

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2026
Mock 202608: Answer Key and Solution



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(b)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(b)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
(c)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(a)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
(d)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(a)
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(c)
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
(b)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(b)
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
(c)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(c)
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
(a)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(b)
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
(a)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(d)	(b)
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
(a)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
(c)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(b)
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
(a)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)

Section A: English Comprehension

1. Correct Answer: (b) To show how repeated listening turns nature into intimacy.

Reference Lines: "The joy I felt coming home to my one's familiar refrain marked a deeper, more personal relationship than I've felt with a bird before."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The comparison with musicians supports the passage, but it is not the main concern. The passage moves beyond training to personal attachment and seasonal loss. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The passage traces how the author's attention to one bird's song becomes a personal bond. It captures both familiarity and emotional closeness. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Option (c): The passage mentions blackbird motifs, but the scientific detail is used to deepen the author's emotional response. It is not mainly an explanatory bird-study passage. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): Urban sounds and silence appear in the passage, but they do not form the central contrast. The focus is on attachment to one bird's unique song. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

2. Correct Answer: (c) the bird's tune may have matured through practice.

Reference Lines: "If I didn't notice it last season, it was probably because he was still a shy apprentice, his song unfinished as he practised quietly to work out his preferred combination of notes."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage says male blackbirds copy and draw on sounds, but each builds his own setlist. It does not suggest simple copying without change. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The passage imagines quiet practice, not silence as definite proof of low confidence. The author is speculating about musical development. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The phrase presents the bird as a learner whose song was still forming. It suggests gradual refinement through repeated practice. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Option (d): The passage says the song was unfinished last season. It does not say the refrain had already become fixed. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

3. Correct Answer: (d) It clarified the individuality of the familiar bird.

Reference Lines: "A trip to the east of town last week gave me blackbirds with songs like ringing telephones and car alarms, and for the first time I was struck by how those blackbirds weren't my blackbird."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The author does not rank the other blackbirds as inferior. Their difference makes the familiar bird feel more personal. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): Location helps reveal variation, but the passage does not reduce blackbird song mainly to geography. It stresses individual setlists. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The passage mentions telephone-like and alarm-like sounds, but not as disturbance. They show how birds draw on their environment. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): Hearing different blackbirds helps the author recognise the uniqueness of his own blackbird. The experience deepens attachment through contrast. Hence, option (d) is correct.

4. Correct Answer: (b) The bird's song is precious because it is temporary.

Reference Lines: "What makes his song all the more precious is that I know it will end soon. Summer's great silence is coming, when breeding ends and our birds move into their reclusive moult."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a): The phrase does not mean all natural sound will vanish. It refers specifically to birds becoming less vocal after breeding. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The author values the song more because it will soon stop. Its seasonal limit gives it emotional weight. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Option (c): The passage does not suggest the author will forget the bird. It suggests the song may not be heard for many months. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The silence does not weaken the bond; it makes the song feel sacred. The author treats absence as part of its value. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

5. Correct Answer: (b) The blackbird sings mainly to please the human listener.

Reference Lines: "The joy I felt coming home to my one's familiar refrain marked a deeper, more personal relationship than I've felt with a bird before."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The author recognises the refrain as belonging to "my blackbird." This shows personal recognition of the song. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The passage never says the bird sings for the author's pleasure. The emotional meaning belongs to the listener's experience, not the bird's intention. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Option (c): The passage states that blackbirds draw on environmental sounds, including mimicry. This can be inferred from the given description. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The author compares the bird's wordless "yes" with the feeling of writing or painting well. This supports the idea of bodily artistic certainty. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

6. Correct Answer: (d) remains unavailable on human demand.

Reference Lines: "In a culture where we have grown used to getting what we want, whenever we want it, there is something sacred in that."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage contrasts the song with cultural habits of constant access, not mainly with urban noise. Noise is a secondary detail. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The author does not gain control over the season. The value comes from accepting that the song will disappear. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The passage interprets the bird's song richly and personally. It does not claim nature cannot be interpreted. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The final sentence treats seasonal unavailability as sacred. The song matters partly because it cannot be summoned whenever desired. Hence, option (d) is correct.

7. Correct Answer: (c) Human attention must widen beyond dramatic signs of action.

Reference Lines: "To think with trees, then, is not to flee human history, but to enlarge the terms on which history is written."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage does not reduce trees to moral teachers, even though it draws lessons from how they live. It is more concerned with expanding what counts as life, action and history. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The lack of visible motion is one reason for human neglect, but it is not the whole argument. The passage also discusses noise, crisis, usefulness, praise, silence and endurance. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The passage argues that meaningful life and change need not appear as crisis, noise or visible action. It asks us to notice forms of existence that do not arrive as events. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Option (d): The passage does not ask morality to replace crisis with ecological humility. It argues for a broader way of reading history and existence. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

8. Correct Answer: (a) acts and changes without fitting our usual signs of action.

Reference Lines: "It works without announcement, alters without spectacle, competes without visible rage, and survives without converting its survival into achievement."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The tree unsettles human categories because it works, changes, competes and survives without noise, drama or display. This captures the author's point about our narrow measures of action. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Option (b): The passage never says trees cannot be studied as living. It says we fail to recognise their life properly because our categories are too impatient. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The human need for reward is discussed later, but the quoted phrase mainly concerns action, movement, noise and crisis. This option shifts the focus too narrowly. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The passage does not say trees have no moral relation to us. It says our moral imagination usually admits them only in limited roles. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

9. Correct Answer: (d) a correction to our narrow idea of life.

Reference Lines: "If, however, one suspects that eventfulness is only one of the poorer vocabularies of existence, the tree begins to look like a correction."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage does not treat the tree as merely witnessing human failure. It presents the tree as challenging the terms by which existence is noticed. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The passage rejects the idea that trees are passive merely because they are quiet or rooted. This option repeats the mistaken human reading. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The author criticises the habit of seeing trees as generous or charitable. This option preserves the very attitude being questioned. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The line says the tree corrects a poor vocabulary of existence based only on events. It challenges the belief that only incident-filled lives deserve attention. Hence, option (d) is correct.

10. Correct Answer: (b) It turns tree-life into a flattering lesson about human benefit.

Reference Lines: "Yet this praise secretly preserves human importance. To call a tree generous because it gives us air is to imagine ourselves as the intended recipients of its being."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The author does not deny that trees provide shade, fruit, flowers or oxygen. The objection is to interpreting these benefits as if trees exist for us. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The author argues that such praise keeps humans at the centre by imagining tree-life as service to us. It turns the tree's existence into a human-centred moral lesson. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Option (c): The passage mentions "saintly resignation," but the deeper problem is not only moral intention. The main concern is that human praise secretly preserves human importance. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The passage does not discuss ecological dependence as weakness. It criticises the self-flattering way humans interpret what trees do. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

11. Correct Answer: (c) Endurance is easier for humans to read than spectacle.

Reference Lines: "Sometimes endurance is the argument we are least trained to read."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage says "We trust crisis because crisis gives us a plot." This supports the idea that humans read crisis as a clear narrative form. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The passage says the tree “alters without spectacle.” This supports the idea that change can occur without dramatic evidence. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The passage says the opposite: endurance is the argument we are least trained to read. Therefore, this cannot be inferred from the passage. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Option (d): The passage asks whether rootedness may be freedom from the need to be elsewhere or visible. This supports the inference that rootedness need not imply incapacity. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

12. Correct Answer: (a) flattering.

Reference Lines: “It simply lives according to forms of need from which our moral vocabulary has extracted a flattering lesson.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a): “Flattering” suggests that human moral language turns the tree’s life into something pleasing to human importance. It best captures the author’s criticism of self-centred interpretation. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Option (b): “Charitable” refers to how humans imagine trees as giving institutions, but it does not by itself express the self-pleasing nature of that interpretation. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): “Saintly” suggests moralised admiration, but it does not capture the idea that humans are pleasing themselves through that reading. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): “Intended” supports the criticism of human-centred thinking, but it is less precise than “flattering” for the idea of self-pleasing interpretation. Hence, option (d) is incorrect

13. Correct Answer: (c) his sense of self had become unstable and unfamiliar to him.

Reference Lines: “I felt split in two, as though I were forging my own name, trying to pass myself off as me.”

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The physical difficulty is present, but it is not the deeper point of the scene. The signing problem becomes a sign of inner estrangement. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The passage does not stress fear of public judgement in the bank. The focus is on the narrator’s disturbed relation to himself. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The narrator feels divided from himself and even doubts the authenticity of his own signature. This shows a crisis of identity rather than mere nervousness. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Option (d): The passage connects the scene to drinking, but it does not present him as simply incapable of basic actions. The bank episode is existential rather than merely functional. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

14. Correct Answer: (b) turns his shame into something grave and meaningful.

Reference Lines: “But Dermot made the failing feel profound... He took the thing I felt most debased by and imbued it with meaning.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): Dermot does not reduce the matter to an ordinary habit. His tone makes it feel serious, fateful and psychologically charged. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The narrator says Dermot made his most shameful failing feel profound and meaningful. This explains why the remark had such force for him. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Option (c): The narrator rejects clichés about drinking and creativity. Dermot’s meaning is psychological and existential, not artistic glamour. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The diaries did not disprove the narrator’s drinking problem. They had already recorded his fear and inability to control it. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

15. Correct Answer: (d) ritual weight rather than ordinary description.

Reference Lines: "His tone suggested that this was serious, but more like a fate to be tussled with than a condition in need of treatment. He sounded like a clan elder telling me I had the gift."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): Dermot is not presented as medically accurate. The passage contrasts his framing with a condition requiring treatment. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): His tone is not mainly romantic or soft. It carries the authority of someone naming a serious fate. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The remark is not casual humour. The narrator experiences it as solemn and personally revealing. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The "clan elder" image gives Dermot's remark a ceremonial and ancestral force. It makes the label feel like a serious recognition of identity. Hence, option (d) is correct.

16. Correct Answer: (a) an alternative explanation for the narrator's attachment to Dermot.

Reference Lines: "Lois had the air of someone who knew things... so when she said to Dermot that I was ambitious and that my affection for him arose, unconsciously, from that, it gave him pause."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): Lois offers a competing interpretation: that the narrator's affection came from ambition rather than love or identity-hunger. This is her central function in the passage. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Option (b): Her glamour is vividly described, but it is not the main reason she matters. The important point is the interpretation she gives of the narrator. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): Lois affects Dermot's certainty, but she is not mainly a social rival. Her role is interpretive, not competitive. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): She does not confirm the narrator's emotional confusion. The narrator firmly says she was wrong and gives a different account. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

17. Correct Answer: (c) identity-hunger rather than social calculation.

Reference Lines: "She was wrong. There was something juicier and more primal than ambition going on... Who am I?... I was looking for someone else to provide the answers."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage does not present wounded pride as the source of his attachment. The deeper concern is his inability to answer who he is. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): This repeats Lois's view in a softer form. The narrator rejects ambition as the real source of his feeling. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The narrator links his attachment to the question "Who am I?" and the desire for someone else to answer it. This makes identity-hunger central. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Option (d): The narrator does not frame the feeling as rivalry. He sees Dermot as someone who might define him, not someone he wanted to defeat. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

18. Correct Answer: (d) another person's certainty could supply his own.

Reference Lines: "Whatever his faults, he knew who he was. Surely he could tell me who I was?"

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage does not suggest the narrator expects love to cure his drinking. His need is tied more to identity than protection. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): Ambition is Lois's explanation, not the narrator's concern at the end. Dermot's trust is not presented as the solution. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): Dermot's naming does give shame meaning earlier, but the final question goes further. It reveals the narrator's wish to borrow another person's self-knowledge. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The narrator sees Dermot as self-possessed and hopes that Dermot can define him too. This captures the dependence revealed in the final line. Hence, option (d) is correct.

19. Correct Answer: (c) progress has often been framed as nature's depletion.

Reference Lines: "Forests, rivers, soils and species appear as resources to be managed, inputs to be optimised, or constraints to be overcome. Human wellbeing advances; nature reduces."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The passage presents the older development story as one where human welfare rises while nature is reduced. It does not say both improve together. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The author accepts that development has improved the welfare of billions. The criticism is of the ecological cost of that model, not its total failure. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The phrase captures a development narrative where human progress is imagined through the use, management and depletion of nature. Hence, option (c) is correct.

Option (d): The passage says nature has been treated as resource, input and constraint. It does not suggest nature has remained untouched. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

20. Correct Answer: (a) ecological damage now threatens human prosperity itself.

Reference Lines: "Climate change, biodiversity loss, disrupted ecosystems and rising natural-disaster risks all point to degradation of the natural world as a systemic risk to human prosperity."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The author argues that environmental degradation is no longer merely a cost outside development. It has become a risk to human prosperity itself. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Option (b): The passage does not deny the social value of economic growth. It says the older model has delivered major gains but is now breaking. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The author specifically rejects a nostalgic return to the past because it ignores historical poverty. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The passage argues the opposite: human life is deeply connected with natural systems. The older mistake is treating nature as separate. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

21. Correct Answer: (d) enmeshed.

Reference Lines: "human lives are not merely supported by nature: they are entangled with it, emerge from it, are enmeshed in it, nourished by it, and dependent on it in countless ways"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a): "Supported" suggests that nature helps or holds up human life, but the author says the relationship is deeper than that. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): "Nourished" suggests feeding or sustaining, but it does not capture the idea of being woven into a larger living system as strongly. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): "Dependent" suggests reliance, but it does not carry the same image of close interweaving as the required idea. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): "Enmeshed" means caught up or closely woven into something. It best conveys the author's idea that human life is part of nature, not outside it. Hence, option (d) is correct.

22. Correct Answer: (b) supports human welfare and living systems together.

Reference Lines: "What if we could craft a narrative of development that did not ignore the interconnections between human prosperity and the flourishing of the rest of the living world?"

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation:

Option (a): The author does not favour increasing wealth while treating ecological limits as obstacles. That is close to the older model being questioned. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

Option (b): The author asks for an expanded idea of development that considers human prosperity and the flourishing of the living world together. Hence, option (b) is correct.

Option (c): The author does not call for removing human influence fully. The passage says humans are now a planetary force and asks how that influence should be directed. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The author does not ask for prosperity indicators to be replaced by biodiversity data alone. The point is to expand development, not narrow it in the opposite direction. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

23. Correct Answer: (a) ecological concern need not oppose human development.

Reference Lines: "Incorporating nature relationships into the measure of development must not mean a retreat from human development, nor a nostalgic return to some past condition that ignores the grinding poverty..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation:

Option (a): The author clarifies that including nature in development does not mean abandoning human progress or romanticising the past. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Option (b): The passage says development has improved billions of lives, but it does not claim poverty has been permanently solved. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): The passage does not praise past societies as ecologically wiser. It warns against ignoring the poverty that marked much of human history. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): The author says most ecosystems are now shaped by human activity. The question is not removing human involvement, but guiding it better. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

24. Correct Answer: (a) workable.

Reference Lines: "The defining pressures of the 21st century suggest that reducing nature to an exploitable commodity is no longer viable."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a): In the passage, "viable" means capable of continuing or working in practice. The author says the older model of exploiting nature is no longer workable. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Option (b): "Desirable" means wanted or preferred, but the passage is about whether the model can continue, not whether people like it. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

Option (c): "Measurable" means capable of being measured, but the passage is not using "viable" in that sense. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

Option (d): "Acceptable" is somewhat related, but it is not precise here. The author is stressing practical sustainability, not mere approval. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

25. Correct Answer: (a) 1948

Explanation: After the Partition of India, the Reserve Bank of India served as the central bank of Pakistan for a temporary period. This arrangement continued until June 1948, when the State Bank of Pakistan commenced operations. This is a lesser-known historical function of the RBI. It shows that the RBI's role briefly extended beyond the newly independent Indian Union after 1947.

26. Correct Answer: (b) July 2020 to March 2021

Explanation: The RBI earlier followed a July-June accounting year. To align with the Government of India's April-March financial year, RBI used July 2020 to March 2021 as the transitional accounting year. After this transition, its accounting year became April-March. This alignment helped bring RBI's financial reporting closer to the Union Government's budget cycle. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

27. Correct Answer: (d) Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India was established on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance. This commission is also known as the Hilton Young Commission. Its recommendations formed the background for the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The RBI commenced operations on April 1, 1935. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

28. Correct Answer: (b) Bimal Jalan Committee

Explanation: The Economic Capital Framework of the RBI is associated with the Expert Committee chaired by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan. The framework deals with how much risk provision the RBI should retain and how much surplus may be transferred to the government. It examined concepts such as realised equity, revaluation balances and the Contingent Risk Buffer. The Urjit Patel Committee is mainly linked with monetary policy and inflation targeting. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

29. Correct Answer: (a) Château de Rambouillet

Explanation: The first "World Economic Summit", which later evolved into the G7 process, was held in 1975 at the Château de Rambouillet in France. It brought together the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States as the Group of Six. Canada joined the following year, converting the grouping into the G7. The meeting was shaped by the first oil crisis and the collapse of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange-rate system.

30. Correct Answer: (a) Only I and II

Explanation: The G7 is an informal forum and does not function through a permanent secretariat or a founding treaty. The European Union participates in G7 summits, usually through the Presidents of the European Council and European Commission. However, the EU is not counted as one of the seven core members. It also does not hold the rotating presidency because the presidency rotates among the seven states. Statement III is therefore incorrect. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

31. Correct Answer: (c) Hiroshima AI Process

Explanation: The Hiroshima AI Process was launched under Japan's G7 presidency in May 2023. It focused on safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence, especially generative AI. The initiative later led to guiding principles and a voluntary code of conduct for organisations developing advanced AI systems. The other options use similar wording but are not the official G7 initiative. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

32. Correct Answer: (b) Canada

Explanation: The first summit of the grouping was held in 1975 with six countries: France, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Italy and Japan. At that stage, the grouping was known as the G6. Canada joined the group in 1976, expanding the membership from six to seven countries. After Canada's admission, the grouping came to be

known as the G7. Australia, Sweden and Spain have never been formal members of the G7. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

33. Correct Answer: (d) Annexation of Crimea

Explanation: Russia was suspended from the G8 process in 2014 after its annexation of Crimea. The remaining countries returned to the G7 format and did not attend the planned G8 summit in Russia. This marked one of the most important institutional shifts in the grouping's history. The Iraq War, Eurozone crisis and global financial crisis did not cause Russia's suspension. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

34. Correct Answer: (a) Its depositaries are the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia.

Explanation: The depositary governments of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia, with Russia being the successor to the Soviet Union. The NPT entered into force in 1970 and remains one of the central treaties of the global nuclear non-proliferation framework. France and China are nuclear-weapon states under the NPT, but they are not depositary governments of the treaty. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

35. Correct Answer: (d) SOLAS Convention

Explanation: The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, commonly known as SOLAS, lays down minimum safety standards for merchant ships. It covers areas such as ship construction, equipment, operation and safety compliance by flag States. The convention's modern form is the 1974 SOLAS Convention. MARPOL deals with pollution prevention, while STCW deals with seafarer training and certification. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

36. Correct Answer: (b) Ebene, Mauritius

Explanation: The IORA Secretariat is located at Ebene in the Republic of Mauritius. IORA is an intergovernmental organisation of Indian Ocean rim states and dialogue partners. India's 2025-2027 chairship makes this institution important for questions on Indian Ocean governance. The Secretariat location is a common factual area in competitive exams because it links geography, diplomacy and regional organisations. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

37. Correct Answer: (a) Hamburg

Explanation: The International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 was adopted at a conference held in Hamburg, Germany. The convention was designed to create an international plan for coordinating rescue of persons in distress at sea. It requires cooperation between neighbouring search and rescue organisations where necessary. London is strongly linked with IMO headquarters, while Rome is linked with the SUA Convention. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

38. Correct Answer: (b) MARPOL Convention

Explanation: The IMO Net-Zero Framework is connected with MARPOL Annex VI, which deals with air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from ships. The framework seeks to combine fuel standards with GHG pricing for international shipping. This matters for India because Indian ports, shipping companies and green fuel plans will be affected by international shipping rules. SOLAS deals mainly with safety of life at sea, not emissions regulation. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

39. Correct Answer: (b) Exercise: MILAN 2026; Vessel: IRIS Dena; Location: off Galle, Sri Lanka

Explanation: The Iranian naval vessel involved was IRIS Dena, which had recently participated in MILAN 2026, a major multilateral naval exercise. The vessel was later struck by a U.S. submarine torpedo while it was off the southern coast of Sri Lanka, near Galle. The factual link required here is the exercise, the vessel and the reported location of the incident. Among the given options, only option (b) correctly matches all three elements.

40. Correct Answer: (c) London

Explanation: The International Maritime Organization is a specialised agency of the United Nations. It works on maritime safety, security, legal issues and prevention of marine pollution by ships. Its headquarters is located at Albert Embankment in London, United Kingdom. This is why maritime regulatory and diplomatic engagement often involves London-based IMO processes. Geneva, Vienna and Rome host other major international institutions, but not the IMO headquarters. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

41. Correct Answer: (d) It was notified in 1990 under Article 263 after the Sarkaria Commission recommendation.

Explanation: The Inter-State Council is connected with Article 263 of the Constitution. It was notified on 28 May 1990 after the Government accepted the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations. Article 280 deals with the Finance Commission, not the Inter-State Council. Article 262 relates to adjudication of inter-State water disputes. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

42. Correct Answer: (a) Only I and II

Explanation: India's National MPI uses the Alkire-Foster methodology, which is widely used for measuring multidimensional poverty. The global MPI is computed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative in partnership with the UNDP Human Development Report Office. Statement III is incorrect because MPI does not rely only on income or consumption. It measures overlapping deprivations across dimensions such as health, education and standard of living. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

43. Correct Answer: (c) Convergence, collaboration and competition

Explanation: The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in January 2018 to transform 112 under-developed districts. Its broad contours are convergence of schemes, collaboration among officials and competition through monthly delta rankings. The programme uses data-driven monitoring to improve district-level outcomes. This approach reflects NITI Aayog's emphasis on localised development and measurable performance. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

44. Correct Answer: (b) It was adopted in 2015 and contains 17 goals with 169 associated targets.

Explanation: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. The 2000 framework with 8 goals refers to the Millennium Development Goals, not the SDGs. The 1992 Rio Declaration had principles but was not the SDG framework. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

45. Correct Answer: (a) Harrod-Domar Model

Explanation: India's First Five-Year Plan was launched in 1951, after the Planning Commission had been created in 1950. It was broadly based on the Harrod-Domar model, which emphasised the role of savings, investment and capital formation in economic growth. The Plan focused heavily on agriculture, irrigation, community development and rehabilitation after Partition. The Solow model and Lewis model are also important in development economics, but they are not the model associated with India's First Five-Year Plan. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

46. Correct Answer: (c) Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: Project SATH-E stands for Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital-Education. It was launched in 2017 to identify and build three role-model States in the school education sector. After the selection process, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh were chosen for the programme. The initiative was linked with long-term systemic reforms rather than one-time infrastructure support. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

47. Correct Answer: (b) Only I and II

Explanation: AIS-171 is an Automotive Industry Standard connected with safety requirements for type approval of pure ethanol, flex-fuel and ethanol-gasoline blended vehicles. The NITI Aayog roadmap notes that safety standards for ethanol-blended fuels were notified in 2021 on the basis of AIS-171. Statement III is incorrect because AIS standards

are connected with automotive regulation, not securities law. The Securities Contracts Regulation Act deals with securities markets. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

48. Correct Answer: (c) 85%

Explanation: India, the United States, and Brazil are the three major countries repeatedly linked with global ethanol production and consumption. PIB noted that these three countries collectively contribute around 85% of global ethanol production and 81% of global ethanol consumption. This explains why their role became central to the Global Biofuels Alliance. The 85% figure is the relevant production share, not merely a consumption or trade figure. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

49. Correct Answer: (d) Red Category

Explanation: CPCB's revised industrial classification places molasses-based and grain-based distilleries in the Red Category. This is because distillery operations have high water-pollution potential and significant air-pollution concerns. The classification uses Pollution Index scores based on water pollutants, air pollutants, and waste generation. Distillery units are therefore treated as high-pollution-potential industries. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

50. Correct Answer: (a) PRANA portal

Explanation: PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities. It is used to monitor the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme, especially in cities that do not meet prescribed air quality standards. The portal tracks the physical and financial progress of action plans under NCAP. SAMEER is associated with AQI updates, PARIVESH is linked with environmental clearances, and VAHAN is related to vehicle registration services. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

51. Correct Answer: (b) G20 Summit, New Delhi

Explanation: The Global Biofuels Alliance was launched on 9 September 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. It was launched as an India-led initiative during India's G20 Presidency. The alliance aims to strengthen international cooperation on sustainable biofuels and includes major biofuel producers and consumers. This makes the G20 Summit in New Delhi the correct event. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

52. Correct Answer: (a) It uses colour-coded categories and includes PM2.5 and PM10 among its pollutants.

Explanation: India's National AQI uses colour-coded categories to communicate air quality conditions in a simple public-friendly manner. It includes major pollutants such as PM2.5 and PM10, which are important indicators of particulate pollution and respiratory health risks. The AQI is associated with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and CPCB, not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Hence, option (a) is the correct.

Section C: Legal Reasoning

53. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because Sanya permitted participants to use that area and owed them a legal duty regarding safe access.

Reference Lines: "Duty of Care: This foundational element requires that a person owes a legal duty of care toward others in their actions. This duty is not merely moral or ethical but is recognized by law under specific circumstances."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Sanya was running a paid workshop and allowed participants to enter the kiln room. In such circumstances, she owed a legal duty of care to persons using the studio. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because Radhika's duty to walk carefully does not remove Sanya's legal duty to keep accessible areas reasonably safe. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because the legal basis is not simply that pottery workshops involve risky objects. The relevant issue is whether Sanya owed a duty of care in the circumstances. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the defect being connected to a pipe does not defeat Sanya's duty once the unsafe area was accessible to participants. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

54. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because Nitin knew the railing was loose and still kept the staircase open for guest use.

Reference Lines: "Breach of Duty: Once a duty is established, it must be shown that the defendant failed to honor this duty through their actions or inactions. This breach could be failing to secure a property."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because the injury alone is not the precise basis of liability. The breach lies in Nitin's failure to act after being informed of the unsafe railing. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because holding a staircase railing for support is a normal use of the property and does not answer Nitin's failure to repair a known defect. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is correct because Nitin had notice of the loose railing but failed to repair it or restrict use of the staircase. This amounts to failing to honour the duty of care through inaction. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the railing failed during ordinary use, and Nitin had already been warned that it required repair. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

55. Correct Answer: (b) No, because Kavya was injured by the fan defect rather than the uncleared oil spill.

Reference Lines: "Cause in Fact: The plaintiff must demonstrate that the defendant's breach directly caused the damage, where the damage would not have occurred but for the defendant's actions."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because Aditi's delay in cleaning the spill may show carelessness, but that spill did not directly cause Kavya's injury. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is correct because Kavya was injured by the falling fan in another part of the store, not by the oil spill. The required direct causal link between Aditi's breach and Kavya's damage is absent. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because unsafe maintenance in one area cannot support liability for a different injury unless that breach directly caused the damage claimed. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the facts state that Aditi had delayed cleaning the spill for fifteen minutes. The correct reason is lack of direct causation, not absence of time to respond. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

56. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, for Meera's injury, but not Rohan's loss, because proximity and foreseeability differ in the two claims.

Reference Lines: "Proximate Cause: The harm caused must be a foreseeable result of the defendant's actions, a principle that delimits the scope of the defendant's responsibility to the consequences that could be reasonably anticipated."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because injury to a nearby resident from flying glass is a foreseeable result of unsafe storage of flammable materials. Rohan's business loss, arising from a missed meeting several kilometres away, is too remote. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because the fact that physical disruption and economic loss occurred in the same broad sequence does not make both harms foreseeable. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because the accumulation of fumes is connected to Harsh's unsafe storage and poor ventilation. It does not break liability for foreseeable harm. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because it reverses the correct application of proximate cause. Meera's injury is foreseeable, while Rohan's commercial loss is remote. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

57. Correct Answer: (d) Yes, because the recent servicing and wrongly fitted pressure valve allow an inference against Trident Repairs.

Reference Lines: "Res Ipsa Loquitur: This principle shifts the burden of proof from the plaintiff to the defendant under certain conditions, suggesting that the facts of the incident imply negligence."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because the principle itself allows negligence to be inferred from the facts of the incident under suitable conditions. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because res ipsa loquitur may apply even when the injured party cannot initially identify the precise careless act or the specific technician responsible. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because the question concerns whether negligence may be inferred against Trident Repairs. The stronger inference arises from the recent servicing and the wrongly fitted valve. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is correct because the boiler exploded shortly after servicing, and the inspection linked the defect to a wrongly fitted pressure valve. These facts may imply negligence by Trident Repairs and shift the burden to it. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

58. Correct Answer: (c) Situation iii only.

Reference Line: Res Ipsa Loquitur: This principle shifts the burden of proof from the plaintiff to the defendant under certain conditions, suggesting that the facts of the incident imply negligence.

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation: (a) This option is incorrect because Situation i is a strong case for applying res ipsa loquitur. A patient under anaesthesia suffers an injury in an area unrelated to the surgery, while the relevant instruments and procedure are under the control of hospital staff. The facts themselves suggest negligence, even before the patient can identify the exact negligent act. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is incorrect because Situation ii may also attract res ipsa loquitur. A wall-fixed glass shelf in a store collapses without customer interference, and the store controlled installation, stocking, and display arrangements. These facts may imply negligence in fixing, maintenance, or load management. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is correct because Situation iii does not strongly suggest negligence from the facts of the incident. The branch fell during a sudden and unusually severe storm, and recent inspection records showed no visible defect or decay. The injury may have occurred because of an external natural event rather than because the municipality failed to exercise due care. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option is incorrect because Situation iv is suitable for applying res ipsa loquitur. A wheel detaches from an amusement-park ride while it is being operated by park staff, and the passenger had no control over the ride's maintenance or operation. Such facts may themselves suggest negligence in inspection, maintenance, or operation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

59. Correct Answer: (b) No, because payment depends on an event that has no definite or inevitable time of occurrence.

Reference Lines: “The time of payment must be certain, ensuring that payment will occur at a definite time or event. For instance, an instrument specifying payment upon the death of a person remains valid, as death is an inevitable, defined event.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because a business launch may be identifiable if it occurs, but it is not a definite or inevitable event. The uncertainty lies in the time and occurrence of the event. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is correct because “successful launch” depends on uncertain regulatory, financial, and market factors. It does not provide a definite time or an inevitable event for payment. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because clarity of amount and payee does not cure uncertainty regarding the time of payment. The instrument must also satisfy the requirement of definite payment timing. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because a calendar date is not the sole way to make payment time certain. Payment may also be linked to a definite or inevitable event, which is missing here. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

60. Correct Answer: (b) No, because the promise was never reduced into a handwritten, printed, or typed form.

Reference Lines: “The instrument must also be in writing, whether handwritten, printed, or typed, to maintain legality and clarity.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because witnesses and clarity of amount do not replace the requirement that the negotiable instrument must be in writing. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is correct because no written document was prepared in handwritten, printed, or typed form. Therefore, the oral instruction cannot qualify as a negotiable instrument. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because an intention to prepare a written record later is not the same as the existence of a written instrument. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the main defect in the facts is not the shipment-linked timing, but the absence of any written instrument. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

61. Correct Answer: (c) No, because the note does not specify any individual or entity as the payee.

Reference Lines: “Finally, the payee—the person receiving the payment—must be specified, whether an individual or an entity like a company or trade union, giving assurance of the recipient’s legitimacy.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because the possible identification of affected workers is not enough. The instrument itself must specify the payee who is entitled to receive payment. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because the association may claim to represent the workers, but it was not specified as the payee in the note. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is correct because the note does not name any individual, company, trade union, association, trustee, or representative body as the payee. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the charitable purpose is not the central defect. The defect is that the recipient of the payment has not been specified. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

62. Correct Answer: (a) (a) No, because repayment depends on Nisha’s business becoming profitable enough.

Reference Lines: “A promissory note involves a debtor’s unconditional promise to pay a specific amount to a creditor within a set timeframe, making it ideal for straightforward loan arrangements.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Nisha’s promise is conditional upon her business earning enough profit. This does not amount to an unconditional promise to pay within a set timeframe. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because acknowledgement of debt and identification of the creditor do not make the promise unconditional. The repayment depends on profitability. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because a fixed amount and loan arrangement are not sufficient if the promise to pay is conditional. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the defect is not Varun's delay in demanding payment. The defect is that the note makes repayment dependent on uncertain business profitability. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

63. Correct Answer: (d) No, because the added words make payment depend on Pearl Café's future fund position.

Reference Lines: "Bills of exchange are another form, directing a debtor to pay a specified amount to a payee on demand or at a future date. In this case, the drawer (creditor) instructs the drawee (debtor), adding a layer of accountability."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because seasonal expenses may be capable of calculation later, but the payment direction still depends on a condition. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because signing and naming the payee do not cure the conditional nature of the payment direction added by Pearl Café. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because bills of exchange may be payable on demand or at a future date. A 90-day payment period does not itself make the bill invalid. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is correct because Pearl Café's acceptance adds a condition based on its future fund position. This weakens the direction to pay the specified amount to the payee. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

64. Correct Answer: (d) A cheque is a promissory note in which the bank promises to pay the holder at a future date.

Reference Line: Cheques, a widely used negotiable instrument, act as bills of exchange with a bank as the drawee, making them payable on demand.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: (a) This statement is correct because the passage describes ease of transfer as an important feature of negotiable instruments. It explains that ownership may be passed without formalities or excessive paperwork. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This statement is correct because the passage states that a negotiable instrument must be in writing, and the writing may be handwritten, printed, or typed. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This statement is correct because the passage explains that payment upon the death of a person may still be valid, as death is an inevitable and defined event. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This statement is incorrect because the passage does not describe a cheque as a promissory note or as an instrument payable at a future date. It describes a cheque as a bill of exchange with a bank as the drawee, payable on demand. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

65. Correct Answer: (b) No, because legal assistance may have helped Vivek, but it was not compulsory in the process.

Reference Lines: "Meanwhile, legal representation, though not always mandatory in administrative proceedings, is often essential for understanding legal complexities, as seen in J.J. Mody v State of Bombay and Krishna Chandra v Union of India."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because the presence of legal clauses does not mean that the municipality had to guide applicants on whether they should take legal assistance. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is correct because legal representation could have helped Vivek understand the tender's legal consequences, but the passage states that it is not always mandatory in administrative proceedings. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not say that technical applicants are excused from understanding legal requirements in administrative processes. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because legal representation may be useful even before penalties are imposed, especially where legal complexities are involved. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

66. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because the notice did not clearly inform Kavya of the charges and hearing details.

Reference Lines: "Notice is a pivotal element of this principle, serving as a prerequisite for a fair trial by informing individuals about actions proposed against them, the charges, and the details of the hearing."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Kavya was not informed of the specific charges, the proposed action, the evidence, or the details of the hearing. This defeats the requirement of proper notice. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because physical attendance and a chance to speak are not sufficient when the person was not properly informed of the case to be answered. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because disciplinary action can be taken through an internal committee process, provided the process follows natural justice. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the seriousness of allotment irregularities does not remove the requirement of clear notice unless a recognized exception applies. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

67. Correct Answer: (b) No, because academic evaluation may not require a conventional hearing in each review.

Reference Lines: "The principle is also adjusted in specific contexts such as academic evaluations and inter-disciplinary actions, where a formal hearing might not contribute significantly to the decision-making process."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because the passage recognizes that in academic evaluations, a formal hearing may not significantly contribute to the decision-making process. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is correct because the review concerned academic evaluation, marking rubrics, and viva records. In such a context, the principle may be adjusted and a conventional formal hearing may not be required. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because the possibility of reputational effect does not by itself decide the issue when the matter is essentially an academic evaluation process. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not say that university committees may ignore procedural fairness. It says the principle may be adjusted in specific academic contexts. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

68. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because the statute and urgent conditions support an exception to individual hearings.

Reference Lines: "Exceptions to Audi Alteram Partem occur under certain conditions, like statutory exclusion, where the law itself may not necessitate a hearing, and impracticability, where holding a hearing is not feasible."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect because the better reason is statutory exclusion and impracticability, not that the project must be treated as a legislative function. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because the passage allows exceptions where the law itself may not necessitate a hearing or where holding hearings is not feasible. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is correct because the facts combine statutory exclusion with impracticability caused by urgency, scale, and public safety concerns. These are recognized exceptions to Audi Alteram Partem. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because individual rights are important, but the passage recognizes limited exceptions in specific statutory and impracticability situations. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

69. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "Cross-examination allows parties to challenge evidence against them. However, cases like *Kanungo & Co. v Collector of Customs* show that this may not always be necessary under specific statutes, like the Sea Customs Act. Meanwhile, legal representation, though not always mandatory in administrative proceedings, is often essential for understanding legal complexities, as seen in *J.J. Mody v State of Bombay* and *Krishna Chandra v Union of India*."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Statement I reflects the qualification on cross-examination under specific statutes, and Statement II reflects the position that legal representation may be useful but not always mandatory. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) is incorrect because Statement III overstates the need for cross-examination. The passage specifically says that cross-examination may not always be necessary under specific statutes. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) is incorrect because Statement IV wrongly treats legal representation as a required feature in such administrative proceedings, while the passage says it is not always mandatory. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) is incorrect because both Statements III and IV go beyond the passage by treating cross-examination and legal representation as necessary in the given proceeding. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

70. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, ABC Finance's mortgage will take precedence because XYZ Bank's nondisclosure of the zoning law change constitutes fraud, potentially deferring their priority.

Reference Lines: "There are exceptions to the doctrine of priority. For instance, Section 78 of the TPA stipulates that if a prior mortgagee commits fraud or gross negligence, they may be deferred in favor of subsequent mortgagees."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a): While appealing, this option is incorrect because the TPA does not provide for the annulment of mortgages based on fraud by one of the mortgagees; it only allows for adjusting priorities among competing interests.

Option (b): This option is incorrect because it overlooks the exceptions to the doctrine of priority outlined in Section 78 of the TPA. It mistakenly asserts that priority is absolute, which is not the case under specific conditions like fraud.

Option (c): This is the correct answer. The principle that fraud or gross negligence by a prior mortgagee can defer their priority to subsequent mortgagees applies here. XYZ Bank's intentional nondisclosure of material information affecting the property's value meets the criteria for fraud, potentially allowing ABC Finance's later mortgage to take precedence.

Option (d): This option is incorrect. It incorrectly limits the scope of what constitutes relevant fraud. In this context, XYZ Bank's withholding of crucial information about zoning changes directly impacts the value and utility of the mortgaged property, making it a legitimate factor in the mortgage's execution and the determination of priority.

71. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, Rajesh's claim will likely succeed because his unregistered sale deed predates Mr. Gupta's registered deed, and the principle affirms that first in time is first in right.

Reference Lines: "Even if a prior transferee's document is unregistered, it holds precedence over a later registered transfer, unless the latter was made in good faith and without knowledge of the earlier transaction."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a): This is the correct answer. The law favors the first transferee when both parties have otherwise equal claims (equities), even if the first transfer was not registered, as long as the subsequent transferee had knowledge of the prior transaction, or there is no proof of their good faith without knowledge.

Option (b): This option is incorrect. It misunderstands the principle that registration alone does not necessarily override the rights established by a prior unregistered transfer if the later transferee had knowledge of the earlier transaction.

Option (c): This option is incorrect as it incorrectly states that failure to register a sale deed completely invalidates a legal claim, which is not true under the principles governing prior transactions discussed in the passage.

Option (d): While this option presents a valid argument, it fails in this context because there is no indication that Mr. Gupta conducted due diligence to discover the prior sale. The principle stated does not automatically favor a registered deed unless it is clear that the subsequent buyer was truly acting without knowledge and in good faith. Since this is not explicitly mentioned, option (a) holds as the correct answer.

72. Correct Answer: (a) Mr. Arjun, because his right in the same immovable property was created first, and Mr. Bhatia could not later transfer better title.

Reference Lines: "The doctrine of priority, codified in Section 48 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TPA), is a crucial legal concept that determines the precedence of rights among conflicting interests over the same immovable property."

"This principle applies when the equities of the parties involved are otherwise equal, implying that the first transferee in time will have superior legal rights over subsequent transferees."

"Section 48 of the TPA establishes that no individual can transfer better title than they possess. If a property is transferred multiple times, each subsequent transferee receives only the rights their predecessor had."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option (a): This is the correct answer. Mr. Arjun's registered sale deed was executed in January 2020, while Ms. Chitra's sale deed was executed later in May 2020. Under Section 48 TPA, where competing rights are created over the same immovable property at different times, the earlier right generally prevails. Once Mr. Bhatia had already transferred his right in the shop to Mr. Arjun, he could not later transfer a better title to Ms. Chitra. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b): This is incorrect because mutation entries do not by themselves create title or override an earlier valid transfer. The fact that Mr. Arjun's name was not yet reflected in municipal records may explain Ms. Chitra's belief, but it does not automatically give her sale deed priority over Mr. Arjun's earlier transfer. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): This is incorrect because mere absence of actual knowledge does not, by itself, defeat the doctrine of priority under Section 48. The passage states that priority depends primarily on the chronological sequence of transfers, and that a subsequent transferee receives only such rights as the transferor still possesses. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): This is incorrect because it gives the right conclusion but the wrong legal reason. The doctrine of priority is based on the order in which rights are created over the same immovable property, not merely on continued possession. Therefore, Mr. Arjun's claim is stronger because his transfer was earlier in time, not because priority depends only on possession. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

73. Correct Answer: (d) A property owner, A, sells a property to B in January and then to C in March of the same year; despite C's transfer being registered first, B's rights are superior due to the earlier transfer.

Explanation:

Option (A) is incorrect because the priority does not depend on the registration but on the time of the transfer.

Option (B) incorrectly states that registration supersedes the time of transfer in determining priority, which is contrary to the rule outlined in Section 48 of the TPA.

Option (C) is incorrect as the doctrine of priority does not consider the ignorance of subsequent transferees as a factor for superiority in rights when prior transfers exist.

Option (D) correctly applies the doctrine of priority, which adheres to the maxim "qui prior est tempore potior est jure" (he who is first in time is stronger in law), giving B superior rights over C despite the registration status.

74. Correct Answer: (c) Even if a prior transferee's document is unregistered, it holds precedence over a later registered transfer, provided the latter was made without knowledge of the earlier transaction.

Reference Lines: "One notable aspect of the doctrine is that the registration of a document does not inherently affect the rights established by prior transfers. Even if a prior transferee's document is unregistered, it holds precedence over a later registered transfer, unless the latter was made in good faith and without knowledge of the earlier transaction."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (c) correctly reflects the doctrine of priority as it acknowledges that an unregistered document of a prior transferee can hold precedence over a later registered document, provided the subsequent transferee acted without knowledge of the earlier transaction. This aligns with the principles outlined under Section 48 of the TPA, emphasizing the chronological sequence of transfers and the knowledge of the parties involved.

Option (a) is incorrect because each subsequent transferee only receives the rights their predecessor had, as per Section 48 of the TPA.

Option (b) is incorrect because registration of a document does not automatically override the rights of prior unregistered transfers, as priority is based on the time of the transfer and the knowledge of subsequent transferees.

Option (d) is incorrect because no individual can transfer better title than they possess, an absolute rule under Section 48 of the TPA that ensures the protection of prior rights.

75. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, since he is a first-time offender and his pre-trial custody exceeds one-third of the nine-year maximum.

Reference Lines: "According to Section 479 of the BNSS, such individuals are to be released on bond if they have been detained for up to one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offense."

"This decision enables first-time offenders, detained in pending criminal cases before the BNSS's enactment on July 1, to benefit from its provisions and potentially be released on bail."

Difficulty Level: Moderate to High

Explanation: Option (a): This is the correct answer. The alleged offence carries a maximum sentence of 9 years, and one-third of 9 years is 3 years. Since Rohan has remained in pre-trial detention from January 2021 and seeks release after the BNSS came into force on 1 July 2024, his detention exceeds the one-third threshold. The question also states that he has never been convicted earlier, so he satisfies the first-time offender requirement. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b): This is incorrect because Section 479 BNSS does not restrict the one-third benefit only to offences carrying punishment below seven years. The relevant test is whether the undertrial is a first-time offender and has completed the required portion of the maximum sentence, subject to statutory exclusions. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c): This is incorrect because the Supreme Court ruling allows the beneficial provision to apply to pending cases, including cases registered before 1 July 2024. Therefore, custody undergone before the BNSS came into force can be considered while applying the provision retrospectively. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): This is incorrect because merely crossing the one-third period is not enough for the relaxed one-third threshold. That benefit is specifically tied to the accused being a first-time offender. The option reaches the correct conclusion but gives an incomplete legal reason. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

76. Correct Answer: (a) Yes, because he has served more than one-third of the maximum sentence, aligning with the criteria set by Section 479 of the BNSS for bail eligibility.

Reference Lines: "According to Section 479 of the BNSS, such individuals are to be released on bond if they have been detained for up to one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offense."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation:

Option (a): This is the correct answer. It directly aligns with the legal provision from the BNSS, stating that individuals detained for more than one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for their offense are eligible for bail. Manish's situation fits this criterion perfectly.

Option (b): This option is incorrect because there is no indication in the scenario or the BNSS provisions that intellectual property theft is excluded from the relaxed bail provisions.

Option (c): While this option sounds plausible, it is slightly misleading because it doesn't directly connect to Manish having served more than the required detention period, which is a critical condition for bail eligibility under the BNSS.

Option (d): This option is incorrect. Although it correctly suggests that meeting detention duration alone isn't always sufficient for bail, in this specific case, under Section 479 of the BNSS, serving beyond one-third of the maximum sentence is explicitly mentioned as a condition for bail, which applies to Manish.

77. Correct Answer: (a) Mr. A, a first-time offender detained for 3 years, where the maximum sentence is 9 years.

Explanation: Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) stipulates that first-time offenders detained for up to one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offense are eligible for release on bond.

Option (a): Mr. A fits the criteria as he has been detained for 3 years for a crime with a maximum sentence of 9 years, which is exactly one-third of the maximum sentence, making him eligible for release under BNSS.

Option (b): Mr. B is not eligible as the BNSS's relaxed bail provisions specifically apply to first-time offenders, and he is described as a habitual offender.

Option (c): Mr. C, although a first-time offender, is detained for a crime punishable by life imprisonment, which is excluded from the relaxed bail provisions under both the BNSS and the previous law.

Option (d): Incorrect as only Mr. A meets the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 479 of the BNSS.

78. Correct Answer: (d) Both (a) and (c).

Explanation: Under the BNSS, Section 479 mandates that first-time offenders detained for up to one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offense are eligible to be released on bond. This provision applies retrospectively, benefiting those detained before the enactment of the BNSS. In the provided options:

Option (a): The first-time offender has been detained for 2 years for a crime with a maximum sentence of 6 years, which is one-third of the maximum sentence, making them eligible for release under BNSS.

Option (b): This individual is not eligible as they are a repeat offender, and the BNSS's provisions specifically target first-time offenders.

Option (c): The first-time offender has been detained for 1 year for a crime with a maximum sentence of 2 years, which is half of the maximum sentence, but as a first-time offender, they would still qualify under the relaxed criteria of the BNSS.

Option (d): Correct, as both options A and C describe first-time offenders who are detained within the stipulations of the BNSS for release on bond, aligning with the Supreme Court's decision for retrospective application.

79. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Lines: "According to Section 479 of the BNSS, such individuals are to be released on bond if they have been detained for up to one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offense."

"This decision enables first-time offenders, detained in pending criminal cases before the BNSS's enactment on July 1, to benefit from its provisions..."

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Explanation: Section 479 of the BNSS relaxes the bail threshold for first-time offenders. A first-time offender who has completed one-third of the maximum imprisonment prescribed for the offence may be released on bond, provided the offence is not punishable with death or life imprisonment. The Supreme Court clarified that this benefit applies retrospectively even to pending cases registered before the BNSS came into force.

Option (a): This option is incorrect because it says that every first-time offender detained for any period is entitled to release, regardless of the nature of the offence. Section 479 does not create an automatic right of release for all first-time offenders. The undertrial must have completed the required detention period, and the offence must not be punishable with death or life imprisonment. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b): This option is correct because it accurately reflects the relaxed bail rule under Section 479 of the BNSS. A first-time offender who has completed one-third of the maximum imprisonment for an offence not punishable with death or life imprisonment may be released on bond by the Court. Since the Supreme Court allowed retrospective application, this benefit can also apply to pending cases from before the BNSS came into force. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c): This option is incorrect because it follows the older position under Section 436A of the CrPC, where release of an undertrial was linked to completion of half of the maximum sentence. Section 479 of the BNSS relaxes this requirement for first-time offenders by reducing the threshold to one-third of the maximum imprisonment. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d): This option is incorrect because it wrongly limits the benefit only to cases registered after the BNSS came into force. The Supreme Court clarified that the relaxed bail provision under Section 479 would apply retrospectively to pending cases as well. Therefore, first-time offenders detained before the BNSS came into force may also seek the benefit of this provision. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

80. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference line: "Section 5 of the Act mandates that both parties involved in the marriage must be Hindus."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option suggests that the marriage is invalid because Nisha was not born a Hindu. However, the Hindu Marriage Act does not prohibit persons who have converted to Hinduism from marrying under the Act, as long as the conversion is genuine and they are legally recognized as Hindus at the time of the marriage.

Option (b) Correct: This option is correct because the Act requires both parties to be Hindus, which Nisha fulfils by undergoing recognized conversion procedures. The Act only requires both individuals to be recognized as Hindus at the time of the marriage.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option is misleading. The conversion is valid or not is irrelevant under the Hindu Marriage Act, as the Act only requires both individuals to be recognized as Hindus at the time of the marriage.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option incorrectly ties the validity of the Hindu marriage to the acceptance of the conversion by the original religious community of the convert. The recognition by the original Christian community is irrelevant under the Hindu Marriage Act, as the Act only requires both individuals to be recognized as Hindus at the time of the marriage.

81. Correct Answer: (a) The marriage can be annulled because Meena's cognitive functions were impaired, affecting her ability to give valid consent.

Reference line: "Both parties must be capable of giving valid consent, meaning they should not be suffering from any form of mental disorder or unsoundness of mind."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option aligns with the legal requirement that both parties must be capable of giving valid consent. Meena's impaired cognitive functions due to her traumatic brain injury likely affected her ability to consent, making this ground for annulment valid under the Hindu Marriage Act.

Option (b) Incorrect: This option is misleading. While Rohit was aware of Meena's condition and chose to proceed, the law prioritizes the mental capacity to consent at the time of marriage. Awareness does not negate the legal requirement for soundness of mind.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option misinterprets the law, suggesting that prior capability to consent is sufficient. However, the crucial factor is Meena's mental capacity at the time of the marriage, not before her injury.

Option (d) Incorrect: While permanent mental condition is a strong basis for annulment, the Hindu Marriage Act does not strictly require permanence for annulment on the grounds of unsoundness of mind. The act considers the state of mind at the time of marriage, and ongoing impairment can be sufficient.

82. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference line: "Section 5(i) prohibits polygamy, stating that a marriage will be considered null and void if either party has a living spouse."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect: This option is misleading. Despite Sanjay's cultural background supporting polygamy, the Hindu Marriage Act strictly prohibits polygamy for those married under its provisions, regardless of previous cultural practices.

Option (b) Correct: This option directly applies the principle from the Hindu Marriage Act, which states that a marriage is void if either party has a living spouse. Since Sanjay was already married to Priya, his second marriage to Geeta is legally void.

Option (c) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests flexibility in the Hindu Marriage Act regarding cultural practices related to polygamy. The act is clear in its prohibition of polygamy without exceptions for prior cultural practices.

Option (d) Incorrect: While Geeta's lack of awareness about Sanjay's existing marriage might raise ethical concerns, it does not legally affect the validity of the marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, which voids the second marriage based on the existence of a living spouse, not on the awareness of the parties involved.

83. Correct Answer: (a) Statements i and iii

Reference Lines: "Violations of these age requirements, while not rendering the marriage void, can lead to penalties as per Section 18 of the Act, including imprisonment or fines."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a): Correct. Statement i is false because the marriage does not become void due to the age violation but may result in penalties. Statement iii is also false, as Vikram, being only 20, does not meet the minimum age requirement of 21 for men, which contradicts the statutory requirements.

Option (b): Incorrect. This statement is true, as Priya's age being below 18 could indeed trigger legal penalties against those responsible for the marriage, aligning with the enforcement policies under the Hindu Marriage Act.

Option (c): Incorrect. Statement iii is false, making part of this option incorrect. Statement iv is true, as penalties for age requirement violations are indeed part of the legal provisions under Section 18.

Option (d): Incorrect. While statements i and iii are false, statement ii is true, making this option incorrect.

84. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference line: "Customary practices that allow such marriages must be proven to be certain, reasonable, and in alignment with public policy."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option (a) Correct: This option is correct because the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, allows exceptions for certain marriages if they are in accordance with customary practices that are certain, reasonable, and not contrary to public policy. Since Anil and Priya's marriage adheres to their tribal customs which allow cousin marriages and these customs are well-documented and recognized within the community, their marriage can be considered valid.

Option (b) Incorrect: While this option might seem plausible given the general prohibitions in the Act, it overlooks the provision that allows for customary exceptions. Therefore, this statement is incorrect as it fails to consider the flexibility for customary practices, provided that customary practices that allow such marriages must be proven to be certain, reasonable, and in alignment with public policy .

Option (c) Incorrect: This option incorrectly suggests that the validity of customs depends on their age relative to the Act. The Act does not make a distinction based on the age of the custom but rather on its current acceptance and reasonableness.

Option (d) Incorrect: This option is misleading because it focuses solely on the form of the ceremony rather than the legal permissibility of the marriage under customary practices. The Hindu Marriage Act does require that Hindu marriages follow certain rites, but exceptions are made for customary practices.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

85. Correct Answer: (b) The deaths recur when poverty-led demand, diverted methanol, official tolerance, and weak prosecution reinforce each other.

Reference Line: "Indeed, these tragedies recur due to a perfect storm of factors that are able to repeatedly come together."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option places the main emphasis on the awareness level of labourers, whereas the passage treats victims as part of a larger social and regulatory failure. The author discusses poverty, addiction and manual labour to explain vulnerability, not to argue that education is the central solution. It ignores methanol diversion, high prices, weak enforcement and lack of political will. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option accurately captures the author's central claim that hooch tragedies arise from several factors repeatedly combining. It includes demand from poor consumers, supply-side adulteration, possible tolerance by authorities and ineffective prosecution. The wording reflects the passage's idea of a "perfect storm" rather than a single-cause explanation. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option gives excessive weight to taxation and reduces the role of enforcement failure. The passage does say high prices encourage poorer consumers to seek illicit liquor, but it also stresses methanol tracking, supplier networks and weak convictions. The author's argument is broader than a pricing problem. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option misreads the author's treatment of prohibition. The passage does not present wider prohibition as a desirable reform, even with better surveillance. It warns that bans may push the market toward criminal syndicates with poor oversight. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (c) The Pune episode was described as a loose local adulteration case, with organised sourcing treated as unlikely.

Reference Line: "Preliminary investigation has revealed a better than ad hoc supply chain with industry-grade methanol... brought from outside the State and mixed with ethanol."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage records that some persons under investigation claimed regular vendors would not want to poison their customers. This introduces a commercial explanation based on retaining future buyers, even though the author does not treat it as conclusive. Since the statement reflects a claim mentioned in the passage, it cannot be necessarily false. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage criticises enforcement that stops with retail vendors after deadly incidents. It also says investigations into suppliers and alleged kingpins have often been uneven or inconclusive. Therefore, the idea that larger actors may remain less examined is consistent with the passage. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage states that the Pune case involved a supply chain that was "better than ad hoc" and methanol brought from outside the State. This contradicts the claim that it was described as a loose local adulteration case with organised sourcing treated as unlikely. Since the option opposes the investigation described, it must be false. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage says industrial methanol increases batch volume at negligible cost and improves margins. This makes the handling and tracking of methanol important to the author's reasoning. The statement is compatible with the passage's concern about diversion of industrial inputs. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (d) When regulated low-cost liquor was piloted near labour settlements, illicit purchases declined while incomes stayed similar.

Reference Line: "The demand for licensed alcohol faces high State taxes, encouraging low-income individuals to turn to illicit liquor."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) This option supports the need for better methanol monitoring, which is one reform discussed in the passage. However, it does not establish that the price of legal liquor affects whether poor consumers buy illicit liquor. The fall in toxic batches is linked to audits, not affordability. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) This option concerns enforcement pressure and how illegal vendors may adapt to raids. It does not address the author's claim that legal liquor prices shape consumer movement toward illicit alcohol. The behaviour of vendors after raids is a different part of the problem. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) This option relates to addiction, exhaustion and the physical toll of labour. It may explain why some workers continue drinking despite warnings, but it does not show that high legal liquor prices push them toward illicit liquor. The pricing link remains untested by this statement. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) This option strengthens the author's pricing argument because it shows illicit purchases falling when regulated liquor becomes affordable. The fact that incomes stayed similar helps isolate affordability as an important factor. It supports the idea that poorer consumers may turn to illicit liquor when legal liquor is too costly. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (a) Create coordinated probes linking retail sellers, chemical transporters, local officials, and financiers.

Reference Line: "Such operations are typically semi-visible local economies that get by on tolerance rather than secrecy, and so allegations of police and local authorities' complicity must be investigated."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) This option follows from the author's view that illicit liquor networks are semi-visible and may involve more than retail sellers. A coordinated probe would examine the supply chain, chemical movement, financial backing and possible official protection. It responds to the author's concern that enforcement often fails to reach higher-level actors. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.
- (b) This option addresses consumer awareness but leaves the enforcement structure untouched. The passage suggests that illicit liquor operations may survive through local tolerance and possible complicity, so warnings alone would not reach the institutional problem. It also does not address transporters, suppliers or financiers. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) This option reflects a reactive response after deaths rather than a preventive reform. Compensation may be necessary, but closing inquiries after arresting immediate sellers repeats the limited enforcement pattern criticised in the passage. It fails to examine upstream suppliers or alleged kingpins. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) This option risks worsening the accessibility problem identified by the author. Reducing legal outlets may push poorer consumers further toward informal networks, especially where demand continues. Temporary checkpoints also do not address methanol diversion, local tolerance or organised supply. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (d) It assumes concern for repeat buyers would outweigh the immediate gain from stretching a liquor batch cheaply.

Reference Line: "Adding industrial methanol increases the batch volume at negligible input cost, dramatically improving margins..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) This option shifts the issue from seller incentives to consumer access. The official's reasoning is not based on an assumption that poor buyers had regulated substitutes available. The passage actually suggests that affordability and poverty restrict consumer choices, but that is not the flaw in the official's claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) This option concerns conviction records and the wider supply chain, which are discussed elsewhere in the passage. The official's reasoning does not rely on weak convictions or on proof that retail sellers controlled chemical movement.

It is about whether vendors would avoid methanol because of future business concerns. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option addresses prohibition and demand, which are separate issues in the passage. The official's argument does not depend on a claim that prohibition reduces demand or changes supplier incentives. It concerns the assumed behaviour of regular vendors in relation to customer harm. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option identifies the main flaw because the official assumes repeat business concerns would discourage methanol use. The passage gives a competing incentive: methanol increases batch volume at negligible input cost and improves margins. The argument overlooks how immediate gain may encourage dangerous adulteration despite future risks. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (b) Reform efforts may fade after public outrage unless affected communities receive sustained political attention.

Reference Line: "Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the sustained political will needed to implement reforms... is often lacking."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This option creates a comparison that the passage does not support. The author discusses weak convictions as one reason illicit liquor networks survive, but does not rank convictions above affordability reforms. The passage treats enforcement, methanol tracking and affordable alternatives as connected reforms. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is supported by the author's concern that political will is often lacking when victims are from marginalised communities. The passage also refers to past promises of reform that did not fully materialise. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that reforms may fade unless vulnerable communities receive sustained attention. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option conflicts with the author's view that broader reforms are needed. The passage criticises enforcement that focuses on visible sellers or local action after deaths. Raids in poor settlements would not address methanol diversion, official tolerance, supplier networks or weak prosecution. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option sets up an unsupported trade-off between methanol accounting and affordability. The passage treats both as necessary improvements to break the cycle of illicit liquor deaths. Even when legal liquor remains costly, methanol tracking still matters because it targets the toxic input behind many tragedies. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (a) India's visible digital success may depend on weaker institutional systems that remain exposed.

Reference Line: "India has built a distinctive world-class digital front end through the India Stack, including UPI, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework. But much of it still runs on fragmented legacy back-end systems..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The author contrasts India's impressive public digital interface with weaker legacy systems that support it. The inference is that digital sophistication at the front end may coexist with institutional fragility at the back end. This captures the author's deeper point that visible technological success does not necessarily mean systemic resilience. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author does not suggest that older banking infrastructure has become less relevant because India has strong digital platforms. The passage instead presents older infrastructure as a continuing source of concern beneath the visible digital layer. The option wrongly assumes that the success of India Stack reduces the importance of the back-end systems on which it depends. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author does not argue that frequent citizen use is the reason for the vulnerability of the digital front end. The concern is not user volume, but the condition of underlying systems in public sector units, State departments, and

older public sector banks. This option shifts the cause of risk away from legacy and fragmented infrastructure. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not discuss whether the legacy systems were built by domestic or foreign firms. The author's concern is based on age, fragmentation, and outdated technology, not the origin of the system designers. This option introduces an irrelevant factor that does not support the inference. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (c) Frontier model risks may be assessed through frameworks that overlook Indian failure conditions.

Reference Line: "Without such a mechanism, India will remain dependent on foreign assessments of models that have never been tested against Indian systems and vulnerabilities."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The passage states that the IndiaAI Mission is development-focused, but it does not say that the absence of IAISI would cause funding to move away from cyber modernisation. This option converts a descriptive point about policy focus into a budgetary consequence that is not established. The author's concern is evaluation capacity, not a specific funding shift. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage does not focus on what AI firms would prefer in a weak regulatory environment. The author's worry is that India would rely on foreign assessments that may not reflect Indian systems and vulnerabilities. This option changes the issue from national safety evaluation to corporate convenience. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author argues that without a domestic safety institute, India would depend on assessments conducted outside its own threat environment. The risk is that such assessments may not account for Indian infrastructure, administrative systems, or local vulnerabilities. This is the likely outcome that follows from the absence of an India-specific testing body. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage discusses both data protection and infrastructure resilience, but the reference line is about model evaluation against Indian vulnerabilities. It does not suggest that regulators would shift attention from banking resilience to personal data. This option connects two themes from the passage without following from the stated institutional gap. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (d) Major intrusions still require credentials and system-specific access that layered monitoring can disrupt.

Reference Line: "If a Mythos-class model becomes openly downloadable from a non-restraint-adhering lab... then no defensive measure short of pre-emptive patching helps."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option would strengthen the author's concern rather than weaken it. If open models spread faster than regulators can review them, the danger of post-release control becomes greater. Such a fact would support the author's argument for international notification and review before release. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option does not seriously undermine the author's claim because the author is concerned with labs that release openly downloadable high-capability models. The fact that some labs withhold sensitive components does not reduce the risk from labs that may not follow similar restraint. It addresses a different category of actor from the one identified in the passage. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option supports the author's broader policy concern. If international norms are developing slowly while model capabilities grow rapidly, the need for diplomatic action becomes more urgent. It does not challenge the claim that open release above dangerous capability thresholds could create severe defensive problems. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author's warning depends on the idea that open access to a Mythos-class model would sharply limit useful defences. If serious intrusions still require stolen credentials and system-specific access, then model availability is not enough by itself. Layered monitoring would remain meaningful, weakening the claim that little besides pre-emptive patching can help. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (a) It explains why India's defensive capacity may not match AI-assisted attack speed.

Reference Line: "At the same time, the cybersecurity workforce gap is estimated at more than 6,00,000 professionals. Patch cycles for public sector banks are measured in months, not hours."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The author uses the workforce gap and slow patch cycles to show a dangerous mismatch between attack and defence. AI-assisted attackers are described as moving at machine speed, while Indian institutions may respond over months. This evidence supports the argument that India's cyber preparedness may be too slow for the threat environment described. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The option incorrectly links the evidence to AI company disclosure. The workforce and patch-cycle data are used to describe India's internal defensive limitations, not the behaviour of AI firms. While disclosure is discussed elsewhere, it is not the function of this evidence. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author does not rank workforce expansion above legal accountability. The passage presents multiple reforms, including safety evaluation, disclosure duties, legacy modernisation, and defensive AI. This option wrongly treats one supporting point as if it replaces the broader accountability framework. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author does not separate staffing gaps from legacy technology in this manner. The passage treats slow patching, workforce shortage, and outdated systems as connected sources of vulnerability. This option incorrectly suggests a hierarchy between staffing and legacy systems that the passage does not establish. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (b) Defensive AI systems can interpret cyber signals quickly enough to help contain attacks in real time.

Reference Line: "It should also fund and co-develop sovereign defensive AI models with domestic deep-tech firms to monitor telemetry, detect anomalies, and isolate compromised network segments in real time."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The author proposes domestic co-development, but the argument does not require the belief that domestic models are less vulnerable than foreign models. The point is to build sovereign defensive capacity suited to Indian systems, not to prove comparative superiority over foreign frontier models. The recommendation can stand even without this comparative claim. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The proposal depends on the belief that defensive AI can process cyber signals fast enough to assist containment. The author recommends these systems because they can monitor telemetry, detect anomalies, and isolate compromised segments in real time. If such systems could not act with sufficient speed and accuracy, the recommendation would not logically address machine-speed threats. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The issue of sharing sensitive telemetry with private firms may be relevant to implementation, but it is not the central hidden belief needed for the proposal to work. The argument is mainly about whether AI-assisted defensive systems can improve detection and containment. Governance arrangements may be necessary later, but they are not the core assumption behind the stated recommendation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not assume that defensive AI would make bank upgrades easier. The author separately recommends legacy modernisation and defensive AI, which suggests that both are needed as complementary measures. This option treats defensive AI as a facilitator of modernisation, but that connection is not required by the author's reasoning. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (c) Disclosure duties would arise from Indian operation combined with specified model capabilities.

Reference Line: "Any AI company operating in India whose model exceeds defined thresholds — such as compute, autonomy, or cyber capability — should disclose capability evaluations and known harms to the proposed IAISI."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The passage does not state that foreign assessments would remain valid after Indian review. The author's concern is that foreign assessments may not sufficiently account for Indian systems and vulnerabilities. The proposed IAISI is meant to create domestic evaluation capacity, not merely validate outside assessments. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage lists compute, autonomy, and cyber capability as examples of defined thresholds. It does not assign greater importance to compute over the other factors. This option adds a priority order that the author does not provide and that is not necessary to the proposed framework. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author's proposal requires two conditions: the company must operate in India and the model must exceed defined capability thresholds. The disclosure duty is therefore linked to both jurisdictional presence and the level of model capability. This follows from the structure of the proposed accountability framework. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage separates domestic disclosure to IAISI from international notification and review for open-weight model releases. It does not say that known harms must first move through diplomatic channels. This option merges two different policy mechanisms and therefore does not necessarily follow. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (c) Buyers usually read bread-percentage claims as describing the flour mix, not the product's full recipe.

Reference Line: "The CCPA invoked Section 2(28) of the Act, which defines a 'misleading advertisement' as one that falsely describes a product, gives a false guarantee or deliberately conceals important information."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option strengthens the concern behind the CCPA's action because prominence increases the chance that buyers rely on the atta claim before reading the ingredient details. A claim placed more visibly can shape the buyer's understanding of the product's composition. It therefore supports the possibility of misleading advertising rather than weakening it. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option does not weaken the finding because the conduct of rival brands does not determine whether this company's claim misled buyers. The fact that most rivals avoided numerical claims may even suggest that such claims carry greater risk. Industry practice cannot by itself justify a representation that creates a misleading impression. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option weakens the CCPA's reasoning because it challenges the assumed meaning of the label in the buyer's mind. If buyers normally understand bread-percentage claims as referring to the flour mix, the company's explanation becomes more reasonable. The claim would then be less likely to falsely describe the full product recipe. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option does not seriously affect the misleading-advertisement analysis. Even if the campaign spoke more about taste and freshness, the atta claim could still influence buyers when appearing on packaging or promotion. The legal concern is whether the claim creates a false impression, not whether it was the most repeated theme. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (b) The recipe met the naming threshold prescribed for whole wheat bread products.

Reference Line: "It also relied on Section 2(47), which defines an 'unfair trade practice' as making false representations about the standard, quality or composition of goods."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option supports the CCPA's finding because it links the packaging to an inflated expectation about atta content. If buyers expected more atta than the formulation contained, the representation concerns composition. Such a mismatch fits the statutory idea of a false representation about goods. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option is least likely to support the CCPA because it favours the company's regulatory-compliance argument. Meeting the naming threshold shows that the product may qualify as whole wheat bread under food rules. However, the passage distinguishes such compliance from the stronger claim made in advertising. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option supports the CCPA because it suggests that the campaign used composition as a basis for quality. If the recipe did not match that quality-linked claim, the representation could mislead buyers about the product's standard. Consumer law is concerned with such impressions about quality and composition. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option supports the CCPA because an undefined claim with little context can create uncertainty in the buyer's mind. When such wording appears on the main display panel, it may communicate more than the formulation supports. The absence of context makes the claim more vulnerable to being treated as misleading. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. Correct Answer: (d) A term may lack a fixed food-law definition yet still mislead when its market impression overstates product purity.

Reference Line: "The FSSAI underlined that the term is not defined in its advertising regulations and that its use 'is likely to convey a false sense of absolute purity or superiority.'"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option does not resolve the paradox because the passage does not suggest that companies may freely assign meanings to undefined terms. The CCPA rejected the company's attempt to explain "100%" through its own narrower interpretation. If internal standards were enough, regulatory action would become harder to justify. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option does not reconcile the two facts because buyer caution would reduce the concern that the claim misleads. The passage proceeds on the view that packaging claims can affect consumer understanding. Widespread use of a term also does not explain why an undefined term can still attract regulatory scrutiny. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option deals with naming rules, not the paradox concerning an undefined advertising term. A product may cross a prescribed threshold and still face objection for a stronger promotional claim. The issue is not whether the product can be placed in a food category, but whether the wording creates an inflated impression. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option resolves the paradox by separating formal definition from consumer impact. A term may not have a fixed meaning under FSSAI advertising rules, yet its use may still create a misleading market impression. Consumer-protection action can therefore arise from the effect of the wording, even without a precise food-law definition. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (a) Buyer-facing wording should be judged by market impression, not seller intent.

Reference Line: "However, it defended the '100%' label by arguing that it was meant to convey that wheat flour was the 'sole grain source' used, without any refined flour (maida)."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option states the necessary idea behind the CCPA's rejection of the company's explanation. The company relied on what it claimed the phrase was meant to convey, while the CCPA focused on how buyers would understand it. Without accepting buyer impression as the relevant standard, the rejection of seller intent becomes weaker. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) This option is not necessary because the CCPA's reasoning does not depend on the commercial value of the remaining ingredients. The issue is whether the label created a misleading understanding of composition. Even ingredients with little commercial value could matter if the front claim suggested a different product profile. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option is not necessary because the CCPA did not need to compare the recipe with competing bread brands. The dispute concerns the meaning of the company's own label in relation to its own formulation. A product may mislead even if its recipe resembles common market practice. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option is not necessary because emphasis is relevant but not essential to the reasoning. A claim may mislead because of its wording even without proving that it received greater emphasis than every other claim. The CCPA's rejection turns mainly on the meaning conveyed by "100%," not on a hierarchy of label features. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (c) A drink meets fruit-beverage rules, yet "100% fruit" is rejected because the claim exceeds the rule's support.

Reference Line: "While FSSAI regulations prescribe a minimum 75% threshold to classify a product as atta bread, this cannot be 'elevated into a justification for making an unqualified and absolute claim such as '100% Atta Bread'.'"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option does not match the logical structure because the movement is from a salt-limit rule to a taste-related phrase. The original reasoning moves from a category threshold to a stronger numerical composition claim. "Light taste" does not make the same kind of measurable claim as "100%." Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option does not match the reasoning pattern because the criticism concerns price and buyer expectations about premium benefits. The original passage is not concerned with whether buyers pay more for a compliant product. It concerns whether compliance with a threshold can justify a stronger composition representation. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option matches the logical structure of the passage. The drink satisfies a rule allowing it to fall within a category, just as the bread satisfied the threshold for whole wheat bread. The problem arises when that category compliance is used to support a stronger "100%" claim. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) This option does not match the original structure because the challenged feature is packaging colour rather than a stronger claim based on a threshold. The tomato-sauce rule and red packaging do not stand in the same relationship as the 75% threshold and "100% Atta Bread." The reasoning therefore shifts away from category compliance being used to justify an overextended claim. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (b) Align prominent numerical claims with ingredient share and the likely buyer impression created.

Reference Line: "It also ordered them to immediately discontinue these advertisements."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option does not best align with the regulatory reasoning because the passage focuses on the effect of prominent claims. A separate information panel may not sufficiently correct the impression created by a strong front-panel statement. The CCPA ordered discontinuation rather than merely requiring additional details elsewhere. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option best follows the reasoning in the passage because it brings together formulation, wording, and buyer perception. The CCPA's concern was that the numerical claim suggested more than the ingredient share supported. Aligning these elements reduces the risk of creating a misleading impression. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) This option does not align with the passage because the CCPA rejected reliance on category thresholds as a defence for stronger claims. Citing the threshold may prove naming compliance, but it does not resolve the problem of inflated buyer perception. The passage treats classification rules and advertising claims as separate concerns. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) This option does not best align with the regulatory reasoning because purity-themed wording may still create the same type of concern. The FSSAI advisory warned that such language can suggest purity or superiority even without detailed numerical claims. Avoiding percentages alone does not ensure that the resulting claim is not misleading. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

103. Correct Answer: (d) India's growth record shows that its income transition has already been secured.

Reference Line: "There is, of course, a strong empirical basis for this claim."

"For the past several years, the Indian government, business leadership, and policy establishment have presented the country's recent rapid growth as one of the most compelling success stories..."

“India’s rise to this position has not necessarily resulted from a dramatic acceleration in its own growth trajectory.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

- (a) The author accepts that India’s growth story has factual support, but also insists that it must be examined more carefully. A credible growth record does not automatically prove that India has resolved its deeper development concerns. The option therefore follows from the author’s balanced approach to the growth narrative. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) The passage indicates that government, business, and policy circles have celebrated India’s growth on the basis of real economic indicators. However, the author argues that these facts do not fully address India’s lower-middle-income condition. The option captures this distinction between factual support and incomplete interpretation. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) The author’s comparison with China suggests that India’s present image is partly shaped by slower growth elsewhere. This means India’s relative position may look stronger even when its own growth has remained broadly similar. The option is therefore consistent with the implicit reasoning of the passage. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) The passage begins by stating that India has failed to escape the lower-middle-income trap despite high growth. Therefore, the author does not suggest that India’s income transition has already been achieved. This option contradicts the central problem around which the passage is organised. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

104. Correct Answer: (b) India’s recent title emerged while its growth stayed near its earlier pattern.

Reference Line: “Rather, India has maintained broadly similar growth rates while China has decelerated to the 4 to 5 per cent range.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

- (a) The hypothetical concerns the explanation for India’s growth leadership after 2021. It does not disturb the passage’s separate claim that India performed strongly among developing economies after liberalisation. India’s earlier post-1991 performance may still remain true even if the recent explanation changes. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) The passage states that India’s growth remained broadly similar while China slowed to a lower range. The hypothetical instead says India’s leadership came from a sharp rise in its own growth while China remained near earlier peak levels. These two accounts cannot both explain the same post-2021 status. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.
- (c) India’s trade profile can expand while a merchandise imbalance remains, regardless of whether its recent growth leadership came from domestic acceleration or China’s slowdown. The hypothetical does not address imports, exports, or trade deficits. Therefore, this established fact need not become incorrect. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) India’s economy could still have become larger over decades even if the recent source of its growth leadership were different from what the passage claims. Long-term output expansion is a cumulative fact that does not depend only on post-2021 growth comparisons. The hypothetical therefore does not challenge this statement. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

105. Correct Answer: (c) It limits the meaning of celebrated indicators by tying them mainly to expansion.

Reference Line: “Yet these indicators, while important, are also different ways of describing the same broad fact: the Indian economy has expanded.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

- (a) The passage does not separate trade performance from India’s wider development debate. Trade expansion is included as one of the indicators used to support India’s growth story. The author’s concern is that trade, like GDP size and growth rate, may not settle deeper questions of transformation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The discussion does not move toward government spending choices. The author remains focused on macroeconomic indicators and how they are interpreted in India's growth narrative. Since public expenditure is not the subject of this reasoning, this option misidentifies the role of the discussion. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author acknowledges that GDP size, GDP growth, and trade expansion are important indicators. However, the author then narrows their significance by saying they describe the broader fact that the economy has expanded. This supports the argument that expansion figures alone cannot establish deeper development. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not present trade figures as superior to income or productivity measures. Trade is treated as one of several celebrated indicators, not as the best measure of development. The author's reasoning actually questions whether such indicators are sufficient for judging transformation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

106. Correct Answer: (d) A peer economy's loss of pace can improve India's relative growth position.

Reference Line: "Rather, it has also been enabled by the gradual slowing of China's economy as it matures, ages, and transitions away from the high-growth phase..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) This option concerns trade exposure, not the basis of India's fastest-growing label. A wider trade base may create vulnerability to external demand conditions, but that is not the reason the author scrutinises the growth ranking. The label is questioned because India's relative position is partly shaped by China's slowdown. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) This option reflects a valid development concern, since a larger GDP may not reveal average income gains. However, the question asks why the specific label of fastest-growing major economy requires scrutiny. The passage's relevant reasoning is about comparative growth performance, not the limits of GDP size alone. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage mentions the post-1991 reform period, but it does not frame the scrutiny of the growth label around unresolved policy gaps. The author's focus is on the relationship between India's rank and China's deceleration. Therefore, this option addresses a possible concern outside the specific argumentative point. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author argues that India's recent title is partly explained by China's loss of growth momentum. This means India's relative rank may improve even without a major change in its own growth path. The option best supports the need to examine the label more carefully rather than accept it at face value. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

107. Correct Answer: (b) A rise in trade volume may occur without resolving structural limits in the economy.

Reference Line: "In FY 2025–26, India's total goods-and-services trade reached roughly \$1.84 trillion... making it a major trading economy, but one that remains a net importer..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The passage mentions a merchandise deficit, but the author does not need to assume that merchandise trade generally matters more than services trade. The argument concerns the limits of trade expansion as evidence of transformation. Introducing a hierarchy between goods and services adds an extra claim that is not required for the author's conclusion. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author argues that India's trade expansion is impressive but not enough to prove deeper transformation. For this reasoning to work, the author must assume that trade volume can rise while structural weaknesses remain unresolved. If higher trade volume itself proved transformation, the author's caution about trade indicators would lose force. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The passage does not rely on population-adjusted trade comparisons. The author evaluates India's trade through total trade volume, share of GDP, and deficit position. Since exports relative to population are not needed to connect the evidence with the conclusion, this is not a necessary hidden assumption. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not discuss the relationship between trade expansion and domestic consumption. Even if a larger trade base changed India's reliance on domestic demand, the author's claim about trade not proving transformation could still stand. This option therefore fails the necessity test for an assumption question. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

108. Correct Answer: (c) India's progress is real, but expansion figures do not settle its development challenge.

Reference Line: "On all three measures, India's performance has been impressive."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The passage does not claim that trade position offers a better explanation of India's income status than growth. Trade deficits are presented as part of the broader qualification of India's growth narrative. The author's conclusion is wider and concerns the limits of several headline indicators, not the superiority of one explanation. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage states that India's new status is shaped by both China's slowdown and India's own dynamism. It does not clearly state that China's slowdown carries greater explanatory weight than India's internal gains. The option therefore pushes the comparison beyond what the passage allows as the strongest conclusion. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option captures the author's overall position most accurately. The passage recognises India's impressive performance in GDP size, growth rate, and trade expansion. At the same time, it argues that these figures mainly show expansion and do not resolve the lower-middle-income dilemma. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not suggest that output expansion has reduced the need for structural reform. On the contrary, the author's concern is that impressive expansion has not resolved deeper developmental constraints. Therefore, this option moves against the critical direction of the passage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

Section E: Quantitative Aptitude

109. Correct Answer: (d) Pranay

Explanation:

Kavya's final score = 50% of 80 + 30% of 75 + 20% of 70 = 76.5.

Manav's final score = 50% of 72.5 + 30% of 85 + 20% of 80 = 77.75.

Nisha's final score = 50% of 87.5 + 30% of 65 + 20% of 60 = 75.25.

Pranay's final score = 50% of 77.5 + 30% of 70 + 20% of 90 = 77.75.

Ritu's final score = 50% of 70 + 30% of 90 + 20% of 73.33 = 76.67.

Manav and Pranay are tied at 77.75. Manav's social contribution percentage is 80%, while Pranay's is 90%.

Therefore, Pranay is ranked first by the tie-breaking rule.

110. Correct Answer: (b) 2.50 marks

Explanation:

Kavya's final score = 76.5.

Manav's final score = 77.75.

Nisha's final score = 75.25.

Pranay's final score = 77.75.

Ritu's final score = 76.67.

Highest final score = 77.75 and lowest final score = 75.25.

Difference = 77.75 - 75.25 = 2.50 marks.

111. Correct Answer: (a) 2 marks

Explanation:

Ritu's final score = 76.67.

Nisha's written contribution = 50% of 87.5 = 43.75.

Nisha's social contribution = 20% of 60 = 12.

Nisha's fixed contribution without interview = 43.75 + 12 = 55.75.

If Nisha's interview score is I out of 40, interview contribution = 30% of $(I \div 40 \times 100) = 0.75I$.

Required condition = $55.75 + 0.75I \geq 76.67$, so I must be at least 28.

Nisha already has 26 marks, so minimum increase = $28 - 26 = 2$ marks.

112. Correct Answer: (c) Nisha

Explanation:

Under the new formula, written score has 60% weight, interview has 30% weight and social contribution has 10% weight.

Kavya's new score = 60% of 80 + 30% of 75 + 10% of 70 = 77.5.

Manav's new score = 60% of 72.5 + 30% of 85 + 10% of 80 = 77.0.

Nisha's new score = 60% of 87.5 + 30% of 65 + 10% of 60 = 78.0.

Pranay's new score = 60% of 77.5 + 30% of 70 + 10% of 90 = 76.5.

Ritu's new score = 60% of 70 + 30% of 90 + 10% of 73.33 = 76.33.

Highest new score = 78.0.

Therefore, Nisha gets the highest final score.

113. Correct Answer: (d) ₹10,000

Explanation:

Ranking order = Pranay first, Manav second, Ritu third, Kavya fourth and Nisha fifth.

Pranay's score = 77.75, so he receives ₹40,000.

Manav's score = 77.75, so he receives ₹30,000.

Ritu's score = 76.67, so she receives ₹20,000.

Kavya's score = 76.5, which is below 76.6, so she receives nothing.
 Nisha is not in the top four grant positions.
 The fourth-rank scholarship amount of ₹10,000 is not transferred downward.
 Therefore, unused scholarship money = ₹10,000.

114. Correct Answer: (a) It remains 155.50

Explanation:

Manav's original final score = 77.75.

Pranav's original final score = 77.75.

Their combined original score = $77.75 + 77.75 = 155.50$.

After interchange, Manav's interview score becomes 28, so his final score = $36.25 + 21 + 16 = 73.25$.

After interchange, Pranav's interview score becomes 34, so his final score = $38.75 + 25.5 + 18 = 82.25$.

Their combined new score = $73.25 + 82.25 = 155.50$.

The interview component has the same weight for both students.

Therefore, their combined final merit score remains unchanged.

115. Correct Answer: (c) Patna

Explanation:

Jaipur active learners = 75% of 560 = 420. Certified active learners = 60% of 420 = 252.

Jaipur inactive learners = 140, rejoined learners = 35 and certified rejoined learners = 14. Total Jaipur certified learners = $252 + 14 = 266$.

Patna active learners = 80% of 480 = 384. Certified active learners = 62.5% of 384 = 240.

Patna inactive learners = 96, rejoined learners = 24 and certified rejoined learners = 12. Total Patna certified learners = $240 + 12 = 252$.

Kochi total certified learners = $280 + 27 = 307$.

Nagpur total certified learners = $234 + 36 = 270$.

Certification rates are Jaipur = $266 \div 560 \times 100 = 47.5\%$, Patna = $252 \div 480 \times 100 = 52.5\%$, Kochi = $307 \div 600 \times 100 = 51.17\%$ and Nagpur = $270 \div 540 \times 100 = 50\%$.

Therefore, Patna had the highest certification rate.

116. Correct Answer: (b) 50.23%

Explanation:

Jaipur certified learners = 266.

Patna certified learners = 252.

Kochi certified learners = 307.

Nagpur certified learners = 270.

Total certified learners = $266 + 252 + 307 + 270 = 1,095$.

Total enrolled learners = $560 + 480 + 600 + 540 = 2,180$.

Overall certification rate = $1,095 \div 2,180 \times 100 = 50.23\%$.

117. Correct Answer: (d) 28 learners

Explanation:

Patna's certification rate = 52.5%.

Jaipur has 560 enrolled learners.

To match Patna's rate, Jaipur must have 52.5% of 560 certified learners.

Required certified learners in Jaipur = $560 \times 52.5\% = 294$.

Jaipur currently has 266 certified learners.

Additional certified learners needed = $294 - 266 = 28$ learners.

118. Correct Answer: (a) 3 batches

Explanation: Jaipur needs $\text{ceil}(420 \div 48) = 9$ mentors for active learners and $\text{ceil}(35 \div 30) = 2$ mentors for rejoined learners. Total Jaipur mentors = 11.

Patna needs $\text{ceil}(384 \div 48) = 8$ mentors for active learners and $\text{ceil}(24 \div 30) = 1$ mentor for rejoined learners. Total Patna mentors = 9.

Kochi needs $\text{ceil}(420 \div 48) = 9$ mentors for active learners and $\text{ceil}(60 \div 30) = 2$ mentors for rejoined learners. Total Kochi mentors = 11.

Nagpur needs $\text{ceil}(351 \div 48) = 8$ mentors for active learners and $\text{ceil}(63 \div 30) = 3$ mentors for rejoined learners. Total Nagpur mentors = 11.

Highest mentor requirement = 11.

Jaipur, Kochi and Nagpur each require 11 mentors.

Therefore, 3 batches share the highest requirement.

119. Correct Answer: (c) Jaipur

Explanation: Jaipur nearly successful learners = active not certified 168 + rejoined not certified 21 = 189. Jaipur ratio = $189 \div 266 = 0.7105$.

Patna nearly successful learners = 144 + 12 = 156. Patna ratio = $156 \div 252 = 0.6190$.

Kochi nearly successful learners = 140 + 33 = 173. Kochi ratio = $173 \div 307 = 0.5635$.

Nagpur nearly successful learners = 117 + 27 = 144. Nagpur ratio = $144 \div 270 = 0.5333$.

The highest nearly successful to certified ratio is 0.7105.

Therefore, Jaipur had the highest nearly successful to certified ratio.

120. Correct Answer: (b) 141 hours 49 minutes

Explanation: Kochi certified learners = 307. Kochi final evaluation time = $307 \times 12 = 3,684$ minutes.

Kochi nearly successful learners = 173. Kochi feedback time = $173 \times 5 = 865$ minutes.

Kochi total evaluator time = $3,684 + 865 = 4,549$ minutes.

Nagpur certified learners = 270. Nagpur final evaluation time = $270 \times 12 = 3,240$ minutes.

Nagpur nearly successful learners = 144. Nagpur feedback time = $144 \times 5 = 720$ minutes.

Nagpur total evaluator time = $3,240 + 720 = 3,960$ minutes.

Combined time = $4,549 + 3,960 = 8,509$ minutes.

8,509 minutes = 141 hours and 49 minutes.