

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2027
Mock 202720: Answer Key and Solution



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

Section A: English Language

1. Correct Answer: (b) Brazil possessed its own value before Europe assumed authority to define it.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: “shifting the point from which history is told, and challenging a foundational assumption... that European culture was the natural standard against which everything else should be measured.”

Explanation:

(a) The statement challenges European cultural authority, but it does not make a claim about whether European institutions were necessary for Brazil. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Andrade reverses the colonial viewpoint by presenting Brazil as already possessing value before Europeans claimed the right to measure it. This most accurately captures the intended challenge. Hence, option (b) is correct.

(c) The passage does not establish that pre-colonial Brazil possessed a politically or socially stable order that Portuguese arrival destroyed. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The criticism concerns Europe’s assumed authority to define cultural value, not specifically a mistaken European understanding of Indigenous happiness. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

2. Correct Answer: (a) inherited attachment preceded his conscious challenge to European authority.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: “The Amazon he grew up with was not a place he had visited, but one carried in his mother’s voice.” / “Europe loosened that grip.”

Explanation:

(a) Andrade’s connection with the Amazon existed through inherited memory before his later encounters with Europe and his conscious questioning of inherited authority. This shows that his cultural orientation had an emotional as well as intellectual foundation. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) Indigenous cosmology appears later as one influence on Andrade’s thought, but the passage does not attribute his knowledge of it specifically to his mother’s stories. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) His physical distance from the Amazon is emphasised to show the power of inherited memory, not as the reason he lost confidence in European culture. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) São Paulo’s industrialisation provides cultural context, but the passage does not connect it causally with his family memories becoming political opposition. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

3. Correct Answer: (a) Imported standards made European refinement the measure of serious art.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Reference Lines: “Its literary culture was shaped by Parnassianism, a movement that prized formal elegance and looked to France as its model, treating European refinement as the only legitimate model for ‘serious’ art.”

Explanation:

(a) The passage states that Parnassianism looked to France and treated European refinement as the legitimate model for serious art. This shows that imported European standards determined literary legitimacy. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) The passage does not associate Parnassianism with Brazilian experimentation. Rather, it presents the movement as strongly oriented towards established European standards. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Andrade worked as a journalist, but the passage does not suggest that journalism gained literary prestige because of French influence. His profession and Parnassianism are presented separately. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) European influence is shown as dominant rather than weakening. The passage gives no indication that local writers were successfully reducing that influence by adapting foreign forms. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

4. Correct Answer: (b) began loosening inherited restraints that later experiences would break further.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: “he made his first trip to Europe and something shifted... ‘he had known freedom.’” / “Europe loosened that grip. But it was his return, marked by his mother’s death and a crisis of faith, that broke it entirely.”

Explanation:

- (a) Europe exposed Andrade to freedom, but his mature thought later challenged Europe's authority as a cultural standard. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) The passage carefully distinguishes between Europe having "loosened" inherited constraints and later personal experiences having "broken" them. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- (c) Kierkegaard and Proudhon appear later as intellectual influences, but the journey itself is not described as replacing Catholic belief with their philosophies. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) The effect of the journey is presented primarily in terms of freedom and inherited authority rather than an immediate rejection of literary form. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

5. Correct Answer: (b) scandal was valuable when it disturbed accepted standards of respectability.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "Andrade was delighted. Provocation, for him, was not a side-effect of the argument. It was the argument."

Explanation:

- (a) Hostility demonstrated that expectations had been disturbed, but it did not establish that every artistic claim of the movement was correct. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Provocation mattered because challenging respectable cultural expectations formed part of Andrade's artistic argument itself. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- (c) The passage makes provocation integral to the artistic challenge; it does not rank hostile reaction above the substance of the movement. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Nothing indicates that Andrade valued provocation mainly as publicity. Its purpose was intellectual and cultural disruption. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

6. Correct Answer: (c) Some of his later ideas still drew upon European thinkers alongside other traditions.

Reference Lines: "a formulation he found in Kierkegaard and Proudhon, but also, in Indigenous cosmology."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) Andrade began his career within a culture shaped by European standards, but the passage does not say his later journalism continued to follow them. This does not explain his mature position. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Europe influenced him deeply, but the passage does not make travel the main source of his later thought. His development draws from several different experiences and traditions. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) Andrade continued to draw upon thinkers such as Kierkegaard and Proudhon while also engaging Indigenous cosmology. His position therefore involved transformation rather than simple rejection of Europe. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- (d) The passage does not describe his modernism as a fixed formula of European form and Brazilian content. His approach is broader and less mechanical than that. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

7. Correct Answer: (d) dispersed through numerous outlets that amplify hostility at once.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "Vicious slander streams through the hydra-headed portals of the internet, goading quorums of non-law-abiding citizens to hate..."

Explanation:

- (a) Multiple outlets could make origins difficult to trace, but the metaphor does not focus on identifying the source of slander. Its emphasis lies elsewhere. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) The passage does not say that separate platforms reproduce identical messages or that repetition explains their resilience. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) The internet is shown as encouraging hostility among citizens, but the phrase does not suggest the formation of organised civic groups. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) The Hydra's many heads reinforce the idea of numerous simultaneous channels. Combined with "streams," the image presents hostility as spreading through a proliferating network of outlets. Hence, option (d) is correct.

8. Correct Answer: (d) To recreate the flood of crises through which decline is publicly perceived.

Reference Lines: "Signs of civilizational 'decline or even collapse' show up in every morning's headline, every evening's newscast..." / "Reports of turmoil in society come in concert with news of worldwide environmental and geopolitical catastrophe..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage places social, environmental and geopolitical problems beside one another, but does not argue that their boundaries have disappeared. Their accumulation matters more than their classification. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) The author does not trace all these crises to one shared cause. They are grouped because they contribute collectively to a public sense of collapse. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) No historical comparison is made showing that the present contains objectively more danger than earlier periods. The passage instead examines how contemporary crisis is presented and understood. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The dense sequence mirrors the experience of receiving one disturbing report after another through news media. Its accumulation helps explain why civilizational decline can appear constant and overwhelming. Hence, option (d) is correct.

9. Correct Answer: (a) Serious crises are transformed into a broader rhetoric of approaching apocalypse.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "promote a fear of the future with top-of-the-hour terror alerts..." / "convert the signs of American decline into foretellings of the end of the world."

Explanation:

(a) The author accepts the seriousness of the crises but criticises the rhetorical leap from real problems to predictions of civilisational doom. Hence, option (a) is correct.

(b) The passage discusses fear rather than desensitisation or public indifference produced by repeated reporting. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) Advertising is mentioned, but the author does not argue that commercial incentives determine which threats receive priority. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The passage offers thermodynamics as an alternative metaphor for decline, but it does not affirm a settled national decline whose causes commentators merely misunderstand. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

10. Correct Answer: (c) "the Beast of the Apocalypse"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Reference Lines: "The doomsday news attracts advertisers, yet we are confronted not with the Beast of the Apocalypse but with severe power outages..."

Explanation:

(a) The phrase describes repeated media warnings and carries a critical tone, but it does not invoke a recognised external text or figure. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) "Power outages" contributes to the author's thermodynamic metaphor, but the phrase itself does not rely on an external cultural reference. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) "The Beast of the Apocalypse" invokes biblical imagery associated with the Book of Revelation and the end of the world. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) The phrase refers descriptively to the sun's immense radiance and does not constitute an allusion. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

11. Correct Answer: (d) Social systems must recover because energy itself cannot be destroyed.

Reference Line: "The first law of thermodynamics states that energy cannot be created or destroyed. It can only change forms." / "What it can and does do is to be gainfully employed or uselessly squandered..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The analogy separates the continuing existence of energy from the condition of the systems through which it operates. A system may deteriorate even while energy remains available in another form. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) Since energy is transformed rather than simply eliminated, decline does not necessarily amount to the disappearance of every possibility of renewal. This remains consistent with the author's analogy. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) The sequence from matter to mind and from one material form to another emphasises transformation. The state of human-created worlds therefore depends partly on how available energy is used. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) The persistence of energy does not guarantee the restoration of the systems that use it. The author's reference to energy being "uselessly squandered" specifically prevents such an automatic conclusion. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

12. Correct Answer: (c) Nostalgia turns unlike losses into evidence of national decline.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "mourn the perishing from the earth of the ideals set forth in Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, lament the absence of Teddy Roosevelt's snow-white teeth."

Explanation:

- (a) The passage is not discussing disagreements about the reputations of Lincoln or Roosevelt. The reference instead mocks the broader rhetoric through which different kinds of loss are treated as signs of decline. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) The comparison does not establish that political ideals have become less important than physical appearance. Roosevelt's teeth are included deliberately as an exaggerated and trivial example. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) The author places an important democratic ideal beside a trivial physical feature to expose exaggerated nostalgia. Very different losses are grouped together as supposed evidence of national deterioration. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- (d) Current crises remain central to the passage and are discussed extensively. The author does not suggest that memories of past leaders have displaced attention from present problems. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

13. Correct Answer: (b) requiring readers to separate his praise from implications of the details narrated.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "the grammarian's story reaches us through an admiring disciple." / "The speaker praises his master's refusal of immediate satisfaction, yet details... allow a less heroic judgment to emerge."

Explanation:

- (a) The disciple does not conceal the troubling evidence; he actually provides details that allow readers to question his own admiration. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) The interpretive difficulty arises because the disciple praises the grammarian while narrating facts that permit a less admiring judgment. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- (c) The disciple admires the grammarian, but the critical note does not say he deliberately recasts failure as conscious sacrifice. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Physical deterioration remains important because it contributes to the tension between intellectual aspiration and the cost of that aspiration. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

14. Correct Answer: (b) Intellectual work belongs to a realm larger than immediate earthly time.

Reference Lines: "Others mistrust and say, 'But time escapes: / Live now or never!' / He said, 'What's time? Leave Now for dogs and apes! / Man has Forever.'"

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The grammarian does postpone ordinary life, but the line itself does not say complete knowledge is actually attainable. The critique stresses that learning has "no end." Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) He rejects the urgency of “Now” and treats human aspiration as extending beyond immediate time. This explains why he can justify sacrificing present experience for intellectual pursuit. Hence, option (b) is correct.

(c) The line lowers the importance of immediate experience, but it does not literally establish that earthly human life continues without end. Its force is philosophical rather than factual. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The grammarian values learning beyond present limits, but the line does not claim that study overcomes death itself. That conclusion goes further than the poem supports. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

15. Correct Answer: (c) complete conception can precede practical engagement.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: “Image the whole, then execute the parts— / Fancy the fabric / Quite, ere you build...” / “The grammarian wishes to understand life completely before beginning to live it...”

Explanation:

(a) The grammarian values knowledge before action, but the metaphor does not claim that practical action becomes valuable only when knowledge has practical usefulness. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) His method postpones experience until understanding is complete, but the poem does not state that partial knowledge makes immediate experience unreliable. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The building metaphor assumes that the whole can first be completely conceived and only afterwards put into practice. This parallels his attempt to understand life before living it. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) Construction serves as an analogy for his intellectual method, but the grammarian does not literally argue that intellectual and physical work must follow identical procedures. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

16. Correct Answer: (c) worth pursuing without ranking its parts by importance or difficulty.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: “Let me know all! Prate not of most or least, / Painful or easy! / Even to the crumbs I’d fain eat up the feast...”

Explanation:

(a) The grammarian explicitly refuses to distinguish between what is “painful or easy,” so difficulty does not determine the value of knowledge for him. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) His refusal of “most or least” works against arranging knowledge into a hierarchy based on the importance of individual details. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The paired refusals show that neither importance nor difficulty should exclude anything from his pursuit. His standard is exhaustive inclusion. Hence, option (c) is correct.

(d) He seeks exhaustive knowledge, but the lines do not claim that individual knowledge becomes meaningful only once the entire process has been completed. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

17. Correct Answer: (b) Embraced

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Reference Lines: “Oh, such a life as he resolved to live, / When he had learned it, / When he had gathered all books had to give! / Sooner, he spurned it.”

Explanation:

(a) Endured means tolerated or continued to bear something difficult. It does not convey the positive acceptance that contrasts with “spurned.” Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Embraced means willingly accepted or welcomed something. Since “spurned” means rejected or treated with deliberate refusal, “embraced” is its closest antonym in this context. Hence, option (b) is correct.

(c) Pursued means followed or attempted to attain something. Although it suggests active engagement, it is not the precise opposite of rejection. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Preserved means maintained or protected something from loss or change. It does not express acceptance and therefore does not function as the antonym of “spurned.” Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

18. Correct Answer: (d) finish preparation before living when learning itself has no endpoint.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "That before living he'd learn how to live— / No end to learning:" / "because learning has 'no end,' preparation threatens to replace experience altogether."

Explanation:

- (a) The grammarian places enormous confidence in learning and does not express doubt that books can prepare him for life. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) His bodily deterioration exposes the cost of delay, but it does not create the central logical contradiction in his method. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) He postpones immediate experience, but the poem does not frame his reasoning as a calculation in which later pleasure will compensate for present sacrifice. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) His method requires preparation to be completed before life begins, yet the poem simultaneously declares that learning has "no end." The condition for living can therefore never be fulfilled. Hence, option (d) is correct.

19. Correct Answer: (a) Rich biodiversity receives surprisingly little protection.

Reference Line: "hundreds of animal species... alongside diverse wetland plants, some of which are endangered." / "they have startlingly few protections..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The paragraph first establishes the ecological richness of ponds and then stresses how little protection they receive. This contrast supports the author's charge of neglect. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
- (b) Both hobbyists and scientists are described as valuing ponds. The passage does not suggest that public concern is greater than scientific interest. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) Restoration projects are discussed later, but the opening paragraph does not suggest that private efforts have replaced government action. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) The passage says ponds support endangered species, but it does not claim that such species can survive only in ponds. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. Correct Answer: (c) To mark thirty years as an appropriate moment for stronger protection.

Reference Line: "In 1996 the first-ever national survey estimated that there were 228,900 ponds in Britain. Thirty years on would be an apt moment to grant them enhanced status."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

- (a) Rewilding and restoration efforts are welcomed, but the author does not argue that their expansion itself makes national regulation necessary. The reference to 1996 serves a different purpose. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) The passage cites growing research supporting pond conservation, but it does not claim that future surveys or monitoring have become unnecessary. That conclusion goes beyond the argument. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) The author connects the passage of thirty years since the first national survey with an appropriate moment for granting ponds stronger status. The survey therefore helps establish the timing of renewed protection. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
- (d) The passage criticises continued official neglect rather than describing sustained policy attention since 1996. Continuous governmental concern would conflict with the author's broader argument. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. Correct Answer: (a) habitats altered out of sight and habitats physically eliminated.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "unlike rivers, many of which disappeared underground when they were culverted by the Victorians, around two-thirds of ancient ponds... have vanished altogether either through drainage or infilling."

Explanation:

- (a) Culverted rivers may disappear from view while remaining physically present underground, whereas drained or infilled ponds can cease to exist as habitats. Hence, option (a) is correct.
- (b) Urban and agricultural contexts are relevant historically, but the comparison itself concerns what happened physically to the two kinds of water body. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) The passage mentions both historical processes, but chronological contrast is not the main purpose of comparing rivers and ponds. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Pond disappearance appears more complete, but the passage does not establish that river damage is reversible or pond loss permanently irreversible. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

22. Correct Answer: (d) indirect, arising from species protection rather than pond status itself.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "To the extent that ponds have been legally shielded, this has been largely due to great-crested newts – a protected species since 1981..."

Explanation:

- (a) Politicians have criticised newt-related rules, but the passage does not say such criticism has generally weakened pond protection whenever housing is involved. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) The newt cannot thrive in rivers with large fish, but this ecological fact does not establish that legal protection is stronger whenever ponds contain distinctive habitats. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) Development disputes form part of the political context, but the passage does not state that protection requires proof that development specifically threatens amphibians. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) Ponds have benefited because a species living within them is legally protected. The protection therefore attaches indirectly to the habitat rather than primarily to ponds as a category. Hence, option (d) is correct.

23. Correct Answer: (c) pond conservation also supports landscape resilience under climatic stress.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "Increasing heat and drought, and the stress they impose on natural systems, make the presence of water in landscapes all the more urgent."

Explanation:

- (a) The author adds climate pressure to the existing conservation case but does not propose replacing species protection with a water-storage policy. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Earlier pond decline is linked to agriculture, development, pollution, drainage and infilling. Climate stress adds urgency rather than replacing those causes. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) Greater heat and drought increase the importance of maintaining water across landscapes. Pond protection therefore acquires an additional role in supporting ecological resilience. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- (d) No evidence is provided that ponds retain water more effectively than rivers or therefore deserve priority over them. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

24. Correct Answer: (d) integrate ponds into basin planning while raising standards selectively elsewhere.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Reference Lines: "add targets for ponds to the plans that govern England's 10 river basin districts." / "the target of high ecological status would be set for a limited number of streams, rivers and lakes."

Explanation:

- (a) The author does not establish a sequence in which pond protection must come first, nor does he advocate identical standards for all other waterways. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.
- (b) Existing species-based safeguards are discussed but are not proposed for replacement by a single comprehensive regime. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.
- (c) Restoring old ponds is welcomed earlier, but the final proposal specifically seeks to include ponds within river-basin planning rather than exclude them from it. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.
- (d) The closing paragraph contains two linked proposals: include pond targets in basin plans and impose higher ecological standards on a limited number of other waterways. Hence, option (d) is correct.

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

25. Correct Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation: The inaugural Grand Chess Tour was organised in 2015 as a circuit of three classical tournaments. The events followed substantially identical formats and playing conditions. Rapid and blitz competitions were incorporated into the Tour in 2016. Their inclusion subsequently made proficiency across all three recognised formats important for overall success. Therefore, Statement 1 is incorrect, while Statement 2 is correct.

26. Correct Answer: (b) Viswanathan Anand

Explanation: Viswanathan Anand became India's first Grandmaster in 1988. He had previously received the International Master title in 1985. Anand later won the FIDE World Championship in 2000 and became the undisputed World Champion in 2007. He successfully defended the title against Vladimir Kramnik, Veselin Topalov and Boris Gelfand. His achievements played an important role in the expansion of competitive chess in India.

27. Correct Answer: (c) 2500

Explanation: A player seeking the Grandmaster title must have achieved a FIDE rating of at least 2500 at some point. The rating may be attained during a tournament and need not necessarily appear on a published monthly list. The player must additionally obtain the prescribed Grandmaster norms from qualifying performances. Norm-based applications ordinarily require eligible results covering at least twenty-seven games. By comparison, the corresponding rating threshold for the International Master title is 2400.

28. Correct Answer: (b) 45th Chess Olympiad, Budapest

Explanation: India achieved the historic double at the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad held in Budapest in 2024. The Open team included Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and Pentala Harikrishna. It won ten matches and drew one during the competition. India also secured its first team gold in the Women's section at the same Olympiad. The preceding 44th Olympiad was hosted by Chennai in 2022, where India won bronze medals rather than the double gold.

29. Correct Answer: (a) 1971

Explanation: FIDE published its first official international rating list in 1971. The rating system is associated with Arpad Elo, a physicist and chess player who developed a statistical method for comparing player strength. FIDE had begun awarding the International Grandmaster title earlier, in 1950. The rating list and title system therefore represent separate stages in the institutional development of international chess. FIDE now publishes updated rating lists at the beginning of each month. International Chess Federation

30. Correct Answer: (c) Eight-player double round-robin

Explanation: Each Candidates event in Toronto featured eight players. The tournaments followed a double round-robin format, under which every participant faced each opponent twice. Each player therefore contested fourteen classical games, once with White and once with Black against every rival. The winner of the Open Candidates earned the right to challenge the reigning World Champion. Gukesh won the Open event, while Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali made their respective Candidates debuts in Toronto.

31. Correct Answer: (b) Gandak

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: The Narayani is known as the Gandak after entering India. It is one of the important transboundary Himalayan rivers shared by Nepal and India. Its drainage system includes major Nepali rivers such as the Kali Gandaki and Trishuli. India and Nepal have also developed bilateral arrangements concerning the Gandak river system.

32. Correct Answer: (b) Only 1, 2 and 3

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal all share an international boundary with Nepal. Arunachal Pradesh does not border Nepal and instead shares an international boundary with China, Bhutan and Myanmar. Uttarakhand and Sikkim are the other two Indian states adjoining Nepal.

33. Correct Answer: (c) Kali and Teesta

Explanation: The Nepal Himalayas extend between the Kali River in the west and the Teesta River in the east under the standard river-based regional division of the Himalayas. The Himalayas between the Satluj and Kali are generally called the Kumaon Himalayas. The region east of the Teesta towards the Dihang is traditionally associated with the Assam Himalayas.

34. Correct Answer: (b) Bagmati Province

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Rasuwa is a Himalayan district located in Bagmati Province of Nepal. It lies along Nepal's northern frontier adjoining the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The district contains important Himalayan landscapes, hydropower infrastructure and Nepal-China connectivity routes. Dhunche serves as the administrative headquarters of Rasuwa district.

35. Correct Answer: (a) Sudden release of water stored in a glacial lake

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is the sudden release of a significant volume of water retained in a glacial lake. Such lakes may be dammed by ice, moraine debris or bedrock. When the retaining structure fails, enormous quantities of water and debris can move rapidly downstream. Importantly, ICIMOD's assessment indicates that the August 2026 Rasuwa flood was triggered by an ice-rock avalanche rather than a GLOF.

36. Correct Answer: (b) Operation Maitri

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: India launched Operation Maitri following the major Nepal earthquake of April 2015. It became one of India's largest overseas disaster-relief operations and involved rescue, evacuation and humanitarian assistance. India later extended substantial support for reconstruction in housing, education, health and cultural-heritage sectors.

37. Correct Answer: (b) Council of Heads of Government

Explanation: The Council of Heads of Government meets annually to address economic and other practical areas of multilateral cooperation. It also adopts the SCO's annual budget. The Council of Heads of State is the supreme body responsible for strategic priorities and fundamental institutional questions. The Foreign Ministers' Council prepares summit meetings and coordinates positions on international affairs. The Council of National Coordinators manages continuing coordination among the member states.

38. Correct Answer: (a) Varanasi

Explanation: Varanasi was designated the first Tourism and Cultural Capital of the SCO for 2022–23. The designation followed a decision adopted during the 2022 Samarkand Summit. The initiative was intended to promote cultural exchanges, tourism and awareness of the civilisational heritage of member states. Almaty succeeded Varanasi for 2023–24, followed by Qingdao and Cholpon-Ata. The selection of Varanasi was also a prominent cultural component of India's 2022–23 SCO chairmanship.

39. Correct Answer: (c) Bishkek Summit, 2007

Explanation: The Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation was signed in Bishkek on 16 August 2007. It sought to institutionalise mutual trust, peaceful coexistence and durable cooperation among SCO members. The Treaty entered into force on 31 October 2012. It was registered with the United Nations Secretariat in February 2013. India and Pakistan joined the Treaty in March 2017 during the process leading to their full SCO membership. The Shanghai cooperation organisation

40. Correct Answer: (b) Afghanistan and Mongolia

Explanation: Afghanistan and Mongolia are the two states formally listed as SCO observers. Mongolia received observer status through a Heads of State Council decision in 2004. Afghanistan was granted observer status in 2012 and also interacts with the organisation through the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group. Armenia and Nepal participate as dialogue partners rather than observers. Observer status permits structured participation in SCO activities without granting the rights of a full member.

41. Correct Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Article 16 of the SCO Charter establishes consensus as the organisation's ordinary decision-making procedure. A decision is treated as adopted when no member state raises an objection during its consideration. Suspension or expulsion is governed by a modified procedure described as "consensus minus one." The vote or concurrence of the state whose membership is under consideration is therefore excluded. Accordingly, Statement 1 is correct, while Statement 2 reverses the applicable rule.

42. Correct Answer: (a) Ottawa Declaration

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The Arctic Council was formally established through the Ottawa Declaration in 1996. The declaration created the Council as a high-level forum for cooperation, coordination and interaction on common Arctic issues. Environmental protection and sustainable development constitute important areas of its work. The declaration remains the foundational instrument of the Arctic Council.

43. Correct Answer: (c) Denmark, Northern European state

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The Kingdom of Denmark holds the Arctic Council Chairship for 2025–2027, having assumed it in May 2025 after Norway's term concluded. The Kingdom includes Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, making its Arctic interests particularly significant. The chairship is responsible for guiding the Council's priorities during its term. Its current priorities include climate change, oceans, biodiversity and sustainable economic development.

44. Correct Answer: (a) Finland and Sweden

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Finland became a NATO member on 4 April 2023, becoming the Alliance's 31st member. Sweden followed on 7 March 2024, becoming its 32nd member. Both countries had previously maintained longstanding policies of military non-alignment. Their accessions substantially altered the strategic environment of northern Europe and the wider Arctic region.

45. Correct Answer: (c) Germany

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Finland, Iceland and Sweden are among the eight Arctic States that constitute the Arctic Council. Germany is not a member state and participates as an observer. Germany instead participates in Arctic cooperation through observer status. The distinction between member states and observers is an important feature of the Council's institutional structure.

46. Correct Answer: (a) Hamburg, Germany

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is seated in Hamburg, Germany. The Tribunal is an independent judicial body created under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It deals with disputes concerning the interpretation and application of UNCLOS. Its jurisdiction makes it significant in matters involving maritime boundaries, navigation and ocean resources.

47. Correct Answer: (c) Both Statements 1 and 2

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: Both statements are correct. The Arctic Council consists of eight Arctic states, while organisations representing Arctic Indigenous peoples enjoy the distinctive status of Permanent Participants. Permanent Participants possess consultation rights in connection with the Council's negotiations and decisions. This institutional arrangement gives Indigenous communities an unusually prominent role in an intergovernmental forum.

48. Correct Answer: (d) Coimbatore

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute is located at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and is a specialised institution of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Its work includes sugarcane varietal improvement, genetic-resource conservation and research on crop production and protection. It should not be confused with the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, which is situated in Lucknow.

49. Correct Answer: (c) 2003

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme was formally introduced with effect from 1 January 2003, initially providing for 5% ethanol-blended petrol in identified states and Union Territories. Pilot projects for ethanol-blended petrol had already been undertaken in 2001. The programme was later expanded substantially as part of India's biofuel and energy-security strategy.

50. Correct Answer: (b) C. Rangarajan Committee

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: An expert committee chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan was constituted in 2012 to examine deregulation of the sugar sector. Its recommendations covered cane pricing, levy sugar obligations and restrictions on sugar sales. In 2013, the government acted on major recommendations, including removal of the levy obligation and regulated release mechanism.

51. Correct Answer: (b) Second

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: According to the Government of India's August 2026 factsheet, India is the world's second-largest producer of sugarcane. Sugarcane production reached approximately 500 million metric tonnes in 2025–26 according to the Third Advance Estimate. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are identified as the two leading sugarcane-producing states within India.

52. Correct Answer: (b) Factory-gate sale of sugar by mills

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: The Minimum Selling Price mechanism prescribes the minimum price at which sugar mills may sell white or refined sugar for domestic consumption at the factory gate. It was introduced in June 2018 to help mills recover production costs and improve their ability to clear sugarcane dues. The mechanism is distinct from the price payable by mills to sugarcane farmers.

Section C: Legal Reasoning

53. Correct Answer: (c) Yes, because the relevant duties and penalties remained uncommenced.

Reference Lines: "As of 11 September 2026, definitions and provisions establishing and administering the Board are in force, but substantive duties, inquiries and penalties are scheduled to commence later."

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Notification places the Rules in the statute book but does not necessarily bring every rule into immediate operation. The passage expressly describes a phased commencement. FinCart's liability must therefore be assessed according to the operative date of the relevant provisions.

(b) Incorrect. The Board's establishment does not activate the substantive duties, inquiry provisions or penalties assigned to a later phase. Institutional existence and enforceable adjudicatory power are separate questions. This option overlooks that distinction.

(c) Correct. The notice obligation, inquiry mechanism and penalty provisions were uncommenced on 1 September 2026. Conduct that would violate a future obligation cannot attract a penalty under that uncommenced provision. FinCart is therefore likely to succeed.

(d) Incorrect. Once the relevant provisions commence, the Board may conduct inquiries and impose monetary penalties after following the prescribed procedure. Its powers are not confined to issuing directions. The penalty is invalid because of timing, not because the Board permanently lacks such power.

54. Correct Answer: (d) Paid-profile data are covered; public-profile data are excluded.

Reference Lines: "It also reaches processing outside India when connected with offering goods or services to Data Principals within India. It excludes processing for personal or domestic purposes and personal data made publicly available by the Data Principal herself or by another person legally required to publish it."

Difficulty Level: Very High

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Processing outside India is not excluded merely because the company and its servers are located abroad. EuroMatch offers paid services to persons located in India. That connection brings the paid-profile processing within the Act.

(b) Incorrect. The commercial nature of the activity supports the application of the Act to the paid profiles but does not displace the public-data exclusion. Meera herself made the professional information publicly accessible. The two datasets must therefore be treated differently.

(c) Incorrect. The option reverses both applicable rules. The paid-profile data are connected with services offered to persons in India and are covered. The professional details are excluded because Meera herself made them publicly available.

(d) Correct. EuroMatch's location does not protect its paid Indian service from the Act's extraterritorial application. However, the professional information falls within the separate public-availability exclusion. Both rules must be applied before reaching the conclusion.

55. Correct Answer: (a) HealthSquare remains responsible as the Data Fiduciary.

Reference Lines: "A Data Fiduciary remains responsible for processing performed on its behalf by a Data Processor."

Difficulty Level: Very High

Explanation: (a) Correct. HealthSquare determines the purpose, categories of data and retention period, making it the Data Fiduciary. AlgoServe performs the processing under HealthSquare's instructions. HealthSquare therefore remains responsible even though the breach occurred on AlgoServe's systems.

(b) Incorrect. Selecting software for performing assigned processing does not, on these facts, show that AlgoServe determined the underlying purpose and means of processing. Its technical discretion remains subject to HealthSquare's instructions. It consequently continues to act as a Data Processor.

(c) Incorrect. Some involvement in implementing processing does not automatically create joint fiduciary status. HealthSquare determines the legally significant purpose, data categories and retention period. AlgoServe's selection of suitable software is insufficient to establish equal decision-making authority.

(d) Incorrect. A contractual safeguards clause may create obligations between HealthSquare and AlgoServe, but it does not transfer statutory responsibility. The passage expressly retains responsibility with the Data Fiduciary for processing undertaken on its behalf.

56. Correct Answer: (b) Earlier processing remains lawful, but later analysis must cease.

Reference Lines: “Withdrawal must be as easy as giving consent; it does not invalidate earlier processing, but future consent-based processing must cease unless another legal basis applies.”

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Withdrawal operates prospectively and does not invalidate processing undertaken while valid consent existed. Therefore, the processing completed before Riya’s withdrawal remains lawful. Only the continued analysis lacks a legal basis.

(b) Correct. PixelFix lawfully processed the photographs before consent was withdrawn. After withdrawal, both PixelFix and the processor acting on its behalf must stop consent-based processing within a reasonable time. The planned six-week analysis is unsupported by another lawful basis.

(c) Incorrect. This option reverses the effect of withdrawal. Earlier processing remains valid because consent existed at the relevant time. Continued analysis cannot be justified merely because the photographs were originally collected lawfully.

(d) Incorrect. Lawful collection does not create an indefinite right to continue processing after consent is withdrawn. The processor acts on PixelFix’s behalf and must also cease the consent-based activity. Continued possession does not provide an independent legal basis.

57. Correct Answer: (d) Treatment is a legitimate use, while advertising needs another basis.

Reference Lines: “Legitimate uses include responding to medical emergencies and taking measures during disasters or breakdowns of public order.”

Difficulty Level: High

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. The emergency permits processing necessary to identify the allergy and provide treatment. It does not attach permanently to every item of data obtained during the emergency. Advertising rehabilitation packages serves a separate commercial purpose.

(b) Incorrect. Prior consent is not required where processing falls within a recognised legitimate use. Accessing the information to prevent harmful treatment responds directly to a medical emergency. The same reasoning does not extend to later advertising.

(c) Incorrect. This option reverses the two legal positions. Emergency treatment falls within a recognised legitimate use, while advertising does not. The hospital cannot characterise marketing as part of the completed medical emergency.

(d) Correct. The hospital may process the information necessary to treat the unconscious cyclist without first obtaining consent. Once the emergency ends, using her number for commercial advertising requires consent or another lawful basis applicable to that separate purpose.

58. Correct Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Rule 7 distinguishes initial intimation from the subsequent detailed report. The Board must receive an initial description of the breach without delay, while updated and detailed information must ordinarily follow within seventy-two hours. The deliberate forty-eight-hour postponement therefore breaches the first obligation despite timely compliance with the second. Option (a) merges the two requirements; option (b) incorrectly treats notification to individuals as excusing delayed Board notification; and option (d) wrongly requires the fuller report at the initial stage.

59. Correct Answer: (b) Travel tracking is permitted, but weekend tracking falls outside the exception.

Reference Lines: “The Rules, however, permit necessary location tracking by a transport provider engaged by an educational institution for children’s safety during their journey.”

Difficulty Level: Very High

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. The exception is confined to necessary tracking undertaken for children's safety during their journey. It does not extend to later processing merely because the data collection system was introduced for school transport. Weekend tracking requires a separate basis.

(b) Correct. RideSafe is engaged by the school and may track children during their journey to protect their safety. Continuing to track them on weekends is temporally and purposefully removed from that exception. The later activity therefore requires an applicable legal basis.

(c) Incorrect. Safety-related tracking during the school journey falls within the express exception. Operational efficiency does not bring weekend monitoring within the stated exception. This option applies the exception to the weaker activity while excluding the protected activity.

(d) Incorrect. The exception expressly contemplates a transport provider engaged by an educational institution. RideSafe's separate corporate identity therefore does not prevent the exception from applying. The decisive considerations are the purpose and duration of tracking.

60. Correct Answer: (d) The termination is unlawful because the valid medical opinion does not remove the independent approved-place requirement.

Reference lines: "Up to 20 weeks, one practitioner's good-faith opinion is required. Outside the life-saving exception, termination must occur in a government hospital or approved place."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Tara's consent and the contraceptive-failure presumption satisfy different parts of the legal framework. Neither provision authorises a termination at an unapproved place when no life-saving emergency exists.

(b) Incorrect. The amended provision applies the contraceptive-failure presumption to any woman or her partner. Tara's unmarried status therefore does not prevent her from relying on that presumption.

(c) Incorrect. A pregnancy of exactly 20 weeks falls within the "up to 20 weeks" category. The two-practitioner and Rule 3B requirements apply when the pregnancy exceeds 20 weeks.

(d) Correct. One practitioner's opinion is sufficient, and Tara may rely on the contraceptive-failure presumption. Nevertheless, the procedure remains unlawful because the unapproved clinic fails an independent statutory condition.

61. Correct Answer: (b) The hospital is unjustified because abandonment may qualify and neither family consent nor extra-legal documents may be demanded.

Reference lines: "In *X v. Principal Secretary* (2022), the Supreme Court held that Rule 3B cannot exclude unmarried women merely because their relationship was not a marriage; abandonment by a partner may be treated as a change of relationship status. Doctors may consider the woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable circumstances and cannot demand family consent, documentary proof or judicial authorisation not required by law."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Aisha is a competent adult, so her parents do not possess a statutory power to approve or prevent the procedure. The requirement of parental consent applies to minors, not unmarried adults.

(b) Correct. The Supreme Court's interpretation allows abandonment to be considered a material change in relationship status. Since two practitioners support termination, the hospital cannot add parental consent or documentary requirements absent from the law.

(c) Incorrect. Two registered medical practitioners are required between 20 and 24 weeks, and Aisha has already satisfied that requirement. Her unmarried status does not create a requirement for a third opinion.

(d) Incorrect. The fact that the relationship was consensual does not settle whether continuing the pregnancy would cause grave mental injury. The practitioners may consider the subsequent abandonment and Aisha's foreseeable circumstances.

62. Correct Answer: (a) The termination may proceed because one medical opinion and guardian consent suffice without the additional conditions demanded.

Reference lines: "Up to 20 weeks, one practitioner's good-faith opinion is required. Pregnancy alleged to result from rape is presumed to cause grave mental injury. Doctors may consider the woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable circumstances and cannot demand family consent, documentary proof or judicial authorisation not required by law."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Correct. At nineteen weeks, one practitioner's good-faith opinion is sufficient, while Kavita's minority requires her guardian's written consent, which has been obtained. The passage does not make an FIR a condition for applying the rape presumption.

(b) Incorrect. A minor is a Rule 3B category, but Rule 3B becomes relevant where pregnancy exceeds twenty weeks and does not exceed twenty-four weeks. It does not increase the number of opinions required at nineteen weeks.

(c) Incorrect. The passage creates the presumption where the woman alleges that the pregnancy resulted from rape. Requiring prior police verification would add a documentary condition not contained in the stated law.

(d) Incorrect. The rape allegation supports the presumption of grave mental injury but does not determine the number of practitioners. That number depends on gestational duration, which is nineteen weeks here.

63. Correct Answer: (c) The hospital is incorrect because the Board's diagnosis activates the exception and its advice should be implemented within five days.

Reference lines: "The Board must give its opinion within three days; if it advises termination, the procedure should be completed within five days, subject to medical safeguards."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. The two-practitioner framework governs prescribed cases exceeding twenty weeks but not exceeding twenty-four weeks. After twenty-four weeks, substantial foetal abnormality is addressed through the Medical Board mechanism.

(b) Incorrect. The statutory Medical Board does not require a court to confirm its findings before its opinion can operate. Judicial permission has been introduced as an additional condition without support in the passage.

(c) Correct. The Board examined Radhika and gave its opinion within three days, thereby satisfying the post-24-week mechanism described in the passage. Its advice should ordinarily be implemented within the following five-day period.

(d) Incorrect. Referral to the Board does not itself authorise termination. The exception depends upon the Board diagnosing substantial foetal abnormalities and giving its opinion, which must precede the procedure.

64. Correct Answer: (d) The termination is lawful if the practitioner genuinely considered it immediately necessary to save Farah's life.

Reference lines: "Separately, when a practitioner in good faith considers immediate termination necessary to save the pregnant woman's life, the Act relaxes the gestational, additional-opinion and approved-place requirements."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. The Medical Board route applies to substantial foetal abnormalities after twenty-four weeks. Farah's case instead concerns the separate exception for an immediate termination necessary to save the pregnant woman's life.

(b) Incorrect. The passage does not require retrospective approval from another practitioner. The relevant legal condition is the operating practitioner's good-faith assessment of immediate necessity at the time of the emergency.

(c) Incorrect. The emergency provision relaxes the approved-place requirement as well as the gestational and additional-opinion requirements. This option deliberately treats only part of the exception as applicable.

(d) Correct. Farah faced an immediate danger, and transfer would have increased the threat to her life. If the practitioner formed the stated opinion in good faith, the procedural departures are protected by the life-saving exception.

65. Correct Answer: (a) The refusal is unjustified because Leena's consent controls and her husband has no veto after the other requirements are met.

Reference lines: "Abandonment by a partner may be treated as a change of relationship status. A competent adult's own consent is required, and a husband, partner or family member has no veto."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Correct. Leena is a competent adult, has two supporting medical opinions and seeks treatment at an approved hospital. Her husband's objection cannot override her consent or operate as an independent statutory veto.

- (b) Incorrect. The existence of a subsisting marriage does not give the husband authority to withdraw or defeat the pregnant woman's consent. The Act centres the competent adult pregnant woman's decision.
- (c) Incorrect. Leena's circumstances may bring her within the relevant Rule 3B category, but they do not reduce the number of required opinions. Between twenty and twenty-four weeks, two practitioners must form the opinion.
- (d) Incorrect. The Supreme Court rejected a narrow approach limited to completed widowhood or divorce. Abandonment and a material change in relationship circumstances may be considered even before a formal divorce decree is issued.

66. Correct Answer: (c) The first disclosure is permissible, while the second breaches confidentiality because the university lacks legal authorisation.

Reference lines: "A practitioner may not reveal the woman's name or particulars except to a person authorised by law, and unlawful disclosure may attract imprisonment, a fine, or both."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. An administrative purpose does not itself amount to authorisation by law. While the State authority is expressly empowered, the university cannot create a statutory exception through its internal policy.

(b) Incorrect. Confidentiality continues after the termination, but the prohibition is subject to disclosure to a person authorised by law. This option overlooks that express exception in relation to the State authority.

(c) Correct. The State authority falls within the statutory exception because it is expressly authorised by law. The university's internal attendance policy lacks that legal status, making the second disclosure impermissible.

(d) Incorrect. The first disclosure falls within the authorised-by-law exception. A university's institutional interest, even if genuine, does not provide the legal authority necessary to receive Priya's identified medical information.

67. Correct Answer: (c) The classification is invalid because ownership is identifiable but has no rational connection with sheltering every displaced resident.

Reference lines: "First, it must rest on an intelligible differentia that clearly distinguishes those included in the class from those excluded. Secondly, that differentia must have a rational nexus with the legislation's stated objective."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Ownership clearly separates registered owners from tenants and therefore satisfies the intelligible-differentia requirement. A clear distinction, however, is insufficient unless it also bears a rational connection to the statutory objective.

(b) Incorrect. The legislature may address a problem in stages, but phased treatment must still be connected with the law's purpose. The State provides no reason why displaced owners need temporary accommodation more urgently than equally displaced tenants.

(c) Correct. Ownership supplies an identifiable differentia, but the Act seeks to shelter every displaced resident rather than compensate property loss. Verified tenants are similarly situated to owners concerning the need for temporary accommodation.

(d) Incorrect. Article 14 does not require owners and tenants to receive identical treatment for every flood-related benefit. A property-repair scheme could rationally distinguish them, but the present law concerns residential displacement rather than ownership loss.

68. Correct Answer: (a) The scheme is likely valid because measurable need and operational capacity rationally support the limited geographical rollout.

Reference lines: "A legislature may address a problem by degrees, introduce a measure in selected areas or extend relief initially to the group considered most affected. Such under-inclusion does not by itself violate Article 14 when the selection has a reasonable connection with the objective."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Correct. The five cities were selected through published criteria concerning pollution, congestion and capacity to operate the programme. These characteristics distinguish them from other cities and rationally support an evaluative pilot programme.

(b) Incorrect. Cities experiencing some pollution are not necessarily similarly situated regarding its severity, passenger congestion or charging infrastructure. Article 14 does not require simultaneous nationwide implementation where phased selection has a rational basis.

(c) Incorrect. Geography can constitute an intelligible differentia when location is relevant to the legislation's object. Here, the selection is not based merely on municipal boundaries but on measurable conditions present in the chosen cities.

(d) Incorrect. The presumption of constitutionality places an initial burden on the challenger but does not exclude judicial review. A court may still invalidate the programme if the selected locations lack a rational connection with its purpose.

69. Correct Answer: (d) The exemption is invalid because the undefined standard and unguided discretion permit arbitrary selection without an ascertainable class.

Reference lines: "A measure may therefore fail even when the government attaches a formal label to two groups, if the distinction is capricious, rests on unguided discretion or lacks a determining principle."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Encouraging innovation is a legitimate objective, but stating a legitimate objective does not establish a valid classification. The law must provide an intelligible basis for determining which institutions qualify as innovative.

(b) Incorrect. The presumption of constitutionality cannot replace the missing criteria or controlling principles. The pattern of accepting and rejecting substantially similar institutions further indicates that the discretion is not operating through an ascertainable standard.

(c) Incorrect. Article 14 does not prohibit fiscal classifications among educational institutions. A properly defined exemption based on demonstrated teaching innovation could distinguish institutions rationally and constitutionally.

(d) Correct. The expression "innovative" is unsupported by criteria, evidence requirements or a duty to give reasons. The Minister can therefore treat comparable institutions differently according to unguided discretion, making the scheme arbitrary.

70. Correct Answer: (b) The classification is valid because location reflects storm-surge exposure and the challenger has shown no irrationality in that distinction.

Reference lines: "A class may be based on factors such as age, occupation, geography, economic condition or the nature of an activity, but the distinction must be real rather than artificial or evasive. Courts generally presume legislation to be constitutional, and the challenger ordinarily bears the burden of showing that no reasonable basis supports the distinction."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Persons sharing an occupation may still be differently situated concerning the particular purpose of a law. Coastal residence creates a materially different exposure to storm-surge losses, which is relevant to cyclone insurance.

(b) Correct. The ten-kilometre criterion clearly distinguishes coastal from inland households, while government studies connect that location with greater storm-surge losses. The challenger's reliance on common occupation does not disprove this rational basis.

(c) Incorrect. Classification does not require mathematical proof that conditions change immediately at the statutory boundary. The legislature may draw workable lines and recognise degrees of harm if the selected boundary has a reasonable evidentiary foundation.

(d) Incorrect. Geographical classifications remain subject to examination under Article 14. Legislative judgment receives deference, but a geographical boundary may still be invalidated if it is artificial or unrelated to the law's purpose.

71. Correct Answer: (c) The distinction is valid because undergoing childbirth creates a relevant physical condition connected with the objective of medical recovery.

Reference lines: “For example, medical recovery leave may distinguish employees who undergo childbirth from other new parents if its object is physical recovery; however, the same distinction may require separate justification where the object is solely infant care.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Biological and adoptive parents may be similarly situated for childcare or bonding leave, but the disputed benefit serves a different purpose. An employee who undergoes childbirth has a physical recovery requirement not shared by every new parent.

(b) Incorrect. Childbirth is not an artificial criterion when the benefit is designed to address its physical consequences. The differentia corresponds directly to the medical condition for which the recovery leave is provided.

(c) Correct. Employees who physically undergo childbirth form an identifiable class for the purpose of post-childbirth medical recovery. The distinction therefore satisfies both intelligible differentia and rational nexus.

(d) Incorrect. Legislative power to classify is conditional upon a rational connection between the distinction and the law’s object. A distinction between biological and adoptive parenthood would require different justification if the benefit concerned infant care rather than recovery.

72. Correct Answer: (d) The preference is valid because evidence of greater internal disadvantage supports a distinction connected with equitable distribution.

Reference lines: “Accordingly, a broader welfare class may be sub-classified when reliable material reveals different levels of disadvantage and the preference bears a rational connection to equitable distribution.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Incorrect. Recognition of a broad disadvantaged class does not establish that every subgroup within it experiences an identical level of disadvantage. Article 14 permits further classification where internal differences are relevant to the benefit’s distribution.

(b) Incorrect. A preference within a broader scheme does not require complete exclusion of the remaining members. Allowing them to compete for unfilled scholarships may preserve access while directing initial assistance towards the more disadvantaged subgroups.

(c) Incorrect. A numerical threshold helps identify the preferred group but does not conclude the constitutional inquiry. The threshold must also bear a rational connection to the scheme’s purpose and rest on relevant material.

(d) Correct. The survey demonstrates lower completion rates and inadequate receipt of earlier benefits among the preferred subgroups. Giving them priority is therefore connected with correcting unequal access and achieving substantive equality.

73. Correct Answer: (b) The Nikah remains a recognised ceremony, while delayed registration does not remove the common statutory prohibition on polygamy.

Reference lines: The proposed Code preserves recognised religious marriage ceremonies but subjects their civil consequences to common rules, prohibits polygamy and requires the marriage memorandum to be submitted within sixty days.

Difficulty level: Very Difficult

Explanation: (a) The passage does not state that failure to register a marriage makes the marriage void. It instead treats registration as a statutory obligation for which deliberate non-compliance may attract a penalty. Farhan cannot use his own failure to register the marriage to deny its existence.

(b) The Code distinguishes the manner of solemnising a marriage from the legal consequences attached to it. Nikah may remain a recognised ceremony, but the resulting marriage is subject to the common prohibition on polygamy. Delayed registration does not create an exemption from that prohibition.

(c) Recognition of a religious ceremony does not mean that every rule of the relevant personal law continues to apply. The purpose of the Code is to impose common civil consequences while allowing different forms of solemnisation. Farhan may face consequences for delayed registration, but personal law cannot justify his second marriage.

(d) The passage does not require a religious marriage to be converted into a separate civil marriage. Recognised ceremonies may continue to be used under the proposed framework. The common civil rules apply without requiring the parties to repeat the ceremony.

74. Correct Answer: (c) The State rule may initially prevail in Assam, but Parliament may later override it through an inconsistent enactment.

Reference lines: Under Article 254, a State law on a Concurrent List subject may prevail within the State after receiving presidential assent, but Parliament retains the power to override it through subsequent legislation.

Difficulty level: Very Difficult

Explanation: (a) Presidential assent permits the inconsistent State provision to prevail within the concerned State at that stage. It does not permanently remove Parliament's legislative authority over a Concurrent List subject. A later Parliamentary enactment can alter the resulting legal position.

(b) Entry 5 of the Concurrent List covers marriage, divorce, wills, intestacy, succession and related personal-law matters. A State Legislature therefore has competence to legislate on succession, subject to the constitutional rules governing inconsistency. The State enactment is not invalid merely because Parliament has also legislated.

(c) Once the State law receives presidential assent, it may prevail in Assam despite its inconsistency with the earlier Parliamentary law. Article 254 nevertheless allows Parliament to enact a later law overriding, amending or varying the State provision. This option correctly accounts for both stages.

(d) Presidential assent does not eliminate the substantive inconsistency between the two laws. It determines which enactment prevails within the State at the relevant time. If Parliament later enacts an inconsistent rule, both provisions cannot necessarily operate together.

75. Correct Answer: (d) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

Reference lines: Article 44 is a non-enforceable Directive Principle, and a law enacted to pursue a Uniform Civil Code remains subject to fundamental rights under Articles 14, 21 and 25.

Difficulty level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The Assertion is incorrect because Article 44 does not make UCC legislation immune from constitutional scrutiny. The Reason correctly recognises that fundamental rights continue to bind the legislature. Since both statements are not true, this option cannot be accepted.

(b) This option incorrectly accepts the Assertion as true. A legislative objective supported by a Directive Principle may still be pursued through provisions that violate enforceable rights. The Reason is true, but the stated combination is therefore incorrect.

(c) Article 44 does not authorise the State to disregard privacy or religious freedom. At the same time, the Reason correctly describes Article 44 as non-justiciable and subordinate to enforceable constitutional limitations. The truth values stated in this option are reversed.

(d) The constitutional desirability of pursuing a Uniform Civil Code does not shield every provision of such a law from review. Courts may examine whether particular provisions violate equality, privacy or religious freedom. Therefore, the Assertion is false while the Reason is true.

76. Correct Answer: (b) Only two of the four statements are correct.

Reference lines: The Code requires live-in relationships to be registered within thirty days, recognises the legitimacy of children born from them, permits a deserted partner to claim maintenance, and contemplates a will that is both written and witnessed.

Difficulty level: Very Difficult

Explanation: (a) Statements 2 and 3 are supported by separate protections described in the passage. The delay in registration and the absence of a written will make Statements 1 and 4 incorrect. The total is therefore greater than one.

(b) Statement 1 is incorrect because the application was made after the thirty-day period. Statements 2 and 3 are correct because the child's legitimacy is recognised and a deserted partner may seek maintenance. Statement 4 is incorrect because witnessing does not cure the absence of writing.

(c) The mere presence of two witnesses does not make the oral declaration a written and witnessed will. Similarly, an application made on the forty-fifth day does not comply with a thirty-day requirement. Consequently, only two statements, rather than three, are correct.

(d) The passage recognises substantive protections arising from a live-in relationship, but it also prescribes formal requirements. Rhea and Aman missed the registration period, and Rhea did not put her testamentary declaration in writing. Therefore, all four statements cannot be accepted.

77. Correct Answer: (a) The husband, daughter and mother take priority as Class-I heirs, while the asserted custom cannot displace the common succession rule.

Reference lines: The proposed Code places the spouse, children and parents in the principal class of intestate heirs while allowing religious communities to retain their ceremonies rather than their separate civil rules of succession.

Difficulty level: Very Difficult

Explanation: (a) Mariam's husband, daughter and mother fall within the principal class of heirs identified in the passage. Recognition of the Christian ceremony preserves the form of marriage, not a separate customary order of intestate succession. The brother cannot use the asserted custom to displace the mother.

(b) The option incorrectly treats recognition of a religious ceremony as preservation of religious succession rules. The passage separates religious solemnisation from the civil consequences governed by the Code. The brother does not obtain priority merely because the marriage followed a Christian ceremony.

(c) The passage specifically identifies intestate succession as one of the matters governed by the proposed common framework. It is therefore incorrect to assume that the Code changes marriage rules without affecting succession. The brother is also not placed alongside the daughter in the principal class described.

(d) The existence of a written will would take the case outside intestate succession, but Mariam died without one. In that situation, the common statutory order of heirs applies. The passage does not preserve the brother's customary preference in the absence of a will.

78. Correct Answer: (d) The penalty is premature because neither Assembly passage nor Article 44 establishes assent and legal commencement of the Bill.

Reference lines: Passage of the Bill by the Assam Legislative Assembly does not by itself establish that it has received the required assent or that its provisions have legally commenced.

Difficulty level: Difficult

Explanation: (a) Article 44 directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code, but it does not itself enact registration requirements or penalties. Approval by the Assembly is also not the same as legal commencement. The authority therefore lacks an established operative provision on which to impose the penalty.

(b) The couple's non-tribal status would make the exemption unavailable once the Code validly became operative. It does not answer the prior question of whether the Bill has completed the legal process necessary for enforcement. Coverage and commencement are distinct issues.

(c) The proposed Code does contemplate compulsory registration and a monetary consequence for deliberate non-compliance. The defect is not that a registration law can never impose a penalty. The problem is that the authority has not established that the relevant provision is legally in force.

(d) A statutory deadline begins to create enforceable consequences only after the relevant law has validly commenced. Neither Article 44 nor passage by one legislative body substitutes for the required constitutional process. The penalty is therefore premature on the stated facts.

79. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation: Rule 1 provides that an agent's authority is not necessarily confined to the acts expressly mentioned in the document of appointment. It also includes lawful acts that are necessary for completing the authorised transaction or are ordinarily performed in the course of such a transaction.

Dev was expressly authorised to purchase bamboo panels. The facts establish that suppliers in the furniture trade ordinarily do not transport these panels and that the buyer's procurement agent usually books insured road transport. Arranging transportation was therefore an ordinary incident of completing the authorised purchase. Dev possessed implied authority to enter into the transportation contract.

Option (a) incorrectly assumes that every act must be expressly stated in the written authority. Option (c) directly contradicts Rule 1 because express and implied authority can operate together. Option (d) focuses on GreenGrid's acceptance of Dev rather than whether arranging transportation fell within the scope of Dev's authority.

80. Correct Answer: (d)

Rule 2 allows an agent to take reasonably necessary steps in an emergency to protect the principal from loss. The relevant standard is whether a person of ordinary prudence would have acted similarly while protecting their own property in comparable circumstances.

The landslide was unexpected, the road was closed, the covering over the panels was tearing and heavy rainfall was imminent. Dev could not contact Aarunya, and leaving the panels outside created a substantial risk of water damage. Although the warehouse charged more than the ordinary rate, it was the only covered facility available nearby. Paying the higher charge to prevent substantial damage was therefore a prudent emergency response.

Option (a) treats the high price as automatically decisive without considering the urgency or availability of alternatives. Option (b) is too broad because an unavailable principal does not give the agent unlimited spending authority. Option (c) misunderstands the purpose of emergency authority, which permits preventive action before the threatened loss actually occurs.

81. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation: The transportation contract falls within Rule 1 because booking insured road transport was ordinarily incidental to procuring panels in this trade. The warehouse agreement falls within Rule 2 because it was a reasonably necessary and prudent response to an unexpected emergency threatening Aarunya's property.

Rule 3 provides that contracts entered into by an agent within the scope of the agent's authority bind the principal as though the principal had made them personally. Since Dev possessed implied authority to book the carrier and emergency authority to hire the warehouse, Aarunya is bound by both service contracts.

Options (b) and (c) each disregard one valid source of Dev's authority. Option (d) is incorrect because subsequent approval is unnecessary when the agent already possessed authority at the time of entering into the contracts.

82. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation: Dev was authorised to purchase only 100 panels. He therefore exceeded his authority when he increased the order to 120 panels. However, Rule 4 provides that when the authorised portion of a transaction can be separated from the unauthorised portion, the principal remains bound by the authorised portion.

The order specified a separate price of ₹2,900 for each panel, and GreenGrid agreed that any number of panels could be delivered and invoiced independently. The purchase of 100 authorised panels can therefore be separated from the purchase of the additional 20 panels. Aarunya is bound by the order only to the extent of 100 panels.

Option (a) incorrectly applies the consequence reserved for an inseparable transaction. Option (b) considers the price limitation but ignores the separate restriction on quantity. Option (d) is incorrect because a third party's acceptance cannot, by itself, enlarge an agent's known authority.

83. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation: Dev possessed authority to purchase the 100 panels but had been expressly prohibited from purchasing machinery. The package consequently combined an authorised component with an unauthorised component.

Rule 5 applies because the panels and the cutting machine were sold for one indivisible price, no separate prices were assigned to them and GreenGrid refused to sell either component independently. It is therefore impossible to separate the authorised purchase from the unauthorised purchase. Aarunya is not bound by any part of the package transaction. Option (a) ignores the inseparable character of the agreement. Option (c) would require a new division of the price that the parties themselves did not make. Option (d) is excessively broad because an agent may validly purchase multiple items when the entire transaction falls within the agent's authority.

84. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation: Dev's actual authority was privately limited to 100 panels. However, Rule 6 applies where the principal's words or conduct cause a third party to believe that the agent possesses wider authority.

Aarunya's Managing Director expressly told GreenGrid that Dev could revise the quantity according to the project's requirements and that Aarunya would honour whatever order he finalised. GreenGrid was never informed about the

private limitation and accepted the order for 120 panels in reliance on the Managing Director's representation. Aarunya is therefore bound by the complete order under Dev's apparent authority.

Option (a) considers only the private limitation and ignores Aarunya's representation to GreenGrid. Option (b) is incorrect because apparent authority depends on the principal's representation and the third party's consequent belief, not on the agent's personal understanding. Option (c) contradicts Rule 6, which allows a principal's words—including an oral statement—to create apparent authority.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

85. Correct Answer: (d) New employment may fail to grow fast enough to absorb workers displaced by AI.

Reference Lines: "The technological advances are outpacing job creation, raising doubts about whether new industries and occupations can absorb those displaced." "This situation looks fundamentally different viz-a-viz the earlier Industrial Revolutions."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage recognises that new occupations may require substantially different skills. However, skill mismatch alone does not explain why the present transition is described as fundamentally different from earlier ones. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) AI's expansion into cognitive and creative work increases the scale of possible displacement. Yet the author's distinctive concern is whether new employment can continue compensating for such displacement. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Unequal benefits from AI are expressly discussed, particularly because skill and expertise affect who gains from wider access. This concerns distribution of opportunity rather than the overall capacity to generate replacement jobs. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Earlier technological transitions eventually produced new industries and employment, whereas the author questions whether this compensating process can continue under AI. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

86. Correct Answer: (c) AI is moving from routine work into cognitive, creative and eventually physical tasks.

Reference Line: "The real concern is that AI can increasingly perform cognitive and creative tasks, and will eventually perform physical tasks as smoothly as humans."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) This concerns unequal ability to benefit from AI rather than the range of work AI itself can perform. It therefore addresses distribution rather than the widening scope of substitution. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Different skill requirements explain why displaced workers may find new occupations difficult to enter. They do not by themselves establish that AI is expanding into more kinds of human activity. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage explicitly moves from routine and manual automation to cognitive, creative and eventually physical functions. This shows that AI may reach forms of labour previously less exposed to automation. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The continuing importance of schools identifies an area where human participation remains valuable. It therefore does not support the widening scope of technological substitution. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. Correct Answer: (c) Similar access should produce comparable gains despite major differences in user capability.

Reference Line: "With access to AI for millions, the opportunities and breakthroughs would only favour those with skill and expertise."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author allows wider access to coexist with unequal outcomes because users differ in skill and expertise. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Greater gains for skilled users are fully consistent with the author's argument about expertise affecting the benefits obtained from AI. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage rejects the assumption that access alone produces comparable benefits regardless of differences in capability. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The author specifically links meaningful opportunities and breakthroughs with the possession of relevant skill and expertise. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

88. Correct Answer: (a) Displaced workers may need substantial retraining before entering newly created occupations.
 Reference Lines: “The new jobs that are coming up, displacing existing ones, require vastly different skills.” “Mastering AI does not automatically translate into employment.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) If new roles require substantially different abilities, workers leaving older occupations may need to acquire those capabilities before becoming employable in them. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Familiarity with AI alone is expressly said not to guarantee employment, so additional capabilities may still be necessary. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage treats preparation and expertise as important despite labour-market change and does not suggest that shortages erase skill requirements. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author questions whether new occupations will grow quickly enough to absorb displaced workers, making automatic compensation unsupported. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. Correct Answer: (d) New industries generate employment while technological change makes older forms of work obsolete.

Reference Line: “It creates new jobs and opportunities, rendering traditional practices obsolete.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) This combines expanding automation with unequal benefits, but it does not capture the simultaneous creation and destruction of employment described as the paradox. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Differences between new skills and older experience concern labour-market adjustment rather than the paradox stated at the beginning. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Unequal gains from widespread technology appear later in the discussion and concern distribution rather than simultaneous creation and obsolescence. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The paradox lies in technology producing new economic opportunities while making existing practices and occupations unnecessary. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

90. Correct Answer: (b) Certain educational functions may endure because human development depends on relationships as well as instruction.

Reference Line: “Schools will continue to play an essential role, particularly during the formative years of a child’s life when they need human interaction, guidance, and support.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The passage identifies important human functions performed by schools but does not compare their adaptability with that of workplaces. The conclusion introduces a comparative claim that the author does not establish. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Human interaction, guidance, discipline, creativity and support are treated as integral parts of schooling beyond the simple transmission of information. This supports the conclusion that some educational functions can remain important despite expanding AI capability. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Discipline, values and developmental support are presented as reasons for the continuing importance of schools rather than as functions that AI is likely to diminish. The proposed reduction therefore conflicts with the emphasis of the passage. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Career preparation is listed alongside several other educational purposes and is not presented as overriding them. Nothing in the passage establishes that technological change will make it the dominant function of schooling. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. Correct Answer: (c) Demographic strength becomes valuable when workers possess the capabilities required by available occupations.

Reference Lines: “Healthcare systems are struggling to recruit nurses and caregivers...” “However, raw talent alone is not enough.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) The author expressly states that a large reservoir of young talent is insufficient without further preparation. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) Sector-specific shortages actually emphasise the need for appropriate skills rather than diminishing the importance of occupational matching. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) The argument connects demographic advantage with language, technical training, certification and other capabilities required for global employment. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
- (d) The passage treats certification and professional discipline as necessary elements of preparation, not as secondary to population size. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. Correct Answer: (d) Governments facing labour shortages become increasingly reluctant to admit foreign workers.
Reference Line: "Political appetite for migration is shrinking in the economies that need workers most."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) Higher remittances represent a benefit arising from successful overseas mobility rather than an obstacle to it. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.
- (b) Continuing labour shortages strengthen the underlying demand on which the author's mobility argument rests. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) Better preparation would improve workers' suitability for foreign labour markets and therefore support the proposed strategy. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) Even qualified workers may face restricted entry when political opposition to migration grows in countries that require labour. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

93. Correct Answer: (a) Build training, certification, language and cultural-preparation systems around overseas workforce needs.

Reference Line: "Language capability, technical training, certification, cultural preparedness and professional discipline are needed for Indian talent to thrive in global markets."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

- (a) This converts raw demographic potential into professionally usable talent through the forms of preparation emphasised by the author. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
- (b) Population size creates potential, but the passage repeatedly warns that demographic scale alone does not make workers globally employable. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.
- (c) Remittances are an outcome of successful mobility and cannot substitute for the preparation required before workers enter foreign markets. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.
- (d) English proficiency and digital literacy are useful advantages, but the author treats them as insufficient without broader occupational preparation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. Correct Answer: (b) Existing overseas employment is shown to generate measurable economic returns for the Indian economy.

Reference Line: "India received over \$110.47 billion in worker remittances in FY 2025-26, a 26 per cent increase compared to the previous year."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

- (a) Remittance flows show that workers abroad transfer income back to India, but they do not measure the degree to which host economies depend on Indian labour. Such dependence would require separate evidence about workforce composition and alternatives. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The statistic provides quantitative evidence that overseas employment already produces financial returns for India. It therefore supports the economic dimension of the author's broader argument in favour of organised international skills mobility. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Nothing in the remittance figure identifies which occupational groups generated the increase. Higher inflows could reflect more workers, better wages or several other factors rather than specifically high-skilled migration. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) No comparison is provided between remittance gains and the contribution workers might have made had they remained in India. The statistic therefore cannot establish that outward mobility is economically superior to domestic retention. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. Correct Answer: (c) Mobility should rest on trusted systems, worker safeguards, transparent standards and international cooperation.

Reference Line: "The future must rest on trusted institutions, ethical mobility frameworks, worker protection, transparent standards, and international partnerships."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) Remittances demonstrate economic returns, but the author does not present them as the foundation of a durable mobility system. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage rejects fragmented and opaque recruitment rather than endorsing expansion before adequate institutional safeguards exist. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) These institutional conditions reproduce the framework the author considers necessary for sustainable and ethical global skills mobility. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Labour shortages create demand, but demand alone cannot replace worker protection, transparent standards and trusted institutions. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. Correct Answer: (d) Human talent is framed as a resource that can generate economic value and international influence.

Reference Lines: "Countries have leveraged their natural resources as instruments of economic and geopolitical influence." "India's greatest strategic resource may well be raw talent."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The comparison concerns the strategic value of resources rather than a policy of restricting skilled workers from moving abroad. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Remittances appear later as evidence of economic benefits, but they are not equated with the geopolitical leverage of natural resources. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The author immediately qualifies India's demographic advantage by stating that raw talent requires preparation before it becomes globally valuable. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The analogy presents young human capital as an asset that India can convert into both economic returns and wider international influence. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

97. Correct Answer: (c) Water-borne waves must deform the cable in a way reflected in the optical signal.

Reference Lines: "These waves ripple away toward the seafloor, where they stretch the tiny glass cable..." "Onshore, laser pulses are fired down the cable, and as the light travels, microscopic imperfections scatter the light in the glass."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) AIS data helped researchers identify vessels responsible for disturbances, but identification is separate from the physical process that makes movement measurable. The cable can register strain before the source is known. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The silent whale was still detected after it stopped vocalising, showing that sound need not accompany the movement being sensed. The method can therefore operate through physical disturbance rather than vocalisation. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The mechanism requires movement to generate waves, those waves to stretch the cable, and that deformation to affect the optical response measured from shore. Removing this link would break the sensing process. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Ship experiments helped researchers interpret similar disturbances, but vessel movement is not a physical prerequisite for detecting a whale. Both ships and whales can independently generate measurable water displacement. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. Correct Answer: (d) Cable sensing can register movement without sound, whereas hydrophones ordinarily depend on acoustic signals.

Reference Lines: “Typically, to find whales, scientists use a hydrophone, essentially an underwater microphone that can pick up a whale’s calls.” / “Recently, some of the same scientists published a new study on how to detect whales using fiber-optic telecommunication cables even when they’re not producing any sound at all...”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The passage does not claim that fibre-optic cables can independently identify individual whales in every case. In the reported observation, vocalisation helped researchers connect the later disturbance with the whale. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Hydrophones may be fixed to the seabed or suspended from vessels, so the passage does not restrict them to research vessels alone. The central innovation concerns detecting silent movement rather than continuous shore-based operation. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The passage does not establish that movement signals automatically reveal an exact location or that vocalisations provide no positional information. In fact, the whale’s earlier call helped researchers trace the disturbance to the animal. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) Hydrophones detect whales through their calls, while the newer cable-based method can register physical disturbances produced by a whale even after it becomes silent. This difference is what extends detection beyond purely acoustic monitoring. Hence, option (d) is correct.

99. Correct Answer: (b) A result involving one observed animal is generalised to all whale species and identification conditions.

Reference Lines: “But today, they’ve found a blue whale.” “The whale’s call allowed them to trace the disturbance to the animal...”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The conclusion concerns identification across species and does not depend on assuming that whales must remain near the surface. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Evidence from a single blue whale cannot establish equal performance across different species, behaviours and detection circumstances. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) AIS was used for vessels, but the stated conclusion does not rely on the assumption that AIS identified the whale. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Ship disturbances provide a physical comparison, but the flawed conclusion concerns generalisation from limited whale evidence rather than an inability to distinguish ships. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. Correct Answer: (a) Its earlier vocalisation connected the subsequent movement signal with the same animal.

Reference Line: “The whale’s call allowed them to trace the disturbance to the animal.”

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Researchers first detected the whale while it was vocalising and could then associate the subsequent silent disturbance with the same animal. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) Signal decay describes the behaviour of the waves but does not establish that the source of the disturbance was specifically the whale. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Earlier ship observations helped interpret the physical mechanism but could not establish that this particular later disturbance came from the whale. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Light scattering forms part of the sensing system, but it provides no independent identification of the object producing the strain. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. Correct Answer: (d) It allowed researchers to match observed cable disturbances with particular passing vessels.

Reference Line: "Scientists were able to confirm that they were indeed vessels, and could even pinpoint which ones they were."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) Cable strain arose from the physical disturbance created by vessel movement, while AIS supplied separate tracking information. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Optical information travelled through the fibre-optic system rather than through AIS records. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The passage does not describe AIS as a system for distinguishing whale acoustics from vessel-generated movement signals. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Tracking records enabled researchers to connect the signals observed in the cable with known ships travelling in the area. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

102. Correct Answer: (b) Comparable disturbances frequently occur when no large moving object is present near the cable.

Reference Lines: "The water displaced by their hulls as they move emits low-frequency waves..." "Then, when the whale dove, they could see the same sort of disturbance..."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Detecting whale calls through the cable supports the researchers' ability to locate the animal but does not undermine the movement interpretation. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) If similar disturbances commonly arise without a large moving object nearby, the signal would provide weaker evidence that the whale's movement caused it. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) The weakening of waves as they travel is already compatible with the proposed mechanism and therefore does not challenge the causal inference. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) Earlier vocalisation helped connect the later signal to the whale and would therefore strengthen rather than weaken the researchers' interpretation. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

103. Correct Answer: (c) Engineering language can carry expectations that do not accurately describe biological change.

Reference Line: "It borrows its confidence from engineering... it also smuggles that confidence into biology, where change is slower, messier and often incomplete."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) The author traces the history of technological comparisons, but their age is not presented as the reason "rewiring" becomes misleading. The concern lies in the implications carried by the metaphor. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Knowledge of a metaphor's origin is not identified as necessary for understanding its limitations. A reader may absorb misleading implications even without knowing its history. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The criticism works only if engineering language can import ideas such as precision, replacement and controllability into a biological process where they may not apply. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) The passage does not reject technological vocabulary altogether. It accepts that "rewiring" may be useful shorthand while questioning some of the expectations attached to it. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

104. Correct Answer: (a) Recovery can involve altered activity across brain regions rather than simple replacement of damaged parts.

Reference Lines: "Stroke patients could regain function by recruiting new areas of the brain." "Clinicians often observe increased activation in brain regions adjacent to or distant from the area of damage."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Recovery is described through recruitment and increased activation of other brain regions. This differs from the engineering image of simply replacing a faulty component with a new one. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

(b) The author expressly warns against assuming that biological change occurs with the precision associated with engineered systems. Stroke recovery therefore does not support this interpretation. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Evidence from stroke patients helped overturn the older belief that the adult brain was largely fixed after childhood. The option reverses the significance of those findings. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The passage notes increased activity in regions adjacent to or distant from the damaged area. Recovery is therefore not presented as depending only on the injured region itself. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

105. Correct Answer: (d) To show how evidence of adult adaptability challenged an older model of neural fixity

Reference Lines: "The brain was thought to be largely static after childhood, becoming a fixed network of circuits, much like a hardwired radio." / "But beginning in the 1960s, researchers showed that the brain was far more adaptable. Stroke patients could regain function by recruiting new areas of the brain."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Later research demonstrated adaptability, but it did not prove that electrical or engineering metaphors describe neural change with literal accuracy. The passage continues to question the precision implied by such language. Hence, option (a) is incorrect.

(b) Stroke research changed scientific understanding of brain adaptability, but technological comparisons did not disappear from neuroscience. In fact, the passage shows that the language of "rewiring" continued and became more widespread. Hence, option (b) is incorrect.

(c) The later research challenges rather than supports the idea that meaningful neural change is concentrated mainly in childhood. Evidence from adult stroke recovery demonstrates continuing adaptability beyond early development. Hence, option (c) is incorrect.

(d) The passage contrasts an older belief in a largely fixed adult brain with later evidence showing that neural systems can adapt after injury. This shift explains why neuroplasticity became scientifically important. Hence, option (d) is correct.

106. Correct Answer: (b) Targeted interventions can reliably produce rapid, precise and repeatable changes in specific neural systems.

Reference Lines: "It borrows its confidence from engineering..." "Change is slower, messier and often incomplete."

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Explanation:

(a) Variation and prolonged recovery support the author's claim that biological change differs from controlled engineering repair. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) Reliable, precise and repeatable neural change would make the engineering implications of "rewiring" more accurate than the author suggests, weakening the criticism. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

(c) Recruitment of distant regions supports the idea that recovery is complex and unlike simple replacement of damaged components. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The author already accepts that the metaphor is accessible; its usefulness does not answer the concern that it may misrepresent how neuroplasticity occurs. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

107. Correct Answer: (c) Scientific ideas can acquire broader cultural meanings after moving beyond their original setting.

Reference Line: “They also gave rise to an idea that would quickly leap beyond the clinic: if brains can rewire, then people can change.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The passage does not claim that every form of personal change results from an identical neural mechanism. It only describes how a clinical idea was extended more broadly. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The author questions whether broader uses preserve the scientific precision of the original concept. Equivalent meaning across contexts therefore cannot be assumed. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) The shift from stroke rehabilitation to a general claim about human change shows how a scientific finding can take on wider cultural significance beyond its initial context. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

(d) Genuine clinical origins do not automatically validate every later application of the metaphor. The author’s concern arises precisely because popular usage can exceed what the science establishes. Hence, option (d) is not the correct answer.

108. Correct Answer: (d) Historical examples trace how technological imagery entered descriptions of neural systems.

Reference Lines: “Medical roots of the phrase trace back to 1912, when the British surgeon W Deane Butcher compared the body’s neural system to a house’s electrical wiring, describing how nerves connect to muscles much like wires connect appliances to a power source.” / “By the 1920s, the Harvard psychologist Leonard Troland was referring to the visual system as ‘an extremely intricate telegraphic system’, reinforcing the comparison between brain function and electrical networks.”

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation:

(a) The early comparisons appeared when the brain was still commonly thought to become largely fixed after childhood. They are not presented as evidence of a modern understanding of neuroplasticity. Hence, option (a) is not the correct answer.

(b) The passage uses these comparisons to trace the language surrounding the brain, not to establish that neural systems literally function according to engineering principles. Hence, option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) Technological vocabulary did not disappear. The continued popularity of “rewiring” shows that such language remained influential in descriptions of neural change. Hence, option (c) is not the correct answer.

(d) The historical examples show that electrical and technological imagery entered descriptions of neural systems long before the modern popularity of “rewiring.” Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

109. Correct Answer: (b) 7,168 square metres

Length of the rectangular portion = 84 metres

Breadth of the rectangular portion = 56 metres

Area of the rectangular portion:

$$= 84 \times 56$$

$$= 4,704 \text{ square metres}$$

Radius of each semicircle:

$$= 56/2$$

$$= 28 \text{ metres}$$

Area of the two semicircles:

= Area of one complete circle

$$= \pi r^2$$

$$= 22/7 \times 28 \times 28$$

$$= 2,464 \text{ square metres}$$

Total area of the playing field:

$$= 4,704 + 2,464$$

$$= 7,168 \text{ square metres}$$

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

110. Correct Answer: (d) 344 metres

Length of the two straight portions:

$$= 2 \times 84$$

$$= 168 \text{ metres}$$

Combined curved boundary of the two semicircles:

= Circumference of one complete circle

$$= 2\pi r$$

$$= 2 \times 22/7 \times 28$$

$$= 176 \text{ metres}$$

Total boundary of the playing field:

$$= 168 + 176$$

$$= 344 \text{ metres}$$

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

111. Correct Answer: (a) 1,242.5 square metres

Inner radius of each semicircle = 28 metres

Width of the running track = 3.5 metres

Outer radius:

$$= 28 + 3.5$$

$$= 31.5 \text{ metres}$$

Outer breadth:

$$= 2 \times 31.5$$

$$= 63 \text{ metres}$$

Area of the outer rectangular portion:

$$= 84 \times 63$$

$$= 5,292 \text{ square metres}$$

Area of the two outer semicircles:

$$= 22/7 \times 31.5 \times 31.5$$

$$= 3,118.5 \text{ square metres}$$

Total area within the outer boundary:
 $= 5,292 + 3,118.5$
 $= 8,410.5$ square metres
 Area of the playing field = 7,168 square metres
 Area of the running track:
 $= 8,410.5 - 7,168$
 $= 1,242.5$ square metres
 Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

112. Correct Answer: (c) 360 metres
 Length of the two outer straight portions:
 $= 2 \times 84$
 $= 168$ metres
 Combined outer curved boundary:
 $= 2\pi R$
 $= 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 31.5$
 $= 198$ metres
 Total outer boundary:
 $= 168 + 198$
 $= 366$ metres
 Width of the entrance gate = 6 metres
 Required fencing length:
 $= 366 - 6$
 $= 360$ metres
 Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

113. Correct Answer: (b) ₹3,97,600
 Area of the running track = 1,242.5 square metres
 Surfacing cost per square metre = ₹320
 Total surfacing cost:
 $= 1,242.5 \times ₹320$
 $= ₹3,97,600$
 Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

114. Correct Answer: (d) ₹5,59,600
 Cost of surfacing the track = ₹3,97,600
 Required fencing length = 360 metres
 Fencing cost per metre = ₹450
 Total fencing cost:
 $= 360 \times ₹450$
 $= ₹1,62,000$
 Combined cost:
 $= ₹3,97,600 + ₹1,62,000$
 $= ₹5,59,600$
 Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

115. Correct Answer: (d) ₹32,00,000
 Budget ratio:
 $= 5 : 4 : 2 : 1$
 Total ratio units:
 $= 5 + 4 + 2 + 1$

= 12

Total advertising budget = ₹96,00,000

Value of one ratio unit:

= ₹96,00,000/12

= ₹8,00,000

Digital-media allocation:

= 4 × ₹8,00,000

= ₹32,00,000

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

116. Correct Answer: (a) 15:14

Television allocation:

= 5 × ₹8,00,000

= ₹40,00,000

Actual television expenditure:

= 75% of ₹40,00,000

= ₹30,00,000

Digital-media allocation = ₹32,00,000

Actual digital-media expenditure:

= 87.5% of ₹32,00,000

= ₹28,00,000

Required ratio:

= ₹30,00,000 : ₹28,00,000

= 30 : 28

= 15 : 14

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

117. Correct Answer: (c) 75%

Actual television expenditure:

= 75% of ₹40,00,000

= ₹30,00,000

Actual digital-media expenditure:

= 87.5% of ₹32,00,000

= ₹28,00,000

Print-media allocation:

= 2 × ₹8,00,000

= ₹16,00,000

Actual print-media expenditure:

= 62.5% of ₹16,00,000

= ₹10,00,000

Outdoor-advertising allocation:

= 1 × ₹8,00,000

= ₹8,00,000

Actual outdoor-advertising expenditure:

= 50% of ₹8,00,000

= ₹4,00,000

Total actual expenditure:

= ₹30,00,000 + ₹28,00,000 + ₹10,00,000 + ₹4,00,000

= ₹72,00,000

Percentage utilised:

$$= ₹72,00,000 / ₹96,00,000 \times 100$$

$$= 75\%$$

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

118. Correct Answer: (b) 3:2

Print-media allocation = ₹16,00,000

Actual print-media expenditure = ₹10,00,000

Unspent print-media budget:

$$= ₹16,00,000 - ₹10,00,000$$

$$= ₹6,00,000$$

Outdoor-advertising allocation = ₹8,00,000

Actual outdoor expenditure = ₹4,00,000

Unspent outdoor budget:

$$= ₹8,00,000 - ₹4,00,000$$

$$= ₹4,00,000$$

Required ratio:

$$= ₹6,00,000 : ₹4,00,000$$

$$= 3 : 2$$

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

119. Correct Answer: (d) ₹1,07,20,000

Revised television allocation:

$$= ₹40,00,000 - 10\% \text{ of } ₹40,00,000$$

$$= ₹36,00,000$$

Revised digital-media allocation:

$$= ₹32,00,000 + 25\% \text{ of } ₹32,00,000$$

$$= ₹40,00,000$$

Revised print-media allocation:

$$= ₹16,00,000 + 20\% \text{ of } ₹16,00,000$$

$$= ₹19,20,000$$

Revised outdoor-advertising allocation:

$$= ₹8,00,000 + 50\% \text{ of } ₹8,00,000$$

$$= ₹12,00,000$$

Total revised budget:

$$= ₹36,00,000 + ₹40,00,000 + ₹19,20,000 + ₹12,00,000$$

$$= ₹1,07,20,000$$

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

120. Correct Answer: (a) 11.11%

Expected television expenditure:

$$= 75\% \text{ of } ₹36,00,000$$

$$= ₹27,00,000$$

Expected digital-media expenditure:

$$= 87.5\% \text{ of } ₹40,00,000$$

$$= ₹35,00,000$$

Expected print-media expenditure:

$$= 62.5\% \text{ of } ₹19,20,000$$

$$= ₹12,00,000$$

Expected outdoor-advertising expenditure:

$$= 50\% \text{ of } ₹12,00,000$$

$$= ₹6,00,000$$

Total expected expenditure:

$$= ₹27,00,000 + ₹35,00,000 + ₹12,00,000 + ₹6,00,000$$

$$= ₹80,00,000$$

Previous actual expenditure = ₹72,00,000

Increase in expenditure:

$$= ₹80,00,000 - ₹72,00,000$$

$$= ₹8,00,000$$

Percentage increase:

$$= ₹8,00,000 / ₹72,00,000 \times 100$$

$$= 11.11\%$$

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.