

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2027
Mock 202717: Answer Key and Solution



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

Section A: English Language

1. Correct Answer: (b) Personal uncertainty persisted despite an experience expected to bring clarity.

Reference Lines: "My rationale for the trip was that this surge of devotional intensity would allow me to find my footing in the secular world." / "And though I felt a sense of renewed worship in making my pilgrimage, that break from the ordinary world never came."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The commercial surroundings explain the author's initial discomfort and disappointment. However, the passage later moves beyond the cityscape to the persistence of personal anxieties. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) The author undertakes the journey hoping for greater stability in ordinary life, yet the existing uncertainties remain unresolved. This contrast gives the passage its central emotional movement. Hence, option (b) is correct.

(c) The author's childhood image of Mecca is certainly unsettled by the actual surroundings. However, that conflict forms only one stage of the larger account of unmet personal expectations. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Work, relationships and age contribute substantially to the author's unease. They provide the background to the journey rather than expressing the passage's principal concern. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

2. Correct Answer: (c) shock at seeing a cherished mental image displaced by familiar modernity

Reference Lines: "To find myself in what seemed just like any other petrodollar-fuelled Gulf port instead of a sanctified land was jarring." / "I felt robbed of the romanticism I had expected after a childhood built on admiration for religious lore..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author notices extensive modern development, but does not argue that the city has become unrecognisable. The discomfort comes from how recognisable and ordinary its commercial features seem. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Economic imagery contributes to the description, but the author does not analyse the city's economic priorities. The emphasis remains on the personal reaction produced by the surroundings. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The city encountered does not correspond to the romanticised image formed through childhood imagination. Familiar commercial features therefore produce the sense of emotional "whiplash" described by the author. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) The passage acknowledges that childhood expectations shaped the author's reaction, but does not express regret for having held them. Nor does the author claim that those expectations made an objective response impossible. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

3. Correct Answer: (a) Passing time made unrealised potential feel increasingly oppressive.

Reference Lines: "My 30s were closing in, and I felt the noose of squandered potential around my neck."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The "noose" conveys mounting pressure, while "squandered potential" refers to possibilities that remain unrealised. Approaching thirty makes this gap feel increasingly urgent and burdensome. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) The author is troubled by present circumstances, but does not suggest that previous decisions have permanently damaged future opportunities. Continued efforts at work, relationships and writing show otherwise. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The passage does contain tension between personal ambitions and everyday realities. However, the metaphor places greater emphasis on passing time and the burden of unrealised possibility. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Age clearly intensifies the author's anxiety, but no fixed achievements or social milestones are identified. The pressure arises from a personal sense of unused potential rather than stated external standards. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

4. Correct Answer: (d) several frustrations combining into a broader sense of stagnation

Reference Lines: “the constant round of applying for jobs I didn’t really want... going on first date after first date... doomscrolling social media... and staring at my laptop screen...” / “I felt the noose of squandered potential around my neck.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The activities reflect dissatisfaction, but the passage does not establish that they replaced an earlier, clearer sense of purpose. The emphasis is on current uncertainty rather than lost purpose. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Employment difficulties appear alongside romantic, digital and creative frustrations, but are not presented as their cause. These pressures exist together rather than forming a clear chain of consequence. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) The author expresses frustration with present circumstances, not sustained regret about earlier decisions. The passage focuses more on feeling stuck than on believing that the wrong path was chosen. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Work, relationships, social media and creative difficulty are presented together as overlapping sources of unease. Their cumulative effect explains the author’s broader feeling of stagnation. Hence, option (d) is correct.

5. Correct Answer: (b) To show that a meaningful experience did not remove existing anxieties

Reference Lines: “And though I felt a sense of renewed worship in making my pilgrimage, that break from the ordinary world never came.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The author recognises that expectations shaped the journey, but never says they prevented appreciation of it. The passage expressly acknowledges a meaningful sense of renewal. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) The final sentence holds two outcomes together: the experience retains personal significance, yet the anxieties of ordinary life remain. That contrast is precisely what the ending emphasises. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- (c) The concerns described in the passage existed before the journey and partly motivated it. Nothing indicates that they became stronger because of what happened during the pilgrimage. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) An expected form of relief does not occur, but the author does not dismiss the experience as emotionally incomplete. Such a description overlooks the meaningful renewal the author explicitly acknowledges. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

6. Correct Answer: (a) dependence on inspiration to escape creative uncertainty

Reference Lines: “staring at my laptop screen while waiting for some revelation to break through the fog in my mind and string itself into life-changing words.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The author imagines clarity arriving suddenly and transforming mental confusion into meaningful writing. This suggests reliance on a hoped-for moment of inspiration amid creative uncertainty. Hence, option (a) is correct.
- (b) The author is struggling to write, but nothing indicates that confidence in writing has disappeared altogether. The continued hope for “life-changing words” suggests ambition remains intact. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) Professional insecurity appears elsewhere in the passage, but the image does not connect employment success with writing discipline. Its focus remains on creative blockage and anticipated inspiration. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Personal anxiety surrounds the author’s creative struggle, but the image itself emphasises mental fog and hoped-for clarity rather than an inability to distinguish anxiety from ambition. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

7. Correct Answer: (d) Minority status generally placed them below other ethnic groups in influence.

Reference Lines: “Publications like the Geibun shidō yōkō made authors there conscious of being from a distant corner of the empire.” / “many were also colonial settlers in ‘positions of economic, cultural, and political privilege.’”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The manifesto expected art to promote nationalist ideals and often follow cultural models from mainland Japan. This placed writers within an officially guided artistic framework. Hence, option (a) is correct.

- (b) The passage expressly says such publications made writers conscious of occupying a distant corner of the empire. Their peripheral position therefore formed part of their self-awareness. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- (c) Solomon identifies perspectives in their writing that depart from a straightforward celebration of Japanese colonization. Their work could therefore complicate a single historical account. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- (d) Although some writers felt marginal, they remained economically, culturally and politically privileged relative to continental neighbours. Their minority perception did not mean inferior influence. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

8. Correct Answer: (a) establish that his writing developed through prolonged experience of the place

Reference Lines: "For almost two decades, he worked and wrote there..." / "Like much of Takagi's work, the story can be classified as 'literature of place'..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

- (a) Takagi's long residence establishes Manchuria as a sustained lived environment rather than an incidental literary setting. This background helps explain the prominence of place in his work. Hence, option (a) is correct.
- (b) Bettering his fortunes explains his original move, but the passage does not make financial advancement the continuing purpose of his writing. Later discussion centres on place and social position. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) The passage states that writers in Manchuria often drew upon ideas and styles from mainland Japan. Long residence therefore did not isolate Takagi from Japanese cultural influence. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Takagi returned after Japan's defeat, but the passage gives no evidence about the persistence of his attachment afterward. This conclusion goes beyond the stated chronology. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

9. Correct Answer: (c) Physical environment is connected with the social experience of inhabiting it.

Reference Lines: "This equivalency between the literal, physical dirt of a geographic space and the sociocultural elements informing lived place is thematized throughout the works of Takagi."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) Natural forces affect Takagi's characters, but this alone could still constitute descriptive use of landscape. Solomon stresses a deeper connection between environment and lived society. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Regional imagery certainly gives the writing a strong geographic identity, yet atmosphere alone does not explain Solomon's account of "literature of place." Social experience is equally important. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) Solomon links literal dirt and physical geography with the sociocultural dimensions of lived place. The environment therefore carries social meaning rather than serving merely as scenery. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- (d) "Fūjin" draws partly upon Takagi's life, but autobiographical resemblance does not define his treatment of place. The passage emphasises the relation between geography and collective lived experience. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

10. Correct Answer: (b) perception of themselves as marginal within Manchurian cultural life

Reference Lines: "Japanese writers in Manchuria like Takagi often perceived themselves as occupying a minority position..." / "the contradiction between Japanese authors' sense of marginalization... and 'their relative dominance over their continental neighbors'..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) Mainland influence is mentioned elsewhere, but relative dominance concerns writers' position in relation to other ethnic communities. It does not qualify their literary dependence on Japan. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Solomon contrasts the writers' own feeling of marginality with the greater power they possessed relative to continental neighbours. The phrase therefore complicates their self-perception. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- (c) Official policy shaped cultural expectations, but the quotation concerns social and political hierarchy rather than publication or institutional regulation. These are distinct relationships in the passage. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Attachment to geographical setting becomes important in Takagi's fiction, but "dominance" refers to unequal relations among communities. It does not describe attachment to territory. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

11. Correct Answer: (d) complicating it through tensions within seemingly privileged colonial perspectives

Reference Lines: "Solomon finds in their work an overlooked perspective that breaks from a 'grand historical narrative' of simply celebrating the Japanese colonization..." / "their sense of marginalization... and 'their relative dominance...'"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Solomon does not challenge the larger narrative because it neglects literary quality. His concern is with historical perspectives and contradictions that a simple celebratory account fails to capture. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Individual motives appear in Takagi's biography, but Solomon's argument focuses on broader tensions of privilege, minority perception and colonial position. His analysis is not primarily biographical. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Takagi is not presented merely as an isolated exception that leaves the larger narrative intact. His writing exemplifies an overlooked perspective capable of complicating that narrative itself. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Solomon draws attention to writers who could feel marginal while simultaneously occupying privileged positions. This tension disrupts an uncomplicated account of colonial literary experience. Hence, option (d) is correct.

12. Correct Answer: (c) unruly

Reference Lines: "Saruwatari Heisuke, a back-alley physician living in Manchuria with his common-law wife and two wayward children."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) "Unsettled" generally suggests emotional instability or lack of permanence, neither of which is indicated here. The adjective is more naturally describing the children's conduct. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) "Wandering" can relate to the literal idea of straying, but the context does not describe physical movement or displacement. The intended sense concerns behaviour. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Applied to children, "wayward" commonly denotes behaviour that is difficult to control or resistant to expected discipline. "Unruly" captures that contextual meaning most precisely. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) "Estranged" would imply damage or distant family relationships, for which the passage provides no evidence. The word does not indicate separation from the parents. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

13. Correct Answer: (b) He rejects its certainty because social outcomes remain unpredictable and changeable.

Reference Lines: "But above all, despair is irrational. However sophisticated our forecasting tools may be, we simply have no means of knowing what comes next." / "Things happen - unexpected things - sometimes at astonishing speed."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author does acknowledge circumstances that might produce despair, but his strongest objection is not merely that despair harms action. He argues that certainty about a hopeless future is itself unjustified. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) The author calls despair irrational because complex societies cannot be reliably projected from present conditions. Unexpected shifts and tipping points leave open possibilities that pessimistic certainty ignores. Hence, option (b) is correct.

(c) The passage does not make despair reasonable when forecasting fails. On the contrary, uncertainty about the future is presented as one of the strongest reasons not to despair. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The author notes that opponents of change benefit from despair, but explicitly says his most important objection goes beyond that political consequence. Its irrational certainty is the deeper concern. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

14. Correct Answer: (d) change may seem unthinkable beforehand and obvious after it has already occurred

Reference Lines: "The change we want always looks impossible." / "But with sustained pressure, a bit of luck, a change in circumstance, suddenly!, the impossible happens. Then everyone says, 'Well, that was inevitable, wasn't it?'"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author questions confident prediction, but does not say successful reform requires people to abandon forecasting. The statement concerns how change is perceived before and after it happens. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Causes such as pressure, luck and changing circumstances may be visible before transformation occurs. What remains uncertain is whether and when their combination will produce a decisive shift. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Sustained pressure contributes to change, but the passage also mentions luck and circumstance and rejects predictable inevitability beforehand. No single threshold guarantees transformation. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The author contrasts the apparent impossibility of change before a tipping point with the tendency to regard it as inevitable afterward. The phrase captures this reversal in perception. Hence, option (d) is correct.

15. Correct Answer: (a) Major change can occur when several different forces begin working together.

Reference Lines: "But then a number of events combined in unexpected ways." / "A series of appalling scandals came to light. Travel and mass media allowed Irish people to see..." / "The media and international forums allowed brave activists... to be heard more widely."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author lists several causes, including scandals, wider exposure and stronger activist voices. The point is that their combined effect produced a rapid change that had seemed unlikely. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) Seeing changes in other countries mattered, but the passage presents this as only one factor among several. It was not shown as the single condition that made reform possible. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Scandals helped weaken the old order, but the author does not present them as the main cause of change. Other social and media influences were also important. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Wider attention to activists contributed to change, but this too was only one part of the larger process. The example is meant to show how several forces can combine unexpectedly. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

16. Correct Answer: (c) Metaphor, presenting entrenched social barriers as collapsing structures

Reference Lines: "The walls fell faster than anyone could have guessed. Before long, equal marriage and the right to abortion were both legally sanctioned..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) "Walls" does not simply stand in for a specific institution or government body. It represents the barriers sustaining an established social order more broadly. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) The sentence stresses unexpectedly rapid change, but its main literary operation is not numerical exaggeration. The image converts social constraints into physical structures that can fall. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The author imagines entrenched restrictions as walls whose collapse represents the sudden weakening of long-standing barriers. The comparison is implicit rather than literal. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) Falling is an ordinary action of physical walls and does not give them distinctly human qualities. The expression therefore works primarily through metaphor rather than personification. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

17. Correct Answer: (b) create a sense of several changes converging rapidly towards a possible threshold

Reference Lines: "Suddenly fossil fuels are far more expensive than renewables. Suddenly it is green technologies that are generating vast employment and income. Suddenly, technological barriers... have come tumbling down."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The repetition groups economic, technological, political and social developments together rather than setting their speeds against one another. No clear contrast between technological and public change is established. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Repeating "Suddenly" compresses several developments into a pattern of accelerating change. This supports the author's suggestion that different pressures may be converging around a tipping point. Hence, option (b) is correct.

(c) The passage has already stressed sustained pressure and changing circumstances, so "Suddenly" does not mean that developments lacked earlier causes. It describes how their effects can appear abrupt. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Renewables are described as cheaper and economically productive, but the passage does not claim that fossil fuels have already been fully displaced. The repetition points to broader convergence. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

18. Correct Answer: (a) Economic, technological, political and climatic pressures are shifting in the same direction.

Reference Lines: "fossil fuels are far more expensive than renewables." / "green technologies... are generating vast employment and income." / "technological barriers... have come tumbling down." / "fossil-funded politicians look outmoded..." / "heat shocks hammer the message home."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author identifies changes in costs, employment, technology, politics and climate awareness occurring together. Their convergence provides the basis for cautiously suggesting that a tipping point may be near. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) Renewables have gained economic advantages, but the author does not claim fossil-fuel use has already become universally irrational or disappeared. Cost is only one part of the argument. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Awareness is increasing, yet the passage does not say resistance has been overcome. The author remains uncertain precisely because a tipping point can only be identified confidently afterward. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Historical examples show that transformation can occur unexpectedly, not through a predictable sequence of stages. This option contradicts the passage's emphasis on complex systems and uncertainty. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

19. Correct Answer: (c) It sharpens the shift from stillness to playful excitement.

Reference Lines: "The air was utterly dead. There was not a breath stirring. It was the sleepest of sleepy days." / "His hand wandered into his pocket and his face lit up..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The landscape outside is also presented as sleepy and motionless, so it does not represent simple freedom. The stronger contrast develops within Tom's changing state. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Heat contributes to the atmosphere, but Tom's boredom is not reduced to physical discomfort. He longs for freedom or anything capable of engaging him. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The heavy stillness makes the tick's discovery produce a striking change in pace and mood. Boredom quickly becomes concentration, excitement and play. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) Tom seeks entertainment rather than consciously challenging classroom authority. His furtive behaviour makes the episode comic, not an organised act of rebellion. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

20. Correct Answer: (a) their rivalry is part of a friendship that easily shifts into competition

Reference Lines: "The two boys were sworn friends all the week, and embattled enemies on Saturdays."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The contrast is humorous rather than serious. Tom and Joe are genuinely close friends, but their relationship also includes playful rivalry, showing how easily companionship can turn into competition without destroying the friendship. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) Nothing in the passage suggests that their friendship depends on spending little time together. In fact, they sit beside each other and immediately cooperate in turning the tick into a shared source of entertainment. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The Saturday hostility is described in exaggerated language and does not establish genuine dislike outside school. The wording presents their rivalry as part of a lively friendship rather than as evidence of a hidden conflict. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The passage gives no sign that their bond is weakening or unstable. Calling Joe Tom's "bosom friend" and describing them as "sworn friends" shows that their rivalry exists within a secure friendship. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

21. Correct Answer: (d) A comic narrative in which boredom turns an ordinary object into amusement

Reference Lines: "Tom's heart ached to be free, or else to have something of interest to do..." / "His hand wandered into his pocket and his face lit up..." / "The sport grew in interest momentarily."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The classroom setting and Tom's frustration are important, but the passage does not focus on rules, punishment or the seriousness of school discipline. Its energy comes from the boys' comic attempt to escape boredom through play. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) The narrator does not pause to reflect on education or draw a lesson about the limits of classroom learning. The passage is presented as an immediate, lively episode centred on Tom's behaviour and the tick. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Tom's inability to concentrate could invite criticism of the classroom, but the narrator does not make teaching methods the subject of the passage. The scene is concerned more with character, boredom and spontaneous amusement. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The passage moves from stillness and extreme boredom to lively interest once Tom discovers the tick. The humour lies in how such a small and ordinary creature becomes the centre of an elaborate game between the boys. Hence, option (d) is correct.

22. Correct Answer: (a) humorously elevate a trivial moment of relief

Reference Lines: "His hand wandered into his pocket and his face lit up with a glow of gratitude that was prayer, though he did not know it."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The narrator uses the elevated language of prayer for Tom's delight at finding a small source of amusement. This exaggeration gives an ordinary moment comic importance. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) The passage does not compare Tom's excitement with any actual religious duty or practice. The religious language is used to heighten the humour of his sudden relief. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Tom does not consciously mistake pleasure for devotion, since the narrator says he "did not know it." The comparison belongs to the narrator's comic description rather than Tom's belief. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The line shows how strongly Tom welcomes relief from boredom, but it does not morally justify his desire for freedom. Its main function is humorous rather than ethical. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

23. Correct Answer: (d) To turn simple play into a comic drama of control

Reference Lines: "Joe took a pin out of his lapel and began to assist in exercising the prisoner." / Tom later divides the slate and establishes separate areas of control.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The boys continue using pins to control the tick and show no concern about its suffering. The term "prisoner" therefore does not indicate moral awareness. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Tom also longs for freedom, creating a possible parallel, but the passage does not develop a full symbolic identification. The immediate effect is comic dramatisation. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The boys become competitive, but the narrator does not present their activity as genuinely serious. Elevated language makes their trivial game amusingly dramatic. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Calling the tick a "prisoner" enlarges a small classroom diversion into a miniature struggle over movement and control. This exaggeration strengthens the passage's comic tone. Hence, option (d) is correct.

24. Correct Answer: (a) a wish to make the game fair while keeping its competitive appeal

Reference Lines: "they were interfering with each other, and neither getting the fullest benefit of the tick." / "as long as he is on your side you can stir him up and I'll let him alone..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) Tom recognises that both boys acting at once is spoiling the game, so he divides the slate and gives each a clear area of control. At the same time, the tick can cross the line at any moment, which keeps the game uncertain and competitive. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) Joe is already “deeply and gratefully interested” before Tom introduces the rules. The purpose of the division is therefore not to keep Joe entertained but to prevent both boys from interfering with each other. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Although Tom wants to avoid simultaneous interference, he shows no concern for protecting the tick itself. Both boys continue using pins to redirect it, so the rule is designed for their enjoyment rather than the creature’s safety. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The rules could create competition over who controls the tick longer, but Tom never states that proving his own skill is the purpose. His stated reason is that both boys should get the “fullest benefit” from the game. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

25. Correct Answer: (c) Both I and II

Explanation: British India participated in the San Francisco Conference and signed the UN Charter on 26 June 1945. India attained independence only on 15 August 1947. Nevertheless, India is counted among the 51 original members of the United Nations. The Charter formally came into force on 24 October 1945, which is observed as United Nations Day. India's independent government therefore did not have to apply afresh for UN membership.

26. Correct Answer: (a) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

Explanation: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit became the first woman President of the UN General Assembly in 1953. She presided over the Assembly's eighth session during 1953–54. Pandit had previously served as India's ambassador to the Soviet Union, the United States and Mexico. Hansa Mehta represented India in the UN Commission on Human Rights and contributed to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Arundhati Ghose was noted for representing India during negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

27. Correct Answer: (d) Resolution 69/131

Explanation: UN General Assembly Resolution 69/131 proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. The India-sponsored resolution was adopted on 11 December 2014. It attracted an exceptionally large number of co-sponsors, reflecting broad international support for the initiative. The first International Day of Yoga was observed on 21 June 2015. The initiative is frequently cited as an example of India using its cultural traditions as an instrument of soft power.

28. Correct Answer: (b) Hansa Mehta

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Indian diplomat and women's rights advocate Hansa Mehta played an important role in the drafting process of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She argued against language that could be interpreted as referring only to men. Her intervention contributed to Article 1 using the inclusive formulation that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on 10 December 1948. India was among the 48 countries that voted in favour of its adoption.

29. Correct Answer: (c) San Francisco Conference

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: The UN Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 at the conclusion of the San Francisco Conference. Officially called the United Nations Conference on International Organization, it brought together delegations from 50 countries. India participated in the Conference and became one of the founding members of the United Nations. The Charter subsequently entered into force on 24 October 1945, now observed annually as United Nations Day. The Dumbarton Oaks discussions had earlier helped develop proposals for the structure of the future international organisation.

30. Correct Answer: (a) Liberia

Explanation: India deployed the first all-women Formed Police Unit in UN peacekeeping history to Liberia in 2007. The contingent served under the United Nations Mission in Liberia. Its presence encouraged greater recruitment of women into the Liberian National Police. The deployment continued through successive rotations for approximately a decade. It became a prominent example of India's contribution to both UN peacekeeping and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

31. Correct Answer: (b) Rahimatullah M. Sayani

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Rahimatullah M. Sayani presided over the 12th annual session of the Indian National Congress at Calcutta in 1896. It was at this session that Rabindranath Tagore rendered Vande Mataram. Sayani was a lawyer and an important early Muslim leader associated with the Congress. He had also served as President of the Bombay Municipal Corporation and as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council. His 1896 presidential address dealt extensively with the economic consequences of British rule in India.

32. Correct Answer: (a) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Gopal Krishna Gokhale presided over the Benares Session of the Indian National Congress in 1905. The session adopted a Swadeshi resolution in response to the partition of Bengal, which came into effect that year. Swadeshi emphasised the use of indigenous goods and resistance to British economic domination. Leaders such as Bal

Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Madan Mohan Malaviya participated in the session. The anti-partition agitation also helped transform Vande Mataram into a widely used nationalist slogan.

33. Correct Answer: (a) Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Sahgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Sahgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon were the three prominent INA officers jointly tried by the colonial authorities at the Red Fort. They faced charges including waging war against the King-Emperor and offences connected with murder or abetment. Their trial generated widespread public sympathy for the Indian National Army and intensified nationalist sentiment in the final phase of British rule. Leading lawyers and political personalities joined their defence. The three officers came from different religious backgrounds, which further contributed to their symbolic importance in nationalist mobilisation.

34. Correct Answer: (c) Bishan Narayan Dhar

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Bishan Narayan Dhar presided over the 1911 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. Jana Gana Mana was first sung publicly during that session on 27 December 1911. The performance involved Tagore's niece Sarala Devi Chowdhurani and other participants. The composition was subsequently published under the title Bharata Vidhata. Decades later, it was recognised as India's National Anthem through a statement made in the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950.

35. Correct Answer: (b) Hansa Mehta

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Hansa Jivraj Mehta presented the National Flag to the Constituent Assembly on behalf of the women of India during the historic Independence session. She explained that she was performing the role in the absence of Sarojini Naidu and represented a large body of women associated with the ceremony. Hansa Mehta was one of the women members of the Constituent Assembly and was a prominent advocate of women's rights. The presentation occurred shortly after the Assembly formally assumed powers connected with India's independence. It remains an important but comparatively less-known episode of the transfer-of-power ceremonies.

36. Correct Answer: (a) Yugantar

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Yugantar, also rendered as Jugantar, was an important revolutionary periodical associated with the nationalist networks surrounding the Anushilan Samiti. It advocated a militant approach towards ending British colonial rule and helped spread revolutionary ideas among young nationalists. The Anushilan Samiti itself emerged in Bengal in the early twentieth century as a secret revolutionary organisation. Its members combined physical training, political education and underground organisation. Kesari, by contrast, was closely associated with Bal Gangadhar Tilak in western India.

37. Correct Answer: (a) Pakistan

Explanation: Pakistan is the only nuclear-armed country among the three states. It publicly demonstrated its nuclear-weapons capability by conducting tests in May 1998. Saudi Arabia does not possess a declared nuclear-weapons arsenal. Türkiye hosts United States nuclear weapons under NATO arrangements but does not independently own them. Pakistan's nuclear capability gives it a distinctive strategic position in regional defence arrangements.

38. Correct Answer: (b) Rabat

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: The historic Islamic Summit that led to the establishment of the organisation was held in Rabat, Morocco, in September 1969. It followed the arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in August of that year. The resulting organisation later became known as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Its General Secretariat is located in Jeddah, which makes Jeddah a tempting but incorrect answer to the question about the founding summit.

39. Correct Answer: (d) Jeddah

Explanation: The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The OIC describes itself as the collective voice of the Muslim world. It presently has 57 member states spread across Asia, Africa, Europe and South America. Its principal organs include the Islamic Summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers and the General Secretariat. The organisation was previously known as the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

40. Correct Answer: (b) 1952

Explanation: Türkiye became a member of NATO on 18 February 1952. Greece joined the organisation during the same round of enlargement. Their admission strengthened NATO's southeastern flank during the early phase of the Cold War. The original 12 members had established NATO through the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949. West Germany subsequently joined the alliance in 1955.

41. Correct Answer: (b) Iraq

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The Baghdad Pact originated in 1955 and eventually included Iraq, Türkiye, Iran, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. A revolution overthrew Iraq's Hashemite monarchy in 1958, substantially altering its foreign-policy orientation. Iraq formally withdrew from the pact in March 1959. The organisation was consequently renamed the Central Treaty Organization, or CENTO, later that year.

42. Correct Answer: (d) Nagaland

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 substantially reorganised the political map of Northeast India. It established Manipur and Tripura as States and provided for the formation of Meghalaya as a State. It also created the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Nagaland, however, had already attained statehood in 1963. Therefore, it was not created or formed under the 1971 reorganisation legislation.

43. Correct Answer: (a) Sarkaria Commission

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations recommended the establishment of a permanent Inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution. The Union Government subsequently established the Council through a Presidential Order dated 28 May 1990. It provides a forum for consultation and coordination between the Centre and States. The Punchhi Commission was constituted much later to re-examine Centre-State relations. Hence, the Sarkaria Commission is the correct answer.

44. Correct Answer: (c) Both I and II

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The statutory framework provides for a 60-member Legislative Assembly in Arunachal Pradesh. Of these seats, 59 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes, reflecting the State's distinctive demographic composition. The State of Arunachal Pradesh Act contains the relevant provision concerning Assembly strength and reservation. This extraordinarily high proportion of ST-reserved Assembly seats distinguishes Arunachal Pradesh from most Indian States. Consequently, both statements in the question are correct.

45. Correct Answer: (b) Sikkim

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: The North Eastern Council was constituted under the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971 as a regional body for the northeastern States. Initially, it covered seven States of the region. Through the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002, Sikkim was added as the eighth member State. The amendment also strengthened the Council's role as a regional planning body. Thus, Sikkim is the correct answer.

46. Correct Answer: (b) Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Article 244A was inserted by the Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969. The provision empowered Parliament to create an autonomous State comprising certain tribal areas within Assam. It emerged during a period when political and administrative demands in Northeast India were producing new forms of territorial autonomy. The provision became effective on 25 September 1969. The Forty-ninth Amendment, by contrast, concerned changes relating to the Sixth Schedule and Tripura.

47. Correct Answer: (a) Article 131

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Article 131 gives the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction over specified disputes between the Union and States or between two or more States. The dispute must involve a question of law or fact concerning the existence or extent of a legal right. Such disputes can originate directly before the Supreme Court. Article 262 concerns inter-State river water disputes, whereas Article 263 deals with the Inter-State Council. Therefore, Article 131 is the relevant constitutional provision.

48. Correct Answer: (c) Article 51A(f)

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Article 51A(f) makes it a Fundamental Duty of every citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of India's composite culture. Fundamental Duties are contained in Part IVA of the Constitution. They were introduced through the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, although another duty was subsequently added in 2002. Article 48A concerns environmental protection, while Article 49 deals with protection of monuments of national importance. The cultural duty under Article 51A(f) therefore directly complements institutions engaged in safeguarding India's artistic traditions.

49. Correct Answer: (c) 2005

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: India ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on 9 September 2005. The Convention itself had been adopted by UNESCO's General Conference on 17 October 2003. It subsequently entered into force internationally on 20 April 2006 after the required number of ratifications was achieved. The Convention provides the principal international framework for safeguarding living traditions, practices, knowledge and expressions. India's involvement under this framework includes numerous performing-art traditions relevant to Sangeet Natak Akademi's mandate.

50. Correct Answer: (b) Sankirtana

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Sankirtana, described by UNESCO as ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur, was inscribed on the Representative List in 2013. The tradition combines music, dance and devotional performance, particularly within the Vaishnav cultural setting of Manipur. It is performed during religious occasions and significant stages in community life. UNESCO's decision concerning the element was taken during the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee. Its inclusion provides a useful link between Manipuri performing arts and the heritage-preservation work associated with Sangeet Natak Akademi.

51. Correct Answer: (b) Tamil Nadu

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: P. V. Rajamannar was appointed the first Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi when the institution became functional in 1953. He subsequently chaired the Centre-State Relations Inquiry Committee constituted by the Tamil Nadu Government in 1969. The committee examined the distribution of powers between the Union and the States and submitted its report in 1971. It was an important State-level initiative in India's federalism debate, preceding the Sarkaria Commission by more than a decade. Thus, the institutional history of the Akademi connects indirectly with an important chapter in Indian constitutional federalism.

52. Correct Answer: (c) Lata Mangeshkar

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Ustad Bismillah Khan and Lata Mangeshkar were both conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2001. M. S. Subbulakshmi received the honour in 1998, while sitar maestro Ravi Shankar received it in 1999. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was conferred the Bharat Ratna later, in 2009. Bismillah Khan's association with the shehnai made him one of India's most celebrated instrumental musicians. The Sangeet Natak Akademi subsequently instituted the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in his name for young performing artists.

Section C: Legal Reasoning

53. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Lines: "The event must be independent of the consideration exchanged under the contract."

"An agreement to deliver goods when the buyer pays the price is not contingent, because payment constitutes the agreed consideration rather than a collateral event."

"An official approval ... may constitute a collateral event if the remaining requirements are satisfied."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: The fact that an obligation is to be performed in the future does not make it contingent. Under Clause 4, payment is Beacon's contractual consideration for receiving the printing press. It is part of the reciprocal exchange rather than an independent event collateral to that exchange.

Option (b) is incorrect: Clause 4 does not become contingent merely because delivery follows payment. Conversely, the environmental authority's decision is made by an independent body and is separate from the consideration exchanged between Aranya and Beacon. Its commercial relevance does not prevent it from being collateral.

Option (c) is correct: Clause 11 depends upon an uncertain decision of an independent regulatory authority. That decision is collateral to the sale and may therefore support a contingent obligation. Clause 4, however, connects delivery with payment of the agreed price and describes the reciprocal performance of the parties.

Option (d) is incorrect: The two clauses appear in the same transaction, but that does not give them the same legal character. Price payment forms part of the contractual exchange, whereas regulatory refusal remains independent of the consideration and determines whether the separate reimbursement obligation becomes enforceable.

54. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "Section 32 governs contracts contingent on an uncertain future event happening."

"Such a contract cannot be enforced unless and until the event happens."

"If the event becomes impossible, the contract becomes void."

Explanation: Option (a) is correct: Crestline's obligation depends on the happening of a future event, namely the grant of final environmental permission. The conclusive statutory prohibition and absence of any review or alternative approval make that event impossible. Under Section 32, the contract therefore becomes void when impossibility is established.

Option (b) is incorrect: A fixed deadline is relevant to the special rules under Section 35, but Section 32 separately addresses an event that becomes impossible. The absence of a contractual deadline does not require the parties to keep an agreement suspended after the contemplated approval can no longer be granted.

Option (c) is incorrect: The contractual event was the grant of permission, not the completion of the authority's decision-making process. A final rejection does not amount to the happening of the required event. Instead, it makes that event impossible and produces the consequence specified in Section 32.

Option (d) is incorrect: The contract may exist while permission remains uncertain, but its continuing operation depends on the possibility of that permission being granted. Once the statutory decision makes approval impossible, the passage directs that the contingent contract becomes void rather than remaining indefinitely binding.

55. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Lines: "Section 33 governs contracts contingent on an uncertain future event not happening."

"Such a contract becomes enforceable when the happening of that event becomes impossible."

"It is unnecessary to wait indefinitely after impossibility has been established."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Section 33 does not require the parties to prescribe a fixed period for every non-happening contingency. A fixed deadline would attract Section 35, but the present agreement may be decided under Section 33 once the vessel's return becomes impossible.

Option (b) is incorrect: The relevant condition is that the vessel does not return. Destruction of the vessel is not treated as its return or as the happening of the stated event. It is important because it makes the contrary event, the vessel's return to Kochi, impossible.

Option (c) is incorrect: The final maritime report removes the uncertainty that previously existed. Once the vessel has been destroyed beyond recovery, its return is no longer a pending possibility. The parties need not wait until the voyage would ordinarily have ended.

Option (d) is correct: Devika's promise is contingent on the non-happening of the vessel's return. The vessel's confirmed destruction makes that return impossible. Under Section 33, the promise therefore becomes enforceable at that stage despite the absence of a specified return date.

56. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Lines: "Section 34 concerns a contract depending on the future conduct of a living person at an unspecified time."

"The contemplated event is deemed impossible when that person does something that makes the specified conduct ... possible only after the occurrence of further contingencies."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: The absence of a fixed date is the setting in which Section 34 operates; it does not prevent the provision from deeming the event impossible. Lokesh's marriage to Meera materially changes the possibility of the contemplated marriage between Lokesh and Kavita.

Option (b) is correct: Following Lokesh's marriage, a future marriage between him and Kavita could occur only after additional events, such as the end of his existing marriage. Section 34 treats the original contemplated event as impossible instead of requiring the parties to wait for such further contingencies.

Option (c) is incorrect: Section 34 does not describe the condition as temporarily suspended until a remote later possibility arises. The passage expressly states that the event is deemed impossible when the specified conduct has become dependent on further contingencies.

Option (d) is incorrect: Lokesh's marriage resolves the uncertainty against the contemplated event; it does not satisfy the condition that Kavita marry him. The agreement cannot be enforced as though Kavita's marriage to Lokesh had occurred.

57. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Lines: "A contract contingent on an event happening within a fixed time becomes void when the time expires without the event happening, or earlier if the event becomes impossible."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: September 30 is the latest date within which the sculpture must arrive, but the deadline does not prevent the contract from becoming void earlier. Section 35 expressly recognises prior impossibility as an alternative to waiting for the fixed period to expire.

Option (b) is incorrect: Destruction resolves the uncertainty, but it does not resolve it in favour of the event required by the contract. The promised purchase depended on the sculpture reaching Delhi, whereas the fire made that arrival impossible.

Option (c) is correct: The agreement is contingent on the sculpture reaching Delhi within a fixed period. Its complete destruction on September 12 makes timely arrival impossible before the deadline expires. The contract consequently becomes void on the date impossibility is established.

Option (d) is incorrect: The passage does not require the parties to wait until September 30 after the sculpture's destruction. A happening contingency with a fixed time becomes void either upon expiry without occurrence or upon earlier impossibility.

58. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "A contract contingent on an event not happening within a fixed time becomes enforceable when the time expires without the event happening, or earlier if it becomes certain that the event will not happen."

Explanation: Option (a) is correct: The promise depends on the ship not arriving by December 31. Once the vessel has been dismantled and officially certified as incapable of another voyage, its arrival before the deadline becomes certain not to occur. Section 35 therefore permits enforcement before the fixed period expires.

Option (b) is incorrect: Expiry of the fixed period is one method by which a non-happening contingency becomes enforceable, but it is not the exclusive method described in the passage. Earlier enforcement is permitted where the event's non-occurrence becomes certain.

Option (c) is incorrect: Dismantling does not constitute or legally resemble the ship's arrival in Mumbai Harbour. Its relevance lies in proving that arrival has become impossible, thereby establishing the required non-happening before December 31.

Option (d) is incorrect: Reliable proof of dismantling is sufficient to determine that the ship will not arrive. Section 35 does not require disappearance or a particular form of destruction; it requires certainty that the specified event will not occur within the fixed time.

59. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Lines: "Before an agreement can qualify as a contingent contract, it must satisfy the general requirements of a valid contract under Section 10."

"These include ... lawful consideration [and] a lawful object."

"An event that has already occurred and is known to the parties lacks the uncertainty required for a statutory contingency."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: The first agreement refers to an event that had already happened and was known to Rhea and Sahil. Conditional language cannot restore uncertainty to a known past fact. The second agreement also fails because its expressly prohibited object does not satisfy the requirements of Section 10.

Option (b) is incorrect: The difficulty with the first agreement is the absence of a genuinely uncertain collateral event, not any fact concerning exchanged consideration. The second agreement fails because its object is unlawful, irrespective of whether consideration has been exchanged.

Option (c) is incorrect: Describing a promise with the word "if" does not conclusively make it a contingent contract. The first arrangement lacks uncertainty, while the second cannot qualify without first satisfying the requirements governing a valid underlying contract.

Option (d) is correct: Rhea and Sahil already knew that the warehouse had been destroyed, so the stated event does not create a statutory contingency. Tarun and Uma's arrangement concerns an object expressly prohibited by statute and therefore fails the preliminary validity requirement. Neither agreement qualifies as a valid contingent contract for the reasons stated in the passage.

60. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Lines: "Vicarious liability is not an independent tort."

"The claimant must therefore establish that the immediate wrongdoer committed a tort and that a legally recognised relationship connects the secondary defendant with that wrongdoer."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Northstar's control over the employee establishes the relationship that could support secondary liability, but it does not prove the underlying wrongful act. Control cannot independently transform reasonable conduct into a tort.

Option (b) is incorrect: Loss distribution explains why liability may be imposed upon an employer after an employee's tort has been established. It does not replace the preliminary requirement that the immediate wrongdoer must have committed a recognised tort.

Option (c) is correct: The court has expressly found that the employee acted with reasonable care and committed no recognised tort. Since vicarious liability is secondary rather than independent, Northstar cannot be made answerable when there is no employee tort for which responsibility can be transferred.

Option (d) is incorrect: The legally relevant relationship is between Northstar and its employee, not between Northstar and the injured customer. A claimant need not be an employee to recover for a tort committed against that claimant.

61. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Lines: "An employer is liable for a tort committed by an employee in the course of employment, even when the particular wrongful method was unauthorised."

"Liability may arise despite disobedience of instructions when the wrongful act remains connected with authorised work."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Disobedience of an instruction is relevant but does not itself remove conduct from the course of employment. Arvind reversed the van to facilitate the delivery that RapidDrop had assigned to him.

Option (b) is correct: Delivering the refrigerator was authorised work, and moving the van towards the customer's entrance was directed towards completing that work. The prohibited manoeuvre may therefore be treated as an improper method of performing the assigned delivery rather than as an independent personal activity.

Option (c) is incorrect: Vicarious liability frequently concerns negligence arising from the employee's chosen method of carrying out authorised work. The fact that Arvind personally selected the negligent method does not break its connection with the delivery.

Option (d) is incorrect: Working hours may provide relevant context, but they do not determine the issue by themselves. The stronger basis for liability is the functional connection between the negligent manoeuvre and Arvind's assigned delivery.

62. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Lines: "A substantial personal frolic breaks the employment connection, while an improper mode of performing an assigned duty ordinarily does not."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Authorised possession of the company vehicle does not keep each journey within the course of employment. The purpose and connection of the particular journey remain decisive.

Option (b) is incorrect: Mehul's intention to return to his duties later does not convert the ongoing personal journey into an employment activity. The accident occurred before he abandoned the personal detour and resumed the assigned route.

Option (c) is incorrect: Vicarious liability concerns the possible liability of Alpine in addition to Mehul's primary liability. The company's initial permission to use the van does not relieve Mehul of responsibility for his own negligence.

Option (d) is correct: The eighteen-kilometre diversion was undertaken to attend a private celebration and provided no benefit to Alpine's delivery operations. It therefore amounts to a substantial personal frolic that breaks the employment connection for purposes of vicarious liability.

63. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "A principal may be liable for an agent's tort when the agent acts within actual or apparent authority." "Section 182 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 defines an agent as a person employed to perform an act for another or represent another in dealings with third persons."

Explanation: Option (a) is correct: Meridian internally withdrew Leena's actual authority but continued presenting her publicly as its authorised sales representative. Since the tort occurred within the apparent scope of that represented authority, the passage permits liability to attach to Meridian.

Option (b) is incorrect: Termination of actual authority does not decide the case because the passage separately recognises apparent authority. Meridian's unchanged website and identification documents allowed customers reasonably to continue treating Leena as its representative.

Option (c) is incorrect: Customer reliance may support apparent authority, but it does not restore actual authority that Meridian had withdrawn. The distinction matters because Meridian's possible liability rests on outward appearance rather than renewed internal authorisation.

Option (d) is incorrect: Leena's personal liability for her tort does not exclude the principal's secondary liability. Under the stated rule, the principal may also be liable when the tort falls within the agent's actual or apparent authority.

64. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Lines: "Under Section 25 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, each partner is liable jointly with the other partners and severally for acts of the firm done while that person is a partner."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Nitin's direct commission of the tort makes him personally answerable, but Section 25 extends liability beyond the partner who physically performed the act. The renovation was accepted to be an act of the firm.

Option (b) is correct: Nitin, Omar and Preeti were partners when the tortious firm act occurred. Section 25 accordingly permits liability to operate jointly among them and severally against each of them. Nitin's subsequent retirement does not change his status when the relevant act was committed.

Option (c) is incorrect: Retirement does not transfer Nitin's existing liability to the continuing partners. The passage identifies the time of the firm's act, rather than the constitution of the partnership when proceedings are later commenced, as the relevant point.

Option (d) is incorrect: Section 25 expressly imposes liability upon the partners and does not confine the claimant to proceedings against the firm. Several liability permits responsibility to attach to an individual partner who was a partner at the relevant time.

65. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Lines: "Private-law liability may depend on whether the wrongful act occurred during employment and whether it formed part of a protected sovereign function."

"Courts are less willing to recognise immunity for transport, hospitals, public works, welfare activities and commercial operations."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Public ownership and statutory authorisation do not automatically convert transport into a protected sovereign function. The passage expressly places transport among activities for which courts are less willing to recognise immunity.

Option (b) is incorrect: The driver was performing a governmental service, but the nature of that service must still be examined. Treating each activity performed by a State employee as sovereign would erase the distinction drawn in the passage.

Option (c) is incorrect: An employee ordinarily exercises immediate physical control over the instrument that causes injury. That fact does not prevent vicarious liability where the employee committed the tort while performing assigned work.

Option (d) is correct: The negligent driving occurred during the operation of a regular public transport service and in the course of the driver's employment. Since transport is distinguished from traditional sovereign functions, the State may face private-law liability for the resulting injury.

66. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "When State officials violate life or personal liberty, constitutional courts may award compensation under Articles 32 or 226 without directing the victim to an ordinary civil suit."

"Sovereign immunity cannot defeat a constitutional remedy for an established violation of fundamental rights."

Explanation: Option (a) is correct: The High Court has already found an established violation of Farhan's life and personal liberty. It may therefore award compensation under Article 226 as a public-law remedy, notwithstanding the State's attempt to characterise policing as a sovereign function.

Option (b) is incorrect: The passage expressly distinguishes constitutional compensation from damages pursued through an ordinary civil suit. Article 226 permits the High Court to grant compensation without requiring Farhan first to institute private-law proceedings.

Option (c) is incorrect: Public-law compensation responds to the established constitutional violation by State officials. The passage does not make a prior criminal conviction of the individual officers a condition for granting that constitutional remedy.

Option (d) is incorrect: The sovereign-function distinction may be relevant to a private tort action, but it cannot defeat compensation for a proven violation of fundamental rights. Farhan's claim arises directly from the violation of life and personal liberty.

67. Correct Answer: (c)

Difficulty: Moderate

Rule 1 permits a Hindu marriage only when neither party has a living spouse at the time of the marriage. Aarav's separation from Ritu did not end their marriage. Because no divorce or annulment had been obtained, Ritu continued to be Aarav's legally married spouse when he married Meera.

Rule 2 expressly states that a Hindu marriage solemnised while either party has a living spouse is void. Meera's honest belief that Aarav was unmarried does not make the second marriage valid or merely voidable. Her lack of knowledge may be relevant to other remedies, but it does not alter the status prescribed by the supplied rule.

Option (a) incorrectly treats Meera's good faith as curing the violation. Option (b) confuses a void marriage with a voidable marriage. Option (d) is incorrect because the rule does not make the legal status depend upon which person challenges the marriage.

68. Correct Answer: (a)

Difficulty: Difficult

Aarav knowingly made a false statement about being a licensed surgeon. His profession was not an incidental matter because Meera had expressly informed him that it was decisive to her decision to marry. The statement therefore concerned a material fact about Aarav.

Meera believed the false representation and consented to the marriage because of it. Her consent was consequently obtained through material fraud within Rule 3. The marriage is voidable at Meera's option and remains effective unless she obtains an annulment.

Option (b) incorrectly describes the marriage as void from its beginning. Rule 3 specifically classifies a marriage involving material fraud as voidable. Option (c) ignores the facts establishing that Aarav's profession directly affected Meera's consent. Option (d) incorrectly limits voidability to concealment of an existing marriage.

69. Correct Answer: (d)

Difficulty: Moderate

Meera's conduct satisfies several components of desertion. She left without reasonable cause, without Aarav's consent and against his wishes. Nevertheless, Rule 4 also requires desertion to continue for at least two years immediately before the divorce petition.

Meera had remained separated for only eighteen months when Aarav filed his petition. The prescribed period had therefore not been completed. Aarav cannot obtain divorce on this ground at that time, even though the separation was deliberate and unjustified.

Option (a) disregards the minimum period. Option (b) is incorrect because Rule 4 permits either spouse to petition. Option (c) reverses the rule because both the nature and duration of the separation must be established.

70. Correct Answer: (b)

Difficulty: Difficult

Rule 5 requires the proposal and acceptance to occur at the same meeting. Sameer made his proposal on Monday, but Zoya accepted it at a separate meeting on Tuesday. The presence of the same witnesses on both days does not combine those separate occasions into one meeting.

The subsequently signed nikahnama and religious ceremony do not cure this defect. Rule 5 expressly provides that neither a written document nor a religious ceremony is independently essential. Those acts cannot replace the required proposal and acceptance at one meeting.

Option (a) disregards the same-meeting requirement. Option (c) incorrectly gives the witnesses power to combine separate declarations. Option (d) is incorrect because the supplied rule does not require registration for validity.

71. Correct Answer: (c)

Difficulty: Moderate

Rule 6 permits a Muslim woman to obtain dissolution when her husband has failed to provide maintenance for two years. Sameer provided Zoya with neither money nor necessities such as food and housing. This complete failure continued without interruption for two years.

Zoya has therefore satisfied the duration and conduct specified in Rule 6. The supplied rule does not require her to establish physical cruelty in addition to non-maintenance.

Option (a) wrongly excludes non-maintenance as an independent ground. Option (b) adds a cruelty requirement that Rule 6 does not contain. Option (d) is too broad because a single missed payment does not satisfy the required two-year period.

72. Correct Answer: (a)

Difficulty: Difficult

Sameer intended his three talaq pronouncements to dissolve the marriage immediately and irrevocably. His message therefore falls directly within the form of talaq described in Rule 7. The fact that the pronouncement was made electronically does not change the result because the rule expressly includes electronic communications.

Rule 7 declares such a pronouncement void and illegal. Being void, the message cannot dissolve the marriage, and the marital relationship between Sameer and Zoya continues.

Option (b) incorrectly suggests that Zoya's acknowledgment could make the pronouncement effective. Option (c) gives legal effect to the very form of talaq declared void. Option (d) is also incorrect because repeating the pronouncement before witnesses would not cure its prohibited instantaneous and irrevocable character.

73. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Lines: "Article 29(1) protects any section of citizens residing in India or any part of it that possesses a distinct language, script or culture."

"Its protection is not confined to numerical minorities."

"If a marginal heading appears narrower than the operative constitutional words, the operative words prevail."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Article 29(1) uses the expression "any section of citizens" rather than limiting protection to a numerically smaller community. The Varuni-speaking community's majority status within the State does not by itself exclude its claim.

Option (b) is incorrect: The constitutional text expressly refers to language, script and culture. The weekend classes are directed towards preserving the community's distinctive script and literature, both of which fall within the interests identified in the passage.

Option (c) is correct: The community constitutes a section of citizens possessing a distinct script and seeks to preserve it through voluntary classes. Article 29(1) may therefore protect the activity even though the community forms fifty-eight per cent of the State's population.

Option (d) is incorrect: The association's claim depends on the operative words of Article 29(1), not on an expansion created by the marginal heading. Where the two appear different in scope, the operative constitutional language controls the interpretation.

74. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "Article 29(2) prohibits denial of admission to a citizen, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any combination of those grounds, in an educational institution maintained by the State or receiving State aid."

"A residence requirement does not become language discrimination simply because it affects speakers of one language more heavily, although Article 29(2) may apply if residence is used as a disguise for a prohibited ground."

Explanation: Option (a) is correct: Aditi satisfied the academic conditions and was excluded expressly because of her mother tongue, which is a prohibited language ground. Bhavesh was excluded under a facially neutral residence rule. To invoke Article 29(2), he would need facts indicating that residence was being used to conceal discrimination based on a listed ground.

Option (b) is incorrect: Receipt of State aid brings the college within Article 29(2), but it does not turn each eligibility condition into prohibited discrimination. The basis of the particular denial must still be examined.

Option (c) is incorrect: Residence is not among the grounds listed in Article 29(2). The rule may be challenged under some other constitutional principle, but the passage does not treat residence itself as language discrimination without evidence of disguise.

Option (d) is incorrect: Article 29(2) applies both to institutions maintained by the State and to institutions receiving aid from State funds. The engineering college's aided status therefore does not place it outside the provision.

75. Correct Answer: (d)

Reference Lines: "Minority status is determined with reference to the population of the State in which the institution is situated."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: National population is not the controlling unit under the rule stated in the passage. The State cannot reject the claim simply because the Aroha community forms a national majority.

Option (b) is incorrect: The right to establish an institution of the community's choice does not remove the requirement of demonstrating minority status. A population comparison remains necessary, but it must be conducted at the correct territorial level.

Option (c) is incorrect: The passage identifies the State rather than the district as the relevant unit. The demographic position of the community in the particular district does not determine its constitutional status.

Option (d) is correct: The college is situated in Pratishtha, where the community constitutes eight per cent of the population. Its status must therefore be determined with reference to Pratishtha rather than the national population.

76. Correct Answer: (b)

Reference Lines: "'Establish' and 'administer' operate conjunctively."

"The claimant must demonstrate that the institution was established by the minority; subsequent management, renaming or service to minority students does not independently satisfy that requirement."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Current administration and student composition may demonstrate that the institution presently serves the linguistic community. They do not establish that the community founded the institution, which is a separate constitutional requirement.

Option (b) is correct: The municipal board established Sunrise College decades before the minority society assumed management. Since establishment and administration must both be connected with the minority, the subsequent transfer does not independently establish an Article 30(1) claim.

Option (c) is incorrect: Transfer of management changes the institution's present administrator but does not retrospectively alter the identity of its founder. The constitutional requirement of establishment cannot be satisfied by later administrative control.

Option (d) is incorrect: The difficulty is not that a publicly established institution can never be administered by a minority society. The narrower point is that present administration of such an institution does not itself create minority-institution status under Article 30(1).

77. Correct Answer: (c)

Reference Lines: "The State may impose conditions concerning educational excellence, discipline, hygiene, infrastructure, teacher qualifications, fair appointments and prevention of maladministration."

"A regulation is valid when it improves educational standards without destroying minority character or transferring effective management to the State."

Explanation: Option (a) is incorrect: Administrative autonomy includes appointing teachers and managing internal affairs, but it remains subject to regulations protecting educational quality. Teacher qualifications and hygiene standards fall within the regulatory subjects recognised in the passage.

Option (b) is incorrect: Recognition may be made subject to reasonable academic and administrative safeguards. Requirements concerning infrastructure, fair appointments and transparent fee calculation are not invalid simply because recognition depends upon compliance.

Option (c) is correct: The society retains its governing body, admissions authority and power to select qualified teachers. The conditions regulate educational standards and prevent maladministration without transferring effective control to State officials.

Option (d) is incorrect: Recognition permits reasonable regulation but does not authorise the State to replace minority management decisions. The validity of these conditions rests on the fact that they preserve, rather than replace, the society's decision-making authority.

78. Correct Answer: (a)

Reference Lines: "Recognition and affiliation may be subjected to reasonable academic conditions, but the State cannot require surrender of substantial management as their price."

"Article 30(2) prohibits discrimination in granting aid on the ground that an institution is managed by a religious or linguistic minority."

Explanation: Option (a) is correct: Giving government nominees decisive control over appointments and admissions would transfer substantial management rather than regulate academic quality. The separate refusal of aid is expressly based on minority management and therefore falls within the discrimination prohibited by Article 30(2).

Option (b) is incorrect: Affiliation and aid may carry neutral conditions, but the passage limits the nature of those conditions. Governmental takeover and exclusion from aid because of minority management cross those constitutional limits.

Option (c) is incorrect: The conclusion regarding affiliation is consistent with the passage, but the conclusion regarding aid is not. Article 30(2) directly prohibits using minority management as the ground for refusing aid.

Option (d) is incorrect: Compliance with academic requirements does not permit the State to demand control over the governing body. The aid denial is also invalid, but the affiliation condition cannot be sustained as a reasonable academic regulation.

79. Correct Answer: (b)

Difficulty: Difficult

Rule 2 requires dishonest movement of movable property out of another person's possession without that person's consent. Although Maya owned the laptop, Rohan lawfully possessed it under their agreement until the repair charges were paid. Maya secretly moved the laptop into her bag to recover it without paying those charges.

Rule 3 expressly makes possession, rather than ownership, decisive. Maya intended to deprive Rohan of the laptop as security for the unpaid charges. Her act was therefore dishonest. The theft was completed when she moved the laptop into her bag, even though Rohan stopped her before she left the shop.

Option (a) incorrectly treats ownership as a complete defence. Option (c) ignores Maya's dishonest removal of property from Rohan's lawful possession. Option (d) incorrectly requires an intention to sell the laptop permanently; that requirement does not appear in the supplied rules.

80. Correct Answer: (a)

Difficulty: Moderate

Mehul intentionally placed Leela in fear that the emails would be published and her professional reputation would be damaged. Reputational harm falls within the meaning of injury under Rule 4. Because of that fear, Leela delivered ₹1,00,000 to Mehul.

Every element of extortion is therefore satisfied: intentional creation of fear, fear of injury, dishonest inducement and delivery of property. The truthfulness of the emails does not prevent the threatened disclosure from producing fear of reputational injury.

Option (b) is incorrect because Leela transferred the money because of a threat, not because she believed a deceptive representation. Option (c) wrongly assumes that truthful information cannot be used to create fear of injury. Option (d) is incorrect because Leela herself delivered the money; Mehul did not take it from her possession through the movement required for theft.

81. Correct Answer: (c)

Difficulty: Difficult

Neeraj voluntarily entrusted the money to Kabir for the limited purpose of paying a supplier. Kabir therefore obtained possession lawfully. His offence did not arise when he initially received the money.

Kabir subsequently used the entrusted amount to discharge his personal debts. This was a dishonest conversion of the money for his own use and directly violated the instructions governing the entrustment. His false entry further demonstrates his intention to conceal the misuse. These facts constitute criminal breach of trust under Rule 5.

Option (a) is incorrect because the money was already lawfully in Kabir's possession. Option (b) focuses on the later concealment but overlooks the absence of deception inducing the original entrustment. Option (d) is inapplicable because Kabir neither created fear nor induced Neeraj to deliver property through a threat.

82. Correct Answer: (b)

Difficulty: Difficult

Ishaan knew that he did not possess the phone and could not obtain it. More importantly, he had already decided to collect advance payments without supplying anything. His dishonest intention therefore existed before Tara transferred the money.

The false advertisement deceived Tara into believing that the phone existed and would be delivered. That deception dishonestly induced her to transfer ₹80,000, causing her financial loss. The facts satisfy Rule 6 and constitute cheating. Option (a) is incorrect because Tara voluntarily delivered the money after being deceived; Ishaan did not remove it from her possession. Option (c) is incorrect because an ordinary advance payment does not, by itself, establish entrustment. Option (d) overlooks Ishaan's dishonest intention at the beginning of the transaction.

83. Correct Answer: (d)

Difficulty: Difficult

Rule 7 requires dishonest intention at the time the representation or promise induces the victim to act. Ishaan genuinely owned the phone and intended to deliver it when Tara paid the advance. His original promise was therefore honest.

The failure resulted from an accidental fire occurring after the agreement. Ishaan also promptly disclosed the incident and offered repayment, which supports the absence of initial deception. His later inability to perform may create contractual liability, but it does not retrospectively convert the original transaction into cheating.

Option (a) incorrectly treats every advance payment as proof of dishonest inducement. Option (b) is incorrect because Tara voluntarily transferred the money. Option (c) wrongly assumes that an advance payment necessarily constitutes entrusted property. The required initial dishonest intention is absent.

84. Correct Answer: (a)

Difficulty: Difficult

Asha voluntarily entrusted the camera to Vikram for delivery. Vikram therefore obtained lawful possession of the parcel in his capacity as a courier. He did not commit theft merely by initially receiving or carrying it.

Vikram later opened the parcel, sold the camera and retained the proceeds. His dishonest sale was an unauthorised disposal and conversion of entrusted property for personal benefit. It therefore constitutes criminal breach of trust under Rule 5.

Option (b) overlooks that Vikram had already received lawful possession through entrustment. Option (c) is incorrect because he initially intended to perform the delivery, so no initial deception induced Asha's decision. Option (d) is inapplicable because Vikram did not obtain the camera by placing Asha in fear of injury.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

85. Correct Answer: (c) For some people, losing \$100 would cause a serious problem that winning \$300 may not fully offset.

Reference Line: “Even when someone grasps the mathematics, however, it’s hard to take the risk. Why?”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Greater familiarity with expected-value calculations may make some people more willing to accept the gamble. However, this does not challenge the author’s view that reluctance in other cases may arise from loss aversion. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Feeling more certain after taking additional time does not show that the decision is based on sound reasoning rather than bias. An initial emotional reaction may continue to shape the choice even after further thought. Confidence in a decision therefore does not challenge the author’s explanation of reluctance. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) A person who would suffer serious consequences from losing \$100 may reasonably value avoiding that loss more than the average monetary calculation suggests. In such a case, refusing the gamble can reflect practical circumstances rather than an irrational fear of loss. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) People experiencing losses with different levels of emotional intensity is consistent with the author’s discussion of loss aversion. The author does not claim that everyone must react to loss with equal strength. Such variation therefore does not provide a competing argument against the claim that loss can influence judgment. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (b) To show that unnoticed mental habits may shape choices even when the stakes are not simple or financial.

Reference Line: “Without careful thought, a patient may fail to seek the best medical care.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The passage does not compare the difficulty of reversing personal decisions with the difficulty of changing financial ones. Jobs and relationships are mentioned because prior investment may influence continued commitment. The focus is on the effect of bias, not on which category of decision is harder to reverse. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The examples show that cognitive biases may influence choices in health, money, work and relationships, not merely in a simple gamble. They broaden the significance of the author’s argument by showing how unnoticed reactions may affect more complicated decisions. This is the purpose served by the examples. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The passage does not suggest that decisions affecting future security make people less rational by their nature. Concern about health, savings or employment can itself be a sensible part of decision-making. The problem arises when an unexamined bias shapes the choice before proper reflection occurs. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The examples show that similar kinds of bias may arise in different areas, but they do not establish that a person who errs in one area will also err in every other area. Such a conclusion goes beyond the author’s claim. The passage speaks about the wider possibility of bias, not a fixed pattern across all decisions. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (d) A doctor uses standard screening rules to save time, but misses an unusual case when the rule replaces closer examination.

Reference Line: “Impulse has its benefits. A mind that had to reason from scratch every moment would be paralysed.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

- (a) The teacher's error arises because the answer key contains inaccurate information. The problem is not that a useful routine becomes unreliable when a situation demands greater reflection. The cause of the mistake therefore differs from the reasoning pattern used by the author. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) The driver considers several routes before choosing one, so the decision already involves reflection. The failure results from an unexpected accident rather than from relying too heavily on an automatic method. The logical relation between efficiency and later error found in the passage is therefore absent. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) The manager compares present cost with expected future savings and makes a considered decision. There is no shortcut that is useful in ordinary circumstances but becomes harmful when further thought is required. The reasoning therefore does not follow the same pattern as the author's argument. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) Standard screening rules save time because the doctor need not examine every ordinary case from the beginning. The same rule becomes harmful when an unusual case requires closer attention and the doctor continues relying on it. This matches the passage's pattern of a useful shortcut causing error when it replaces reflection. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (a) People trained to notice their first reaction make fewer loss-driven choices than equally informed people without such training.

Reference Line: "At its simplest, mindfulness creates a pause between what arises in the mind and what we do next."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

- (a) The author argues that noticing an initial reaction before acting may reduce the influence of cognitive bias. If trained participants make fewer loss-driven choices despite having the same information as others, the pause appears to affect the quality of their decisions. This supports the author's proposed role of mindfulness. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
- (b) Feeling less regret after an unfavourable outcome concerns a person's emotional response after the decision has already been made. It does not show that the original choice was less influenced by loss aversion or another bias. The author's claim concerns what happens before action is taken. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) Faster calculation of expected value shows greater numerical skill, but the passage already states that understanding the mathematics may not remove hesitation. A person can calculate the probabilities correctly and still react strongly to a possible loss. This therefore does not show that mindfulness improves biased decisions. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) More time may make a person feel more confident without changing the source of the decision. An initial reaction may continue to influence the choice even while the person believes that further thought has made it more considered. Increased confidence therefore does not establish reduced cognitive bias. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (c) Ask the client to separate the first emotional reaction from the future reasons for keeping or changing the investment.

Reference Line: "We may think we are deliberating over the coin toss, but often the body has moved first."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

- (a) The passage does not suggest that the highest expected return should always determine the choice regardless of personal circumstances. The opening gamble is used to illustrate how calculation and emotional response may conflict. A sound decision may still require consideration of needs, risks and consequences beyond expected return. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) Preserving an investment unless strong new evidence appears may give unnecessary weight to the earlier decision simply because it has already been made. The passage warns that people may continue with a choice because of what they have previously invested in it. This practice may therefore reinforce the bias being discussed. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) The passage suggests that an initial emotional response may influence a choice before careful reflection begins. Separating that reaction from the future reasons for keeping or changing the investment allows the person to examine the choice more thoughtfully. This follows the author's emphasis on noticing instinct before acting on it. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The author does not argue that strong emotions must disappear before a good decision can be made. Mindfulness involves noticing emotions without immediately allowing them to determine the choice. Waiting until those feelings are absent places a requirement on decision-making that the passage does not support. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (b) It extends a bias shown in a simple gamble to complex choices without showing that the same mechanism explains those choices.

Reference Line: "People lose wealth because they cling to their current savings plans."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The passage accepts that a person may understand the likely outcomes and still hesitate because of an emotional response. It therefore does not treat discomfort as proof that the person has misunderstood the consequences. The author separates knowledge of the situation from the influence of bias. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The coin toss involves fixed probabilities and simple monetary outcomes, while medical, financial and personal decisions involve many additional factors. The passage carries the idea of cognitive bias into these settings without establishing that the same psychological process explains the behaviour in each case. This creates a gap in the broader reasoning. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The passage says that previous investment may lead people to preserve a job or relationship, but it does not depend on a comparison with people who later change course. The amount invested by those two groups is not necessary to the author's claim. This therefore does not identify the flaw in the reasoning. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Personal and financial decisions may involve different measures of value, but the same cognitive tendency can still influence both kinds of choices. The absence of a common numerical measure does not prevent comparison of the psychological process involved. The weakness concerns whether that process has been sufficiently established across the examples. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (b) A system without meaningful judgment cannot become stupid merely because its behaviour produces a harmful result.

Reference Line: "One might say that stupidity implies a capacity for getting things right before it can get them spectacularly wrong."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Earlier success may indicate that a system possesses some capacity for judgment, but a later poor outcome does not by itself establish stupidity. The author distinguishes ordinary mistakes from errors that are developed or reinforced through further reasoning. A single failure after previous success therefore does not satisfy the author's account. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author suggests that stupidity presupposes some capacity to judge, reason, or get things right. A system that lacks meaningful judgment cannot misuse such a capacity merely because its behaviour causes an undesirable outcome. Its failure may instead result from malfunction or circumstances without involving stupidity. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The passage does not compare how often intelligent systems fail on simple problems with how often they fail on difficult ones. The author's argument concerns the greater scope for elaborate stupidity that intelligence can provide. It does not establish that reasoning ability makes failure more probable in a particular category of problems. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Having enough information to reach a better result does not necessarily make an error an instance of stupidity. A person may misunderstand information, apply a rule poorly, or make an honest mistake despite having access to relevant facts. The author requires something beyond the mere availability of a better answer. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (d) Treating stupidity as mere absence may hide processes by which capable minds preserve and enlarge error.

Reference Line: “Yet stupidity gets almost no attention at all. It is treated as a mere absence, as if once we subtract intelligence what remains is stupidity.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author criticises the imbalance between the study of intelligence and the neglect of stupidity, but he does not question the usefulness of intelligence research itself. Research into successful cognition may remain valuable while still leaving an important kind of failure unexplained. The passage therefore supports incompleteness rather than limited value. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage mentions artificial intelligence, animal cognition, and collective problem-solving as examples of fields receiving research attention. It does not indicate that growing interest in one field has reduced or replaced work in the others. No such shift in academic priorities can be inferred from the passage. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author distinguishes stupidity from ordinary error, but he does not claim that researchers neglect stupidity because the two are difficult to separate in practice. His criticism is aimed at the assumption that stupidity is simply what remains when intelligence is absent. The proposed reason for neglect is therefore unsupported. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) If stupidity is treated merely as the absence of intelligence, researchers may overlook the active cognitive processes involved in maintaining and expanding mistakes. The passage later describes stupidity as involving effort, defence, refinement, and further action. This inference follows naturally from the author's criticism of the prevailing conception. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (a) Matched comparisons find simpler systems producing more elaborate errors than systems with greater cognitive capacity.

Reference Line: “The degree of stupidity available to any system scales directly with the intelligence that system possesses, more intelligence begets greater feats of stupidity.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author's argument depends on the idea that greater cognitive capacity permits more elaborate and consequential forms of stupidity. If comparable evidence showed simpler systems repeatedly producing more elaborate errors than more capable systems, that expected relationship would be weakened. The claimed connection between sophistication and the possible scale of stupidity would become less convincing. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Retaining a poor policy because changing it would impose substantial transition costs need not involve the defence of an erroneous belief. An institution may recognise that a policy is weak while still deciding that immediate replacement would create greater practical difficulties. Such conduct does not challenge the author's proposed relationship between intelligence and elaborate error. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author does not argue that people with modest reasoning ability cannot hold or repeat false beliefs. His claim concerns the greater scale and sophistication that become possible when more cognitive resources are available. Repeating mistaken claims because of social rewards therefore remains consistent with the author's position. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Skilled thinkers constructing stronger defences for beliefs formed before examining evidence fits the author's description of sophisticated error. Their reasoning ability is being used to strengthen rather than correct an existing mistake. This supports the possibility that greater intelligence can enable more elaborate stupidity. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (c) A committee adds new arguments and procedures to protect a policy after its factual basis collapses.

Reference Line: “Stupidity begins where error is elaborated, defended, refined, institutionalized, and made the foundation for further action.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The student may be making an honest mistake by applying a familiar method to a problem with changed conditions. The passage expressly treats such misapplications as errors that should not automatically be classified as stupidity. Nothing here suggests that the student builds a defence around the mistake or uses it to justify further conduct. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The sensor continues producing false readings because of a physical defect rather than because an error is being reasoned about, defended, or expanded. Repetition alone does not meet the author's conception of stupidity. The example describes malfunction without the cognitive elaboration that the passage considers significant. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The committee continues beyond the initial error by constructing new arguments and procedures to preserve a policy whose factual foundation has failed. The mistake is therefore defended, refined, and built into institutional action. This closely reflects the process through which the author says ordinary error becomes stupidity. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) An inefficient rule may be retained because replacing the system would disrupt operations, which can represent a practical trade-off rather than the preservation of a false belief. The manager may recognise the weakness of the rule while accepting temporary inefficiency. The example therefore lacks the elaboration of error described by the author. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (b) Cognitive sophistication can support careful problem-solving while also supplying tools for defending mistaken beliefs.

Reference Line: "Human beings can land autonomous rovers on Mars, sequence a genome in hours, and engineer nanometer circuits. And yet conspiracy theories, anti-scientific political movements, and institutional hatred proliferate..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) Specialised scientific methods might explain why expertise in technical fields does not always carry over into public disagreements. However, the author presents a broader account in which sophisticated cognitive abilities themselves can support both achievement and error. Separating scientific expertise from ordinary judgment does not fully reconcile the two facts in the author's terms. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The paradox is resolved if cognitive sophistication is understood as a capacity that can be used for different purposes. The abilities that help humans solve difficult scientific problems can also be employed to justify, organise, and preserve mistaken beliefs. Scientific achievement and elaborate irrationality can therefore coexist without contradicting each other. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The spread of conspiracy theories despite strong scientific evidence restates one side of the apparent contradiction rather than explaining how both facts can coexist. It shows that irrational beliefs may survive in an evidence-rich environment, but it does not connect this survival to human cognitive sophistication. The central tension therefore remains unresolved. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Coordination difficulties may explain why institutions are slow to abandon older beliefs, but the paradox concerns human intellectual achievement existing alongside sophisticated irrationality. The author's reasoning focuses on the dual use of cognitive capacities rather than on the practical difficulty of collective change. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (d) Genuine error is presented as a feature that distinguishes living systems from other physical systems.

Reference Line: "Life, uniquely among physical systems, has the capacity to be wrong."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The hypothetical system could still use sophisticated capacities to preserve and deepen an initial mistake. Its being non-living would not prevent the process of elaboration described elsewhere in the passage. The new fact therefore leaves this proposition consistent with the author's broader account of stupidity. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The distinction between ordinary error and stupidity depends on what happens to the error after it occurs. Even if non-living systems could make meaningful errors, some of those errors could still remain undeveloped while others might be defended or extended. The hypothetical does not undermine this distinction. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The hypothetical concerns whether a non-living system can form and preserve an erroneous representation. It does not establish that problem-solving ability guarantees good judgment in other settings. A capable non-living system that maintains a false belief could even remain consistent with the author's separation of intelligence from sound judgment. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage presents the capacity to be wrong as a distinguishing feature of life among physical systems. If a non-living physical system could form a false representation and act upon it in the relevant sense, that distinction could no longer be maintained as stated. The new fact would therefore require rejection of this proposition. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (c) Some major weaknesses of arbitration can be reduced without discarding the mechanism.

Reference Line: "It moves the discourse away from abandoning arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism and instead directs attention towards diagnosing the structural, procedural and institutional challenges that hinder its effective functioning."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Court pendency helps explain why arbitration remains relevant, but the author's case does not depend on arbitration being preferable in most commercial disputes. Arbitration could remain worth preserving even where litigation performs better in particular situations. The essential issue is whether its present weaknesses leave room for meaningful improvement. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author uses mature arbitration jurisdictions to support the value of continued refinement, but his reasoning does not require India to adopt their models with limited changes. Differences in legal and institutional settings may still require different solutions. His defence of arbitration can stand without assuming easy transplantation of foreign practices. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author recommends diagnosing and correcting the causes of poor arbitral performance instead of abandoning arbitration. That recommendation requires at least some important weaknesses to be capable of improvement while the mechanism itself is retained. If its major shortcomings could not be meaningfully reduced, the author's proposed response would lose much of its logical basis. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The author gives in-house legal teams an important role in shaping arbitral outcomes, but he also identifies structural, procedural and institutional challenges. His argument does not require corporate legal teams to be capable of preventing most arbitral problems. Their contribution may be significant without being sufficient to overcome wider systemic difficulties. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (a) Tailored dispute clauses are linked with fewer later disagreements over procedure.

Reference Line: "It begins at the stage of contract drafting, through the choice of arbitral seat, the framing of dispute resolution clauses, the selection (or omission) of institutional rules and the clarity with which procedural expectations are set."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author believes that choices made while drafting the contract can influence how efficiently arbitration later operates. If tailored clauses are associated with fewer procedural disagreements, that relationship supports the significance he assigns to early planning. It indicates that thoughtful contractual choices can have consequences after the dispute has arisen. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author's argument assumes that procedural choices made by parties retain meaningful influence once arbitration begins. If courts frequently replace or disregard those choices, the practical effect of careful drafting would become weaker. That would reduce the importance of pre-dispute design in determining later arbitral performance. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage assigns considerable responsibility to parties and their legal teams for designing dispute-resolution frameworks. If commercial parties commonly have little meaningful ability to negotiate those clauses, their capacity to shape the process would be narrower. This would weaken the extent of influence that the author attributes to contractual planning. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author treats contract design as an important contributor to efficiency and cost. If arbitrator behaviour accounts for most delays even where agreements have been carefully drafted, factors arising later in the process would carry greater explanatory weight. That finding would weaken the author's emphasis on choices made before the dispute. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. Correct Answer: (d) It shows that similar complaints can exist without making arbitration unworthy of reform.

Reference Line: "Mature arbitration hubs such as Singapore, London, Paris and New York continue to grapple with recurring criticisms relating to rising costs, procedural delays, the quality and consistency of arbitrators, enforceability concerns, and questions of overall efficiency."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The author identifies similar kinds of concerns across several jurisdictions, but he does not establish that the causes producing those concerns are the same. Comparable complaints may arise from different institutional, procedural or legal conditions. His comparison therefore does not support a claim of common causation across these jurisdictions. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage states that mature arbitration hubs continue to face concerns involving costs, delays and efficiency. Their relevance therefore cannot rest on having already solved the main weaknesses of arbitration. The author's point is that these jurisdictions continue to refine their systems despite ongoing criticism. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author refers to refinement of rules, stronger institutional support and nuanced practices in mature jurisdictions. He does not argue that India's domestic arrangements should be displaced by international arbitral practices. The comparison supplies a reason for continued reform rather than a requirement to substitute one procedural system for another. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The foreign examples show that recurring criticism can coexist with continued confidence in arbitration as a mechanism capable of improvement. These jurisdictions have faced significant concerns without treating arbitration as a lost cause. The comparison therefore supports the author's rejection of the inference that imperfections necessarily justify abandoning arbitration. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (b) Decisions made before a dispute can materially influence the arbitration that follows.

Reference Line: "The recent discourse questioning the effectiveness of arbitration in India must, therefore, also engage with the evolving role and responsibility of in-house legal teams."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The author encourages greater attention to matters such as enforceability, but the argument does not depend on parties already considering such issues in most negotiations. General Counsel may bear responsibility precisely because better planning is needed. This assumption is therefore unnecessary. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author links choices made during contract drafting with the later effectiveness, efficiency, cost and enforceability of arbitration. For General Counsel to share responsibility for those outcomes, their earlier decisions must be capable of influencing the arbitration that eventually occurs. Without that connection, the claim of responsibility would lose its basis. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The author does not need to assume that procedural delays are often caused by pre-dispute decisions. Early choices may influence several aspects of arbitration, including appointments, procedural clarity, cost and enforceability. Responsibility can therefore exist even when many delays arise from other causes. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Responsibility does not depend on in-house lawyers possessing greater specialist knowledge than external counsel. It arises from their role in selecting, approving and designing the dispute-resolution framework before disputes occur. External counsel may possess greater expertise without affecting the author's reasoning. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (a) Institutional rules can usually correct weaknesses created by poor contractual planning.

Reference Line: "Rather than viewing arbitration as a default or boilerplate mechanism, there is a growing need for deliberate and informed design of dispute resolution frameworks."

"Success in arbitration is largely decided well before any dispute occurs."

"In this way, General Counsel wields enormous influence over the eventual effectiveness, efficiency, cost and enforceability of arbitration."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage treats institutional rules as only one part of a wider dispute-resolution framework. It also stresses the importance of seat, drafting, appointments, timelines and interim relief. Nothing suggests that institutional rules will usually repair weaknesses caused by poor contractual planning. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author rejects the use of arbitration as a standard or boilerplate mechanism and instead favours deliberate design. This suggests that the appropriate dispute-resolution structure may vary according to the nature of the commercial relationship and its likely needs. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author states that arbitral success is influenced by choices made before a dispute arises, including the drafting of clauses and procedural expectations. It can therefore be inferred that better planning at an early stage may reduce some procedural difficulties that emerge later. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage assigns General Counsel significant influence over the effectiveness, cost and enforceability of arbitration. This supports the inference that parties involved in designing the arbitral framework may also bear some responsibility for how well that process eventually functions. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (d) Arbitration's weaknesses call for reform at both institutional and contractual levels.

Reference Line: "The conversation, therefore, is not merely about reforming arbitration from the outside, but about strengthening it from within, beginning at the drafting table."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The author strongly emphasises contractual design, but he also recognises structural, procedural and institutional challenges. Nothing in the passage places drafting above institutional reform as the more important route to improvement. His position is that both dimensions require attention if arbitration is to perform more effectively. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Court pendency is an important reason for maintaining effective alternatives to litigation, but the author's defence of arbitration is broader than that consideration. He also relies on arbitration's promise of efficiency, finality and party autonomy and on its capacity for refinement. Its continuing usefulness is therefore not explained mainly by judicial delay. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author views criticism as consistent with a maturing and self-reflective arbitral system, but criticism by itself does not establish maturation. His reasoning also points to institutional refinement, evolving practices and willingness to address recognised shortcomings. Without those features, criticism could reflect dissatisfaction without showing meaningful progress. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage combines two levels of improvement throughout its reasoning. Mature jurisdictions respond through institutional refinement, while parties and General Counsel are expected to improve choices made before disputes arise. The final position therefore supports reform of both the wider arbitral framework and the contractual arrangements created within it. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

103. Correct Answer: (b) New discoveries show that familiar astronomical labels may fail when unusual systems challenge the boundaries behind them.

Reference Line: “Despite such a menagerie, many researchers hold out hope they will eventually produce a straightforward way to tell what is and isn’t a planet.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Historical attachment appears in the discussion surrounding Pluto, but the passage does not identify it as the main source of disagreement among astronomers. The larger concern is that unusual discoveries expose limits in existing categories and make their boundaries harder to apply. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage links Pluto, the CD-35 2722 system, and other unusual discoveries to a continuing problem of deciding what counts as a planet. The author suggests that expanding astronomical knowledge has revealed weaknesses in familiar categories and created a need for a clearer definition. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The discovery of many Kuiper Belt objects affected Pluto's classification, but the passage does not establish that a category becomes reliable only when numerous similar bodies are known. The author's concern is about the adequacy of the definition itself, not the number of examples available. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage uses an extrasolar system to illustrate a classificatory difficulty, but it does not argue that familiar terms must be abandoned outside the Solar System. The author instead hopes for a definition capable of handling the wider variety revealed by modern astronomy. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

104. Correct Answer: (c) The 2006 definition settled later classification problems well enough that new discoveries created no serious uncertainty.

Reference Line: “In the intervening decades, the issue has only gotten worse as telescopes uncover ever more oddities floating through the cosmos.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage presents improved observation as a source of both greater knowledge and greater classificatory difficulty. Telescopes reveal objects and systems that earlier schemes did not have to accommodate, so this statement remains consistent with the author's account. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Pluto's history supports the possibility that classification can change when astronomers obtain a wider basis for comparison. Pluto itself remained the same object, but knowledge of similar bodies altered the context in which its status was considered. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author states that the classification problem became more difficult after the IAU's intervention and gives a recent system that astronomers still struggled to classify. A claim that the definition removed serious later uncertainty therefore conflicts with the passage. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage focuses heavily on difficult boundary cases without suggesting that every familiar planetary classification has become unusable. It is therefore possible for a definition to handle ordinary cases reasonably well while leaving unusual arrangements uncertain. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

105. Correct Answer: (d) Greater precision in basic terms can matter to scientific work even when the objects studied are naturally complex.

Reference Line: “In every other field, scientists have defined the terms they need to do their work.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author's comparison does not depend on astronomy using the same methods as mathematics or biology. The point requires only that clearer definitions can have value across scientific fields, even when those fields study very different kinds of objects. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage suggests that increased observation can sometimes create new classification problems rather than merely solve existing ones. The Kuiper Belt and the CD-35 2722 system show that more knowledge may expose difficult boundaries instead of simply removing disagreement. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author's criticism does not require every scientific category to resolve every possible case without disagreement. A definition may still be useful despite difficult edge cases, so this statement imposes a stronger condition than the comparison needs. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) For the comparison to support the author's criticism, definitional precision must have some importance for scientific work even when natural objects are varied and complex. Without that connection, mentioning the definitions used in other fields would not meaningfully support the criticism of astronomy. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

106. Correct Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Reference Line: "But by the turn of the millennium, astronomers came to recognize that Pluto wasn't alone. Thousands of other frozen fragments orbited near it in a region called the Kuiper Belt."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation

(a) The Assertion is supported because Pluto remained classified as a planet for decades before astronomers reconsidered that status. The Reason explains this reconsideration because discoveries of many similar frozen bodies changed the comparative context in which Pluto was understood. Thus, R provides the reason supporting A. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Both statements are true, but the Reason is not independent of the Assertion. The discovery of numerous Kuiper Belt objects helps explain why astronomers reconsidered Pluto despite its long-established classification. The relationship between the two statements is therefore explanatory. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is also supported by the passage. Astronomers discovered thousands of other frozen fragments near Pluto, which gave them a broader basis for considering whether Pluto remained sufficiently distinct to retain its earlier status. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The Reason is true, but the Assertion is also supported by the historical account. Pluto was accepted as a planet for almost a century before later astronomical discoveries contributed to reconsideration of its classification. Therefore, A cannot be treated as false. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

107. Correct Answer: (c) The first presents an earlier basis of classification; the second shows how later knowledge revised that basis.

Reference Line: "For most of human history, planets were simply bright specks in the sky that moved differently than the rest of the stars."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation

(a) The first statement describes how planets were understood historically rather than stating the author's final conclusion. The second explains how improved observation changed that understanding by revealing the physical and orbital nature of those objects. It therefore does not weaken the first as an argument would. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The first statement concerns an earlier observational understanding of planets rather than the present dispute over planetary classification. The second describes a historical change produced by telescopic observation, not a reason why modern astronomers remain unable to settle current boundary questions. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The first statement shows that planets were initially identified by their visible movement against the stars. The second shows how improved observation changed the basis of understanding by revealing them as celestial bodies orbiting the Sun. The two statements therefore illustrate a shift produced by expanding knowledge. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The first statement provides historical background rather than evidence against modern classification. The second also does not offer a competing definition preferred by the author, but records how astronomical understanding developed after the invention of the telescope. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

108. Correct Answer: (b) Objects unknown to earlier observers may still fit a category once improved observation reveals their relevant features.

Reference Line: "They even found new planets invisible to the naked eye; Uranus in 1781, and Neptune in 1846."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) Improved instruments are important because they reveal information unavailable to earlier observers, but instrument quality alone does not determine whether an object belongs to a scientific category. The passage places greater weight on what the observations reveal about the objects themselves. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Uranus and Neptune were accepted as planets even though earlier observers could not identify them with the naked eye. Their discovery shows that an object's absence from earlier observation does not prevent it from fitting an established category once its relevant features become known. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The passage connects changing classifications with developments in astronomical knowledge rather than shifts in preference between generations. A later account matters because evidence has expanded or relationships have become clearer, not because newer scientists simply favour another view. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Uranus and Neptune show that newly discovered objects can be placed within an existing category rather than requiring a new label before comparison. The passage therefore supports evaluating new objects through their relevant characteristics instead of assuming that discovery itself requires new terminology. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

109. Correct Answer: (a) 802 square metres

Explanation: The curved surface area of a half-cylinder, excluding the rectangular floor, is $\pi rl = 22/7 \times 7 \times 30 = 660$ square metres. The two semicircular end walls together form one complete circle having an area of $22/7 \times 7 \times 7 = 154$ square metres. The two emergency doors together occupy $2 \times 2 \times 3 = 12$ square metres. Therefore, the end-wall glass area is $154 - 12 = 142$ square metres, and the total glass area is $660 + 142 = 802$ square metres. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

110. Correct Answer: (b) ₹14,01,000

Explanation: The curved glass area is 660 square metres and costs ₹1,800 per square metre, so the curved-glass cost is $660 \times ₹1,800 = ₹11,88,000$. The two end walls require 142 square metres of glass after excluding the doors, and this glass costs ₹1,500 per square metre. Therefore, the end-wall cost is $142 \times ₹1,500 = ₹2,13,000$. The total cost is $₹11,88,000 + ₹2,13,000 = ₹14,01,000$. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

111. Correct Answer: (c) 2,032.8 cubic metres

Explanation: The theoretical internal volume of the tunnel is half the volume of a cylinder. Therefore, volume = $1/2 \times 22/7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 30 = 2,310$ cubic metres. The display equipment occupies 12% of this volume, so 88% remains usable. Usable volume = $2,310 \times 88\% = 2,032.8$ cubic metres. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

112. Correct Answer: (d) 900.34 square metres

Explanation: Under the redesign, the radius becomes $7 \times 110\% = 7.7$ metres. The revised curved area is $\pi rl = 22/7 \times 7.7 \times 30 = 726$ square metres. The combined area of the two semicircular ends is $\pi r^2 = 22/7 \times 7.7 \times 7.7 = 186.34$ square metres. After excluding the two doors occupying 12 square metres, the revised end-wall glass area is $186.34 - 12 = 174.34$ square metres. Therefore, total revised glass area = $726 + 174.34 = 900.34$ square metres. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

113. Correct Answer: (a) 22.77%

Explanation: The original end-wall glass area is 142 square metres. Under the redesign, the radius becomes 7.7 metres and the end-wall glass area becomes 174.34 square metres after deducting the unchanged door areas. The increase is therefore $174.34 - 142 = 32.34$ square metres. Required percentage increase = $32.34/142 \times 100 =$ approximately 22.77%. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

114. Correct Answer: (b) 11.94%

Explanation: The original total glass cost is ₹14,01,000. Under the redesign, the curved glass area becomes 726 square metres, costing $726 \times ₹1,800 = ₹13,06,800$. The revised end-wall glass area is 174.34 square metres, costing $174.34 \times ₹1,500 = ₹2,61,510$. The revised total cost is therefore ₹15,68,310. The increase in cost is $₹15,68,310 - ₹14,01,000 = ₹1,67,310$. Required percentage increase = $₹1,67,310/₹14,01,000 \times 100 =$ approximately 11.94%. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

115. Correct Answer: (c) 6,840 metres

Explanation: The actual cloth received is $7,500 \times 1.12 = 8,400$ metres. One-seventh of this quantity is defective, so defective cloth = $8,400 \times 1/7 = 1,200$ metres. The cloth remaining for dyeing is therefore $8,400 - 1,200 = 7,200$ metres. During cutting and finishing, 5% is lost, leaving $7,200 \times 95\% = 6,840$ metres for regular retail sale. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

116. Correct Answer: (d) ₹213.33

Explanation: The marked price per nominal metre is $₹160 \times 150\% = ₹240$. After the 20% discount, the customer pays $₹240 \times 80\% = ₹192$ per nominal metre. However, each nominal metre supplied contains only 0.90 actual metre. Therefore, the revenue earned per actual metre supplied is $₹192 \div 0.90 =$ approximately ₹213.33. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

117. Correct Answer: (a) 6.42%

Explanation: The invoice cost is $7,500 \times ₹160 = ₹12,00,000$. The cloth sent for dyeing measures 7,200 metres, so the dyeing cost is $7,200 \times ₹15 = ₹1,08,000$. The vendor's total outlay is therefore ₹13,08,000. The defective cloth measures 1,200 metres and is sold at ₹70 per metre, producing ₹84,000. The percentage of total outlay recovered through the scrap sale is $₹84,000 / ₹13,08,000 \times 100 =$ approximately 6.42%. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

118. Correct Answer: (b) 7:9

Explanation: The defective cloth measures 1,200 metres and produces revenue of $1,200 \times ₹70 = ₹84,000$. The remaining 7,200 metres is dyed at ₹15 per metre, making the total dyeing cost ₹1,08,000. The required ratio is ₹84,000:₹1,08,000. Dividing both terms by 12,000 gives 7:9. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

119. Correct Answer: (c) 81.43%

Explanation: The vendor initially receives $7,500 \times 1.12 = 8,400$ actual metres. After removing the defective portion and applying the 5% cutting loss, 6,840 actual metres remain for regular retail sale. Therefore, the percentage of the actual cloth initially received that ultimately remains available for retail sale is $6,840 / 8,400 \times 100 =$ approximately 81.43%. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

120. Correct Answer: (d) 17.98%

Explanation: The retail stock is 6,840 actual metres. Since only 0.90 metre is supplied for every nominal metre billed, the vendor can bill for $6,840 \div 0.90 = 7,600$ nominal metres. The discounted selling price is ₹192 per nominal metre, giving regular revenue of $7,600 \times ₹192 = ₹14,59,200$. Adding scrap revenue of ₹84,000 gives total revenue of ₹15,43,200. The total outlay is ₹13,08,000, so profit = $₹15,43,200 - ₹13,08,000 = ₹2,35,200$. Profit percentage = $₹2,35,200 / ₹13,08,000 \times 100 =$ approximately 17.98%. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.