Creativity is literally just the process of bringing something into existence — to create. When we shop for our meals for the week, we're creating a plan. When we build a spreadsheet to help us manage a budget, we're creating a system. When we're inviting friends over for dinner, we're creating an experience. We make choices daily to create a life. These are all literal forms of creative expression. It hurts my heart when I hear people say, "I'm not creative." Babe, you are! You just associate creativity with the eccentric expression you see from me and other artist freaks (compliment) instead of a wide-reaching, broad term that applies to everyone. We just have to find our individual versions of creativity and embrace them. But if we've got those limiting beliefs that have been comfy, cozy in our brains since childhood, how do we find our creativity?

I've taught various parts of this book through workshops, courses, and webinars, and I always ask my audience: "What's stopping you from prioritizing play in your life?" One of the most common answers is "I don't know how to play." As we get older, so many of us follow those societal expectations, including the idea that play is childish and a waste of time.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://bigthink.com/books/to-access-your-creativity-start-playing/>

44. Which of the following best captures the author's criticism of common ideas about "creative expression"?

- (a) They reject recognised artists as examples of creativity.
- (b) They mistake one culturally familiar image for the full meaning of creativity.
- (c) They treat childhood experience as irrelevant to adult self-belief.
- (d) They replace artistic practice with practical efficiency as the higher value.

45. What does the common response "I don't know how to play" most strongly suggest?

- (a) Adults may absorb social expectations that make play seem childish or wasteful.
- (b) Adults lose creativity because play belongs only to trained visual artists.
- (c) Play becomes meaningful only when it produces gallery-recognised artistic work.
- (d) Creative practice requires childhood mastery of crafts before adulthood begins.

46. In the passage, what does the phrase "limiting beliefs that have been comfy, cozy in our brains since childhood" most nearly imply?

- (a) Restrictive beliefs can become familiar and deeply settled.
- (b) Childhood memories are always pleasant and harmless.
- (c) Old beliefs should remain unchanged and protected.

(d) Creative confidence comes from family comfort alone.

47. Which of the following examples would best fit the author's expanded definition of creativity?

- (a) Judging one's creativity by whether a gallery would recognise it.
- (b) Avoiding ordinary tasks because creativity must look visibly artistic.
- (c) Building a plan, system, or shared experience that organizes daily life.
- (d) Preserving the childhood belief that failed craft learning proves incapacity.

48. In the context of the passage, consider the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R), and select the appropriate option:

Assertion (A): A person may sincerely say "I'm not creative" while still possessing creative capacity.

Reason (R): The passage defines creativity broadly as bringing something into existence, including plans, systems, experiences, and life choices.

- (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.

49. Which of the following best describes the author's tone when responding to people who say, "I'm not creative"?

- (a) Formally analytical, defining creativity without emotional involvement
- (b) Satirically superior, exposing readers' ignorance about artistic labour
- (c) Clinically detached, treating self-doubt as a diagnostic condition
- (d) Affectionately corrective, challenging self-denial through reassurance

50. Which of the following statements is most clearly NOT supported by the passage?

- (a) Childhood experiences can narrow adults' sense of creative capacity.
- (b) Everyday organizing can count as creative expression here too.
- (c) Artistic stereotypes can limit how people understand creative expression.
- (d) Social visibility is required before creativity becomes genuine expression.

Section B – General Knowledge and Current Affairs

51. According to the World Migration Report 2026, which country-to-country migration corridor remained the largest in the world?

- (a) India to United Arab Emirates (b) Afghanistan to Iran
(c) Syria to Türkiye (d) Mexico to United States

52. Consider the following statements about the Three-Language Formula in India:

- I. It was recommended in the context of the Kothari Commission and later reflected in national education policy.
II. It seeks to promote multilingual learning while balancing regional and national concerns.
III. It constitutionally makes Sanskrit compulsory in all schools of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. Exercise Khaan Quest 2026 was held in which of the following countries?

- (a) Kazakhstan (b) Mongolia (c) Uzbekistan (d) Kyrgyzstan

54. The Headquarters of the International Court of Justice is located at:

- (a) Geneva (b) New York (c) The Hague (d) Vienna

55. Which of the following combinations correctly identifies the Madhya Pradesh products that recently received GI recognition in June 2026?

- (a) Indori Malwi Potato, Garadu and Balam Kakdi
(b) Nagpur Orange, Solapur Chaddar and Bikaneri Bhujia
(c) Darjeeling Tea, Mysore Silk and Chanderi Saree
(d) Kangra Tea, Alleppey Coir and Pochampally Ikat

56. The National Pension System is different from the Old Pension Scheme mainly because NPS is based on which structure?

- (a) Fixed salary-linked pension system
(b) Universal non-contributory pension system
(c) Defined contribution system
(d) Fully employer-funded pension system

57. The “Golden Quadrilateral” project connects which four major metropolitan cities of India?

- (a) Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata
(b) Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Hyderabad
(c) Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Kochi
(d) Kolkata, Patna, Lucknow and Jaipur

58. Vivek Aggarwal was appointed Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force for the July 2026 to June 2027 term. The Financial Action Task Force is primarily associated with:

- (a) regulating international trade disputes
(b) combating money laundering and terrorist financing
(c) supervising global climate finance commitments
(d) settling investment disputes between States

59. Bengaluru hosted the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies meeting in June 2026. Which Indian organisation hosted the meeting under India’s BRICS chairship?

- (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation
(b) Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre
(c) Antrix Corporation Limited
(d) Indian Space Research Organisation

60. Match the following ocean currents with their nature correctly:

S. No.	List-I (Ocean Current)	S. No.	List-II (Nature)

A.	Gulf Stream	i.	Cold current
B.	Labrador Current	ii.	Warm current
C.	Canary Current	iii.	Cold current
D.	Kuroshio Current	iv.	Warm current

(a) (A)-ii; (B)-i; (C)-iii; (D)-iv

(b) (A)-i; (B)-ii; (C)-iv; (D)-iii

(c) (A)-iii; (B)-iv; (C)-i; (D)-ii

(d) (A)-iv; (B)-iii; (C)-ii; (D)-i

61. Andaman and Nicobar Islands recorded India's lowest Total Fertility Rate of 0.9 in NFHS-6. Total Fertility Rate refers to:

(a) number of live births recorded per one thousand people each year

(b) average number of children expected to be born to a woman

(c) percentage of children below five years counted in total population figures

(d) number of infant deaths recorded per one thousand live births annually

62. The first Indian to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026 is

(a) Manas Kumar Sahoo

(b) Narayan Sinha

(c) Sudarsan Pattnaik

(d) Nitish Bharti

63. The Bretton Woods Conference played a major role in shaping the post-Second World War global economic order. Which two institutions emerged from this conference?

(a) IMF and World Bank

(b) WTO and IMF

(c) World Bank and WHO

(d) WTO and UNCTAD

64. Consider the following statements regarding the Quad:

I. The Quad functions as a consultative strategic forum and does not create NATO-like collective defence obligations.

II. The Quad originated as a formal treaty alliance after the Malabar Exercise was institutionalised in the 1990s.

III. India can deepen Quad cooperation by linking maritime surveillance collaboration with a common operating picture through IFC-IOR.

IV. Quad geoeconomics excludes supply-chain and critical-mineral cooperation because the grouping is limited to naval exercises.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

(a) I and III

(b) II and IV

(c) I and IV

(d) II and III

65. The "Panchsheel Agreement" of 1954 was signed between India and:

(a) China

(b) Nepal

(c) Bhutan

(d) Sri Lanka

66. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited was recently granted Navratna status by the Government of India. CPCL became

(a) 25th Navratna CPSE

(b) 26th Navratna CPSE

(c) 27th Navratna CPSE

(d) 28th Navratna CPSE

67. Which Schedule of the Constitution of India contains the forms of oath or affirmation?

(a) Second Schedule

(b) Third Schedule

(c) Fourth Schedule

(d) Fifth Schedule

68. At the Indian Athletics Awards 2025, which pair correctly represents the top athlete honours?

(a) Avinash Sable and Hima Das

(b) Tajinderpal Singh Toor and Dutee Chand

(c) Murali Sreeshankar and Jyothi Yarraji

(d) Neeraj Chopra and Parul Chaudhary

69. India's first indigenous glide weapon system TARA was tested by DRDO and the Indian Air Force recently. What does TARA stand for?

- (a) Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation
- (b) Targeted Airborne Rapid Acceleration
- (c) Terminal Airborne Range Articulation
- (d) Tactical Airborne Radar Architecture

70. The PESA Act, implemented in Jharkhand after a long delay, is linked to which of the following constitutional arrangements?

- (a) Sixth Schedule autonomous councils in north-eastern States
- (b) Special provisions for Union Territories under Article 239
- (c) Extension of Panchayati Raj provisions to Fifth Schedule Areas
- (d) Administration of cantonment boards under central law

71. Which of the following international convention deals specifically with mercury pollution?

- (a) Minamata Convention
- (b) Aarhus Convention
- (c) Espoo Convention
- (d) Vienna Convention

72. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. The words "socialist" and "secular" were inserted by:

- (a) 24th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (b) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- (c) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (d) 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act

73. According to Numbeo's Cost of Living Index by Country 2026, which country ranked first?

- (a) Switzerland
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Bermuda
- (d) Norway

74. The Manipuri film "Boong" received major international recognition at the BAFTA Film Awards 2026. It was recognised in which category?

- (a) Best Film Not in the English Language
- (b) Children's and Family Film
- (c) Outstanding British Film
- (d) Best Documentary Feature

75. The "Veto Power" in the United Nations Security Council is held by:

- (a) all members of the United Nations General Assembly
- (b) only the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council
- (c) the five permanent members of the Security Council
- (d) the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

76. Which of the following is NOT one of the four pillars of the Export Preparedness Index 2024?

- (a) Export Infrastructure
- (b) Business Ecosystem
- (c) Policy and Governance
- (d) Access to Finance

77. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?

- (a) Poverty and Un-British Rule in India – Dadabhai Naoroji
- (b) The Discovery of India – Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) The Arctic Home in the Vedas – Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) The Story of My Experiments with Truth – Mahatma Gandhi

78. NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2024 ranked Indian States and Union Territories on export readiness. Which of the following was ranked first among large States?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

79. Which of the following is NOT one of the core areas of the High Seas Treaty?

- (a) Marine protected areas
- (b) Environmental impact assessments
- (c) Marine genetic resources
- (d) Commercial regulation of deep-sea mining

80. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?

- (a) Assam – Sattriya
- (b) Kerala – Kathakali
- (c) Odisha – Odissi
- (d) Rajasthan – Lavani

Section C – Logical Reasoning

81. Philosophers of science have long debated whether scientific observation can be free from theoretical presuppositions. The standard view holds that observers report what they see neutrally, with theory emerging only during analysis. Philosophers who defend the theory-ladenness of observation argue that what a scientist notices, measures, and reports as significant is already shaped by the theoretical framework they bring to the investigation. Two scientists in fundamentally different theoretical paradigms may look at the same phenomenon and literally see different things, because the categories their theories provide determine what registers as observationally significant.

The passage is primarily concerned with arguing that:

- (a) Scientific method is unreliable because theoretical bias controls all reported results.
- (b) Scientific observation is shaped by prior theoretical commitments and categories.
- (c) Competing scientific paradigms always produce irreconcilable factual conclusions.
- (d) Observation cannot provide any evidence about the natural world as it exists.

82. Legal scholars working at the intersection of behavioural economics and law have argued that the choice of default rules, the legal outcomes that apply when parties have not made an explicit alternative arrangement, has a far greater effect on real-world outcomes than the formal distinction between mandatory and permissive rules. When a rule operates as a default, most people, organisations, and institutions remain with it through inertia, even when they have the formal right to opt out. This suggests that the architecture of legal options, rather than the content of rights and prohibitions, may be the primary determinant of social and commercial behaviour.

Which of the following does the passage most strongly suggest about legal rules?

- (a) Mandatory rules are generally more effective because they prevent deviation.
- (b) Formal rights have no real effect on social or commercial behaviour.
- (c) Legal education can fully correct public reliance on default rules.
- (d) Option architecture may shape outcomes more than formal legal classification.

83. A global health coalition has proposed an international treaty requiring signatory states to impose strict quantitative limits on the prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock farming within their jurisdictions. The coalition argues that reducing such agricultural antibiotic use in high-consuming nations will slow the emergence of new antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains globally and preserve the clinical effectiveness of existing antibiotics for human medical treatment.

Assumption I: Prophylactic livestock antibiotic use in high-consuming nations significantly contributes to global resistance emergence.

Assumption II: Treaty limits will be implemented sufficiently to reduce actual prophylactic antibiotic use in livestock.

Assumption III: Slower resistance emergence alone will eliminate the need for new antibiotic drug development.

Which assumption or assumptions does the proposal implicitly rely upon?

- (a) Only Assumption I is implicit.
- (b) Assumptions I and II are implicit.
- (c) Assumptions II and III are implicit.
- (d) Assumptions I and III are implicit.

84. Criminal justice researchers have documented that cash bail creates a two-tiered pre-trial outcome based primarily on financial resources rather than risk. Defendants who cannot afford bail remain detained for months before trial, increasing guilty pleas, employment loss, and housing instability, even among those subsequently acquitted. Defendants with equivalent charge profiles who can afford bail maintain significantly better trial outcomes. Risk assessment algorithms proposed as an alternative have been found to carry their own systematic demographic bias.

Which of the following courses of action is most appropriate?

- (a) Abolish pre-trial detention for every criminal charge and use appearance notices.
- (b) Retain bail but provide interest-free loans to defendants unable to pay.

- (c) Replace cash bail with audited risk review and transparent detention criteria.
- (d) Transfer bail decisions from judges to prosecutors reviewed annually.

85. Contractualist ethical theory, as developed by T.M. Scanlon, holds that an action is morally wrong if it violates principles that no one could reasonably reject as the basis for mutual agreement among people each motivated to find principles others can also accept. On this account, the wrongness of an action is grounded not in its consequences for aggregate welfare but in whether it fails to give appropriate weight to the claims of each individual affected, assessed from that individual's own point of view.

Which approach would be least consistent with contractualist ethics?

- (a) Choose the action that maximises total welfare across all affected persons.
- (b) Ask whether any affected person can reasonably reject the governing principle.
- (c) Give weight to each person's claim from that person's own standpoint.
- (d) Refuse to override one person merely because many others would gain.

86. Social psychologists studying cognitive dissonance have proposed that when people hold two cognitions that are psychologically inconsistent, they experience an aversive state of mental discomfort. To reduce this discomfort they tend to change one of the conflicting cognitions, reinterpret the situation, or acquire new cognitions that justify maintaining both. Researchers propose that this drive to reduce dissonance shapes attitude change even when individuals are not consciously aware of the inconsistency between their cognitions.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the researchers' claim?

- (a) Conscious inconsistency often leads people to justify past behaviour.
- (b) Cultural context affects how strongly people report dissonance discomfort.
- (c) Personal significance increases discomfort from inconsistent cognitions.
- (d) Unaware low-ambiguity individuals show larger attitude shifts after inconsistency.

87. A political commentator argued that because women constitute 52% of the national population but hold only 24% of legislative seats, this disparity proves that the electoral system is structurally biased against women and must be immediately reformed through mandatory gender quotas. The commentator concluded that no other explanation for this discrepancy is plausible and that the case for quotas is therefore beyond reasonable dispute.

The commentator's conclusion is flawed because it:

- (a) Does not identify the exact quota percentage needed to close the gap.
- (b) Uses population share without comparing other demographic representation gaps.
- (c) Treats disparity as proof of one cause while excluding alternatives.
- (d) Fails to show whether the gap is unusual among comparable democracies.

88. Game theorists studying the iterated prisoner's dilemma have shown that when two self-interested parties face the same strategic interaction repeatedly without a known end point, cooperative outcomes can emerge and stabilise even without binding enforcement mechanisms. This stands in contrast to single-shot interactions, where rational self-interest predicts mutual defection regardless of the other party's strategy. In repeated interactions, the prospect of future retaliation makes conditional cooperation rational, because the long-run cost of provoking retaliation outweighs the short-run gain from defecting first.

Which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) Future retaliation can make cooperation rational in repeated interaction.
- (b) All repeated interactions eventually converge on cooperation over time.
- (c) Binding enforcement is unnecessary whenever parties interact repeatedly.
- (d) Tit-for-tat is uniquely optimal in every repeated strategic interaction.

89. Oceanographers studying rising sea temperatures have found that warmer water holds less dissolved oxygen and that surface-warming-driven stratification reduces the mixing that normally carries oxygen to deeper water. Oxygen-minimum zones have expanded measurably over the past four decades. Species requiring higher oxygen

concentrations are being compressed into shallower and narrower habitats, while species tolerant of low-oxygen conditions are expanding their range into areas previously uninhabitable for them, simultaneously across multiple ocean basins.

Which of the following is the most defensible conclusion?

- (a) Illegal industrial discharge is the most plausible cause of oxygen loss.
- (b) Deoxygenation will cause extinction of all oxygen-sensitive species soon.
- (c) Species redistribution is likely to alter ecological interactions in affected oceans.
- (d) Governments must adopt binding emissions treaties before irreversible collapse.

90. Compatibilist philosophers who argue that free will and determinism are not mutually exclusive contend that free will does not require that one could have done otherwise in an absolute metaphysical sense. Rather, an agent acts freely when their actions flow from their own deliberative processes, values, and desires rather than from external compulsion. On this view, the truth of determinism, that every event including human action is causally necessitated by prior states, does not eliminate free will because freedom is defined by the source of action, not by the absence of causal determination.

Which of the following is necessarily false given the passage?

- (a) Free action may occur even when the action is causally necessitated.
- (b) External compulsion prevents an action from qualifying as free.
- (c) Freedom depends on the action's source, not absence of causation.
- (d) Determinism makes every coherent account of free will impossible.

91. Hospital administrators analysing surgical outcome data found a puzzling pattern. When the results of two surgeons were examined separately, Surgeon A had a higher patient survival rate than Surgeon B for both low-risk and high-risk procedures. Yet when the combined data for both surgeons was aggregated across all patients, Surgeon B's overall survival rate was higher than Surgeon A's. Both sets of statistics were independently verified as accurate.

Which of the following most plausibly accounts for the pattern?

- (a) Surgeon A handled far more high-risk cases than Surgeon B overall.
- (b) The statistics must contain an error because both results cannot be accurate.
- (c) Different survival-rate methods were used for category and aggregate reporting.
- (d) Surgeon B manipulated case selection within each category to inflate outcomes.

92. Issue: Should technology companies be legally required to build accessible backdoors into end-to-end encrypted communications, enabling law enforcement to access content upon judicial authorisation?

Argument 1: Yes. End-to-end encryption creates communications channels that are entirely opaque to law enforcement, allowing serious criminal and terrorist coordination to occur with no possibility of interception even when a court has authorised surveillance.

Argument 2: No. Any technical backdoor built for authorised law enforcement access creates a vulnerability that adversaries, foreign intelligence agencies, and criminal hackers can exploit, since there is no technically feasible way to build a backdoor accessible exclusively to authorised parties.

Argument 3: Yes. Companies that commercially profit from providing encryption technology without lawful access capability bear a moral obligation to cooperate with legitimate judicial authority, since profiting from infrastructure that enables criminal evasion is ethically indefensible.

Choose the most appropriate answer.

- (a) Only Argument 1 is strong.
- (b) Arguments 1 and 2 are strong.
- (c) Arguments 2 and 3 are strong.
- (d) All three arguments are strong.

93. Issue: Should courts recognise legal standing for future generations and natural entities such as rivers and forests to bring environmental harm claims?

Argument 1: Yes. The protection of natural environments has been valued by human civilisations throughout recorded history, and extending legal recognition to nature is consistent with this long-standing tradition of reverence for the natural world.

Argument 2: Yes. Conventional standing, which requires current harm to a recognised legal person, systematically excludes the interests most severely affected by long-term environmental degradation, and extending standing corrects this structural exclusion.

Argument 3: No. Recognising rivers and forests as legal persons with standing would create irresolvable practical problems about how courts could identify, weigh, and represent the interests of non-human entities against those of human litigants.

Choose the most appropriate answer.

- (a) Only Argument 1 is strong.
- (b) Arguments 1 and 2 are strong.
- (c) Arguments 2 and 3 are strong.
- (d) All three arguments are strong.

94. Issue: Should nuclear power be classified and funded as a sustainable energy source within government green investment taxonomies?

Argument 1: Yes. Nuclear power generates electricity with among the lowest carbon emissions per kilowatt-hour of any generation technology, making it a measurable contributor to climate decarbonisation targets over any relevant policy timeframe.

Argument 2: No. Classifying nuclear as sustainable ignores the unresolved problem of long-term radioactive waste storage, which creates environmental risks on a timescale of thousands of years that current disposal infrastructure is not designed to address.

Argument 3: Yes. Countries that have phased out nuclear power have in several documented cases increased reliance on fossil fuel generation to compensate for shortfalls during periods of low wind and solar output, suggesting phase-out may be counterproductive for decarbonisation.

Choose the most appropriate answer.

- (a) Only Argument 2 is strong.
- (b) Arguments 1 and 2 are strong.
- (c) Arguments 1 and 3 are strong.
- (d) All three arguments are strong.

95. A city transport authority has announced a pilot programme allowing licensed operators to deploy shared electric scooters in central urban zones. The authority argues that e-scooters will provide first-and-last-mile connections between public transport hubs and final destinations, thereby reducing short-distance private car trips and associated emissions.

Assumption I: Many e-scooter users would otherwise make those short trips by private car.

Assumption II: E-scooter use has lower overall emissions than the car trips it replaces.

Assumption III: Licensed operators will earn enough revenue without municipal subsidies.

Which assumption or assumptions does the proposal implicitly rely upon?

- (a) Only Assumption I is implicit.
- (b) Assumptions I and III are implicit.
- (c) Assumptions I and II are implicit.
- (d) Assumptions II and III are implicit.

96. A government pension authority has proposed converting the national workplace pension scheme from an opt-in model, where employees must actively choose to participate, to an opt-out model, in which all eligible employees are automatically enrolled and must actively choose to withdraw. The authority argues that this switch will substantially

increase long-term retirement savings rates among lower-income workers who currently under-save due to procrastination and inertia.

Assumption I: Many automatically enrolled workers will remain enrolled due to inertia.

Assumption II: Employers will manage the new system without needing extra compensation.

Assumption III: Automatic enrolment will not cause most enrolled lower-income workers to withdraw quickly.

Which assumption or assumptions does the proposal implicitly rely upon?

- (a) Assumptions I and II are implicit.
- (b) Only Assumption I is implicit.
- (c) Assumptions II and III are implicit.
- (d) Assumptions I and III are implicit.

97. The finance ministry of a major exporting nation has proposed implementing a carbon border adjustment mechanism, a policy that levies a carbon-equivalent tariff on imports from countries without equivalent domestic carbon pricing. The stated objective is to prevent carbon leakage, defined as the relocation of emissions-intensive production to jurisdictions with weaker climate regulations, which would offset the domestic emission reductions the ministry's carbon pricing policy is designed to achieve.

Assumption I: Domestic emissions-intensive industries face genuine relocation risk without the border adjustment.

Assumption II: Tariff rates will perfectly match all actual carbon-cost differences.

Assumption III: Trading partners will never retaliate against the mechanism.

Which assumption or assumptions does the proposal implicitly rely upon?

- (a) Assumptions I and II are implicit.
- (b) Only Assumption I is implicit.
- (c) Only Assumption III is implicit.
- (d) Assumptions I and III are implicit.

98. Education researchers comparing national student performance have found that students in East Asian education systems consistently score higher on mathematics and science assessments than students in comparable OECD nations. However, the same researchers document that East Asian students report significantly lower enjoyment of learning, higher test-related anxiety, and lower intrinsic motivation compared with high-performing students in other regions.

Statement I: High assessment performance may coexist with lower reported wellbeing and motivation.

Statement II: East Asian systems should adopt OECD teaching methods to improve wellbeing.

Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn?

- (a) Both statements follow.
- (b) Neither statement follows.
- (c) Only Statement I follows.
- (d) Only Statement II follows.

99. Health economists evaluating a new drug for a rare genetic disorder have calculated that the treatment extends healthy life expectancy by an average of three quality-adjusted life years per patient at a cost of approximately 400,000 per quality-adjusted life year gained. The national health authority's publicly stated reimbursement threshold is 30,000 per quality-adjusted life year, a standard applied uniformly to all new treatment evaluations regardless of disease rarity or availability of alternative treatments.

Statement I: The drug's cost per quality-adjusted life year greatly exceeds the stated threshold.

Statement II: Rare disease patients are intentionally discriminated against by the uniform threshold.

Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn?

- (a) Both statements follow.
- (b) Neither statement follows.
- (c) Only Statement II follows.

(d) Only Statement I follows.

100. A sports analytics team found that a veteran batsman who had the highest batting average in the league also had the seventh-lowest strike rate among all qualifying batters. Analysts noted that the batsman accumulated a high proportion of runs through defended singles and was rarely dismissed, but scored at a rate that left the team requiring unusually high run-rates in the final overs, increasing pressure on the lower-order batters.

Statement I: Batting average and strike rate measure different aspects of batting performance.

Statement II: The batsman's scoring rate may have increased pressure on later batters.

Which of the following conclusions can be properly drawn?

(a) Both statements follow.

(b) Only Statement I follows.

(c) Only Statement II follows.

(d) Neither statement follows.

101. Linguists studying the revitalisation of endangered indigenous languages have found that in communities where the minority language functions as the primary medium of local economic activity, including trade, agricultural coordination, and community governance, intergenerational transmission rates are significantly higher than in communities where the dominant national language is required for all economic participation. Language-medium schooling programmes produce the strongest revitalisation outcomes when embedded in communities where the minority language already holds functional economic value.

Statement I: Schooling programmes may be less effective without economic use of the minority language.

Statement II: Dominant-language economic participation is linked with lower minority-language transmission.

Statement III: Schooling works best when it reinforces existing community use of the language.

Which of the following can be properly inferred?

(a) Only Statement I follows.

(b) Only Statements I and II follow.

(c) Only Statements II and III follow.

(d) All three statements follow.

102. Political economists studying oil-rich states that derive the majority of government revenue from petroleum extraction rather than domestic taxation have found that such rentier states tend to have weaker civil society organisations, lower citizen demand for government accountability, and less developed independent judicial institutions than comparable tax-based revenue states. Researchers propose that because citizens in rentier states receive government services without paying broad domestic taxes, the social contract that typically drives demands for representation and accountability is attenuated.

Statement I: Fiscal relations may influence citizen demands for accountability and representation.

Statement II: Oil wealth makes democratic consolidation impossible in all petroleum states.

Statement III: Expanding taxation may increase citizen demand for institutional accountability.

Which of the following can be properly inferred?

(a) Only Statement I follows.

(b) Only Statements II and III follow.

(c) Only Statements I and III follow.

(d) Only Statement III follows.

103. Sociologists developing the strain theory of deviance argue that crime arises when individuals accept culturally prescribed goals such as material success while lacking access to the legitimate institutional means of achieving them, including quality education and stable employment. This disjunction between approved goals and available means creates strain, which individuals resolve through adaptations including conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion, only some of which involve criminal behaviour.

Statement I: Crime mainly results from individual moral failure rather than structural inequity.

Statement II: Expanding education and employment access may reduce criminal innovation.

Statement III: Not all people experiencing strain will respond through criminal behaviour.

Which of the following can be properly inferred?

- (a) Only Statement I follows.
- (b) Only Statements II and III follow.
- (c) Only Statements I and III follow.
- (d) All three statements follow.

104. Statement: A bioethics committee is reviewing a proposal to create a strictly regulated government-managed market for kidney donations in which registered donors receive a fixed payment determined by the health authority. Person 1: A regulated organ market would increase the supply of transplantable kidneys, reducing the thousands of deaths each year among patients who die while waiting for a compatible donor. Strict government regulation would prevent exploitation by ensuring uniform payment and medical standards for all donors.

Person 2: Payment for organs transforms a biological part of a person's body into a commodity and will draw donors overwhelmingly from economically vulnerable populations, meaning the practical effect is that those with limited alternatives bear the medical risks of surgery so that more affluent patients benefit.

Which of the following best represents the point of disagreement?

- (a) Whether all kidney donations should be prohibited as bodily violation.
- (b) Whether paid markets' benefits justify commodification and equity risks.
- (c) Whether patients have a legal right to unapproved organ markets.
- (d) Whether surgical risks require independent medical safety oversight.

105. Statement: A constitutional court is reviewing whether a government's invocation of emergency powers to suspend certain civil liberties during a declared public health crisis was consistent with constitutional limits on executive authority.

Person 1: Emergency powers clauses exist precisely to allow governments to take extraordinary measures when conventional legislative processes are too slow for rapidly evolving crises. Requiring full legislative approval for each emergency measure would delay responses in ways that cost lives when speed is essential.

Person 2: Emergency powers are constitutionally dangerous precisely because they concentrate authority and suspend institutional checks at the moment when independent oversight is most needed. History demonstrates that declared crises are the most common context in which democratic institutions are permanently weakened.

Which of the following best represents the point of disagreement?

- (a) Whether the specific health measures reduced transmission effectively.
- (b) Whether courts have enough medical expertise to review crisis measures.
- (c) Whether emergency bypass of normal oversight is constitutionally justified.
- (d) Whether peacetime civil liberties must remain entirely unchanged.

106. Statement: A national parliament is debating whether to pass legislation granting indigenous communities the right to veto large-scale commercial development projects on their ancestral lands, including mining, forestry, and infrastructure construction.

Person 1: Indigenous communities have the deepest knowledge of the ecological and cultural dimensions of their ancestral lands, and a veto right ensures development does not proceed without their free, prior, and informed consent, which is already a recognised principle of international indigenous rights law.

Person 2: Granting a veto right over commercial development to one group of citizens, however historically disadvantaged, creates a constitutional inequality by giving some communities power over national economic decisions that no other community possesses, and may paralyse infrastructure investment benefiting the broader national population.

Which of the following best represents the point of disagreement?

- (a) Whether international indigenous rights law binds domestic parliaments.
- (b) Whether financial reparations should replace land governance rights.

- (c) Whether impact assessments capture cultural ecological harm adequately.
- (d) Whether ancestral land relations justify differentiated governance rights.

107. Neuroscientists studying the brain's default mode network, a set of regions showing increased activity when the brain is at rest and not engaged in specific external tasks, have proposed that this network serves a role in integrating past autobiographical experience with future simulation to support complex social reasoning and planning. This has led researchers to suggest that internally directed cognition such as mind-wandering and future imagining are not idle brain states but serve a specific integrative function.

Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the researchers' proposal?

- (a) Lesions in default mode regions impair recognition of familiar faces.
- (b) Mind-wandering during tasks correlates with weaker attention scores.
- (c) The same regions activate during memory retrieval and future simulation.
- (d) Depressed patients show reduced activity and poorer future imagining.

108. A major social media platform argued that its AI-powered content moderation system had substantially reduced harmful health misinformation on the platform, citing a 60% reduction in user-flagged posts containing medical misinformation in the twelve months following deployment. The platform presented this as evidence that automated content moderation is an effective tool for combating the spread of harmful health misinformation.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the platform's claim?

- (a) The flagging interface became less visible when the AI system launched.
- (b) The system sometimes removes accurate health content from credible sources.
- (c) Some misinformation shifted to encrypted messaging platforms after launch.
- (d) Many AI decisions require approval by human reviewers before removal.

109. A commercial court ruled that a supplier was entitled to compensation from a retailer despite the absence of a formally executed contract. The court found that the retailer had made a clear and unambiguous promise to place a minimum order, that the supplier had reasonably relied on this promise to invest in additional production capacity, and that the supplier suffered quantifiable financial loss when the retailer withdrew. The court held that allowing withdrawal without liability would be unconscionable given the foreseeable harm suffered through reasonable reliance on the promise.

The reasoning pattern in the passage most closely resembles which of the following?

- (a) A tenant remained because the landlord missed the required renewal notice.
- (b) A contractor was paid after completing work despite a price dispute.
- (c) A distributor recovered damages for early termination of a signed contract.
- (d) A charity enforced a pledge after relying on it to restructure spending.

110. Strong cultural relativists argue that moral claims and standards of evaluation are valid only within the cultural framework from which they emerge, and that there is no culture-independent standpoint from which to judge the practices of one society by the standards of another. In this view, cross-cultural moral criticism, the practice of condemning the practices of one culture using the moral framework of another, is a form of cultural imperialism that presupposes the false superiority of the critic's own framework. Strong relativists therefore conclude that all moral systems are equally valid within their own cultural contexts.

Which of the following is most contradicted by the passage?

- (a) Internal cultural criticism may use standards accepted within that culture.
- (b) Universal human rights can rest on culture-independent moral reasons.
- (c) Anthropologists should understand differences before judging them externally.
- (d) Colonial moral criticism harmed colonised societies' cultural self-rule.

Directions for 111-115:

A decagonal strategy lounge has ten chairs arranged around a circular platform. The chairs are numbered 1 through 10 in clockwise order. Six strategists, Arjun, Bela, Chirag, Diya, Eshan and Farah, occupy six of the chairs.

When a strategist moves, he or she first vacates the current chair and then occupies the first empty chair found in the chosen direction, either clockwise or anticlockwise.

The order of movement is as follows:

Turn 1: Arjun, Turn 2: Bela, Turn 3: Chirag, Turn 4: Diya, Turn 5: Eshan, Turn 6: Farah, Turn 7: Arjun, Turn 8: Bela, Turn 9: Chirag.

The following information is known:

- (i) In the starting position, there is exactly one block of three consecutive occupied chairs and exactly one separate adjacent occupied pair.
- (ii) Arjun is in the middle of the three-chair block. Farah is immediately anticlockwise of Arjun, and Chirag is immediately clockwise of Arjun.
- (iii) Bela is immediately clockwise of Diya in the separate adjacent pair.
- (iv) Eshan has an empty chair on both immediate sides in the starting position.
- (v) The six strategists occupy six consecutive chairs only at the end of Turn 4 and Turn 8. Chairs such as 8, 9, 10, 1, 2 and 3 are considered consecutive.
- (vi) Eshan occupies Chair 2 after Turn 2 and Chair 7 after Turn 5.
- (vii) Chirag occupies Chair 9 after Turn 3 and Chair 3 after Turn 9.
- (viii) Diya occupies Chair 10 after Turn 4.

111. Which of the following is the complete starting arrangement?

- (a) Arjun 7, Bela 4, Chirag 8, Diya 3, Eshan 2, Farah 6
- (b) Arjun 9, Bela 4, Chirag 10, Diya 5, Eshan 2, Farah 8
- (c) Arjun 9, Bela 5, Chirag 10, Diya 4, Eshan 2, Farah 8
- (d) Arjun 8, Bela 5, Chirag 9, Diya 4, Eshan 2, Farah 7

112. Which chairs are occupied at the end of Turn 2?

- (a) Chairs 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 10
- (b) Chairs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10
- (c) Chairs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10
- (d) Chairs 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10

113. Who occupies Chair 10 at the end of Turn 4?

- (a) Chirag
- (b) Diya
- (c) Farah
- (d) Arjun

114. Which direction must Eshan choose in Turn 5?

- (a) Anticlockwise
- (b) Clockwise
- (c) Either direction
- (d) Cannot be determined

115. Which chairs are occupied at the end of Turn 6?

- (a) Chairs 1, 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10
- (b) Chairs 1, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10
- (c) Chairs 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10
- (d) Chairs 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 10

116. In a certain code language, MATRIX is written as ZFWMLZ and PUZZLE is written as GIESFC. How will VECTOR be written in the same code language?

- (a) TLYVPI
- (b) TLYVPJ
- (c) SLYVPI
- (d) TMYVPI

117. Ritu points to Karan and says, "His mother is the only daughter of the father of my father's only sister." Ritu's father has only one sister and no brother. How is Karan related to Ritu?

- (a) Maternal cousin
- (b) Paternal cousin
- (c) Brother-in-law
- (d) Nephew

118. Arjun starts from Point P facing North. He walks 12 m, turns right and walks 5 m, turns 45° left and walks $10\sqrt{2}$ m, turns 135° right and walks 7 m, and finally turns right and walks 4 m. What is the shortest distance and direction of his final position from Point P?

- (a) $\sqrt{346}$ m, South-West
- (b) 26 m, North-East
- (c) $\sqrt{346}$ m, North-East
- (d) 18 m, North-West

119. Statements: All glaciers are archives. No archive is a rumour. Some rumours are maps. All maps are signals.
Conclusions: I. No glacier is a rumour. II. Some signals are rumours. III. Some archives are not maps.

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

120. In a certain code language, MARKET is written as 073304060729 and BORDER is written as 162010201422. How will PLANET be written in the same code language?

- (a) 043607171315
- (b) 043613171507
- (c) 360417071315
- (d) 043617071315

121. In a certain family code: A @ B means A is the father of B; A # B means A is the sister of B; A * B means A is the husband of B; A % B means A is the daughter of B; A & B means A is the mother of B. If L # M @ N * O % P & Q # R, how is L related to O?

- (a) Husband's paternal aunt
- (b) Father's elder sister
- (c) Mother's sister-in-law
- (d) Paternal grandmother

122. Point B is 8 km east of Point A. Point C is 6 km north of Point B. Point D is 10 km west of Point C. Point E is 3 km south of Point D. Point F is 4 km west of Point E. Point G is placed so that A is exactly east of G and F is exactly north of G. What is the shortest distance and direction of G with respect to C?

- (a) $2\sqrt{58}$ km, North-East
- (b) $\sqrt{232}$ km, North-West
- (c) 14 km, South-West
- (d) $2\sqrt{58}$ km, South-West

123. Statements: Only analysts are auditors. All analysts are consultants. Some consultants are designers. No designer is a trader.

Conclusions: I. All auditors are consultants. II. Some analysts are not traders. III. Some consultants being traders is a possibility.

- (a) Only I follows
- (b) Only II follows
- (c) Only I and III follow
- (d) Only I and II follow

124. In a certain code language, LOGIC is written as YPUJP and REASON is written as KMFATJ. How will MENTAL be written in the same code language?

- (a) MAENTO
- (b) MAFNTO
- (c) LAENTO
- (d) MAENUP

125. Manav is male. His wife's father has exactly two children, one son and one daughter. The daughter has no sister. The son has exactly one child, Kabir. How is Kabir related to Manav?

- (a) Son-in-law
- (b) Nephew by marriage
- (c) Paternal cousin
- (d) Younger brother

126. In a treasure-map code, every actual direction is written as the direction 135° clockwise from it. For example, actual North is written as South-East. A clue says: move East for 6 km, then North-West for $4\sqrt{2}$ km, then South for 3 km. After decoding the written directions into actual directions, where will the person be from the starting point?

- (a) $\sqrt{5}$ km, North-West
- (b) 5 km, North-West
- (c) $\sqrt{5}$ km, South-East
- (d) $3\sqrt{5}$ km, South-West

127. Statements: Only a few poets are critics. All critics are editors. No editor is a novelist. Some novelists are translators.

Conclusions: I. Some poets are editors. II. Some poets are not novelists. III. Some translators are not critics.

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

128. In a certain code language, PLANET is written as GCR-HJP-36 and SILVER is written as GNU-ERN-37. How will ROCKET be written in the same code language?

- (a) GET-KGP-38
- (b) GFT-KHP-38
- (c) GET-LGP-37
- (d) HET-KGP-39

129. Seven persons P, Q, R, S, T, U and V belong to the same family. P is the sister of Q. Q is the father of R. R is the wife of S. S is the son of T. T is the brother of U. U is the father of V. How is R related to V?

- (a) Cousin's wife
- (b) Father's sister
- (c) Brother's wife
- (d) Maternal aunt

130. Riya and Kabir start from the same point O. Riya moves 5 km east, 4 km north, $3\sqrt{2}$ km south-west, and 9 km east. Kabir moves 2 km south, $6\sqrt{2}$ km north-east, 7 km east, and 5 km south. What is the position of Kabir with respect to Riya?

- (a) $2\sqrt{2}$ km, North-West
- (b) $2\sqrt{2}$ km, South-East
- (c) 4 km, South-East
- (d) $\sqrt{8}$ km, North-East

131. Statements: Some pilots are divers. All divers are medics. No medic is a trader. All traders are coders.

Conclusions: I. Some pilots are not traders. II. Some coders are not medics. III. Some pilots are traders. IV. No pilot is a trader.

- (a) Only I follows
- (b) Only I and either III or IV follow
- (c) Only I and II follow
- (d) Only II and either III or IV follow

132. Anika says about a boy Vihaan, "Vihaan is the son of the daughter of the only son of my maternal grandmother." Anika's mother has no sister. How is Vihaan related to Anika?

- (a) Brother
- (b) Maternal uncle
- (c) Maternal cousin's son
- (d) Paternal cousin's son

133. Neeraj starts from Point S facing East. He walks 9 m, turns 90° left and walks 12 m, turns 135° right and walks $10\sqrt{2}$ m, turns 45° left and walks 5 m, and finally turns 90° left and walks 7 m. What is the direction of Point S from Neeraj's final position, and in which direction is Neeraj finally facing?

- (a) South-West, North
- (b) North-East, South
- (c) South-West, East
- (d) North-West, North

134. Statements: No lunar stone is a meteor. All meteors are archives. Some archives are satellites. All satellites are observatories. Some observatories are lunar stones.

Conclusions: I. Some observatories are not meteors. II. Some archives are observatories. III. Some lunar stones are not archives.

- (a) Only I follows
- (b) Only II follows
- (c) Only I and II follow
- (d) Only II and III follow

135. In a certain code language: "silver trains cross quiet valley" is "ka mi ru to ne", "quiet rivers cross ancient bridges" is "ru se ka po li", "ancient silver bridges guard valley" is "to mi po ve se", "rivers guard quiet lanterns" is "li ve ka xo", and "valley lanterns ancient" is "to xo se". What is the code for "trains guard ancient"?

- (a) ne ve se
- (b) ne ve po
- (c) mi ve se
- (d) ne xo se

Directions for 136–140:

Aditi, Bhavesh, Chitra, Danish, Esha, Farid, Gauri, Harsh and Isha are members of a heritage-festival organising board. Aditi, Chitra, Esha, Gauri and Isha are women, while Bhavesh, Danish, Farid and Harsh are men. Among the nine members, there are two archivists and one each in charge of flight logistics, finance, costume design, medical aid, legal permissions, catering and venue engineering. There are exactly four married couples in the group, and the remaining one person is unmarried. Each married couple consists of one male and one female.

The following information is known:

The member in charge of finance is married to the member in charge of medical aid, while the member in charge of flight logistics is married to the member in charge of costume design. The member handling legal permissions is married to one of the two archivists, while the member handling catering is married to the member handling venue engineering. No woman in the group handles flight logistics, finance, legal permissions or catering. Aditi is unmarried and has the same responsibility as Chitra. Chitra is married to Bhavesh. Danish is married to Esha, who handles costume design. Farid is married to Gauri, who is not in charge of medical aid. Harsh is married to Isha, who is not in charge of venue engineering. Farid handles neither finance nor legal permissions. Bhavesh is not in charge of flight logistics.

136. Who among the following is the unmarried person?

- (a) Aditi
- (b) Chitra
- (c) Esha
- (d) Gauri

137. Who among the following handles legal permissions?

- (a) Danish
- (b) Bhavesh
- (c) Farid
- (d) Harsh

138. Which of the following pairs is the finance-medical aid married couple?

- (a) Danish and Esha
- (b) Farid and Gauri
- (c) Harsh and Isha
- (d) Bhavesh and Chitra

139. What is Gauri in charge of?

- (a) Costume design
- (b) Medical aid
- (c) Archiving
- (d) Venue engineering

140. Who among the following handles flight logistics?

- (a) Farid
- (b) Harsh
- (c) Danish
- (d) Bhavesh

Direction for Q141–Q143: Read the below provided set of principles and then answer the questions that follow.

Legal Principles:

1. A claim in negligence requires the existence of a duty of care, breach of that duty, and legally recoverable damage.
2. A duty of care depends on reasonable foreseeability of harm, proximity between the parties, and whether imposing liability would be fair, just and reasonable.
3. A claimant who suffers psychiatric injury after witnessing harm to another person may recover compensation where there is a close relationship with the injured person, proximity to the accident or its immediate aftermath, and direct perception of a shocking event.
4. Financial loss which is independent of personal injury or damage to the claimant's property is generally not recoverable in negligence unless there is a special relationship, assumption of responsibility, or recognised legal basis for such recovery.

5. Financial loss which directly follows from physical damage to the claimant's property may be recoverable if it is a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the defendant's negligence.

141. Facts: During a school annual function, a temporary stage collapsed because the event contractor had used weak support frames despite being warned by the school engineer. Meera's daughter, Asha, was performing on the stage. Meera was not seated in the audience when the collapse occurred; she had stepped out to the parking area to take a phone call. On hearing the crash and screams, she ran back within two minutes and saw Asha trapped under a broken frame, bleeding and calling for help. Asha survived but suffered multiple fractures. Meera later developed a recognised psychiatric illness and sued the contractor. Which of the following is the most appropriate decision?

- (a) Meera can recover because she directly perceived the immediate aftermath involving her injured daughter.
- (b) Meera can recover because the contractor's negligence created physical risk for persons at the event.
- (c) Meera cannot recover because she did not see the exact moment when the stage first collapsed.
- (d) Meera cannot recover because Asha survived and psychiatric harm is recoverable only after death.

142. Facts: The State Harbour Authority negligently issued a public notice stating that the eastern channel of a port was safe for heavy vessels. Two cargo ships relying on the notice entered the channel and ran aground. No vessel or equipment belonging to Neel Fisheries was damaged. However, the harbour was closed for four days for removal operations, and Neel Fisheries lost income because its fishing boats could not leave the port during that period. Neel Fisheries had not sought any individual advice from the Harbour Authority, and the notice was issued for navigational safety. Can Neel Fisheries recover its lost income from the Harbour Authority?

- (a) Yes, because loss of income to port users was a foreseeable result of closing the harbour.
- (b) Yes, because navigational notices are capable of affecting commercial decisions at ports.
- (c) No, because the claim is for independent financial loss without property damage or special reliance.
- (d) No, because public notices issued by statutory authorities do not create duties in negligence.

143. Facts: Vidya owned a cold-storage unit where she stored premium seafood for supply to restaurants. ElectroGrid Ltd., while repairing an underground cable outside the premises, negligently cut the power line supplying the cold-storage unit. The backup warning system failed because ElectroGrid's workers had also disconnected the external alarm cable. By the time power was restored, seafood worth ₹12 lakh had spoiled. Vidya also claimed ₹5 lakh as profit she would have earned from selling that spoiled stock under confirmed restaurant orders. In addition, she claimed ₹8 lakh as profit from a later consignment that was expected the next week but had to be cancelled because her customers shifted temporarily to another supplier. Which of the following is the most appropriate outcome?

- (a) Vidya can recover the stock value and both profit claims because business interruption was foreseeable.
- (b) Vidya can recover the stock value and profit on that stock, but not profit from the later consignment.
- (c) Vidya cannot recover the stock value because the damage resulted from power failure rather than direct contact.
- (d) Vidya can recover the later-consignment profit because customer loss was the main commercial consequence.

Direction for Q144–Q148: Consider the following principles and respond.

Principle 1: Vicarious liability is a doctrine under which one person may be held liable for the wrong of another, even without personal fault, if the wrongful act has a sufficient legal connection with the relationship between them.

Principle 2: An employer may be vicariously liable for an employee's wrongful act if the act is an outgrowth of employment, broadly incidental to the employer's business, or a foreseeable risk created by the duties assigned to the employee.

Principle 3: An employer is generally not liable where the employee, at the time of the wrong, is pursuing an independent personal purpose substantially disconnected from the employer's work.

Principle 4: An employer may be vicariously liable for an intentional wrong by an employee if the employee's act is closely connected with the work assigned to him or is done, at least in part, through the authority, opportunity, or position created by employment.

Principle 5: Where the wrong is committed by an independent contractor, the person hiring him is generally not vicariously liable unless the hirer retained control over the manner in which the work was performed.

144. Which of the following is least likely to result in vicarious liability?

- (a) A courier employed by SpeedX, while carrying parcels on his assigned route, injures a pedestrian while taking a permitted shortcut to finish deliveries on time.

- (b) A courier employed by SpeedX, while between two deliveries, injures a pedestrian while stopping at a fuel station usually used by SpeedX riders.
- (c) A courier employed by SpeedX, after completing all deliveries, injures a pedestrian while driving the company van to the authorised parking yard.
- (d) A courier employed by SpeedX, on a weekly off, injures a pedestrian while using his own scooter to buy groceries for his family.

145. Which of the following may most clearly result in vicarious liability?

- (a) A hotel driver, after finishing his shift, uses the hotel car without permission to attend a private wedding and injures a cyclist on the way.
- (b) A hotel driver, while transporting guests from the airport, negligently hits a cyclist while taking a longer route to avoid traffic and reach the hotel faster.
- (c) A hotel driver, during lunch break, takes his personal motorcycle to visit his child's school and injures a cyclist on the way.
- (d) A hotel driver, after resigning from service, keeps a duplicate key of the hotel car and injures a cyclist while using it at night.

146. An unknown customer drops a bottle of cooking oil in a supermarket aisle. The oil spreads across the floor. The floor supervisor, Kavita, who is employed by the supermarket, places warning cones around the spill and instructs cleaning staff to mop the aisle. Before cleaning is completed, Mohan ignores the cones while looking at his phone, walks into the closed aisle, slips and suffers a fracture. Mohan sues the supermarket, claiming that it is vicariously liable for Kavita's conduct. Is the supermarket vicariously liable on these facts?

- (a) Yes, because Kavita was acting as the supermarket's floor supervisor when Mohan slipped.
- (b) No, because Kavita's response does not disclose a wrongful act by an employee.
- (c) Yes, because Mohan was injured inside the supermarket during business hours.
- (d) No, because the spill was originally caused by an unknown customer and not by staff.

147. Rakesh works as a bouncer at "Blue Door", a nightclub. His duties include managing the entry queue, refusing entry to intoxicated visitors, and preventing disorder near the gate. One evening, Imran, who is drunk, abuses people in the queue and tries to push past Rakesh into the club. Rakesh first blocks him and asks him to leave. When Imran again pushes towards the gate, Rakesh punches him, causing a broken nose. Imran sues Blue Door, alleging vicarious liability. Is Blue Door vicariously liable?

- (a) No, because Rakesh committed an intentional wrong rather than a careless act.
- (b) No, because nightclub management did not specifically authorise punching visitors.
- (c) Yes, because Rakesh's use of force was closely connected with his gate-control duties.
- (d) Yes, because employers are liable whenever employees injure visitors at the workplace.

148. Which of the following is most likely to result in vicarious liability of the company hiring the person who caused the injury?

- (a) A mall hires an independent electrician to repair lights; he chooses his own method, brings his own tools, and negligently injures a shopper.
- (b) A mall hires a housekeeping agency; agency staff decide cleaning methods, and one cleaner forgets to place a wet-floor sign after mopping.
- (c) A mall permits a private food-delivery rider to collect orders from restaurants; the rider injures a shopper while leaving for another delivery.
- (d) A mall appoints its own security guard to remove disorderly visitors; while removing a visitor from the entrance, the guard uses excessive force.

149. **Principle:** A dishonoured cheque may attract criminal liability only when the cheque was issued for discharge of a legally enforceable debt or liability existing on the date of presentation. If the cheque is presented for an amount materially higher than the enforceable liability then outstanding, and the statutory demand also insists on that higher amount without adjusting admitted payments, liability under this principle may not arise in that form.

Facts: Aman borrowed ₹9 lakh from Kavya and gave her a signed cheque as security, leaving the amount column blank. Over the next six months, Aman repaid ₹7.5 lakh through bank transfers, all of which Kavya acknowledged over email. A dispute then arose over the remaining amount. Kavya filled the cheque for ₹9 lakh, presented it, and it was dishonoured for insufficiency of funds. Her notice demanded payment of ₹9 lakh and made no adjustment for the earlier repayments. Aman replied within time, enclosing proof of the ₹7.5 lakh already paid and offering to pay the admitted balance of ₹1.5 lakh. Kavya refused and filed a complaint. Which of the following is the most appropriate decision?

- (a) The complaint is maintainable because an enforceable balance remained unpaid when the cheque was dishonoured.
- (b) The complaint is maintainable after treating the cheque amount as reduced to the unpaid balance.
- (c) The complaint is not maintainable because the cheque and notice claimed more than the liability due.
- (d) The complaint is not maintainable because the cheque was originally issued only as security.

150. Principle: A person who buys goods or hires services for consideration is a consumer, but a person who obtains goods for resale or for a commercial purpose is not treated as a consumer. However, goods bought and used by a person exclusively for earning livelihood by self-employment are not treated as being bought for a commercial purpose.

Facts: Nazia, a trained tailor who had lost her salaried job, bought one computerised embroidery machine from StitchPro on instalments. She used the machine herself from a room in her house to take customised blouse and kurti orders through WhatsApp and Instagram. During festive weeks, her younger sister helped with packing and hand-finishing, for which Nazia paid her small amounts. The machine stopped working within two months despite repeated service requests. StitchPro refused to entertain her complaint before the consumer forum, arguing that Nazia used the machine under the name “Nazia Designs” and earned income from it. Is Nazia a consumer?

- (a) No, because the machine was used to earn income under a trade name and online orders.
- (b) No, because paid family assistance during festive weeks made the activity commercial in nature.
- (c) Yes, because purchase of a single defective machine is enough to establish consumer status.
- (d) Yes, because personal operation of one machine for livelihood keeps the purchase within self-employment.