

UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

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QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG17



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 34 (Thirty-Four) pages including 1 (One) blank page for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You shall enter your Admit Card No. on the first page of the QB at the start of the test.
3. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response Sheet with the fresh QB.
5. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
6. The QB for the Undergraduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every Right Answer secures 1 mark. Every Wrong Answer results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
7. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the test.
8. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2PM

Section A: English Language

Passage: It is Ramadan, the holiest month of the Islamic calendar, and I am sitting in a rooftop café in Mecca, the holiest city of the religion. The sun has gone down, and an array of glittering shops and hotels lights up the urban expanse below me. At the heart of this ancient city, the foremost site of Muslim worship, guarded with fortress-like marble walls, is the Masjid al-haram complex – the largest mosque in the world. I’ve just completed my own pilgrimage to the holy site, and I’m struggling to name the discomfort that I am feeling.

There are few words to describe the whiplash of coming face to face with a Joe & The Juice, a Sephora and a plethora of other shops and hotels and Times Square-style billboards after going through one of the most spiritually charged experiences of my life. 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 and high-flown notions of a fantastical divine city.

I’d found myself in Mecca, trying to catch a break from the existential dread of my day-to-day life – the constant round of applying for jobs I didn’t really want because it wasn’t sustainable to write full-time, going on first date after first date, trying to find love on apps that were designed for failure, doomscrolling social media while caught in a dopamine trap, and 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. My 30s were closing in, and I felt the noose of squandered potential around my neck.

One of my most frequent prayers comes from a verse in the Quran that narrates Moses’ escape from Egypt: ‘Rabbi inni lima anzalta ilayya min khairin faqir’ (‘My Lord, indeed I am in absolute need of whatever good You send down’). I have always been comforted by the notion that a divine power was looking after me, that something out there existed beyond the constraints of time and space – omnipresent, omnipotent – and yet closer to me than my jugular vein, as my Holy Book would tell me.

My rationale for the trip was that this surge of devotional intensity would allow me to find my footing in the secular world. My worshipful hope was that God would be impressed by my performed devotion, and divine intervention would set my worldly affairs straight. And though I felt a sense of renewed worship in making my pilgrimage, that break from the ordinary world never came.

Extracted with edits and revisions from:

<https://aeon.co/essays/my-pilgrimage-to-mecca-in-the-age-of-the-golf-cart-and-mall>

1. Which of the following best captures the author’s central concern in the passage?
 - (a) Commercial surroundings disturbed the atmosphere the author had long imagined.
 - (b) Personal uncertainty persisted despite an experience expected to bring clarity.
 - (c) Modern Mecca challenged the author’s childhood picture of the city.
 - (d) Approaching adulthood intensified dissatisfaction with work and relationships.

2. The description of Mecca as resembling “any other petrodollar-fuelled Gulf port” chiefly conveys:
 - (a) concern that rapid development had altered the city beyond recognition
 - (b) unease about the economic priorities visible in the urban landscape
 - (c) shock at seeing a cherished mental image displaced by familiar modernity
 - (d) regret that childhood expectations had prevented an objective response

3. “The noose of squandered potential” most strongly suggests:
 - (a) Passing time made unrealised potential feel increasingly oppressive.

- (b) Earlier choices had permanently narrowed the author's prospects.
- (c) Ambition had become difficult to reconcile with daily reality.
- (d) Approaching thirty created pressure to meet fixed milestones.

4. The sequence of job applications, first dates, doomscrolling and stalled writing portrays:

- (a) habits that had gradually weakened the author's earlier sense of purpose
- (b) professional insecurity beginning to affect unrelated areas of daily life
- (c) repeated choices producing regret about the path already taken
- (d) several frustrations combining into a broader sense of stagnation

5. Why does the author contrast the intensity of the pilgrimage with the failure to obtain "a break from the ordinary world"?

- (a) To show that unrealistic expectations prevented full appreciation of the journey
- (b) To show that a meaningful experience did not remove existing anxieties
- (c) To suggest that ordinary concerns became stronger after the journey
- (d) To explain why the experience ultimately felt emotionally incomplete

6. The image of a "revelation" breaking through the "fog" in the author's mind conveys:

- (a) dependence on inspiration to escape creative uncertainty
- (b) frustration at having lost confidence in writing altogether
- (c) hope that professional success will restore creative discipline
- (d) difficulty separating personal anxiety from artistic ambition

Passage: In 1941, a manifesto called the *Geibun shidō yōkō*—the "Prospectus for the guidance of arts and culture"—was issued by the Manchurian government and quickly reprinted in magazines. In Japanese-occupied Manchuria, art was expected to promote nationalist ideals or even propaganda. Often, that meant taking a cue from ideas and styles in mainland Japan. Publications like the *Geibun shidō yōkō* made authors there conscious of being from a distant corner of the empire. Yet, as Joshua Lee Solomon notes, many were also colonial settlers in "positions of economic, cultural, and political privilege." Solomon finds in their work an overlooked perspective that breaks from a "grand historical narrative" of simply celebrating the Japanese colonization of northeastern China.

Takagi Kyōzō is one such writer. Born in 1903 in northern Japan, Takagi moved to Manchuria in late 1928 in the hopes of bettering his fortunes. For almost two decades, he worked and wrote there, returning only after Japan's defeat in World War II. Soon after the *Geibun shidō yōkō* was published, he commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Japanese conquest with a poem exclaiming: "Oh, Father Nippon! Oh, Mother Manchuria!"

"Petit-bourgeois Japanese writers in Manchuria like Takagi often perceived themselves as occupying a minority position within the literary and political field," Solomon explains. Focusing on the short story "Fūjin," or "Dust in the Wind," he argues that Takagi was concerned with the contradiction between Japanese authors' sense of marginalization in Manchuria and "their relative dominance over their continental neighbors" from other ethnic backgrounds.

"Fūjin," which was published in the leading Manchuria-based journal *Sakubun* in 1940, draws on elements of Takagi's life in its portrayal of the protagonist, Saruwatari Heisuke, a back-alley physician living in Manchuria with his common-law wife and two wayward children. Like much of Takagi's work, the story can be classified as "literature of place"—a genre that Solomon notes is sometimes described as "attached to the land" or "stinking of the earth."

"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," he adds. Above all, Solomon notes that "Fūjin," like much of Takagi's oeuvre, is preoccupied with the theme of "place" or "kankyō," which means environment.

"The title of the short story 'Dust in the Wind' evokes an image of the yellow sands which originate on the continent and are carried on the wind to the Japanese archipelago," he writes.

References to this dust in Takagi's other short stories and poems about Manchuria convey the impression of "a desolate continental wasteland, populated with various characters who are enveloped and battered by forces of nature," as Solomon puts it.

Extracted with edits and revisions from:

<https://daily.jstor.org/when-the-dust-settles-in-colonial-manchurian-writing/>

7. Which of the following is NOT true about the literary position of Japanese writers in Manchuria?

- (a) Official cultural policy encouraged alignment with nationalist artistic expectations.
- (b) Their peripheral location heightened awareness of distance from mainland Japan.
- (c) Some writings complicated a simple narrative of colonial celebration.
- (d) Minority status generally placed them below other ethnic groups in influence.

8. The biographical detail that Takagi spent almost two decades in Manchuria is included mainly to:

- (a) establish that his writing developed through prolonged experience of the place
- (b) explain why financial advancement remained central to his literary ambitions
- (c) show that residence abroad separated him from mainland Japanese influences
- (d) suggest that his attachment to Manchuria continued after Japan's defeat

9. Which feature most clearly distinguishes Takagi's treatment of Manchuria from mere landscape description?

- (a) Harsh natural conditions repeatedly shape the lives of his characters.
- (b) Continental imagery gives his fiction a recognisably regional atmosphere.
- (c) Physical environment is connected with the social experience of inhabiting it.
- (d) Geographic details reflect difficulties drawn from the author's own life.

10. The phrase "their relative dominance over their continental neighbors" most strongly qualifies the writers':

- (a) dependence on literary models developed in mainland Japan
- (b) perception of themselves as marginal within Manchurian cultural life
- (c) participation in publications influenced by official cultural policy
- (d) identification with landscapes outside the Japanese archipelago

11. Solomon's treatment of the "grand historical narrative" is best described as:

- (a) rejecting it for overlooking the aesthetic achievements of settler writers
- (b) narrowing it to the personal motives that shaped individual literary careers
- (c) accepting its broad account while identifying Takagi as an unusual exception
- (d) complicating it through tensions within seemingly privileged colonial perspectives

12. In describing Saruwatari's children as "wayward," the word most nearly means:

- (a) unsettled
- (b) wandering
- (c) unruly
- (d) estranged

Passage: There are many reasons to despair: our green and pleasant land is parched and brown, reservoirs are depleted, and wildfires are ravaging the UK, Europe and the US. But there are many more reasons not to despair:

despair is self-fulfilling; despair is disempowering; despair is what opponents of change want people to feel. But above all, despair is irrational. However sophisticated our forecasting tools may be, we simply have no means of knowing what comes next. Like the climate, like every ecosystem, society is a complex system. Its properties and adaptive responses cannot be predicted by studying its components in isolation, regardless of the brilliance of social scientists and futurologists. Things happen - unexpected things - sometimes at astonishing speed. In other words, society has tipping points. It can quickly flip from one equilibrium state to another.

Take Ireland, to give just one example. Until a few decades ago, the Republic of Ireland was a Catholic theocracy. It had been that way since the 1920s. If anything, for most of the 20th century, the Catholic church seemed to tighten its grip. Breaking that grip was almost unimaginable. 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 what social and sexual liberation looked like in other countries. The media and international forums allowed brave activists, whose voices had long been suppressed, to be heard more widely. The walls fell faster than anyone could have guessed. Before long, equal marriage and the right to abortion were both legally sanctioned: a shift that had been almost unimaginable. The same can be said for the collapse of state communism, and the end of just about every empire and monarchy that once looked unassailable. The fossil fuel empire is not exempt.

The complex system we call society has two equilibrium states: impossible and inevitable. The change we want always looks impossible. Votes for women? That sounds wildly unrealistic. Independence for India? Britain will never let it go. Civil rights? Ridiculous! 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?"

I think we could be approaching a tipping point on climate breakdown. For years we've been told, "You're asking for the moon. Fossil fuels are here to stay." Part of me has believed it. But now, suddenly fossil fuels are far more expensive than renewables. Suddenly it is green technologies that are generating vast employment and income. Suddenly, technological barriers that looked insuperable have come tumbling down. Suddenly, fossil-funded politicians look outmoded, corrupt. Suddenly, we are waking up to the need for urgent action, as heat shocks hammer the message home. The trouble with a tipping point, whether positive or negative, is that you never know in advance where it might be. You can see it only in retrospect.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.theguardian.com/membership/2026/aug/11/dont-despair-about-whats-happening-to-our-planet-thats-what-they-want-you-to-feel>

13. Which of the following best describes the author's attitude towards despair?

- (a) He accepts its emotional basis but considers it harmful to collective action.
- (b) He rejects its certainty because social outcomes remain unpredictable and changeable.
- (c) He regards it as understandable only when forecasting offers no practical alternatives.
- (d) He criticises it mainly because opponents can exploit pessimism to resist change.

14. The claim that society has "two equilibrium states: impossible and inevitable" suggests that:

- (a) major reforms succeed only after people abandon predictions based on present conditions
- (b) social change appears unrealistic because its causes remain invisible until completion
- (c) historical transformations become inevitable once sustained pressure reaches sufficient force
- (d) change may seem unthinkable beforehand and obvious after it has already occurred

15. What does the example of Ireland most strongly illustrate?

- (a) Major change can occur when several different forces begin working together.
- (b) Social reform becomes possible once people see how other societies have changed.
- (c) Public scandals can quickly weaken institutions that once seemed firmly established.
- (d) Marginal voices gain power when the media gives them wider public attention.

16. What figure of speech is principally conveyed by the statement, “The walls fell faster than anyone could have guessed”?

- (a) Metonymy, using “walls” to substitute for political institutions
- (b) Hyperbole, exaggerating the absolute speed of social transformation
- (c) Metaphor, presenting entrenched social barriers as collapsing structures
- (d) Personification, giving institutional resistance the action of falling

17. The repeated use of “Suddenly” in the final paragraph serves mainly to:

- (a) contrast technological progress with the slower development of public awareness
- (b) create a sense of several changes converging rapidly towards a possible threshold
- (c) imply that each recent development occurred without any preceding social pressure
- (d) emphasise how quickly renewable technologies displaced fossil fuels in practice

18. Why does the author believe a climate tipping point may now be approaching?

- (a) Economic, technological, political and climatic pressures are shifting in the same direction.
- (b) Renewable technologies have already made continued fossil-fuel use economically irrational.
- (c) Public recognition of climate damage has finally overcome earlier resistance to reform.
- (d) Recent changes resemble historical transformations that followed predictable stages of decline.

Passage: THE harder Tom tried to fasten his mind on his book, the more his ideas wandered. So at last, with a sigh and a yawn, he gave it up. It seemed to him that the noon recess would never come. The air was utterly dead. There was not a breath stirring. It was the sleepest of sleepy days. The drowsing murmur of the five and twenty studying scholars soothed the soul like the spell that is in the murmur of bees. Away off in the flaming sunshine, Cardiff Hill lifted its soft green sides through a shimmering veil of heat, tinted with the purple of distance; a few birds floated on lazy wing high in the air; no other living thing was visible but some cows, and they were asleep. Tom’s heart ached to be free, or else to have something of interest to do to pass the dreary time. 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. Then furtively the percussion-cap box came out. He released the tick and put him on the long flat desk. The creature probably glowed with a gratitude that amounted to prayer, too, at this moment, but it was premature; for when he started thankfully to travel off, Tom turned him aside with a pin and made him take a new direction.

Tom’s bosom friend sat next him, suffering just as Tom had been, and now he was deeply and gratefully interested in this entertainment in an instant. This bosom friend was Joe Harper. The two boys were sworn friends all the week, and embattled enemies on Saturdays. Joe took a pin out of his lapel and began to assist in exercising the prisoner. The sport grew in interest momentarily. Soon Tom said that they were interfering with each other, and neither getting the fullest benefit of the tick. So he put Joe’s slate on the desk and drew a line down the middle of it from top to bottom.

“Now,” said he, “as long as he is on your side you can stir him up and I’ll let him alone; but if you let him get away and get on my side, you’re to leave him alone as long as I can keep him from crossing over.”

“All right, go ahead; start him up.”

Extracted from: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

19. What effect does the prolonged description of the motionless afternoon create?

- (a) It contrasts the classroom with the freedom outside.
- (b) It attributes Tom’s distraction mainly to the heat.
- (c) It sharpens the shift from stillness to playful excitement.

(d) It prepares Tom's behaviour as deliberate rebellion.

20. The description of Tom and Joe as "sworn friends all the week" but "embattled enemies on Saturdays" suggests:

- (a) their rivalry is part of a friendship that easily shifts into competition
- (b) their friendship survives mainly because they spend little time together
- (c) school keeps them friendly while free time brings out real dislike
- (d) repeated quarrels have made their friendship uncertain and unstable

21. Which description best fits the nature of this passage?

- (a) A serious account of school discipline seen through a child's frustration
- (b) A reflective memory about the limits of formal classroom learning
- (c) A social criticism of teaching methods that fail to hold children's attention
- (d) A comic narrative in which boredom turns an ordinary object into amusement

22. The description of Tom's gratitude as "prayer, though he did not know it" serves to:

- (a) humorously elevate a trivial moment of relief
- (b) contrast amusement with Tom's religious duties
- (c) criticise Tom for confusing pleasure with devotion
- (d) present his desire for freedom as morally justified

23. Why does the narrator describe the tick as a "prisoner"?

- (a) To expose the boys' awareness of their cruelty
- (b) To symbolically equate the tick with Tom
- (c) To make the contest appear genuinely serious
- (d) To turn simple play into a comic drama of control

24. Tom's rules for controlling the tick reveal:

- (a) a wish to make the game fair while keeping its competitive appeal
- (b) a concern that Joe may lose interest unless given equal control
- (c) an effort to protect the tick from being handled by both boys together
- (d) a desire to prove that he can keep the tick on his side longer

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage: India's recent "peacock diplomacy" at the United Nations Office at Geneva has brought a distinctly cultural dimension to multilateral engagement. Five young Indian peafowl, four blue males and one white-feathered male, were presented to the UN complex, reviving a tradition associated with the presence of peacocks on its historic grounds. The birds were formally handed over by India's Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, to UN Geneva Director-General Tatiana Valovaya.

The gesture was framed as a symbol of India's longstanding partnership with the United Nations and its commitment to multilateral cooperation. The blue and white colours of the birds also carried visual resonance with the colours commonly associated with the UN. For India, the peacock has a strong cultural identity and is widely regarded as a symbol of grace, beauty and resilience.

The birds will live in Ariana Park, the large green estate surrounding the Palais des Nations. Peacocks have been associated with these grounds for more than a century, predating the present UN presence there. Before the latest arrival, only one peacock was reported to remain on the grounds and was seen infrequently.

The new birds will initially stay in a specially prepared enclosure before being allowed to move freely through the park. Their care is being supervised with veterinary support from a local wildlife institution. Beyond ceremony, the initiative illustrates how countries can use cultural symbols, biodiversity and living heritage to communicate friendship, continuity and cooperation within international institutions. Such gestures can complement conventional diplomatic dialogue effectively.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/after-45-years-india-once-again-sends-peacocks-to-un-in-geneva-10824299/>]

25. Consider the following statements concerning India's association with the establishment of the United Nations:

- I. India signed the Charter of the United Nations before attaining independence.
- II. India is counted among the original members of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Which Indian diplomat became the first woman to serve as President of the United Nations General Assembly?

- (a) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
- (b) Hansa Jivraj Mehta
- (c) Lakshmi Menon
- (d) Arundhati Ghose

27. India's promotion of yoga through the United Nations resulted in the adoption of which General Assembly resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga?

- (a) Resolution 68/237
- (b) Resolution 70/1
- (c) Resolution 71/275
- (d) Resolution 69/131

28. India's role in early UN diplomacy also extended to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Which Indian delegate is particularly associated with changing the formulation of Article 1 from language referring to "all men" to the gender-inclusive expression "all human beings"?

- (a) Begum Shareefah Hamid Ali
- (b) Hansa Mehta
- (c) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
- (d) Sucheta Kripalani

29. The Charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945 at the conclusion of which conference?

- (a) Bretton Woods Conference
- (b) Dumbarton Oaks Conference

(c) San Francisco Conference

(d) Yalta Conference

30. India's first all-women Formed Police Unit under United Nations peacekeeping was deployed in which country?

(a) Liberia

(b) Sierra Leone

(c) South Sudan

(d) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Passage: India's 80th Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2026, will introduce a significant addition to the annual ceremony at Delhi's Red Fort. For the first time, the National Song, Vande Mataram, will be rendered as part of the official celebrations at the historic monument. The occasion will also commemorate 150 years of the song's enduring legacy and its association with India's freedom movement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the celebrations and hoist the National Flag from the ramparts of the Red Fort. According to the Ministry of Defence, the ceremony will combine traditional elements with special features centred on "150 Years of Vande Mataram" and "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047". Following the flag hoisting, the Tricolour will receive a Rashtriya Salute, while an Army band will play the tune of Vande Mataram and those present will join in its rendition.

The commemorative theme will also be reflected across the venue. Around 2,500 NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will participate, while special visual displays will highlight India's development ambitions. Indian Air Force helicopters are scheduled to shower flower petals over the gathering, with one carrying a flag associated with the Vande Mataram commemoration. Approximately 5,000 special guests from fields including innovation, entrepreneurship, public service, science, skill development and grassroots initiatives have been invited. The celebrations will particularly highlight the achievements of young Indians and their role in the national vision of a developed India by 2047. Military band performances are also being organised at prominent locations across the country.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2298957®=48&lang=2>]

31. Vande Mataram was publicly rendered by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. Who presided over that session?

(a) Badruddin Tyabji

(b) Rahimatullah M. Sayani

(c) Pherozeshah Mehta

(d) C. Sankaran Nair

32. The Swadeshi Movement greatly expanded the political use of Vande Mataram. Who presided over the 1905 Benares Session of the Indian National Congress at which the Swadeshi resolution was adopted?

(a) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

(b) Dadabhai Naoroji

(c) Rash Behari Ghosh

(d) Surendranath Banerjee

33. The Red Fort was also the venue of the famous INA trials following the Second World War. Which of the following groups constituted the three INA officers tried together in the celebrated Red Fort trial?

(a) Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Sahgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon

(b) Mohan Singh, Lakshmi Sahgal and Shah Nawaz Khan

(c) Rash Behari Bose, Prem Sahgal and Habib ur Rahman

(d) Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, A.C.N. Nambiar and Mohan Singh

34. Rabindranath Tagore also composed Jana Gana Mana, which was first sung at the 1911 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. Who was the President of that session?

(a) Ambica Charan Mazumdar

(b) Bhupendra Nath Bose

(c) Bishan Narayan Dhar

(d) Madan Mohan Malaviya

35. At the Constituent Assembly's historic Independence session in August 1947, who presented the National Flag to the Assembly on behalf of the women of India?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur | (b) Hansa Mehta |
| (c) Sarojini Naidu | (d) Durgabai Deshmukh |

36. Which revolutionary periodical was associated with the Anushilan Samiti and was used to propagate revolutionary nationalist ideas in Bengal?

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Yugantar | (b) Kesari |
| (c) Young India | (d) The Bengalee |

Passage: The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement marks a significant development in the evolving security architecture of West Asia and the wider Islamic world. Signed by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan in August 2026, the pact seeks to institutionalise defence cooperation among three states that already maintain substantial bilateral military ties. Its central purpose is to strengthen collective deterrence and improve coordination in responding to emerging regional security challenges.

Under the agreement, the participating countries plan to establish political and military mechanisms involving senior defence officials, foreign-policy leadership and armed-forces commanders. These arrangements are intended to improve strategic consultation, crisis coordination and operational preparedness. The partners also envisage a gradual expansion of joint military exercises across land, sea and air domains, alongside training activities and command-level drills.

Defence-industrial collaboration forms another important pillar of the framework. The three countries aim to move beyond procurement toward joint development and production of defence systems, technological cooperation, maintenance and logistics support. Emerging capabilities such as unmanned systems, electronic warfare and artificial intelligence are expected to receive particular attention.

Officials have described the pact as defensive rather than directed against any specific state. They have also presented it as compatible with the signatories' existing international commitments. The agreement reflects a broader trend in which regional powers are seeking greater strategic autonomy, diversified partnerships and stronger indigenous defence capabilities amid uncertainty over traditional security arrangements and continuing instability across the Middle East. It therefore combines political consultation, military readiness and industrial partnership within a trilateral security framework.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2654245>]

37. Which country associated with the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement is a nuclear-armed state?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Pakistan | (b) Saudi Arabia |
| (c) Türkiye | (d) All three countries |

38. Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye are also members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The summit that led to the establishment of the OIC in 1969 was held in which city?

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| (a) Jeddah | (b) Rabat |
| (c) Casablanca | (d) Lahore |

39. Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan are all members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Where is the OIC General Secretariat located?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) Riyadh | (b) Islamabad |
| (c) Istanbul | (d) Jeddah |

40. Türkiye, one of the countries connected with the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, joined NATO in which year?
- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) 1949 | (b) 1952 |
| (c) 1950 | (d) 1955 |

41. Pakistan and Türkiye were also members of the Baghdad Pact, a Cold War security arrangement in the Middle East. The pact was renamed the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in 1959 following the withdrawal of which country?
- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| (a) Iran | (b) Iraq |
| (c) Pakistan | (d) United Kingdom |

Passage: Fresh tensions along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary returned attention to a decades-old inter-State dispute after violence in Assam's Dhemaji district on August 10, 2026. According to reports, the incident occurred at Mingmang Basti, where a confrontation over alleged land encroachment escalated into firing. Eighteen residents of Assam were reported injured, with some requiring hospital treatment. Security deployment was strengthened in the area as officials sought to prevent retaliation and restore calm.

The two States share a boundary of roughly 800 kilometres, and disagreements over its alignment have persisted for decades. The roots of the dispute lie partly in administrative changes made during the period when the frontier region was governed under arrangements. A committee headed by Gopinath Bordoloi submitted recommendations in 1951 concerning administration of the frontier areas, followed by transfers of certain foothill tracts to districts in Assam.

Attempts to settle the dispute have included surveys, talks and committees tasked with examining contested stretches. In 1979, a tripartite committee was constituted to work on boundary delineation using Survey of India maps and consultations with both sides. More recently, the two governments intensified negotiations through regional committees conducting joint verification of disputed villages.

In April 2023, the Chief Ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at resolving claims concerning border villages. The arrangement relied on factors such as historical background, administrative convenience, geographical contiguity and local residents' preferences. The latest clash, however, underlined the continuing importance of implementation, local coordination and dialogue in preventing violence.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/assam-arunachal-border-dispute-2023-mou-dhemaji-clash-10826579/>]

42. The administrative evolution of present-day Arunachal Pradesh is closely connected with the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. Which of the following was NOT established or formed as a State or Union Territory under that Act?
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| (a) Manipur | (b) Meghalaya |
| (c) Tripura | (d) Nagaland |

43. In the context of mechanisms designed to manage disputes and coordination between States, which commission's recommendation preceded the establishment of the Inter-State Council by Presidential Order in 1990?
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Sarkaria Commission | (b) Rajamannar Committee |
| (c) Punchhi Commission | (d) Administrative Reforms Commission |

44. Consider the following statements concerning the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly:
 I. The Assembly has 60 seats filled by direct election.

II. Of these, 59 seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. The North Eastern Council provides an institutional framework for regional cooperation involving Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Which State was added as its eighth member through an amendment enacted in 2002?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Mizoram | (b) Sikkim |
| (c) Meghalaya | (d) Arunachal Pradesh |

46. Article 244A of the Constitution was inserted by which Constitutional Amendment?

- (a) Constitution (Nineteenth Amendment) Act, 1966
 (b) Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969
 (c) Constitution (Twenty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1971
 (d) Constitution (Forty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1984

47. The Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary dispute has previously reached the Supreme Court as an inter-State dispute. Which Article of the Constitution confers exclusive original jurisdiction on the Supreme Court in disputes involving legal rights between two or more States?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Article 131 | (b) Article 136 |
| (c) Article 262 | (d) Article 263 |

Passage: Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, announced its Fellowships and awards for the years 2024 and 2025 in June 2026. The selections were finalised by the Akademi's General Council during a meeting held in New Delhi from March 22 to 26, 2026, reflecting recognition across a wide range of Indian performing arts. Seven eminent personalities were unanimously elected as Akademi Fellows, also known as Akademi Ratna. The fellowship is a rare distinction, with the number of living Fellows restricted to forty at any given time. In addition, 108 artists were chosen for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for contributions to music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal traditions, puppetry, scholarship and other areas of the performing arts.

The Akademi also selected 106 young practitioners for its awards recognising emerging artistic talent. The recipients represent different States and Union Territories and work across classical, traditional, folk and contemporary performance practices. According to the announcement, the honours seek to recognise excellence as well as sustained individual contribution to India's performing arts. An Akademi Fellowship carries prize money of ₹3 lakh, while an Akademi Award carries ₹1 lakh. Both distinctions are accompanied by a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram. The award for young artists carries ₹25,000 along with similar ceremonial honours. These national awards have been conferred since 1952. The Fellowships and Akademi Awards are to be presented by the President of India at a special investiture ceremony, while the young-artist honours are presented separately under the Akademi's institutional arrangements.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2298868®=48&lang=1>]

48. The constitutional obligation placed upon citizens to "value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" is contained in which provision?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Article 48A | (b) Article 49 |
| (c) Article 51A(f) | (d) Article 51A(h) |

49. Sangeet Natak Akademi has an important role in documenting India's intangible cultural heritage. In which year did India ratify UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- (a) 2003
(c) 2005
- (b) 2004
(d) 2006

50. The Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy is a constituent unit of Sangeet Natak Akademi. Which Manipuri performing tradition was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013?

- (a) Lai Haraoba
(c) Thang-Ta
- (b) Sankirtana
(d) Shumang Leela

51. Dr. P. V. Rajamannar, the first Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, later chaired a committee examining Centre-State relations. The committee was constituted by the government of which State?

- (a) Kerala
(c) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Tamil Nadu
(d) Karnataka

52. The Sangeet Natak Akademi's award for young performing artists is named after Ustad Bismillah Khan. Which of the following personalities received the Bharat Ratna in the same year as Bismillah Khan?

- (a) M. S. Subbulakshmi
(c) Lata Mangeshkar
- (b) Ravi Shankar
(d) Bhimsen Joshi

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Passage: A contingent contract under Section 31 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 is a contract to do or abstain from doing something if an uncertain event, collateral to the contract, happens or does not happen. Before an agreement can qualify as a contingent contract, it must satisfy the general requirements of a valid contract under Section 10. These include competent parties, free consent, lawful consideration, a lawful object and the absence of an express statutory ground of invalidity.

A contingent contract already exists between the parties, but its enforceability depends upon the specified collateral event. The event must be independent of the consideration exchanged under the contract. For example, 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 event that has already occurred and is known to the parties lacks the uncertainty required for a statutory contingency. A third person's decision, natural occurrence, official approval, market condition, loss, death or non-return of a ship may constitute a collateral event if the remaining requirements are satisfied.

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.

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.

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 impossible within any definite time, or possible only after the occurrence of further contingencies. Thus, if A promises to pay B if B marries C, and C marries D, the marriage between B and C is treated as impossible for this purpose, although D might later die and C might thereafter marry B.

Section 35 deals with fixed-time contingencies. 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. 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.

Prepared with reference to Sections 31–35 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

53. Aranya Machines agrees to sell a specialised printing press to Beacon Publishers for ₹40 lakh. Clause 4 states that Aranya will deliver the machine after Beacon transfers the agreed price. Clause 11 separately provides that Aranya will refund Beacon's preliminary installation expenditure if an independent environmental authority refuses permission to operate the machine at Beacon's factory. At the time of contracting, the authority has not considered the application, and neither party can determine its eventual decision. When permission is subsequently refused, Aranya argues that both clauses are contingent because performance under each depends on a future event. Beacon contends that the price-payment clause and the regulatory-refusal clause must be classified differently. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) Both clauses are contingent because performance under each follows the occurrence of a future event.
- (b) Clause 4 is contingent, while Clause 11 is reciprocal because regulatory approval affects commercial value.
- (c) Clause 11 is contingent, while Clause 4 concerns consideration rather than an independent collateral event.
- (d) Neither clause is contingent because payment and regulatory permission both arise from the same transaction.

54. Crestline Developers agrees to purchase land from Farida if the environmental authority grants final permission for a residential project. The agreement contains no fixed deadline for obtaining permission. Six months later, the authority rejects the application under a statutory provision that conclusively prohibits residential construction on the land. Its written decision states that no appeal, reconsideration or alternative residential approval is available under the governing rules. Farida nevertheless demands payment, arguing that the contract continues because the parties did not specify a date by which permission had to be granted. Crestline responds that the relevant contingency has become impossible. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) The contract becomes void when final permission becomes impossible, although the agreement contains no fixed deadline.
- (b) The contract remains suspended because the absence of a fixed deadline prevents a finding of impossibility.
- (c) The contract becomes enforceable because rejection of permission completes the authority's decision-making process.
- (d) The contract remains binding because regulatory refusal affects performance without affecting the contract's existence.

55. Devika promises to pay ₹12 lakh to Harun if a cargo vessel named Meridian does not return to Kochi after completing an overseas voyage. No particular return date is stated. During the voyage, the vessel sinks in deep water, and the maritime authority issues a final report confirming that the vessel has been destroyed beyond recovery. Harun immediately claims payment. Devika accepts the report but argues that payment cannot be demanded because the parties did not fix a period within which the vessel had to return. She further argues that non-return can be established only after waiting for a commercially reasonable period. Which conclusion follows from the passage?

- (a) Payment remains premature because a non-happening contingency requires the expiry of a specified contractual period.
- (b) Payment becomes due because the vessel's destruction is treated as the happening of the promised event.
- (c) Payment remains suspended because uncertainty continues until the scheduled voyage would ordinarily have ended.
- (d) Payment becomes enforceable because the vessel's return has become impossible, establishing the required non-happening.

56. Ishan agrees to transfer a valuable collection to Kavita if Kavita marries Lokesh. The agreement does not prescribe a date for the marriage. Before Kavita and Lokesh make any decision, Lokesh lawfully marries Meera. Ishan refuses to treat the condition as impossible, arguing that Meera might later die and that Kavita could then marry Lokesh. Kavita maintains that Section 34 does not require the parties to await such additional possibilities. Assuming that the remaining requirements of a valid contract are satisfied, which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The condition remains possible because the agreement does not specify a date for Kavita's proposed marriage.
- (b) The condition is deemed impossible because Lokesh's marriage makes it dependent upon further contingencies.
- (c) The condition has failed temporarily because Lokesh may reconsider the relevant conduct after Meera's death.
- (d) The condition becomes enforceable because Lokesh's marriage resolves the uncertainty contemplated by the parties.

57. Javed agrees to purchase a rare sculpture from Mira if the sculpture reaches Delhi on or before September 30. On September 12, while the sculpture is being transported, it is destroyed in a warehouse fire. An authenticated inspection report confirms that no part of the sculpture survives. Mira nevertheless insists that the agreement must remain operative until September 30 because the parties expressly selected that date as the deadline. Javed argues that the fixed period determines the latest possible date for the event but does not require the parties to disregard impossibility occurring earlier. Which conclusion is correct?

- (a) The contract remains suspended until September 30 because the parties selected a fixed period for arrival.

- (b) The contract becomes enforceable on September 12 because destruction resolves the contractual uncertainty before expiry.
- (c) The contract becomes void on September 12 because arrival within the fixed period has become impossible.
- (d) The contract becomes void on September 30 because earlier impossibility does not affect a fixed-time condition.

58. Kalindi agrees to pay Naveen ₹9 lakh if the ship Eastern Star does not enter Mumbai Harbour by December 31. On December 10, the ship is withdrawn from service, dismantled at a foreign port and certified by the port authority as incapable of undertaking another voyage. Naveen claims payment on December 11. Kalindi argues that the contractual deadline has not expired and that liability can arise after December 31. Which conclusion best applies the fixed-time rule stated in the passage?

- (a) Naveen may enforce the promise before December 31 because the ship's arrival has become certain not to occur.
- (b) Naveen must wait until December 31 because a non-happening condition depends on expiry of the fixed period.
- (c) Naveen may enforce the promise because dismantling is legally equivalent to the ship reaching the named harbour.
- (d) Naveen must wait because early enforcement requires the ship to disappear without reliable evidence of destruction.

59. Two agreements are placed before a court. Under the first agreement, Rhea promises to pay Sahil ₹5 lakh "if the warehouse was destroyed in yesterday's fire." Before signing, both parties had inspected the site and knew that the warehouse had been destroyed. Under the second agreement, Tarun promises to pay Uma ₹5 lakh if prohibited goods are transported across the border without detection. The facts expressly establish that the object of the second arrangement is prohibited by statute. The parties argue that each agreement is contingent because payment is connected to an event stated in conditional language. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The first agreement is contingent, while the second qualifies because its collateral event remains uncertain.
- (b) The first agreement is contingent, while the second fails because its consideration has already been exchanged.
- (c) Both agreements are contingent because conditional wording is sufficient despite knowledge or statutory prohibition.
- (d) The first lacks uncertain contingency, while the second fails the requirements governing a valid underlying contract.

Passage: Vicarious liability is not an independent tort. It is a rule under which one person is made answerable for a recognised tort committed by another. 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.

The clearest relationship is that of employer and employee. An employer is liable for a tort committed by an employee in the course of employment, even when the particular wrongful method was unauthorised. The relevant enquiry is whether the employee was performing authorised work or doing something sufficiently connected with that work. A substantial personal frolic breaks the employment connection, while an improper mode of performing an assigned duty ordinarily does not. Liability may arise despite disobedience of instructions when the wrongful act remains connected with authorised work. 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. 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. The principles respondeat superior and qui facit per alium facit per se support vicarious liability. Its practical justification lies in public policy: a person who organises and controls an activity and is better placed to distribute its risks may be required to bear losses caused through that activity.

The State is a juristic person acting through officials. Article 300 permits the Union and the States to sue and be sued in their respective names, subject to applicable legislation. Private-law liability may depend on whether the wrongful act occurred during employment and whether it formed part of a protected sovereign function. Defence, war, treaty-making, administration of justice and certain core governmental powers have traditionally received protection. Courts are less willing to recognise immunity for transport, hospitals, public works, welfare activities and commercial operations. Public-law compensation differs from private tort damages. 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.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.jklaws.in/admin_panel/files/9201727044542.pdf]

60. At a supermarket operated by Northstar Retail, an employee pushes a loaded trolley through a marked service corridor. A customer ignores warning signs, enters the corridor and collides with the trolley. After examining the evidence, the court finds that the employee maintained a reasonable speed, followed the prescribed route and committed no recognised tort. The customer nevertheless seeks compensation from Northstar, arguing that the company controlled the employee, organised the supermarket's operations and carried insurance against customer injuries. Northstar accepts that the employee was acting in the course of employment but argues that vicarious liability cannot arise without an underlying tort. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) Northstar is liable because organisational control independently supplies the required wrongful act.
- (b) Northstar is liable because loss-distribution policy replaces proof of employee wrongdoing.
- (c) Northstar is not liable because no recognised tort by the employee was established.
- (d) Northstar is not liable because the customer lacked an employment relationship with it.

61. RapidDrop Logistics instructs its delivery drivers to park on the main road and carry parcels into narrow residential lanes. While delivering a refrigerator to an address inside such a lane, its employee, Arvind, decides to reverse the company van towards the customer's entrance to reduce the carrying distance. Although the manoeuvre is prohibited by company instructions, it is undertaken to complete the assigned delivery. Arvind reverses negligently and injures a cyclist. RapidDrop argues that the prohibition placed the manoeuvre outside Arvind's employment. The cyclist argues that Arvind was still carrying out the assigned delivery, though through an improper and forbidden method. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) RapidDrop avoids liability because the prohibited manoeuvre was not authorised by management.
- (b) RapidDrop may be liable because reversing was an improper method of assigned delivery.
- (c) RapidDrop avoids liability because negligence arose from the employee's chosen driving method.
- (d) RapidDrop may be liable because scheduled working hours determine the employment connection.

62. Mehul is employed by Alpine Electronics to deliver repaired devices along a prescribed city route. During his afternoon shift, he completes one delivery and drives the company van eighteen kilometres away from the next assigned address to attend a friend's birthday celebration. Alpine neither knows of nor benefits from the diversion. Before Mehul rejoins the prescribed route, he negligently collides with a pedestrian. Mehul states that he intended to resume the company's deliveries after the celebration. The pedestrian establishes Mehul's negligence and argues that Alpine should also be liable because Mehul remained on duty and retained authorised possession of the van. Which conclusion best follows from the passage?

- (a) Alpine may be liable because authorised possession of the van continued during the shift.
- (b) Alpine may be liable because intended return preserved connection with the assigned deliveries.
- (c) Mehul avoids personal liability because Alpine authorised his initial use of the van.
- (d) Alpine avoids vicarious liability because the accident occurred during a personal frolic.

63. Meridian Appliances appoints Leena as its sales agent and publicly lists her on its website as authorised to negotiate institutional sales. Meridian later revokes her actual authority through an internal letter but leaves her

name on the website and does not notify existing customers. Leena approaches a longstanding customer using Meridian's identification documents and makes a fraudulent representation while negotiating what appears to be an ordinary institutional sale. The customer reasonably relies upon Meridian's public representation and suffers financial loss. A court finds that Leena committed a recognised tort within the apparent scope of the sales authority presented by Meridian. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) Meridian may be liable because apparent authority survived the undisclosed internal revocation.
- (b) Meridian avoids liability because actual authority ended before the tortious representation occurred.
- (c) Meridian may be liable because customer reliance subsequently restored Leena's actual authority.
- (d) Meridian avoids liability because agents personally answer for torts involving dishonest conduct.

64. Nitin, Omar and Preeti are partners in Horizon Interiors. While negotiating and performing a renovation contract on behalf of the firm, Nitin negligently damages a valuable sculpture belonging to the client. The parties accept that the renovation was firm business and that Nitin committed a recognised tort while acting for the firm. Nitin retires two months later, while Omar and Preeti continue the business. The client then seeks compensation from the firm and from the persons who were partners when the damage occurred. Which conclusion most accurately applies the rule stated in the passage?

- (a) Nitin bears liability because physical commission excludes liability of the remaining partners.
- (b) Each then-partner may be liable jointly and severally for the firm's wrongful act.
- (c) Continuing partners bear liability because retirement transfers Nitin's earlier liability to them.
- (d) The firm bears liability because Section 25 prevents personal proceedings against its partners.

65. A State transport department operates a regular intercity bus service and charges passengers prescribed fares. While driving an assigned bus on its scheduled route, a departmental driver accelerates through a crowded crossing to recover time lost during an earlier delay. The bus strikes a pedestrian, and the court finds that the driver committed negligence in the course of employment. The State argues that the service is operated under statutory authority and that the driver was performing a governmental duty. The pedestrian responds that public transport is different from defence, treaty-making or administration of justice. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The State is immune because statutory transport becomes sovereign activity through public ownership.
- (b) The State is immune because employee negligence occurred during performance of governmental service.
- (c) The State avoids liability because the driver controlled the immediate operation of the bus.
- (d) The State may be liable because public transport differs from traditional sovereign functions.

66. Additional facts establish that police officers detained Farhan for six days without recording an arrest, denied him access to his family and subjected him to physical violence. In proceedings under Article 226, the High Court concludes from official records and medical evidence that the officers violated Farhan's right to life and personal liberty. The State does not dispute the constitutional violation but argues that policing is a sovereign function and that Farhan must pursue an ordinary civil suit for damages. Farhan seeks public-law compensation directly from the High Court. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The High Court may award public-law compensation despite the asserted sovereign immunity.
- (b) The High Court should direct a civil suit because Article 226 excludes compensation.
- (c) The High Court may compensate after criminal conviction of the responsible police officers.
- (d) The High Court should reject compensation because detention involved core police powers.

Directions (Questions 67–72): Answer each question solely on the basis of the rules and facts provided. Do not rely on any prior legal knowledge.

Rules

Hindu Marriage and Divorce

1. A marriage between two Hindus may be solemnised only if neither party has a spouse living at the time of the marriage.

2. A Hindu marriage solemnised while either party has a living spouse is void. A void marriage has no legal existence from its beginning.
3. A Hindu marriage is voidable when a party's consent was obtained through force or fraud concerning the nature of the ceremony or a material fact concerning the other party. A voidable marriage remains effective until the affected party obtains an annulment.
4. Either spouse may seek divorce when the other spouse has deserted them continuously for at least two years immediately before the petition. Desertion requires separation without reasonable cause and without the petitioner's consent or against the petitioner's wishes.

Muslim Marriage and Divorce

5. For a Sunni Muslim marriage, one party must make a marriage proposal and the other must accept that proposal at the same meeting. The proposal and acceptance must occur in the presence and hearing of two sane adult Muslim men or one sane adult Muslim man and two sane adult Muslim women. Neither a written document nor a religious ceremony is independently essential.
6. A Muslim woman may obtain a decree dissolving her marriage when her husband has failed to provide maintenance for two years.
7. Any pronouncement of talaq-e-biddat, or another instantaneous and irrevocable form of talaq, by a Muslim husband to his Muslim wife is void and illegal. This applies whether the pronouncement is spoken, written, electronic or made in another manner.

Facts: Part I, Hindu Marriage

Aarav and Ritu, both Hindus, were lawfully married in 2018. They began living separately in 2023, but neither spouse sought divorce or annulment. Their marriage therefore remained legally subsisting.

In 2025, Aarav met Meera, who was also Hindu. Aarav told Meera that he had never previously married. Believing this statement, Meera married Aarav through the customary ceremonies recognised by their families. Ritu was alive when this second marriage was solemnised.

67. What is the legal status of Aarav and Meera's marriage?

- (a) Valid, because Meera entered the marriage honestly and without knowledge.
- (b) Voidable, because Meera may choose whether the marriage should continue.
- (c) Void, because Aarav already had a living spouse when marrying.
- (d) Valid, because only Ritu may challenge the legality of marriage.

Modified Facts I

Assume instead that Aarav had never married Ritu and was unmarried when he married Meera. Before their marriage, Aarav knowingly told Meera that he was a licensed surgeon, although he had never studied medicine. Meera had expressly informed Aarav that his professional qualification was a decisive consideration in her decision to marry him. She consented to the marriage because she believed his statement. All other conditions of the marriage were satisfied.

68. What is the legal status of the marriage under Rule 3?

- (a) Voidable, because Aarav's material fraud obtained Meera's consent to marry.
- (b) Void, because fraud prevents any marriage from arising between spouses.
- (c) Valid, because professional status cannot legally affect lawful marital consent.
- (d) Voidable, only if Aarav concealed an existing lawful marriage beforehand.

Modified Facts II

Assume that Aarav and Meera entered a valid Hindu marriage. Meera later left the matrimonial home without reasonable cause, without Aarav's consent and against his wishes. She remained continuously separated from Aarav for eighteen months. Aarav then presented a petition seeking divorce solely on the ground of desertion.

69. Can Aarav obtain divorce on desertion after eighteen continuous months?

- (a) Yes, because any deliberate separation constitutes sufficient desertion for divorce.
- (b) No, because only wives may petition for divorce after desertion.
- (c) Yes, because reasonable cause matters more than the separation period.

(d) No, because desertion must continue for at least two years.

Facts: Part II, Muslim Marriage

Sameer and Zoya were Sunni Muslims of sound mind and full age. On Monday, Sameer proposed marriage in the presence and hearing of two sane adult Muslim male witnesses. Zoya was not present at that meeting.

On Tuesday, Zoya accepted Sameer's proposal in the presence of the same witnesses. Sameer was not present at this second meeting. The parties subsequently signed a written nikahnama, and an imam conducted a religious ceremony.

70. Was Zoya and Sameer's purported marriage valid under Rule 5?

- (a) Yes, because written acceptance may follow proposals from earlier meetings.
- (b) No, because proposal and acceptance occurred at different meetings altogether.
- (c) Yes, because witnesses may connect separate declarations into one transaction.
- (d) No, because Muslim marriages require registration before becoming legally valid.

Modified Facts III

Assume instead that Sameer and Zoya entered a valid Muslim marriage. Sameer subsequently stopped providing Zoya with food, housing, money or any other maintenance. His failure to provide maintenance continued without interruption for two complete years. Zoya then applied for a decree dissolving the marriage.

71. May Zoya seek dissolution based on Sameer's failure to maintain her?

- (a) No, because maintenance disputes never provide grounds for dissolution alone.
- (b) No, because Zoya must first prove Sameer committed physical cruelty.
- (c) Yes, because the failure continued for the required two years.
- (d) Yes, because every missed payment immediately permits dissolution without inquiry.

Modified Facts IV

Assume again that Sameer and Zoya entered a valid Muslim marriage. During an argument, Sameer sent Zoya a telephone message stating "talaq" three times. He intended the message to dissolve the marriage instantaneously and irrevocably. Zoya received and read the message immediately.

72. What legal effect followed Sameer's instantaneous triple-talaq message to Zoya?

- (a) The marriage continued because instantaneous irrevocable talaq is legally void.
- (b) The marriage ended later after Zoya acknowledged receiving the message.
- (c) The marriage ended immediately because the message clearly stated talaq.
- (d) The marriage ended only after Sameer repeated talaq before witnesses.

Passage: Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution protect cultural identity and educational autonomy through different requirements. 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. Conservation may include lawful methods of preserving the protected language, script or culture. 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. The phrase "on grounds only" distinguishes prohibited discrimination from neutral academic standards or eligibility rules applied equally. 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.

Article 30(1) grants religious and linguistic minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Minority status is determined with reference to the population of the State in which the institution is situated. "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. Statutory incorporation, however, does not by itself erase minority

character where the institution was established by the community. Administration includes selecting the governing body, appointing teachers, admitting students, fixing reasonable fees and managing internal affairs. The right is not absolute. 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. 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. State aid may carry neutral conditions, but those conditions cannot erase minority control.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.whiteblacklegal.co.in/details/cultural-and-educational-rights-article-29-and-30-by---simant-priyadarshi-dr-vivek-kumar->]

73. The Varuni-speaking community constitutes fifty-eight per cent of the population of a particular State but uses a script not used by other linguistic groups in the region. A voluntary association formed by members of the community conducts weekend classes to teach the script and preserve traditional literature. The State prohibits those classes, reasoning that the marginal heading covering Articles 29 and 30 refers to minorities and that a community forming a State majority cannot invoke Article 29(1). The association argues that the operative language of Article 29(1) protects any section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The claim fails because Article 29(1) protects numerical minorities rather than cultural sections.
- (b) The claim fails because constitutional conservation covers culture but excludes language and script.
- (c) The claim may succeed because Article 29(1) protects a distinct section despite majority status.
- (d) The claim may succeed because the marginal heading expands protection beyond the operative text.

74. A State-aided engineering college considers two applicants. Aditi satisfies the published academic requirements but is refused admission after the selection committee records that students speaking her mother tongue should attend institutions elsewhere. Bhavesh is excluded under a rule requiring three years of State residence. The residence rule applies equally to applicants from different religious, caste and linguistic groups, and the available evidence does not indicate that it was designed to exclude any particular language group. Aditi and Bhavesh challenge their respective exclusions under Article 29(2). Which conclusion best applies the passage?

- (a) Aditi has the stronger claim; Bhavesh must show that residence disguises prohibited discrimination.
- (b) Both have comparable claims; State aid converts neutral residence criteria into language discrimination.
- (c) Bhavesh has the stronger claim; residence is itself prohibited by Article 29(2).
- (d) Neither has a claim; Article 29(2) protects State-maintained institutions rather than aided institutions.

75. The Aroha religious community constitutes fifty-four per cent of India's population but eight per cent of the population of the State of Pratishtha. Members of the community establish a teacher-training college in Pratishtha and seek recognition of its minority character under Article 30(1). The State rejects the claim by comparing the community's population with the national population. It argues that a community forming a nationwide majority cannot claim minority protection in a State where its population is substantially smaller. The founders contend that minority status for Article 30 is determined with reference to the State in which the institution is situated. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) The claim fails because national population determines religious minority status under Article 30.
- (b) The claim succeeds because educational choice removes the need for a population comparison.
- (c) The claim fails because minority status must be measured within the institution's district.
- (d) The claim may succeed because minority status is assessed at the relevant State level.

76. Seventy years ago, a municipal education board established Sunrise College as a secular public institution. Four decades later, the board transferred management to a society formed by members of a linguistic minority. The

society renamed the college, introduced courses in its language and increased the proportion of students belonging to that community. It now claims protection under Article 30(1), relying on its long period of administration and the college's present service to minority students. The State accepts that the society currently administers the college but argues that the minority community did not establish it. Which conclusion follows from the passage?

- (a) Article 30 protection follows because present management and student composition establish minority character.
- (b) Article 30 protection fails because later management cannot replace minority establishment of the institution.
- (c) Article 30 protection follows because administrative transfer retrospectively satisfies both constitutional requirements.
- (d) Article 30 protection fails because public incorporation permanently prevents later minority administration.

77. A linguistic-minority society establishes and administers a nursing college. As conditions for recognition, the State requires qualified teachers, a transparent appointment procedure, minimum laboratory facilities, hygiene standards and disclosure of the method used to calculate reasonable fees. The society retains authority to select its governing body, choose among qualified applicants, admit students and manage daily affairs. No State official is placed on its management committee. The society challenges the conditions, arguing that Article 30(1) gives it complete freedom over teacher appointments, infrastructure and fees. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The conditions are invalid because administrative autonomy excludes standards governing teachers and hygiene.
- (b) The conditions are invalid because recognition cannot depend upon academic or financial safeguards.
- (c) The conditions may be valid because they improve education without transferring institutional control.
- (d) The conditions may be valid because recognition permits replacement of minority management decisions.

78. A religious minority establishes a college that satisfies the State's academic, infrastructure and teacher-qualification requirements. The State offers affiliation on the condition that government nominees receive sixty per cent of the seats on the governing body and obtain decisive authority over appointments and admissions. In a separate decision, the State refuses financial aid for which comparable colleges qualify, expressly stating that institutions remaining under minority management will not receive public funds. The college challenges both measures under Article 30. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) Both measures are impermissible because affiliation cannot require takeover and aid cannot target minority management.
- (b) Both measures are permissible because affiliation and public aid may depend upon governmental management control.
- (c) Affiliation condition is impermissible, while aid denial remains valid despite its minority-management ground.
- (d) Affiliation condition is permissible, while aid denial fails after academic conditions have been satisfied.

Directions (Questions 79–84): Answer each question solely on the basis of the rules and facts provided. Do not rely on any prior legal knowledge.

Rules

1. A person acts dishonestly when they intend to cause wrongful gain to one person or wrongful loss to another person.
2. Theft is committed when a person dishonestly moves movable property out of another person's possession without that person's consent. The offence is completed when the property is first moved for such taking, even if the offender does not successfully carry it away.
3. Theft concerns possession rather than ownership. A person may commit theft of their own property when another person lawfully possesses it and the owner dishonestly removes it without consent.
4. Extortion is committed when a person intentionally puts another person in fear of injury and thereby dishonestly induces that person to deliver property, valuable security or something capable of becoming valuable security. Injury may concern the body, mind, reputation or property of that person or another person.

5. Criminal breach of trust is committed when a person entrusted with property or control over property dishonestly misappropriates it, converts it for personal use, or uses or disposes of it contrary to a legal direction or contract governing the entrustment.
6. Cheating is committed when a person deceives another and thereby fraudulently or dishonestly induces the deceived person to deliver property, permit another person to retain property, or act or omit to act in a manner causing or likely to cause harm. Dishonest concealment of a fact also constitutes deception.
7. For cheating involving a promise, dishonest intention must ordinarily exist when the promise induces the victim's action. A person who genuinely intends to perform when receiving payment does not commit cheating merely because they subsequently fail to perform the contract.

Facts I:

Maya delivered her laptop to Rohan's repair shop. They agreed that Maya would pay ₹20,000 for the repairs and that Rohan could retain possession of the laptop until the charges were paid.

After the repairs were completed, Maya entered the shop while Rohan was assisting another customer. Intending to recover the laptop without paying the charges, she secretly removed it from the counter and placed it inside her bag. Rohan stopped her before she could leave the shop.

79. Did Maya commit theft by moving her own laptop?

- (a) No theft, because Maya remained legal owner throughout the transaction.
- (b) Theft, because she dishonestly removed property from Rohan's lawful possession.
- (c) No theft, because unpaid repair charges create only contractual liability.
- (d) Theft, only if Maya intended to sell the laptop permanently.

Facts II:

Mehul obtained copies of private emails written by Leela. The emails were genuine but contained personal information that could seriously damage Leela's professional reputation if publicly disclosed. Mehul had no lawful authority to publish them.

Mehul told Leela that he would publish the emails unless she transferred ₹1,00,000 to him. Fearing damage to her reputation, Leela transferred the demanded amount.

80. What offence did Mehul commit by obtaining Leela's payment?

- (a) Extortion, because reputational fear dishonestly induced Leela's payment to Mehul.
- (b) Cheating, because Mehul concealed his purpose while demanding the payment.
- (c) No offence, because the threatened emails contained entirely truthful information.
- (d) Theft, because Leela transferred money without giving genuinely voluntary consent.

Facts III:

Neeraj entrusted ₹3,00,000 to his accounts assistant, Kabir, with instructions to use the entire amount for paying a particular supplier. Kabir lawfully received the money for that limited purpose.

Kabir instead used the money to discharge his personal debts. He entered a false payment in the business records to conceal what he had done.

81. Which offence most directly applies to Kabir's use of entrusted money?

- (a) Theft, because Kabir moved Neeraj's money without obtaining fresh consent.
- (b) Cheating, because Kabir later concealed how he spent the money.
- (c) Criminal breach of trust, because Kabir dishonestly misused entrusted property.
- (d) Extortion, because Kabir caused Neeraj financial loss through dishonest conduct.

Facts IV:

Ishaan advertised a rare mobile phone for sale. He did not possess the phone and knew that he could not obtain it. Before communicating with any buyer, Ishaan decided that he would collect advance payments and disappear without supplying anything.

Believing Ishaan's advertisement, Tara transferred ₹80,000 as an advance payment. Ishaan immediately closed his account and retained the money.

82. What offence did Ishaan commit by obtaining Tara's advance payment?

- (a) Theft, because Ishaan obtained money belonging to another person dishonestly.
- (b) Cheating, because deception induced payment while Ishaan intended nonperformance initially.
- (c) Criminal breach of trust, because advance money created an entrustment.
- (d) No offence, because failure to supply creates merely contractual consequences.

Facts V:

Assume instead that Ishaan genuinely owned the advertised phone and fully intended to deliver it when Tara paid the advance. Before the scheduled delivery, an accidental electrical fire destroyed the phone and several other items in Ishaan's warehouse.

Ishaan immediately informed Tara about the fire, provided photographs of the damage and offered to repay her through instalments. He consequently failed to deliver the promised phone.

83. Did Ishaan's subsequent failure to deliver constitute cheating?

- (a) Cheating, because accepting payment before delivery established dishonest inducement initially.
- (b) Theft, because the buyer lost possession of money after payment.
- (c) Criminal breach, because advance payments remain entrusted until performance occurs.
- (d) No cheating, because Ishaan honestly intended performance when receiving payment.

Facts VI:

Asha handed her professional camera to Vikram, a courier, for delivery to a photography studio. Vikram accepted the sealed parcel in the ordinary course of his courier business and initially intended to complete the delivery.

During the journey, Vikram opened the parcel, discovered the expensive camera and decided to sell it. He sold the camera and retained the proceeds for himself.

84. What offence did Vikram commit by selling the entrusted camera?

- (a) Criminal breach of trust, because Vikram dishonestly sold entrusted property.
- (b) Theft, because selling the camera moved it without Asha's consent.
- (c) Cheating, because Vikram falsely presented himself as a reliable courier.
- (d) Extortion, because Asha lost property through Vikram's dishonest disposal afterward.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Passage: You slide your hand into your coat pocket and find an old, folded \$100 bill. In the other pocket, you find a coin. Now, here's the gamble: flip the coin. Heads, you win another \$300. Tails, you hand over your \$100 bill. Do you take the risk?

Mathematically, you should. One coin flip gives you two equally likely futures: in one, heads, you gain \$300; in the other, tails, you lose \$100. Because each future has a 50 per cent chance of happening, you count half of each outcome: half of \$300 is \$150, and half of \$100 is \$50. Balance those against each other, and taking the gamble puts you \$100 ahead on average. Decision scientists call this positive expected value.

Even when someone grasps the mathematics, however, it's hard to take the risk. Why?

About 50 years ago, the psychologists Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman showed that this hesitation is not random. People depart from logic in patterned ways. One of the most durable patterns is loss aversion: our tendency to feel the pain of losing more sharply than the pleasure of an equivalent, or even greater, gain. This is where mindfulness becomes interesting. Mindfulness is usually defined as paying attention to the present moment, on purpose, without immediately judging what is happening. In practice, that can mean noticing a thought before believing it, feeling an emotion before acting on it, or returning attention to the body, the breath, or the world around you. At its simplest, mindfulness creates a pause between what arises in the mind and what we do next.

That pause helps because many of our choices are made before we have fully examined them. We may think we are deliberating over the coin toss, but often the body has moved first: recoiling from loss or preserving a decision simply because we have already invested in it. These mental shortcuts are called cognitive biases, and the study of this kind of human misjudgment is central to decision science. When we hesitate at the coin toss, we might be deliberating – but often, we've already decided.

Impulse has its benefits. A mind that had to reason from scratch every moment would be paralysed. But when these shortcuts override reflection, they can distort the decisions we make. Without careful thought, a patient may fail to seek the best medical care. People lose wealth because they cling to their current savings plans. You might know the feeling of preserving a job or a relationship simply because you invested so much in it. Internally, these cognitive biases feel instinctive. The question is whether we can catch these instincts before they harden into choices we mistake for reason.

Extracted with edits and revisions from:

<https://aeon.co/essays/can-mindfulness-help-you-overcome-your-cognitive-biases>

85. Which option best challenges the inference that reluctance to take the gamble reflects biased judgment?

- (a) Some people accept the gamble after being shown several examples of how expected value is calculated.
- (b) People often feel more certain about a choice when they are allowed more time to think about it.
- (c) For some people, losing \$100 would cause a serious problem that winning \$300 may not fully offset.
- (d) Different people may describe the emotional pain of the same financial loss in different ways.

86. Why does the author move from the coin toss to examples involving medical care, savings, jobs and relationships?

- (a) To suggest that choices involving personal commitment are usually harder to reverse than choices involving money.
- (b) To show that unnoticed mental habits may shape choices even when the stakes are not simple or financial.
- (c) To show that people become less rational when decisions concern matters that affect their future security.
- (d) To suggest that errors in one kind of decision are likely to appear in every other kind as well.

87. The author reasons that mental shortcuts are useful because constant fresh reasoning would be burdensome, yet the same shortcuts may cause error when they replace needed reflection. Which option follows the same logical structure?

- (a) A teacher follows a mistaken answer key and gives wrong marks because the information supplied to her was inaccurate.
- (b) A driver studies several routes before travelling and still arrives late because an unexpected accident blocks the fastest road.
- (c) A manager adopts a costly system after careful review because its long-term savings are expected to exceed its initial expense.
- (d) A doctor uses standard screening rules to save time, but misses an unusual case when the rule replaces closer examination.

88. Which finding would most strengthen the author's claim that the pause created by mindfulness can improve biased decisions?

- (a) People trained to notice their first reaction make fewer loss-driven choices than equally informed people without such training.
- (b) People who meditate regularly report less regret after financial decisions that later produce an unfavourable result.
- (c) People taught expected-value rules become faster at solving numerical questions involving gains, losses and probability.
- (d) People allowed more time before choosing often feel more confident about whatever decision they finally make.

89. If a financial adviser accepts the author's reasoning, which practice would best follow from the passage when a client wants to abandon or preserve an investment?

- (a) Ask the client to follow the choice with the highest expected return regardless of personal needs or possible losses.
- (b) Advise the client to keep the investment unless fresh evidence proves that the earlier decision was clearly mistaken.
- (c) Ask the client to separate the first emotional reaction from the future reasons for keeping or changing the investment.
- (d) Delay every major investment decision until the client no longer feels any strong emotion about the possible outcome.

90. Which of the following best identifies a flaw in the author's move from the coin-toss example to decisions about savings, medical care, jobs and relationships?

- (a) It treats emotional discomfort as evidence that a person has failed to understand the likely consequences of the decision.
- (b) It extends a bias shown in a simple gamble to complex choices without showing that the same mechanism explains those choices.
- (c) It assumes that people who preserve earlier choices have usually invested more in them than people who later change course.
- (d) It compares financial and personal decisions even though their outcomes cannot always be expressed through the same numerical measure.

Passage: I have never heard a rock described as stupid. And the same would be true of a river, a hurricane, and even a thermostat. Stupidity seems to be a sophisticated form of behavior despite its ignominious associations.

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 on a scale that might embarrass the meager success record of a medieval alchemist.

One might say that stupidity implies a capacity for getting things right before it can get them spectacularly wrong. Stupidity is not the opposite of intelligence but its evil twin, the dissimulating Cain to a cerebral Abel. And perhaps surprisingly, the degree of stupidity available to any system scales directly with the intelligence that system possesses—more intelligence begets greater feats of stupidity. It would be a stretch to call a bacterium stupid, and we know that cats and dogs achieve modest feats of it. But human beings, equipped with language, abstraction, technology, institutions, and ideology, can be stupid on a truly civilizational scale. This is not a joke; it is close to a law of nature. A law that might very well be our undoing.

We have thousands of research programs on intelligence, and not all of them are intelligent, including studies of IQ, AI, animal cognition, and collective problem-solving. These take place in celebrated departments and are published in prestigious journals devoted to understanding how minds make hard problems easy. These days we cannot take a step without crashing into another article on intelligence and AI. Researchers from all fields without any knowledge of intelligence research and its history have become self-declared “thought leaders” in natural and artificial intelligence.

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. It is likened to a form of psychological darkness experienced after you have switched off the lights of deliberation. But this is a mistaken belief. Darkness does not do anything pernicious in the way that stupidity does. Stupidity takes an easy problem and, with great effort and misdirected ingenuity, makes it hard. That effort is the key to grasping stupidity, in that you need sophisticated machinery to be genuinely, consequentially stupid.

Life, uniquely among physical systems, has the capacity to be wrong. Stupidity is a very special species of failure and not all errors qualify. People err from ignorance, from noise, or from the honest misapplication of a rule to a novel situation and changing context. These are the misfortunes of our lives about which we should be forgiving. Stupidity begins where error is elaborated, defended, refined, institutionalized, and made the foundation for further action. Stupidity makes everything progressively worse. And it is this elaboration of erroneous belief and behavior that demands, paradoxically, the prior existence of intelligence.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://nautil.us/what-makes-humans-stupid-1282459>

91. Which of the following must necessarily be true if the author’s account of when stupidity becomes possible is accepted?

- (a) A poor outcome can indicate stupidity when the system had earlier succeeded at a similar task.
- (b) A system without meaningful judgment cannot become stupid merely because its behaviour produces a harmful result.
- (c) Greater reasoning capacity makes failure more likely when a system faces simple rather than difficult problems.
- (d) A mistake becomes stupidity when the system could have reached a better result using the same information.

92. Which of the following can most reasonably be inferred from the author’s criticism of how stupidity is treated in research?

- (a) Intelligence research has limited value when it studies successful cognition rather than failures of judgment.
- (b) Academic interest in artificial intelligence has displaced older work on animal cognition and collective problem-solving.
- (c) Stupidity receives less study because researchers struggle to distinguish it reliably from ordinary human error.
- (d) Treating stupidity as mere absence may hide processes by which capable minds preserve and enlarge error.

93. Which of the following, if established, would most weaken the author's claim about the relationship between intelligence and the scale of stupidity?
- (a) Matched comparisons find simpler systems producing more elaborate errors than systems with greater cognitive capacity.
 - (b) Complex institutions retain poor policies when correction would impose substantial costs during the transition.
 - (c) People with modest reasoning skills repeat mistaken claims when agreement is rewarded within their social group.
 - (d) Skilled thinkers construct stronger defences for beliefs they formed before examining the available evidence.
94. Which of the following most closely supports the author's view that stupidity develops through the treatment of an initial error?
- (a) A student repeats a faulty method because a new problem differs slightly from familiar examples.
 - (b) A damaged sensor keeps issuing false readings until the faulty component is eventually replaced.
 - (c) A committee adds new arguments and procedures to protect a policy after its factual basis collapses.
 - (d) A manager keeps an inefficient rule because replacing the system would disrupt current operations.
95. Which of the following best resolves the paradox in the author's account of human intelligence and irrationality?
- (a) Scientific achievement depends on specialised methods that may not shape judgment in ordinary public disagreements.
 - (b) Cognitive sophistication can support careful problem-solving while also supplying tools for defending mistaken beliefs.
 - (c) Conspiracy theories can spread widely even when scientific claims are supported by substantial available evidence.
 - (d) Institutions can preserve older beliefs for longer periods because collective change often requires considerable coordination.
96. If it were established that a non-living physical system could form a false representation, defend it against correction, and use it to guide further action, which established claim in the passage would have to be rejected?
- (a) Sophisticated systems may use their capacities in ways that make an initial mistake harder to correct.
 - (b) Errors caused by ignorance can remain different from stupidity when they are not developed further.
 - (c) The ability to solve difficult problems does not guarantee sound judgment in other situations.
 - (d) Genuine error is presented as a feature that distinguishes living systems from other physical systems.

Passage: A chat with a General Counsel of any respectable multinational will disclose a disquiet about the increasing costs, delays and unpredictability normally associated with arbitration in India. Recent remarks have brought this debate into sharp focus. On the one hand, there are concerns that aspects of the current arbitral framework may be undermining its effectiveness. On the other, there is a strong and concurrent recognition of the tremendous scope of arbitration and mediation in the light of mounting pendency before courts. This apparent paradox is significant. It reflects not a system in decline, but one at a crossroads: simultaneously critiqued for its shortcomings while at the same time seen as an essential solution to endemic judicial burdens.

Against this backdrop, this article does not subscribe to the alarmist call to move away from arbitration in India. To do so is both puerile and misdirected. The pertinent question to ask is why arbitration is not consistently delivering on its foundational promise of cost effectiveness, efficiency, finality and party autonomy within the Indian context. 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.

Importantly, these concerns are not unique to India. 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. Yet, none of these jurisdictions have concluded that arbitration is a lost cause. Instead, they have responded through continuous refinement of rules, building institutional support and nuanced practices. When viewed from this prism, the criticism in India is not indicative of systemic failure, but rather of a maturing ecosystem that is increasingly self-reflective and reform-oriented.

Success in arbitration is largely decided well before any dispute occurs. 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. In this way, General Counsel wields enormous influence over the eventual effectiveness, efficiency, cost and enforceability of arbitration. 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.

Rather than viewing arbitration as a default or boilerplate mechanism, there is a growing need for deliberate and informed design of dispute resolution frameworks. This includes careful selection of arbitral mechanisms, calibrated approaches to arbitrator appointments and foresight on issues such as timelines and interim relief. The conversation, therefore, is not merely about reforming arbitration from the outside, but about strengthening it from within, beginning at the drafting table.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.barandbench.com/columns/stop-asking-whether-arbitration-is-dead-start-asking-why-it-isnt-delivering>

97. Which of the following must be true for the author's case for reforming, rather than abandoning, arbitration to hold?

- (a) Court delays make arbitration preferable in most major commercial disputes.
- (b) Foreign arbitration systems provide models that India can adopt with limited change.
- (c) Some major weaknesses of arbitration can be reduced without discarding the mechanism.
- (d) Corporate legal teams can prevent most arbitral problems through careful contract drafting.

98. Which of the following would be least likely to weaken the author's claim that choices made before a dispute can influence the eventual quality of arbitration?

- (a) Tailored dispute clauses are linked with fewer later disagreements over procedure.
- (b) Courts often override procedural choices that parties had placed in arbitration clauses.
- (c) Commercial parties often accept dispute clauses without meaningful scope for negotiation.
- (d) Arbitrator behaviour explains most delays even where contracts are carefully drafted.

99. What role does the discussion of Singapore, London, Paris and New York play in the author's reasoning?

- (a) It proves that India's arbitration problems arise from the same causes as theirs.
- (b) It establishes that mature jurisdictions have already solved the main defects of arbitration.
- (c) It suggests that international arbitral practice should replace domestic procedural choices.
- (d) It shows that similar complaints can exist without making arbitration unworthy of reform.

100. Which assumption is required for the author's claim that the General Counsel shares responsibility for arbitral effectiveness?

- (a) Parties usually consider possible enforcement problems while negotiating commercial agreements.
- (b) Decisions made before a dispute can materially influence the arbitration that follows.
- (c) Procedural delays are often caused by choices made before arbitral proceedings begin.
- (d) In-house legal teams generally have more knowledge of arbitration than external counsel.

101. From the author's rejection of arbitration as a "default or boilerplate mechanism", all of the following can reasonably be inferred except:

- (a) Institutional rules can usually correct weaknesses created by poor contractual planning.
- (b) Different commercial relationships may require different dispute-resolution arrangements.
- (c) Better early choices may reduce some procedural problems arising at later stages.
- (d) Parties may share responsibility for how effectively the arbitral process operates.

102. Which of the following is the strongest conclusion supported by the author's overall argument?

- (a) Better drafting is likely to matter more than institutional reform in improving arbitration.
- (b) Arbitration remains useful mainly because Indian courts cannot handle commercial disputes quickly.
- (c) Criticism of arbitration is itself evidence that the Indian system is becoming mature.
- (d) Arbitration's weaknesses call for reform at both institutional and contractual levels.

Passage: Picture a star, about half the sun's mass shining with a dim red light. Lumbering around it on a 5,000-year orbit is a huge orb called a brown dwarf, which is much heavier than a planet but still not quite massive enough to be a star. Our own solar system has nothing like a brown dwarf, but here's where it really gets tricky. Revolving around that brown dwarf every 171 days is a gaseous world almost as large as Jupiter. The question is: What do you call this final thing? Is it a moon? A planet? Something else entirely? When this system, whose central star is called CD-35 2722, was reported last month, astronomers didn't quite know either.

Twenty years ago today, International Astronomical Union (IAU) researchers confronted a similar problem when they voted to define the word planet for the first time. A year prior, an icy body more massive than Pluto had been discovered in the outer fringes of the solar system. Rather than give school children extra worlds to memorize, astronomers chose to downgrade Pluto's status to a dwarf planet, a move that still has its detractors.

In the intervening decades, the issue has only gotten worse as telescopes uncover ever more oddities floating through the cosmos, like the three-tiered situation around CD-35 2722. 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.

In every other field, scientists have defined the terms they need to do their work. They know what a triangle is. They know what a virus is. It continues to surprise me that astronomers have not come up with a precise definition of the word planet. For most of human history, planets were simply bright specks in the sky that moved differently than the rest of the stars. Our modern word derives from the ancient Greek *planētēs*, meaning wanderers. After the telescope was invented in the early 1600s, scientists realized these nomads were in fact celestial bodies orbiting the sun just like our own world. They even found new planets invisible to the naked eye; Uranus in 1781, and Neptune in 1846. Pluto was a later addition, a distant speck discovered by the American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh in 1930. For almost a century, textbooks explained that the solar system contained nine planets. 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.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/pluto-demotion-planet-exoplanet-definition>

103. Which of the following best captures the main argument developed by the author?

- (a) Astronomers mainly disagree because they give greater weight to historical usage than to physical features.
- (b) New discoveries show that familiar astronomical labels may fail when unusual systems challenge the boundaries behind them.
- (c) Pluto's reclassification shows that scientific categories become reliable only after enough similar objects have been discovered.
- (d) Extrasolar discoveries prove that terms developed within our Solar System should not be used beyond it.

104. If the author's account is accepted, which of the following must necessarily be false?

- (a) Better telescopes can increase knowledge while also revealing cases that older categories did not anticipate.
- (b) A body's scientific category may change when new discoveries alter how astronomers compare it with others.

- (c) The 2006 definition settled later classification problems well enough that new discoveries created no serious uncertainty.
- (d) Some existing definitions may work for ordinary objects while remaining uncertain at unusual boundaries.

105. If the author's comparison with triangles and viruses is meant to strengthen the criticism of astronomy, which claim is necessary?

- (a) Astronomers could define planets easily if they adopted the same methods used in mathematics and biology.
- (b) Disagreement over a scientific term usually shows that researchers lack enough observations about the objects involved.
- (c) Scientific terms are useful only when every possible object can be placed into one category without dispute.
- (d) Greater precision in basic terms can matter to scientific work even when the objects studied are naturally complex.

106. **Assertion (A):** Pluto's long acceptance as a planet did not prevent astronomers from reconsidering its classification when their knowledge of similar objects expanded.

Reason (R): Discoveries in the Kuiper Belt gave astronomers a wider basis for comparing Pluto with other frozen bodies in the same region.

Which of the following is correct?

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

107. **For most of human history, planets were simply bright specks in the sky that moved differently than the rest of the stars.** After telescopes improved astronomical observation, **scientists realised that these wandering objects were celestial bodies orbiting the Sun like our own world.**

Which of the following best describes the roles of the two bold-faced statements?

- (a) The first gives the author's conclusion about planets; the second provides an example that weakens that conclusion.
- (b) The first identifies a current scientific dispute; the second explains why astronomers have been unable to settle it.
- (c) The first presents an earlier basis of classification; the second shows how later knowledge revised that basis.
- (d) The first states evidence against modern classification; the second offers a competing definition preferred by the author.

108. Which of the following most strongly supports the view that the limits of earlier observation should not determine which objects qualify as planets?

- (a) Earlier classifications matter less because modern astronomers possess more accurate instruments than all previous observers.
- (b) Objects unknown to earlier observers may still fit a category once improved observation reveals their relevant features.
- (c) Historical classifications become less useful when later generations prefer a different account of the same objects.
- (d) New astronomical objects generally require new labels before their physical properties can be meaningfully compared.

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]:

An aquarium authority is constructing a transparent pedestrian tunnel in the shape of a half-cylinder. The tunnel has an internal radius of 7 metres and a length of 30 metres. Its rectangular floor is 30 metres long and 14 metres wide. The curved roof and the two semicircular end walls are to be made of glass. Each end wall contains one rectangular emergency door measuring 2 metres by 3 metres, and the door areas are excluded from the glass area.

The curved glass costs ₹1,800 per square metre, while the glass used in the end walls costs ₹1,500 per square metre. The floor is to be covered with square tiles having a side of 50 centimetres, and the authority will purchase 5% more tiles than the exact number required. Fixed display equipment occupies 12% of the tunnel's theoretical internal volume.

Under a proposed redesign, the radius of the tunnel will be increased by 10%, while its length and the dimensions of both doors will remain unchanged. For all calculations, use $\pi = 22/7$.

109. What is the total glass area required for the curved roof and the two end walls together under the original design?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) 802 square metres | (b) 814 square metres |
| (c) 790 square metres | (d) 826 square metres |

110. What will be the total cost of the glass required for the curved roof and the two end walls under the original design?

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) ₹13,77,000 | (b) ₹14,01,000 |
| (c) ₹14,19,000 | (d) ₹14,31,000 |

111. What is the usable internal volume of the tunnel after accounting for the space occupied by the fixed display equipment?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) 1,986.6 cubic metres | (b) 2,079.0 cubic metres |
| (c) 2,032.8 cubic metres | (d) 2,125.2 cubic metres |

112. Under the proposed redesign, what will be the total glass area required for the curved roof and the two end walls after excluding the emergency doors?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) 888.34 square metres | (b) 892.94 square metres |
| (c) 908.34 square metres | (d) 900.34 square metres |

113. Under the proposed redesign, by approximately what percentage will the glass area of the two end walls alone increase?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 22.77% | (b) 21.00% |
| (c) 24.10% | (d) 20.95% |

114. If the rates of curved glass and end-wall glass remain unchanged, by approximately what percentage will the total glass cost increase under the proposed redesign?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 12.26% | (b) 11.94% |
| (c) 13.08% | (d) 10.90% |

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]:

A dishonest fabric vendor records the purchase of 7,500 metres of cloth at an invoice price of ₹160 per metre. While taking delivery, he uses a measuring rod 1.12 metres long but treats each measurement as one metre. Consequently, he receives 1.12 actual metres for every metre entered in the purchase ledger while paying only for the ledgered quantity.

After receiving the cloth, the vendor discovers that one-seventh of the actual length is defective. He separates the defective cloth and sells it as scrap at ₹70 per actual metre. The remaining cloth is dyed at a cost of ₹15 per actual metre. Dyeing does not change its length. During cutting and finishing, 5% of the dyed cloth is lost and has no resale value.

The vendor sells the remaining cloth by using a measuring tape that is only 90 centimetres long but represents each such measurement as one metre. He fixes the marked price at 50% above the invoice price and offers a discount of 20% on the marked price. His total outlay consists only of the invoice cost and the dyeing cost.

115. What actual length of cloth remains available for regular retail sale after the defective portion and the cutting loss are accounted for?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 6,720 metres | (b) 6,960 metres |
| (c) 6,840 metres | (d) 7,020 metres |

116. What is the effective retail revenue earned per actual metre of cloth supplied to regular customers?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) ₹204.80 | (b) ₹208.00 |
| (c) ₹216.00 | (d) ₹213.33 |

117. Approximately what percentage of the vendor's total outlay is recovered through the sale of defective cloth?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) 6.42% | (b) 6.67% |
| (c) 7.14% | (d) 6.00% |

118. What is the ratio of the revenue obtained from selling the defective cloth to the total dyeing cost?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) 5:7 | (b) 7:9 |
| (c) 8:11 | (d) 9:13 |

119. Approximately what percentage of the actual cloth initially received ultimately remains available for regular retail sale?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 80.00% | (b) 82.50% |
| (c) 81.43% | (d) 85.71% |

120. What is the vendor's overall profit percentage on his total outlay?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 16.67% | (b) 17.50% |
| (c) 18.75% | (d) 17.98% |

Rough Work
