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T.B.C.: KMIAS-C- TP/ MOCK TEST-1

Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET
GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER – II – CSAT

A

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. **Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number and Test Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.**
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write *anything else* on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **80** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.
6. **All** items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheet for rough work is appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **Penalty for wrong answers:**
THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPER.
 - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
 - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

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Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

The arrival of artificial intelligence (AI) has produced a fallacy that writing is a mere "product" rather than an existential act of human understanding. Increasingly, students and professionals are outsourcing their cognitive labor to machines. While AI can "hallucinate" or invent details, these are predictions based on probability, not acts of imagination. A human metaphor is shaped by memory, pain, and lived experience. The danger is not that AI is becoming human, but that our definition of humanity is shrinking to resemble the mechanical logic of AI, where access to information is mistaken for the engagement of genuine thought.

1. Which of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) Large language models are functionally superior to human writers in terms of speed and metric-driven performance.
- (b) Educational institutions should legally prohibit the use of AI in essay writing to protect the tradition of thinking on paper.
- (c) The "hallucinations" of AI are an essential step toward the development of mechanical human-like imagination.
- (d) The integrity of human cognition is threatened by a technological paradigm

that prioritizes automated output over the interpretative process of understanding.

Answer (d) The integrity of human cognition is threatened by a technological paradigm that prioritizes automated output over the interpretative process of understanding.

Explanation:

Why (d) is RIGHT: This captures the central argument: the "foundation is cracking" because we are replacing the "existential act" of thinking with "outsourced cognitive labor"

Passage 2

India's linguistic landscape, with over 1,300 mother tongues, is a national strength rather than a barrier. A recent UNESCO report, *Bhasha Matters*, emphasizes that Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) is pedagogically sound and transformative. Children learn best when taught in a language they understand, which improves learning outcomes and affirms their identity and well-being. By treating linguistic diversity as a driver of equity and social cohesion, the education system can move toward a more inclusive framework that values every learner's background.

2. What is the most logical, rational and practical message conveyed by the author?

(a) English-medium education should be legally prohibited to protect India's 1,300 mother tongues.

(b) Effective educational reform requires the systemic integration of a learner's primary language into the formal pedagogical framework.

(c) All 121 constitutionally recognized languages should be made mandatory subjects in primary schools by 2027.

(d) Linguistic diversity is the primary cause of the current "learning poverty" in rural Indian districts.

Answer:(b) Effective educational reform requires the systemic integration of a learner's primary language into the formal pedagogical framework.

Explanation:

Why (b) is RIGHT: This captures the **practical solution** suggested: using the "pedagogically sound" method of mother-tongue education (integration) to improve "learning outcomes"



Passage 3

A study by IIT-Gandhinagar reveals that the Indus and Ganga river systems are moving in opposite hydrological directions. While overall flows in the Indus basin have risen by 8% over four decades due to increased precipitation, the Ganga basin has seen a 17% reduction. This decline in the Ganga is largely attributed to excessive groundwater pumping by farmers, which has depleted

aquifers and even reversed the natural flow direction. Experts suggest that these shifting trends, driven by both climate change and human use, necessitate a "re-look" at water-sharing arrangements like the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

3. Which of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage?

(a) The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty has become a redundant document due to the 8% increase in Indus river flows.

(b) The long-term efficacy of transboundary water agreements is dependent on their capacity to adapt to changing ecological realities and patterns of human consumption.

(c) Groundwater extraction for agriculture is a more significant threat to South Asian water security than global climate change.

(d) The Ganga basin will experience a total cessation of flow within the next 40 years if current pumping levels continue.

Answer:(b)The long-term efficacy of transboundary water agreements is dependent on their capacity to adapt to changing ecological realities and patterns of human consumption.

Explanation:

Why (b) is RIGHT: The passage notes that changes in flows and human use "necessitate a re-look" at the treaty. The **inference** is that for a treaty to remain effective (efficacy), it must be able to change/adapt to these new "realities" (climate/consumption).

Common Trap: (c) is a value judgment; the text says *both* climate and human use are drivers, not that one is definitively "more significant."

Passage 4

India has asked its banks to bear risks that, in more mature systems, are priced and distributed through markets. While the government bond market is deep, the corporate bond market remains shallow—barely 15%-16% of GDP. This forces banks to carry roughly 60%-65% of all non-financial corporate debt. Banks, funded by short-term deposits, are thus expected to finance long-term infrastructure projects like ports and power plants. This mismatch in duration forces extreme "maturity transformation," making the system fragile. The 2026 Budget's push for corporate bond market-making and Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Funds is an attempt to move risk away from banks and into markets.

4. Which of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage?

- (a) High-quality corporate governance is the only factor required to prevent the accumulation of non-performing assets in Indian banks.
- (b) Public sector bank recapitalizations are an effective long-term solution for stabilizing the Indian infrastructure sector.
- (c) Developing the corporate bond market will automatically eliminate the need for the Reserve Bank of India to regulate short-term liquidity.

(d) The resilience of a national financial system is dependent on its capacity to decouple long-term credit exposure from the balance sheets of commercial banks.

Answer:(d)The resilience of a national financial system is dependent on its capacity to decouple long-term credit exposure from the balance sheets of commercial banks.

Explanation:

Why (d) is RIGHT: The author highlights that the current system is "fragile" because banks are the "default warehouse for risk" due to a "mismatch in duration". The inference is that to achieve stability (resilience), this risk must be moved to markets (decoupled from banks).

Passage 5

The Supreme Court has directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to consider mandatory front-of-package warning labels on food high in sugar, salt, and fat. Evidence associates these additives with an epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, which affects 11.4% of India's population. While the industry proposes an "Indian Nutrition Rating" model, health advocates argue it must align with globally accepted standards. The Court's intervention underscores that the right to health includes the right of consumers to make informed choices through clear disclosures.

5. Which of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage?

(a) indigenous nutrition models are inherently inferior to global standards for Indian dietary habits.

(b) The achievement of public health objectives is contingent upon a regulatory environment that prioritizes consumer awareness over industrial branding preferences.

(c) Total eradication of ultra-processed food is the primary goal of the Supreme Court's February 2026 intervention.

(d) Mandatory labelling will result in an immediate 11.4% reduction in the national rate of diabetes by 2027.

Answer: (b) The achievement of public health objectives is contingent upon a regulatory environment that prioritizes consumer awareness over industrial branding preferences.

Explanation :

Why (b) is RIGHT: The author links "front-of-package labelling" (awareness) to "stemming the tide" of NCDs (health objectives) despite industry contention. The inference is that awareness must take precedence over branding/marketing.

6. Which fraction amongst the following is the lowest fraction

$$\frac{15}{26}, \frac{14}{25}, \frac{13}{22}, \frac{12}{21} ?$$

(a) $\frac{15}{26}$

(b) $\frac{14}{25}$

(c) $\frac{13}{22}$

(d) $\frac{12}{21}$

Answer : (b) $\frac{14}{25}$

7. A question is given followed by two statements I and II. Consider the question and the statements:

Question: Is 4 opposite 2?

Statement I: Face 4 is adjacent to faces 1 and 3.

Statement II: Face 2 is adjacent to faces 3 and 5.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above question and the statements?

(a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.

(c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together.

8. A question is given followed by two Statements I and II. Consider the Question and the Statements and mark the correct option.

Question: What is the smallest 2-digit number having exactly 6 distinct factors?

Statement I: 2 is one of the factors.

Statement II: 3 is one of the factors.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

- (a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.
- (b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.
- (c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statements together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.
- (d) The Question can be answered even without using any of the Statements.**

Ans: (d) The Question can be answered even without using any of the Statements.

[11, 13, 17, 19 these are Prime Number have only 2 factors

16 is a square number, hence the number of factors is odd.

$14 = 7 * 2 = 4$ factors

$15 = 5 * 3 = 4$ factors

$12 = 2^2 * 3 = 6$ factors

$18 = 3^2 * 2 = 6$ factors

$20 = 2^2 * 5 = 6$ factors

9. In a company, the average monthly income of all 90 employees is ₹15,000. If the number of senior staff is three times the number of junior staff, what is the average income of the junior staff?

- (a) Rs. 16000
- (b) Rs. 18000
- (c) Rs. 12000
- (d) Can't be determined**

10. In a class, the average score of girls in an examination is 73 and that of boys is 71. The average score of the whole class is 71.8. The percentage of Boys in the class is:

- (a) 30
- (b) 40
- (c) 50
- (d) 60**

11. A delivery van starts from point P and travels 10 km north to reach point Q. From Q, it moves 6 km east to reach point R, then 10 km south to reach point S, and finally 4 km east to reach point T. Where is point T located with respect to point P?

- (a) 4 km east
- (b) 6 km east
- (c) 10 km east**
- (d) 12 km east

12. Through how many degrees does the hour hand in a clock move as the time changes from 3h and 12 min to 6h?

- (a) 105°
- (b) 99°
- (c) 90°
- (d) 84°**

13. How many 6-digit numbers have at least 1 even digit?

- (a) 884375**
- (b) 3600
- (c) 880775
- (d) 15624

All six digit numbers – Six digit numbers with only odd digits.

$$= 900000 - 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 = 884375$$

14. Consider the following :

Value-I: The average of all even numbers from 1 to 20.

Value-II: The average of all odd numbers from 1 to 21.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Value-I = Value-II**
- (b) Value-I < Value-II
- (c) Value-I > Value-II
- (d) Value-I = Value-II + 1

15. The grandfather's age is 4 years more than nine times the age of the grandson. Grandmother is 5 years younger than his husband. The father's age of 40 years is 2 years less than six times the age of his son. Then find the age of the grandmother?

- (a) 60
- (b) 62**
- (c) 70
- (d) 67

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

Across the farmlands of Karnataka stand overlooked Hoysala-era temples and shrines that once formed the spiritual fabric of a medieval kingdom. These monuments reveal a signature blend of devotion and sculptural mastery, exemplified by star-shaped platforms and quiet stepwells like the 12th-century Hulikere Kalyani. This water architecture, built below ground level, includes shrines symbolically linked to the zodiac and the 27 *nakshatras*. Such structures suggest that the Hoysala imagination was not merely interested in aesthetic display but sought to weave cosmological beliefs into the very stone of the public and spiritual landscape.

16. What is the most logical, rational and practical message conveyed by the author?

- (a) Ancient water architecture like the Hulikere Kalyani is a superior method of modern groundwater management.
- (b) Hoysala-era temples in Hassan and Mandya should be converted into modern astronomical observatories.
- (c) The cultural value of historical monuments lies in their capacity to reflect the complex integration of spiritual, cosmological, and artistic visions.
- (d) The 12th-century sculptural mastery of the Hoysala dynasty is the only factor that differentiates it from other medieval Indian kingdoms.

Answer:(c)The cultural value of historical monuments lies in their capacity to reflect the complex integration of spiritual, cosmological, and artistic visions.

Explanation for Aspirants:

Why (c) is RIGHT: The author emphasizes that the architecture (stepwells/temples) was "symbolically linked" to the "zodiac" and "cosmology," representing a "blend of devotion and mastery". The message is that these monuments are a **reflection of that complex integration.**

Passage 2

Brazilian President Lula has questioned why nations like India, Brazil, Germany, and Nigeria are not permanent members of the UN Security Council. He observed that while the UN is capable of "making a diagnosis," it

lacks the "capability to prescribe medication or do the treatment." This suggests that the current structure of the UN today does not have much efficacy. Reform is needed to ensure the organization can move beyond identifying global problems to actively resolving them through more representative leadership.

17. What is the most logical, rational and practical message conveyed by the author?

- (a) The functional effectiveness of global governance institutions is contingent upon aligning their power structures with contemporary demographic and economic realities.
- (b) The UN Security Council should be abolished and replaced by regional issue-based coalitions.
- (c) India should wait for a "diagnosis" from the UN before entering into any further bilateral trade deals.
- (d) Permanent membership in the UNSC is a prerequisite for a nation to achieve a \$1 trillion export target by 2030.

Answer:(a)The functional effectiveness of global governance institutions is contingent upon aligning their power structures with contemporary demographic and economic realities.

Explanation:

Why (a) is RIGHT: This follows the "Message/Solution" logic of CSAT. The passage links the "lack of efficacy" to the current unrepresentative structure (missing India/Brazil). The message is that for the UN to be "effective" (do the treatment), it must **realign its structure**

with "realities" (represented by nations like India with 1.4 billion people).

Passage 3

The narrative of India as the "world's back office" is being retired. By 2026, India has transformed into a strategic-nerve-centre for the global corporate elite through Global Capability Centres (GCCs). Unlike the earlier "captive centres" that focused on cost-cutting and repetitive tasks, modern GCCs are sophisticated hubs that define the future of parent companies. They function as "global growth engines" and "brain trusts," providing engineering talent and assembly capacity. However, this transition faces challenges, including talent gaps, evolving cyber threats, and fiscal pressures.

18. Which of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) India must reduce its corporate tax rates to remain the primary destination for Global Capability Centres.
- (b) The evolution of India's service sector represents a qualitative shift from low-end labor arbitrage to high-value strategic partnership in the global economy.
- (c) Talent gaps in the Indian IT sector are the only factor preventing India from overtaking China in manufacturing.
- (d) GCCs are structurally identical to the outsourcing firms of the 1990s but operate with higher profit margins.

Answer:(b)The evolution of India's service sector represents a qualitative shift from low-end labor arbitrage to high-value strategic partnership in the

global economy.

Explanation:

Why (b) is RIGHT: This captures the **essential transition** (crux) described: moving from "back office" (labor arbitrage/cost-cutting) to a "global brain trust" (strategic partnership/growth engine).

Passage 4

The dairy sector in Chittoor is at a crossroads following the collapse of the cooperative union nearly two decades ago. The closure of Vijaya Dairy shattered an ecosystem that offered stable prices and collective bargaining power, allowing private dairies and commission agents to dominate procurement. Today, women-led Bulk Milk Chilling Units (BMCUs) have demonstrated how decentralized institutions can stabilize incomes. However, these units face funding constraints and fodder shortages. For a true "white revolution" to occur, the multi-pronged strategy of the government must bridge the gap between small-scale production and assured, fair market access.

19. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

- 1. The stability of a primary sector depends as much on the institutional framework of procurement as on the volume of production.
- 2. Private market players are inherently incapable of providing fair prices to small and marginal farmers in the absence of a cooperative competitor.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(a) 1 only

Explanation:

Why (a) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the author links the "crossroads" of the sector specifically to the "closure of the union" which shattered the "ecosystem" of "bargaining power," implying the institution is the key variable.

Why (2) is WRONG: This is an **extreme assumption**. The passage says private players "dominate" and prices "vary," but it doesn't assume they are "inherently incapable" of fairness—just that the *closure of the cooperative* removed the bargaining power that *ensured* fairness

Passage 5

The global transition to a green economy is currently a race for raw material security. While many nations have identified vast reserves of lithium and cobalt, the real bottleneck lies in the "processing capability." Raw ore is of little strategic use if a nation lacks the industrial infrastructure to refine it into high-purity battery-grade materials. Currently, China controls over 80% of the world's refining capacity. Exporting raw ore to be processed elsewhere and then re-importing the finished product creates a "value-added deficit." For a sovereign nation, true green security is not merely the possession of

geological deposits but the ownership of the entire refining value chain.

20. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. Geological abundance of strategic minerals is a sufficient condition for achieving national energy security.
2. The economic value of refined minerals is significantly higher than that of raw mineral ores.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(b) 2 only

Explanation:

Why (b) is RIGHT: The author's argument regarding the "value-added deficit" and the "race for refining" **assumes** that the refining process adds significant economic and strategic value. If refined ore were not more valuable than raw ore, the "race" would be meaningless.

Why (1) is WRONG: This is an **extreme statement**. The passage explicitly states that reserves are "of little strategic use" without refining capacity, meaning reserves are *necessary* but *not sufficient*.

21. When a certain number is multiplied by 7, the product entirely comprises ones only (1111...). What is the smallest such number?

- (a) 15713
- (b) 15723
- (c) 15783
- (d) 15873**

22. Consider the following statements and a question:

Question: Is $(P^2 - Q^2)$ an even number?

Statement I: The value of $(P + Q)$ is an even number.

Statement II: The value of $(P - Q)$ is an odd number.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Statements and the Question?

- (a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.
- (b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.**
- (c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.
- (d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together.

23. Find the unit digit of the expression:
 $892^{9234!} + 286^{92} + 763^{235!} + 9697^{99}$

- (a) 0
- (b) 7
- (c) 6**
- (d) 5

$$[6 + 6 + 1 + 3 = 16]$$

24. A dairy farmer named Ajith Kumar has a 40 litre can of mixture containing milk and water in the ratio 3 : 1. He wants to make the mixture a little lighter by adding some water so that the final ratio of milk to water becomes 3 : 2. Can you help Ajith Kumar find out how much water he should add?

- (a) 5 L
- (b) 10 L**
- (c) 12 L
- (d) 20 L

25. The transportation cost charged by a shipping company is proportional to the square root of the distance and proportional to the volume of the parcel. If the distance is increased to 4 times, how much volume of the parcel can be transported with the same cost?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 50%**
- (c) 66%
- (d) 75%

26. A student was asked by his teacher to multiply a certain number by 25. However, by mistake, he multiplied the same number by 52 instead. When he checked his result, he realized that his answer was 324 more than the correct answer. Curious to know the original number, he wondered: what was the number he was supposed to multiply?

- (a) 12
- (b) 15
- (c) 25
- (d) 32

27. Find the odd one out from the given set of numbers.

109, 262, 316, 541, 643, 811

- (a) 262
- (b) 541
- (c) 811
- (d) 643

28. If the 15th of June 2023 was a Thursday, what day of the week was the 15th of June 1995?

- (a) Wednesday
- (b) Thursday
- (c) Friday
- (d) Tuesday

29. Three pipes A, B and C can fill a tank in 6 hours. When the tank was empty, all the three pipes were turned on and they worked together for 2 hours, at that instant, pipe C was closed and the pipes A and B continued to work to fill the tank. It took a total of 7 hours from start to fill the tank this way. If pipe C alone is working from the start, the time it takes will be

- (a) 10 hours
- (b) 14 hours
- (c) 30 hours
- (d) 45 hours

$$[A+B+C = 6\text{Hr}]$$

$$A+B = 5\text{ Hr worked}$$

$$A+B+C = 2\text{hr worked}$$

$$\text{Take work done is } 30]$$

30. If $x + y = 6$ where x, y are integers, then what is the maximum value of $x^2 + y^2$?

- (a) 18
- (b) 20
- (c) 26
- (d) Cannot be determined due to insufficient data

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

Beginning in the 1990s and 2000s, various tests began to show a global decline in IQ scores, a phenomenon that scientists dubbed the "Reverse Flynn Effect". While there is ongoing debate about the extent of this "dumbing down", most researchers do agree that the explosion in information technology—television, Internet, social media—has created a social environment that does not stimulate cognitive growth. Fast forward to the 2020s, and we end up with "brain rot", defining both cause and effect: the relentless rise in garbage content as well as the shrivelling of grey cells that consume only that. Content is no longer about getting clicks; the algorithm gods demand that emotions and reactions be manipulated to create endless loops of engagement. Outrage sparks engagement, algorithms amplify it, and constant exposure leaves us mentally exhausted.

31. Which of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage above?

(a) Information technology is inherently designed to reduce human intelligence scores globally.

(b) The current digital ecosystem prioritizes algorithmic engagement over the cognitive development of its users.

(c) The "Reverse Flynn Effect" is a direct and sole consequence of the rise of AI-produced "slop."

(d) Cognitive decline can be reversed by simply switching from social media to traditional forms of entertainment.

Answer: (b) The current digital ecosystem prioritizes algorithmic engagement over the cognitive development of its users.

Explanation: The passage explicitly states that the explosion in IT has created an environment that "does not stimulate cognitive growth" and that content is driven by "algorithm gods" demanding emotional manipulation for engagement. Option (a) is too extreme ("inherently designed to reduce"); option (c) overstates AI's role as the "sole" cause; and option (d) provides a solution not discussed in the text.

Passage 2

India's air pollution crisis is more an issue of political economy than of science or technical capabilities. The polity is conditioned to use legacy frameworks that underpin growth at all costs, extractive contracts, and maximization of financial metrics as the route to development. These models propounded limitless growth and assumed access to unlimited resources. In the judicial activism of the 1990s, the framing of air pollution was simpler—visible emissions from factory chimneys—and a court order was thought to have "tamed the beast". Today, the

intersectionality of air pollution covers every aspect of the state's relationship with its citizens: urban planning, governance, industry, and capital allocation.

32. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

(a) Judicial intervention is the only effective way to resolve the modern air pollution crisis.

(b) Technical capabilities in India are currently insufficient to meet WHO air quality standards.

(c) Resolving air pollution requires a fundamental shift away from economic models that prioritize growth over ecological constraints.

(d) The air pollution crisis in India is primarily a localized issue centered in Delhi and the NCR.

Answer: (c) Resolving air pollution requires a fundamental shift away from economic models that prioritize growth over ecological constraints.

Explanation: The passage emphasizes that the "road map lies buried" because the polity uses "legacy frameworks" of "growth at all costs". It suggests that the crisis is a "bill falling due" for an economic model that ignores resource constraints. Option (a) is contradicted by the text's skepticism of modern judicial limits; option (b) is contradicted by the statement that it is more about political economy than technical capability; and option (d) is explicitly rejected in the source

Passage 3

Under the VB-GRAMG (the replacement for MGNREGA), a new 60:40 ratio has been introduced, mandating that State governments pay 40 per cent of the costs of the scheme. Under the previous MGNREGA, the Central government paid 100 per cent of the wage component. By mandating this contribution by law, the Centre overrides its constitutional obligation under Article 258 of having to obtain prior agreement and consent before imposing a programme that requires the State to allocate resources. This precedent could allow the Centre to mandate similar contributions for other centrally sponsored schemes, potentially tearing apart the already stretched ecosystem of fiscal federalism.

33. Which one of the following is the most logical corollary to the passage?

(a) The repeal of MGNREGA will lead to an immediate increase in the statutory minimum wage across all states.

(b) Increasing the financial burden on states for central schemes may undermine their autonomy and disrupt the balance of power between the Centre and States.

(c) The VB-GRAMG is a more democratic framework because it requires states to be more financially invested in rural development.

(d) The transition to VB-GRAMG will ensure that only the most backward states receive funding for rural employment.

Answer: (b) Increasing the financial burden on states for central schemes may undermine their autonomy and

disrupt the balance of power between the Centre and States.

Explanation: The passage warns that the 60:40 ratio has "implications... well beyond this Act" and could "tear apart" the "ecosystem of fiscal federalism". This directly supports the idea of undermined autonomy and disrupted balance. Option (a) is not mentioned; option (c) is contradicted by the author's view that the process was "undemocratic"; and option (d) is not a conclusion drawn in the text.

Passage 4

While a sweeping electoral victory often makes electoral success an end in itself, it can invisibilise urgent socio-economic issues such as precarity, joblessness, and low human development. Understanding the outcome requires deconstructing the ecosystem in which it occurred, as parsing data alone without context is misleading. Critical factors include the Election Commission's refusal to share video footage or machine-readable data despite serious charges of voter discrepancies. Additionally, the control of mass media by a corporate-government nexus and the enormous financial advantage of a single party create an uneven playing field. Finally, judicial lapses that allow rushed and convoluted revisions of electoral rolls to proceed despite constitutional challenges suggest a deeper institutional collapse. Without a demand for electoral transparency, there is a risk of reducing democratic exercises to a nominal drill while moving toward authoritarianism.

34. Which of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage above?

(a) Large-scale voter duplication and financial superiority are the only reasons for the incumbent's victory.

(b) The focus on electoral data analysis is more important than examining the ambient factors of a campaign.

(c) The survival of a genuine democracy depends on the transparency and independent functioning of its regulatory and judicial institutions.

(d) Media control by the state is a necessary component for ensuring political stability in developing regions.

Answer: (c) The survival of a genuine democracy depends on the transparency and independent functioning of its regulatory and judicial institutions.

Explanation: The passage emphasizes that ignoring the "ecosystem" (institutions like the ECI and Judiciary) makes data analysis "misleading". It specifically highlights "institutional collapse" and "judicial lapses" as threats that could reduce elections to a "nominal drill" and lead to "authoritarianism". This directly supports the idea that **institutional transparency is vital for democratic survival**. Option (a) is too narrow; option (b) is the opposite of the author's claim; and option (d) is contradicted by the text's critique of media control.

Passage 5

The implementation of a two-child norm in several Indian states is often coercion dressed up as population control, primarily targeting the poor. Studies have concluded there is little evidence that such restrictive measures actually encourage couples to choose smaller families. Instead, unintended outcomes of these policies are often more serious than the issues they aim to solve. The Union government has formally stated its opposition to involuntary family planning, asserting that the programme is **voluntary in nature** and based on the principle of informed choice. Coercive fertility decisions violate the human rights of marginalized sections and the rights of the child. Real success in lowering fertility stems from educated thinking, incentivizing hospital deliveries, and delaying pregnancies rather than "public drama" or restrictive legislation.

35. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) Restrictive population laws are necessary to prevent a "population explosion" in developing states.
- (b) The two-child norm is an effective tool for social engineering when applied to government employees.
- (c) Sustainable population stabilization is achieved through voluntary, health-oriented incentives rather than coercive state mandates.
- (d) State governments should have the autonomy to override Union government affidavits on matters of family planning.

Answer: (c) Sustainable population stabilization is achieved through voluntary, health-oriented incentives rather than coercive state mandates.

Explanation: The passage argues that coercive policies are "retrograde" and "at variance" with successful voluntary models like the National Rural Health Mission. It explicitly states that success comes from "educated thinking" and **voluntary strategies**. Option (a) is the "alarmist narrative" the author suggests moving away from. Option (b) is rejected by the text calling such policies "violence against the poor". Option (d) is not discussed.

36. Two cyclists start together from the same point and move in the same direction around a circular track of 1.2 km. One completes a round in 6 minutes, the other in 8 minutes. After how many minutes will they meet again at the starting point?

- (a) 18
- (b) 20
- (c) 24**
- (d) 48

37. A child collects 26 pebbles placed in a straight line. The first pebble is 3 m from the start, and each next pebble is 3 m apart. He picks one pebble at a time, runs back to the start, and drops it in the bucket. What is the total distance run?

- (a) 2108
- (b) 2106**
- (c) 1053
- (d) 1054

Ans: $26 * (78+3)/2 = 1053 * 2 = 2106$

38. The average weight of a class is 20 kg. If the strength of the class is increased by 25%, then the average weight of the class gets increased by 1%. What is the average weight of the additional students?

- (a) 20.50 kg
- (b) 21.00 kg**
- (c) 21.50 kg
- (d) 22.00 kg

Let assume total number of student as 100

39. 100 quintals is what percent of 10 metric tonnes?

- (a) 1%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 100%**
- (d) 1000%

[1 Qunital = 100 Kg

100 Qunital = 10000 Kg

1 metric tonnes = 1000 Kg

10 metric tonnes = 10000 Kg]

40. Consider the following including the Question and the Statements:

Question: How is X related to Y?

Statement I: X has a son, A.

Statement II: A's father is the brother of Y.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Question and the Statements?

(a) The Question can be answered by using one of the Statements alone, but cannot be

answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The Question can be answered by using either Statement alone.

(c) The Question can be answered by using both the Statements together, but cannot be answered using either Statement alone.

(d) The Question cannot be answered even using any of the Statements.

41. A rod with circular cross-section of radius 5 mm is stretched such that its cross-section remains circular. If after stretching the rod its length becomes four times the original length, then what is the radius of the new cross-section?

- (a) 1.5 mm
- (b) 2.0 mm
- (c) 2.5 mm**
- (d) 3.0 mm

42. A certain project can be completed by men or women working alone or together. Consider the question and the statements:

Question: In how many days will 6 men and 9 women working together finish the project?

Statement I: 10 men can finish the project in 30 days.

Statement II: 15 women can finish the same project in 30 days.

(a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.

(c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together.

43. Select the combination of letters that when sequentially placed in the gaps of the given letter series will complete the series.

abc_dab__d_b_cdab_c_

- (a) ccaacdc
- (b) acacdcc
- (c) cacacdc
- (d) **cccaccd**

[Cccaccd]

44. Five friends A, B, C, D, and E are sitting on a bench. The following conditions are given:

1. E is sitting at the left end of the bench.
2. C is sitting second from the right.
3. A is sitting to the right of both B and E.
4. A is sitting next to B.
5. C is sitting next to D, but D is not next to E.
6. A and C are sitting together.

Based on these conditions, between which two friends is A sitting?

- (a) Between B and D
- (b) **Between B and C**
- (c) Between E and D
- (d) Between C and E

45. Consider the following :

Value-I: The number of integers between 100 and 200 that are divisible by both 3 and 7.

Value-II: The number of integers between 101 and 201 that are divisible by 21.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Value-I > Value-II
- (b) Value-I < Value-II
- (c) **Value-I = Value-II**
- (d) Cannot be determined due to insufficient data

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

Mumbai's recent sewer line collapse in a "redeveloped" commercial hub highlights a fundamental flaw in urban planning. The city has prioritized "visible infrastructure"—flyovers, coastal roads, and glass-fronted offices—while the subsurface systems remain over a century old. Urban modernization is often treated as an exercise in aesthetics rather than an audit of systemic integrity. When subsurface infrastructure fails, it is not just a logistical delay but a public health catastrophe. Until the Smart Cities Mission shifts its focus from "digital dashboards" to the "physical arteries" of waste and water management, our cities will remain

vulnerable to localized collapses that no amount of surface-level beautification can mitigate.

46. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Surface-level urban modernization is an inadequate measure of a city's overall safety and resilience.
2. The digital monitoring of cities is secondary to the physical maintenance of basic utility networks.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is the bedrock of the author's critique—that visible success masks systemic failure.

Statement 2 is valid because the author explicitly states that cities will remain vulnerable "until the focus shifts" from digital dashboards (monitoring) to physical arteries (maintenance)

Passage 2

The term "water bankruptcy" describes a mismatch between available water and the water being demanded. While water scarcity may refer to natural lack or poor infrastructure, and a crisis represents a temporary shock, "bankruptcy" refers to a

state of failure occurring after the crisis. This failure happens because we have consumed more water than is available for too long, damaging ecosystems. Our "checking account"—surface water—is empty, and our "savings account"—groundwater—has been drained. To manage this "new normal," we must move beyond taking "loans" or "stealing" from nature, which leads to systemic collapse including land subsidence, sinkholes, and biodiversity loss.

47. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Traditional water management strategies are based on a flawed premise that water is an infinite or rapidly renewable resource.
2. The environmental consequences of water over-extraction, such as sinkholes, are irreversible indicators of systemic failure.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the author's entire analogy of "checking" and "savings" accounts, and the warning against "stealing from nature," rests on the premise that current systems treat water as if it doesn't

have a finite limit. **Statement 2** is valid because the author defines "bankruptcy" as a state that happens *after* a crisis where we no longer know how to "physically bring back some systems," specifically citing land subsidence as an example.

Passage 3

For the technology sector, 2025 was a year of reckoning. While India's startups focused heavily on food and grocery delivery services, China remained intent on electric vehicles, AI, global logistics, and trade. The journey of discovery in AI and advanced avionics provided a harsh learning experience for both Indian innovators and the government. More so for the government, which has wasted precious time promoting the glories of a "mythical past" rather than cracking modern sciences. This adolescent state of technology development has prompted India to seek global cooperation to address its core deficiencies in high-tech programming.

48. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. Strategic focus on high-end industrial technology is a more critical determinant of national power than consumer-service startups.
2. A nation's cultural narrative regarding its historical scientific achievements can impede its current technological progress.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: **Statement 1** is a valid assumption because the author's entire critique of India's "grocery delivery" focus vs. China's "AI/EV" focus **assumes** that the latter is more important for "coming of age" and national standing. **Statement 2** is valid because the author explicitly states that the government "wasted precious time" promoting a "mythical past," implying that this behavior has a negative impact on modern innovation

Passage 4

While India's growth remains strong relative to global standards, this projected confidence rests on a partial reading of aggregate data. A closer look suggests growth is being underwritten by households that are saving less and borrowing more. Recent shifts in fiscal policy have prioritized capital expenditure while limiting revenue expenditure, effectively transferring risk from the State to the household. As governments invest in infrastructure, households are implicitly asked to insure themselves against short-term income volatility. This reallocation of risk creates a macro-risk "hiding in plain sight," where consumption is sustained on thinner financial cushions.

49. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Aggregate markers of economic growth, such as GDP, can obscure the increasing financial precarity of individual households.
2. The stability of private consumption is a more reliable indicator of long-term economic health than the level of household debt.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(a)1 only

Explanation:

Why (1) is RIGHT: This is the bedrock of the entire piece. The author argues that "macroeconomic comfort" is a "misleading comfort" because it "veils a deeper, more unsettling reality" of household debt.

Why (2) is WRONG: The author actually argues the opposite—that consumption sustained by debt is a "danger" and is "not self-sustaining". Therefore, the author does *not* assume consumption is more reliable than debt levels; they view the **interaction** of the two as the risk

Passage 5

The SHANTI Act, 2025, represents a paradigmatic shift in India's civil nuclear governance, repealing the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. Supporters argue it enhances energy security and meets climate commitments, but critics highlight a redistribution of nuclear risk that remains unaddressed. By transitioning from a state-led precautionary approach to a market-driven model, the Act views nuclear power as an investment opportunity influenced by private sector involvement. This sustainability regime is critiqued for focusing on emission metrics while neglecting the fair distribution of risk and public confidence in regulatory bodies.

50. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. A market-driven model for nuclear energy is inherently less concerned with local risk distribution than a state-led model.
2. Greenhouse gas emission reduction is an inadequate standalone metric for defining a sustainable nuclear legal regime.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the author contrasts the new "market-driven" model against the "precautionary" state approach and claims the new Act fails to address the "distribution of risk". This implies the market model prioritizes investment over the previous precautionary safeguards. **Statement 2** is valid as the text explicitly states "sustainability involves more than simply measuring how much greenhouse gas is being emitted".

Why others are WRONG: "Systemic Philosophies." Options that ignore the author's critique of the "market-driven" shift would fail to capture the underlying logic.

51. A question is given followed by two statements I and II. Consider the question and the statements:

Three items P, Q, R cost a total of Rs. 150. Item R is the least expensive and costs Rs.20.

Question: How much does Q cost?

Statement I: P is double the cost of R. ($P = 2R$)

Statement II: $P + Q = \text{Rs. } 130$.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above question and the statements?

(a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.

(c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together.

[Statement I: P is double the cost of R. ($P = 2R$)

Statement II: $P + Q = \text{Rs. } 130$.

Statement 1 alone sufficient to answer this question]

52. Consider the following statements in respect of the sum $S = x + y + z$, where x, y and z are distinct prime numbers each less than 10 :

1. The unit digit of S can be 2.
2. The unit digit of S can be 4.
3. The unit digit of S can be 6.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only**
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

$$[2 + 3 + 5 = 10 \rightarrow 0$$

$$2 + 3 + 7 = 12 \rightarrow 2$$

$$2 + 5 + 7 = 14 \rightarrow 4$$

$$3 + 5 + 7 = 15 \rightarrow 5]$$

53. A number has 3 trailing zeros. Multiplying it by 5^2 increases trailing zeros by 2. What is the minimum number of 2s in the original number?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5**

54. A man spends $\frac{2}{5}$ of his salary on groceries and $\frac{3}{10}$ of the remaining on his clothes. If he saves ₹10,500, his monthly salary will be

- (a) ₹30,000
- (b) ₹15,000
- (c) ₹20,000
- (d) ₹25,000**

[Take the total salary as 100.

$$\frac{2}{5} \text{ th of } 100 = 40$$

Remaining 60 in that $\frac{3}{10}$ th = 18

$$\text{Hence remaining will be total} = 100 - 40 - 18 = 42$$

$$42 = 10500$$

$$100 = x$$

$$X = 25000]$$

55. A traveler covers a journey in three parts. Consider the following statements:

Question: What is the average speed of the traveler for the entire journey?

Statement I: He travels the first 100 km at 20 km/h.

Statement II: He travels the next 200 km at 40 km/h and the final 150 km at 30 km/h.

Which one of the following is correct regarding the above question and statements?

(a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.

(c) The question can be answered by using both statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both statements together.

56. A secret message uses a code where $A = 1$, $B = 3$, $C = 5$, and so on, assigning consecutive odd numbers to letters. Raj is trying to decode the word GLORY to determine its total numerical value. What is the total value of GLORY?

- (a) 140
- (b) 149**
- (c) 150
- (d) 160

57. Archaeologists discover a treasure chest with a lock that requires two numbers, n and m , to be entered. The inscription says "The square of the smaller number plus 60 equals the square of the larger number". They need all possible positive integer values of n , what is the value of n ?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2**
- (c) 3
- (d) Not possible

58. What is X in the sequence: 0, 6, 24, 60, 120, 210, X?

- (a) 330
- (b) 336**
- (c) 343
- (d) 350

[Pattern: $n^3 - n$.
 $7^3 - 7 = 343 - 7$]

59. Let AB and CD be 2-digit numbers where A, B, C and D are distinct non-zero digits. If $AB \times 3 = CD4$, what is the value of $A \times C$, where c is an odd natural number?

- (a) 2
- (b) 7
- (c) 6
- (d) 5

[$58 \times 3 = 174$
 $78 \times 3 = 234$
 $A \times C = 5 \times 1 = 5$]

60. What is the remainder when $(97 + 902)^{12}$ is divided by 1000?

- (a) 0
- (b) 1**
- (c) 100
- (d) 999

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

Shaheen Bagh marked a turning point in India, where a vibrant **Muslim civil society emerged**, altering how the community relates to politics and public life. At the centre of this change is a younger, educated generation that combines faith with activism and service. This "new Muslim" is not dependent on state largesse but is guided by dignity and assertive pluralism, moving away from the inhibitions associated with minority status. Unlike the post-Enlightenment trajectory of Europe, where faith was pushed into the private sphere, this awakening keeps religion as part of public life as a resource for negotiating modernity. This shift spans grassroots relief, intellectual advocacy, and digital storytelling, creating a public sphere where marginalized groups challenge dominant structures.

61. Which one of the following is the most logical corollary to the passage?

- (a) The integration of religious identity into public activism may strengthen democratic participation by enabling marginalized groups to negotiate power on their own terms.
- (b) Educated minority youth will eventually abandon religious ethics in favor of purely secular political frameworks.
- (c) Civil society movements led by women are less likely to be perceived as a threat by dominant power structures.
- (d) Modernity in India can only be achieved if all communities adopt the European model of private faith.

Answer: (a) The integration of religious identity into public activism may strengthen democratic participation by enabling marginalized groups to negotiate power on their own terms.

Explanation: The passage describes a shift toward "assertive pluralism" and using religion as a "resource for negotiating modernity" rather than a "sign of retreat". This suggests that **integrating identity into activism** is a way for the community to "claim space" and seek "solidarity" rather than "saviours". Option (b) is contradicted by the text mentioning the use of "Islamic ethics" in social action. Option (d) is explicitly rejected by the sociologist's comparison to the European model

Passage 2

Members of the Tribal Council in Little and Great Nicobar have alleged that they are being pressured by the district administration to "surrender our ancestral lands" for a ₹92,000-crore mega-infrastructure project. The project includes forest lands where the Nicobarese lived before the 2004 tsunami. Council members argue that surrendering these lands will leave nothing for future generations, while officials have reportedly asked them to sign surrender certificates after meetings lasting only 10 minutes. The situation highlights a conflict between national strategic development and the land rights of indigenous populations.

62. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. Mega-infrastructure projects in ecologically sensitive islands are inherently incompatible with the preservation of tribal heritage.
2. The administrative process for land acquisition in Great Nicobar is currently prioritizing project speed over the informed consent of the local communities.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation :

Why (b) is RIGHT: The author's detail about the "surrender certificate" being presented in a meeting that "lasted about 10 minutes" where members were "asked to sign" immediately **assumes** that the administration is rushing the process at the expense of proper community discussion.

Why (1) is WRONG: This is an **extreme assumption**. The passage describes a *current conflict*, but it doesn't assume they are *inherently* incompatible in all cases—just that the *current approach* is causing the tribes to feel they will have "nothing for future generations".

Passage 3

The next delimitation exercise—due after Census 2027—will be the most consequential redrawing of political power since Independence. For nearly half a century, the inter-State distribution of Lok Sabha seats has remained frozen at 1971 levels so that States would not be penalised for controlling population growth. Today, fertility rates have sharply diverged: southern and western States achieved below-replacement fertility through investments in education and health, while northern States continue recording higher growth. If population alone determines representation in an expanded House, States that successfully implemented national population control goals will see their political weight diminish. This creates a moral paradox: why should States be punished for good governance?

63. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Numerical proportionality is an insufficient metric for ensuring fairness in a diverse federal structure.
2. The 1971 seat freeze was a temporary constitutional measure that has failed to align with the long-term demographic realities of 2026.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the author's entire argument—that States should not be "punished for good governance"—rests on the belief that "fairness" involves more than just counting heads (numerical proportionality). **Statement 2** is valid because the author notes the suspension "effectively expires with Census 2027" and representation currently rests on a 50-year-old reality that is vastly different from the current 1.47 billion populations

Passage 4

India's development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) must be grounded in open and interoperable systems to promote collaboration and shared innovation. This pathway aligns closely with India's strengths in human capital, data diversity, and institutional coordination. Smaller, task-specific models deployed across sectors allow innovation to diffuse more evenly, reduce entry barriers for firms, and better fit the diversity of India's economic landscape. India's demand for AI is emerging from real-world problems rather than speculative frontier uses. Across healthcare, agriculture, and public administration, there is a growing appetite for AI systems that work on local hardware and operate in low-resource settings.

64. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most critical inference that can be made from the passage above?

- (a) India's AI strategy should prioritize competing with global frontier models over domestic sector-specific applications.
- (b) The success of AI in India depends on a decentralized and collaborative framework that leverages local socio-economic diversity.
- (c) Institutional coordination is the sole factor required to overcome the entry barriers for firms in the AI sector.
- (d) Speculative frontier uses of AI are incompatible with India's strength in human capital.

Answer: (b) The success of AI in India depends on a decentralized and collaborative framework that leverages local socio-economic diversity.

Explanation: The passage explicitly states that AI development should be "grounded in open and interoperable systems" to promote collaboration and that "smaller, task-specific models" better fit India's "economic landscape" and "diversity". Option (a) is contradicted by the text; option (c) uses the extreme word "sole," which is a common distractor in UPSC papers; option (d) is an overgeneralization not supported by the text.

Passage 5

Decarbonisation roadmaps for the cement, aluminium, and MSME sectors are consistent with the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Cement production is likely to

increase sevenfold to ~2100 million tonnes in 2070. To achieve net-zero, the sector must reduce its carbon intensity through the use of refuse-derived fuels, clinker substitution, and Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). Similarly, MSMEs form the backbone of India's industrial landscape, contributing nearly 30 per cent to national GDP. The roadmap for the green transition of MSMEs focuses on energy-efficient equipment, adoption of alternative fuels, and integration of green electricity.

65. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) MSMEs are the primary contributors to carbon emissions in India's path to Viksit Bharat.
- (b) Achieving net-zero emissions requires a technological and fuel-based restructuring of India's core industrial and small-scale sectors.
- (c) Refuse-derived fuels are the most effective way to manage the sevenfold increase in cement production.
- (d) National industrial growth is inherently incompatible with the global vision of a green transition.

Answer: (b) Achieving net-zero emissions requires a technological and fuel-based restructuring of India's core industrial and small-scale sectors.

Explanation: The "crux" is the core message. The passage outlines specific technological and energy shifts (CCUS, alternative fuels, energy-efficient equipment) across both heavy

(cement/aluminium) and small-scale (MSME) sectors to align growth with decarbonisation. Option (a) is a supporting detail; option (c) is too narrow; option (d) is contradicted by the passage's focus on the "vision of Viksit Bharat"

66. If x and y are two-digit numbers such that y is obtained from x by interchanging its digits and $x - y = 36$, if $X > Y$, then How many values of X are possible?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2
- (c) 4
- (d) 5**

$$[10x+y - 10y-x = 9(x-y)=36;$$

$$(x-y) = 4$$

95, 84, 73, 62, 51.

So 5 numbers]

67. Consider the following Statements and Conclusions:

Statements:

- I. All poles are towers.
- II. No tower is a heater.
- III. All heaters are fans.

Conclusions:

- I. All poles being fans is a possibility.
- II. No fan is a pole.

Which of the above conclusions is/are drawn from the statements?

- (a) Only Conclusion-I**
- (b) Only Conclusion-II
- (c) Either Conclusion-I or Conclusion-II
- (d) Both Conclusions-I and Conclusion-II

68. Worker P can complete 15% of a project in 5 days, while Worker Q can complete 35% of the same project in 7 days. If both start working together at their respective constant rates, in how many days will they complete 60% of the project?

- (a) 8 days
- (b) 10 days
- (c) 7.5 days**
- (d) 14 days

69. How many even palindromic numbers are there between 10 and 1000?

- (a) 44**
- (b) 50
- (c) 54
- (d) 60

$$[AA = 4$$

$$ABA = 10 * 4 = 40$$

(2,4,6,8)

Hence 44 is the answer.

Consider the following for the next three (03) items that follow:

Study the following Pie Charts:

Chart-I: Number of houses: 1,20,000

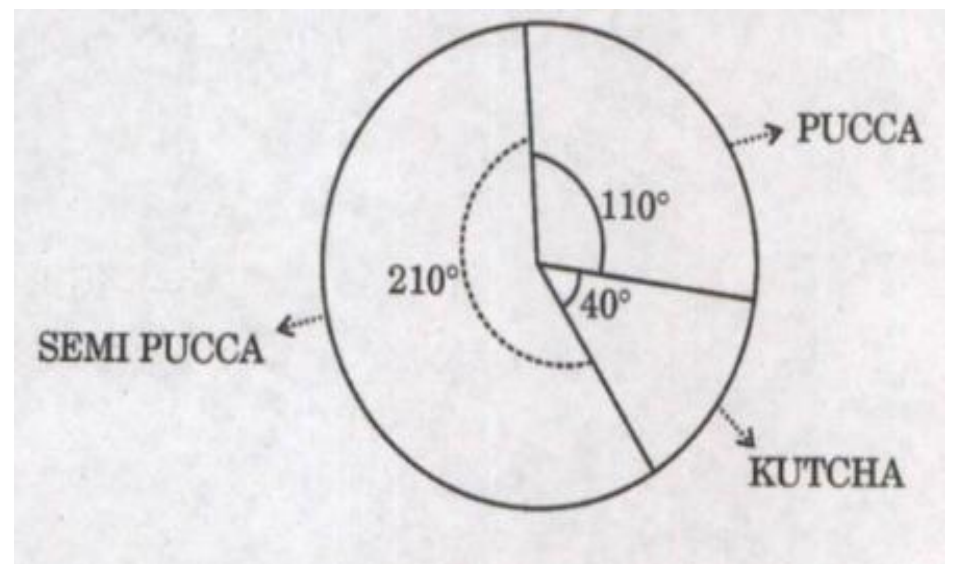


Chart-II: Population : 21,00,000

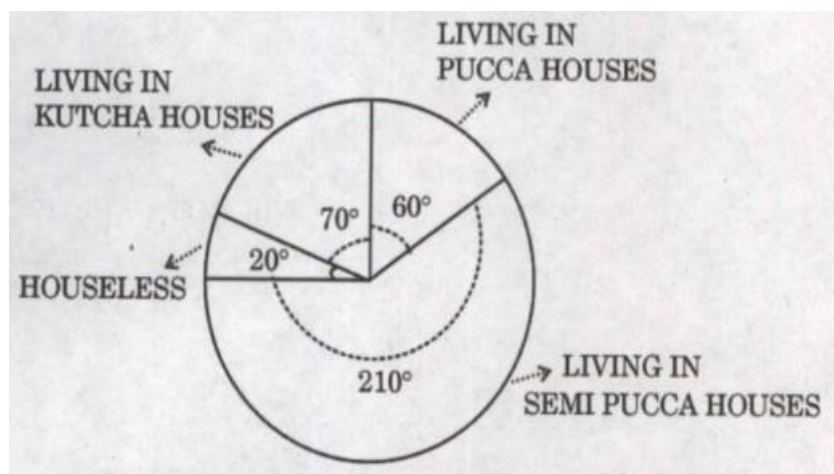
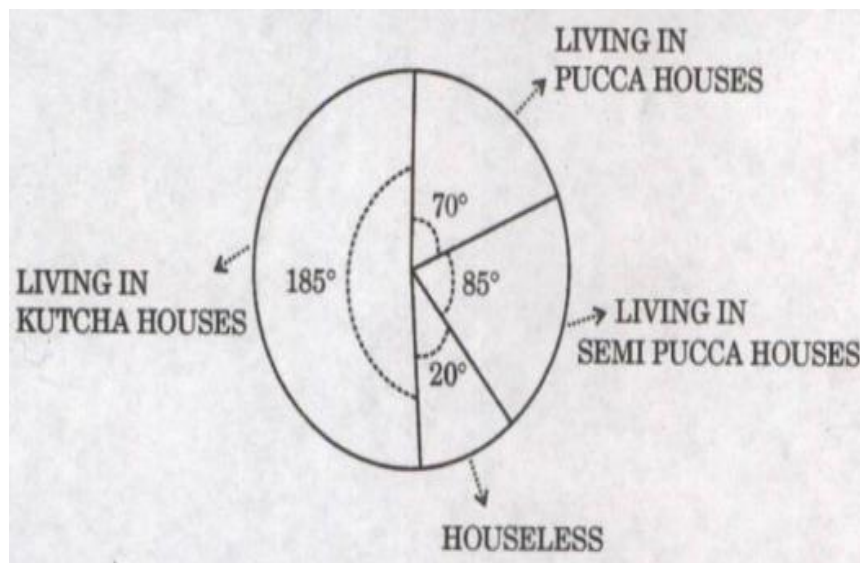


Chart-III: Number of families: 3,60,000



70. On an average, how many people live in every pucca house?

- (a) 8
- (b) 8.54
- (c) 9.54**
- (d) 7.54

71. If 5000 more Kutcha houses are built, then what will be approximate change in angle for Kutcha houses in Pie Chart-I?

- (a) 11°
- (b) 13°**
- (c) 15°
- (d) 23°

72. If 300 families from the "Houseless" category shift into Kutcha houses, what will be the average number of families in every Kutcha house?

- (a) 15
- (b) 13.9**
- (c) 12.9
- (d) 10.5

73. In a row of 40 boys, when Kushal was shifted to his left by 4 places, his place from the left end of the row became 10. What is the position of Suraj from the right end of the row, if Suraj was three places to the right of Kushal's original position?

- (a) 22
- (b) 23
- (c) 25
- (d) 24**

74. What is X in the sequence: 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 18, 29, X?

- (a) 37
- (b) 47**
- (c) 52
- (d) 58

75. The letters of the word ZOOLOGY are arranged in all possible ways. What is the probability that the consonants and vowels occur alternatively?

- (a) 6/35
- (b) 3/35
- (c) 2/35
- (d) 1/35**

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

India's education policy has shifted from an input-based focus on enrollment to an outcome-oriented focus on quality. Within this shift, school mergers and closures are used to "rationalize resources" and address the challenge of small, under-enrolled schools. However, this creates a tension with the Right to Education (RTE) mandate for neighborhood schooling within 1 km. While mergers may promote administrative efficiency, they often lead to "micro-exclusion," where travel distances and safety concerns disproportionately increase the dropout risk for girls and children in remote habitations.

76. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Standardized quality benchmarks in education are incompatible with the geographic realities of rural and marginalized communities.
2. Physical proximity to a school is a more critical determinant of access for vulnerable populations than the consolidated quality of a "model school."

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is valid because the author identifies a "critical tension" between pursuing standardized benchmarks and ensuring equitable access in "rural and marginalized areas". **Statement 2** is valid because the entire critique of mergers rests on the assumption that for the "vulnerable," the distance (the "neighborhood criterion") matters more for their ability to attend than the "efficiency" of a distant consolidated school

Passage 2

Divorce in India is frequently read as a sign of moral decline or the "failure" of marriage. However, the rise in marital dissolutions should be reframed as the success of autonomy. Marriage has historically functioned as a social institution bound by caste endogamy and patriarchal control, regulating women's sexuality and agency. Reinterpreting divorce as a marker of dignity allows for a new understanding of marriage founded on reciprocity and care rather than "endurance at all costs". Realized justice requires reforms that ensure predictability and security for individuals exiting coercive conjugality.

77. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. Traditional concepts of marriage in India are fundamentally aligned with the preservation of hierarchical social structures.
2. The moral worth of a social institution is determined by the degree of individual freedom it allows for its members.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: **Statement 1** is valid because the author explicitly links marriage to "maintaining social order" and "preserving caste-based endogamy". **Statement 2** is the bedrock assumption of the entire "Perspectives" piece; the author's call to revalue marriage based on "reciprocity" and "care" rather than "endurance" **assumes** that individual freedom/autonomy is the correct metric for the institution's value.

Passage 3

Centuries of selective breeding have refined the genomes of most high-value crops to be spectacular at growing in today's specific conditions. However, this process has bred out genetic variations that are not immediately useful for high yields but are essential for coping with environmental

changes. A minor disease or an unknown pathogen could suddenly rampage through a genetically honed crop. While technological evolution has endowed these crops with unique abilities to grow faster, it has simultaneously increased their vulnerability. Scientific understanding of the "wild relatives" of our present crops is now required to strengthen food security against the prevalence and virulence of future agricultural diseases.

78. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. High-yield agricultural production is fundamentally incompatible with the long-term biological survival of a crop species.
2. The current resilience of major food crops is dependent on environmental conditions remaining within a narrow, predictable range.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(b) 2 only

Explanation:

Why (b) is RIGHT: The author states that crops are "spectacular at growing in today's conditions" but have lost the variations needed for "coping with changes". This logically **assumes** that for these crops to survive/succeed, the environment must stay within that narrow "today's" range. If the range changed, the crops would fail.

Why (1) is WRONG: This is an **extreme assumption**. The passage does not say high yield *cannot* coexist with survival; it says the *way we have currently bred them* (focusing only on yield) has created a vulnerability. It suggests a solution (using wild relatives) to fix it, meaning they are not "fundamentally incompatible"

Passage 4

We take it for granted now that science has a social responsibility. However, the idea that science is a "social enterprise" is modern, beginning largely at the industrial revolution. Prior thinkers like Newton or Galileo viewed their only responsibility as telling the truth about the world as it is. Today, the history of science is effectively the history of mankind, and it cannot be divorced from the convenience or the horrors (like war) that it enables. In spite of countless opportunities for improvement, the present period is dominated by international conflict. This raises the question: is the misuse of science an inevitable result of progress, or does the fault lie in the institutional frameworks governing scientific application?

79. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The ethical neutrality of individual scientists is sufficient to prevent the destructive application of their discoveries.
2. The definition of a scientist's "responsibility" has shifted from a purely descriptive role to a normative social one.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(b) 2 only

Explanation:

Why (b) is RIGHT: The passage explicitly contrasts the "only responsibility" of early scientists (telling the truth/descriptive) with the modern view that science is a "social enterprise" linked to "social responsibility" (normative). The argument rests on this **assumption** of a historical shift in the definition of responsibility.

Why (1) is WRONG: The passage suggests the opposite. By pointing out the "horrors of war" and asking if the fault lies in "institutional frameworks," the author implies that individual truth-seeking (ethical neutrality) is **not** sufficient to prevent misuse

Passage 5

The Supreme Court, while rejecting a judge's challenge to a removal inquiry committee, underscored that safeguards for the judiciary cannot be allowed to paralyse the removal process itself. A balance must be struck between the protection afforded to a judge and the effective functioning of the constitutional mechanism triggered by the people's representatives. Accepting a loose interpretation of the Judges (Inquiry) Act would lead to "disabling consequences,"

pushing Parliament back to "square one" every time a notice is rejected in one House but admitted in the other. Reputational injury to an individual cannot be a ground to subvert a constitutionally sanctioned statutory process.

80. Based on the passage, the following assumption has been made:

1. The administrative efficiency of constitutional accountability mechanisms is superior to the individual rights of a public official.
2. The possibility of "reputational injury" is an inherent risk in the statutory process designed to maintain judicial integrity.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the court explicitly prioritizes the "effective functioning" of the mechanism over the judge's personal safeguards to avoid "paralysis." **Statement 2** is valid because the author states that "reputational injury... cannot be a ground to subvert" the process, assuming that such injury might occur but must be accepted to allow the "constitutionally sanctioned" process to continue.

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