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## MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25

### MOCK CLAT 20

## ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

### SECTION-A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. (b) Reference Lines: "Fast forward a couple of decades and I don't think I've slept past 7:30 in the last six months... It might even be helping me stay in shape..."

Option (a) This option simplifies the passage's nuanced discussion into a direct cause-and-effect relationship. While the author shares personal improvements and references a study, the passage presents these as part of a broader, more complex journey rather than a straightforward result of waking early. The passage suggests benefits but also hints at the individual differences and circumstances that contribute to these outcomes, making this option too direct and lacking the passage's complexity. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) This option captures the essence of the passage accurately. It acknowledges the author's personal narrative of improvement and the referenced study while understanding the broader context of these changes. The passage shows a transition that includes new job responsibilities, lifestyle changes, and personal growth, indicating that the benefits of becoming an early riser are part of a larger set of lifestyle adjustments. This option recognizes the nuanced view presented in the passage, making it the correct answer.

Option (c) misinterprets the focus of the passage. While societal norms and expectations are mentioned, especially in how society views morning routines versus late sleepers, the passage centers

more on personal experiences and potential health benefits rather than societal alignment. The author's journey and the benefits mentioned are framed as personal and health-related, not primarily about societal conformity. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) This option contradicts the passage's overall message. The narrative does not suggest that the change to becoming an early riser is superficial or without significant effects. Instead, it shares personal improvements in health and productivity, as well as a more positive outlook on life. The discussion about societal perceptions of morning routines does not diminish these personal benefits but adds another layer to the narrative. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. (c) Reference Lines: "But, although I'm frequently up before the birds and the binmen, I've never felt better... I've become one of those people who reads self-improvement books and grinds out kettlebell swings..."

Option (a) This option incorrectly characterizes the author's reflection on their routine's evolution. The passage does not express regret or longing for a less structured past. Instead, it highlights the benefits and positive changes the author has experienced since becoming an early riser. The narrative is one of improvement and adaptation, not regret. Therefore, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) misreads the tone and content of the passage. The author's narrative is not neutral but loaded with personal insights and reflections on the positive aspects of their new routine. The mention

of feeling better, reading self-improvement books, and engaging in physical exercise indicates an emotional and evaluative response to these changes, contradicting the idea of a neutral stance. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option accurately reflects the author's attitude as conveyed in the passage. The narrative shares a journey of transformation that includes adopting healthier habits and embracing the benefits of an early rise, all of which are portrayed positively. The author's satisfaction with their new lifestyle and the positive outcomes of these changes are evident, making this the correct answer.

Option (d) directly contradicts the passage's message. The author does not express skepticism about the benefits of early rising; rather, they highlight the positive effects this change has had on their life, including better health and productivity. The skepticism or questioning of the value of such a lifestyle change is not a theme in the narrative. Therefore, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

3. (e) Reference Lines "And I'm probably not alone – we're a nation that venerates the morning routine. In contrast, we often treat late sleepers with suspicion..."

Option (a) This option exaggerates the passage's discussion about societal attitudes. While it is true that the passage mentions a societal preference for morning routines, it does not claim that society universally embraces early risers as morally superior or completely disregards the benefits of late sleeping. The passage suggests a bias but does not imply an absolute disregard for the benefits of different schedules. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) misrepresents the societal perceptions described in the passage. The narrative does not indicate a nuanced societal view that values both routines equally; instead, it highlights a preference for early risers and a tendency to view late sleepers with suspicion. The passage suggests a bias rather than an understanding of individual variability in productivity. Therefore, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option correctly interprets the societal perception conveyed in the passage. It acknowledges the general veneration of morning routines and the skepticism toward late sleepers, reflecting the passage's discussion on societal attitudes. The author's observations and the contrast drawn between early risers and late sleepers support this inference, making it the correct answer.

Option (d) contradicts the information provided in the passage. The narrative does not suggest a societal shift in favor of late sleepers; rather, it indicates a preference for early risers and views late sleepers with suspicion. The passage does not discuss a recognition of the benefits of night work

by society at large. Therefore, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. (b) Reference Lines The passage discusses the author's transition from staying up late in their 20s to embracing an early morning routine in later years, highlighting the personal and societal factors influencing this shift.

Option (a) This option misinterprets the central focus of the passage. While societal perceptions of morning and late routines are mentioned, the primary narrative is about the author's personal transformation and the benefits they've experienced, not the broader power of societal expectations. The passage does touch on societal views, but this is not the main theme. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) This title accurately captures the core narrative and thematic elements of the passage. It reflects the personal journey from a late-night lifestyle to adopting an early morning routine, highlighting the positive changes the author experiences in terms of productivity and lifestyle. The passage details this evolution in the context of the author's life changes, making it the most fitting title. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) While the passage discusses societal views on morning routines, labeling the morning routine as a "myth" inaccurately represents the content. The author does not aim to debunk the value of morning routines but rather shares their personal benefits from transitioning to one. The focus is on personal evolution, not critiquing societal preferences. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Although chronotypes and their understanding play a role in the passage, particularly in the final section, this title misses the broader narrative of personal transformation and the comparison between life stages and routines. The passage is not primarily about navigating energy levels but about the author's lifestyle shift and its implications. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. (e) Reference Lines "This wasn't exactly a lifestyle change I made by choice. But, although I'm frequently up before the birds and the bunnies, I've never felt better."

Option (a) This option does not align with the passage's content, which illustrates the author's positive reception to their lifestyle change and its beneficial impact on health, productivity, and overall well-being. The passage emphasizes the tangible benefits of adjusting sleep patterns, contradicting the notion of such changes being superficial. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) While the passage acknowledges that certain lifestyle changes were not made entirely by choice, it does not portray these changes as passive

or merely a result of aging. Instead, it emphasizes the active adaptation and the positive outcomes these changes bring about, suggesting a more proactive engagement with personal growth. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option accurately reflects the author's experiences and insights shared in the passage. It captures the essence of how the author's lifestyle changes, though not always voluntary, contributed positively to their personal development and well-being. This perspective aligns with the narrative's emphasis on the benefits of embracing an early morning routine and the broader implications for personal growth. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) The passage does not make a distinction between the effectiveness of voluntary versus involuntary lifestyle changes in contributing to personal growth. The author's experience suggests that even changes that were not entirely by choice can have a profound and positive impact, thereby challenging the premise of this option. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. (b) Reference Lines: "This wasn't exactly a lifestyle change I made by choice. First, I got a job with actual responsibilities and a commute, then a life-partner who worked as a personal trainer, and finally a small child with zero respect for the concept of a lie-in."

Option (a) This option misinterprets the narrative conveyed by the author. The reference lines clearly indicate that the lifestyle changes were not solely the result of deliberate choices for personal growth but were significantly influenced by external factors such as job demands, partnership, and parenting. The verbs related to the author's actions do not always reflect a proactive or voluntary shift but rather adjustments to new circumstances. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Correct, as the verbs and overall sentence structure within the specified reference lines underscore the influence of external factors on the author's lifestyle change. Terms like "got a job," "life-partner who worked," and "a small child with zero respect for the concept of a lie-in" indicate changes that were more about responding to life's developments than actively seeking out a new routine. This choice accurately captures how the narrative uses verbs to depict a transition influenced by factors beyond the author's direct control. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) While the passage contrasts the author's past and present, it does not primarily use verbs to emphasize reluctance but rather to describe a series of life changes that necessitated a different routine. The focus is more on adaptation and the positive outcomes of these changes rather than a stark contrast drawn through reluctance. The narrative does not dwell on a reluctant adaptation but rather

an acceptance and finding positivity in the new lifestyle. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) The narrative acknowledges the influence of external life changes on the author's transition, making it clear that this was not an unconscious drift but a response to specific life events. The verbs and context provided indicate a conscious acknowledgment of these changes and their impact on the author's daily routine, rather than suggesting an unintentional or natural progression towards healthier habits. The passage outlines specific reasons for the lifestyle shift, contradicting the notion of an unconscious evolution. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

7. (c) Reference Lines: "Banking there became a hassle; already-established branches offered little to no room for a new executive and showed no interest in his cutthroat procedure of lending to those most in need who also carried the smallest possibility of paying anything back, taking from them their very bed if debts weren't paid on time."

Option (a) This interpretation suggests a positive framing of Flint's actions, implying a benevolent intention behind his banking practices. However, the passage explicitly contradicts this view by detailing Flint's exploitative lending strategies, which targeted the most vulnerable populations without a genuine intention to assist them. The passage does not provide evidence of Flint offering loans to uplift the underprivileged but rather to profit from their precarious financial situations. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Portraying Flint as cautious and conservative misrepresents the aggressive and high-risk nature of his banking practices as described in the passage. Flint's approach was not about adhering to banking norms but rather about circumventing these norms to maximize his own profits, even at the expense of those who were most in need. His willingness to exploit vulnerable borrowers for financial gain is starkly at odds with the notion of caution and conservatism in banking. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option is directly supported by the passage, which portrays Flint's banking methods as deeply exploitative. Flint's business model relied on lending to individuals who were desperate and unlikely to repay, a practice that not only put these individuals at further risk but also ensured Flint could seize valuable possessions as repayment. This predatory lending practice underscores a lack of ethical consideration for the borrowers' welfare, focusing instead on extracting as much profit as possible from their desperation. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Suggesting that Flint was philanthropic and community-oriented is contradicted by the passage. Flint's actions, particularly his exploitation of the needy and his aggressive land development

strategies, were motivated by personal gain rather than by a desire to foster community welfare or financial inclusivity. The passage clearly indicates that Flint's primary concern was expanding his own wealth, not the well-being of the community or the provision of affordable loans to all residents. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

8. (d) Reference Lines: "He used his fortune to tear down every piece of nature that challenged his financial vision. Between 1833 and 1834, more than 120 people moved into Graysville, bringing with them over three dozen businesses."

Option (a) While the role of banking institutions in new settlements is an important aspect of pioneering history, the passage focuses more critically on Flint's individual practices and their implications rather than on a general discussion of banking's constructive role. The narrative centers on Flint's exploitative approach to banking and land development, highlighting the ethical concerns of such capitalist activities rather than lauding the institutional contributions to community development. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Although Flint's development activities involve altering the natural landscape, the passage's emphasis is not on nature's resilience but rather on the ethical implications of Flint's actions towards both the environment and the community. The central theme revolves around the human impact of Flint's endeavors, particularly the exploitation involved, rather than an ecological narrative. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

(c) This option captures an element of the narrative — the development of undeveloped land — but misses the passage's critical tone regarding the manner of this transformation. Flint's entrepreneurial venture is depicted not just as transformative but as morally problematic, with a significant focus on the exploitative aspects of his capitalist approach. The passage invites reflection on the ethical implications of such ventures, making this option insufficient to encapsulate the central theme. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) The passage explicitly critiques the capitalist practices embodied by Flint, particularly his exploitation of vulnerable populations for financial gain. This critique encompasses both his banking practices and his approach to land development, raising ethical dilemmas and moral questions about the consequences of such endeavors. This option accurately reflects the passage's focus on the problematic aspects of Flint's capitalist activities, making it the correct answer. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

9. (a) Reference Lines: "Everyone working stared at her, one man so anxious he sweated the pen from behind his ear till it slid to the floor, the clink across the wood making him jump... People ducked beneath

desks. Some of his bankers left the establishment to wait for shots to go off and for two bodies to be dragged out."

Option (a) The detailed description of the bank employees' and patrons' reactions vividly illustrates a community gripped by fear and anticipation of violence upon the arrival of the newcomers. This reaction can be attributed to the presence of the dark-skinned woman and man, challenging the community's norms and possibly uncovering underlying racial tensions. The narrative captures a moment of heightened anxiety, where the mere act of entering a bank and requesting to speak with a superior triggers a fear of conflict, indicative of deeper social issues within Graysville. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) There is no evidence in the passage to suggest that the community perceived the newcomers as potential investors. The immediate and overwhelming response was one of fear, not economic interest or anticipation of growth. This option misinterprets the nature of the community's reaction, overlooking the clear indicators of fear and anticipation of violence. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Contrary to this option, the passage does not depict a welcoming or inclusive reaction to the newcomers. Instead, it highlights a scenario filled with anxiety, fear, and preparation for violence, suggesting that the community's values may not align with curiosity and openness, especially in the context of racial diversity. This misalignment with the narrative's depiction makes this option inaccurate. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) The reaction described in the passage far exceeds mere indifference; it is one of active fear and anticipation of violence. The detailed account of physical reactions, such as sweating and ducking for cover, underscores a significant concern for the newcomers' presence, reflecting societal tensions rather than indifference. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

10. (a) Reference Lines: Throughout the passage, with a focus on Flint's actions of tearing down nature for development and his exploitative banking practices.
- Option (a) This option directly aligns with the passage's depiction of Flint's actions. His decision to dismantle natural landscapes and exploit financially vulnerable individuals for personal enrichment paints a vivid picture of the darker side of American entrepreneurship. This reflects broader historical trends where economic expansion often occurred at significant social and environmental costs. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) While the passage hints at Flint's unethical practices, it doesn't explicitly suggest what could have been if Flint had chosen a different path. This option introduces a speculative scenario not

directly supported by the text, which focuses more on Flint's actions than on hypothetical alternatives for community development. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This choice misinterprets the narrative by portraying Flint's actions in a positive light. The passage critically examines Flint's impact on Graysville, highlighting the negative consequences of his ambition rather than celebrating it as a model of American entrepreneurship. It points to a critique rather than a commendation of his approach. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Although Flint's establishment of a bank and the sale of land contributed to Graysville's development, the passage emphasizes the ethical implications of his ventures. It suggests that the growth facilitated by Flint's financial institutions came at a high cost to the community and environment, making this option too narrow to capture the passage's central theme. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. (e) Reference Lines: "He used his fortune to tear down every piece of nature that challenged his financial vision."

Option (a) The passage provides a factual account rather than an exaggerated portrayal of Flint's impact. There's no indication that the author exaggerates Flint's ambitions; rather, the narrative describes his actual actions and their consequences. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) While Flint's arrival and actions are depicted negatively, the specific comparison to a plague primarily concerns his reputation among the banking community, not his interaction with the environment or the direct comparison of his actions to a plague. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This choice accurately identifies the literary device used in the passage. Nature is personified as having the ability to challenge Flint's financial vision, a stylistic choice that emphasizes the conflict between natural landscapes and Flint's development ambitions. This enhances the narrative's critique of Flint's disregard for the environment. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) While Flint's banking practices are indeed depicted as harmful, the passage does not employ a simile to make this comparison. The narrative describes his actions straightforwardly without likening them to another object or concept for emphasis. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

12. (e) Reference Lines: "He used his fortune to tear down every piece of nature that challenged his financial vision...taking from them their very bed if debts weren't paid on time."

Option (a) Altruism implies a selfless concern for the well-being of others, which starkly contrasts

with Flint's depicted actions. His approach, focused on personal financial gain often at others' expense, demonstrates a lack of altruistic intent. The passage highlights his prioritization of profit over the welfare of borrowers and the environment. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) The term 'ecological' suggests a consideration for or focus on the environment, which is the antithesis of Flint's approach. His actions, specifically the destruction of natural areas for development, show a disregard for ecological concerns. The narrative criticizes, rather than commends, his environmental impact. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) 'Mercenary' aptly describes Flint's method as primarily motivated by the desire for financial gain, with little regard for ethical or moral considerations. His willingness to exploit both people and nature for profit aligns with the mercenary character trait, making this the most accurate description based on the passage. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) While Flint may have had a vision for Graysville, describing his approach as 'visionary' ignores the critical ethical implications of his methods. The passage suggests that his vision was marred by exploitative practices, challenging the notion of him being a positive visionary. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. (b) Reference Lines: "The chief reason for corporate funding of political parties is to influence the political process which may in turn improve the company's business performance" and "This opens up the possibility of shell companies being set up for the sole purpose of making donations to political parties."

Option (a) This option inaccurately reflects the Supreme Court's critique of the electoral bonds scheme. The judgment highlighted concerns about the opacity of such financing mechanisms, suggesting they could indeed affect political decisions by masking the sources of significant financial contributions. This perspective contradicts the idea that corporate financing could ever align seamlessly with democratic processes without implications. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Accurately captures the essence of the Supreme Court's concerns. By striking down the electoral bonds scheme, the Court underscored the conflict between unregulated corporate donations and the principles of transparency and fairness that underpin a healthy democracy. The judgment points to the dangers of allowing corporate money to flow into political parties without public scrutiny, potentially skewing the political process in favor of hidden interests. This option reflects the nuanced understanding provided by the judgment. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

- Option (c) Misrepresents the Supreme Court's stance on electoral bonds. Rather than endorsing the scheme as an effective method for sustaining political campaigns, the judgment criticizes the scheme for its lack of transparency and the potential for abuse it introduces into the political funding landscape. The Court's decision implies skepticism toward the notion that electoral bonds could serve as the sole or most appropriate funding mechanism. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- Option (d) Overstates the judgment by suggesting it put forward a specific funding model, namely one exclusively based on public financing. While the judgment indeed critiques the electoral bonds scheme for allowing undue corporate influence, it does not prescribe public financing as the only alternative. The decision is more focused on the need for transparency and accountability in political funding rather than endorsing a particular model. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.
14. (b) Reference Lines: "Democracy requires transparency and the fact is that the electoral bonds scheme was opaque." and "The Court has restored that transparency."
- Option (a) Contradicts the Supreme Court's decision which critiqued the electoral bonds scheme for its opacity and potential to erode democratic values. This option inaccurately suggests that the Court viewed corporate financing as enhancing transparency within the democratic framework, a notion directly opposed by the judgment's emphasis on transparency and accountability. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- Option (b) This option succinctly summarizes the Supreme Court's approach in its judgment. By striking down the electoral bonds scheme, the Court sought to reconcile the legal framework governing political funding with the broader democratic ideals of transparency and accountability. The decision reflects a deliberate balancing act, aiming to ensure that the mechanism for funding political parties does not compromise the democratic process or the public's trust in it. This synthesis of legal and democratic principles is at the heart of the judgment. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.
- Option (c) Misinterprets the judgment by implying that it favored economic efficiency over transparency. The Supreme Court's decision was rooted in a concern for maintaining democratic integrity through transparent political funding, directly challenging the notion that pragmatic considerations should override the need for openness in the political funding process. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- Option (d) Incorrectly suggests that the Supreme Court's decision emphasized the technical aspects of legality without regard to democratic values. On the contrary, the judgment went beyond mere procedural compliance to address the substantive issue of transparency in political funding, reflecting a deep engagement with democratic principles. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.
15. (b) Reference Lines: "The Government attended the RBI Act using a Finance Act, and allowed under a new clause 31(3), the central government to authorize any scheduled bank to issue electoral bonds. This amendment to the Finance Act too has been struck down."
- Option (a) Mischaracterizes the Supreme Court's decision, which was critical of using finance bills to enact significant legal changes without adequate legislative scrutiny. The judgment implies a concern for maintaining transparency and accountability in the legislative process, challenging the notion that finance bills should be used for introducing crucial amendments with potentially wide-reaching impacts on democratic practices. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
- Option (b) Accurately conveys the Supreme Court's perspective on the use of finance bills for significant legal amendments. By striking down the amendment to the RBI Act made through a Finance Bill, the Court underscored the importance of thorough legislative review and public transparency. This critique reflects a judicial insistence on the need for democratic oversight and careful deliberation, especially for changes that affect the core of democratic processes such as political funding. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.
- Option (c) Incorrectly suggests that the Supreme Court favored legislative speed over thoroughness and transparency. The decision to strike down the amendment introduced through a Finance Bill highlights the judiciary's preference for a more deliberate and transparent legislative process, contrary to the preference for expediency implied by this option. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.
- Option (d) Incorrectly implies a judicial indifference to the legislative method used for amending the RBI Act. The Supreme Court's action reflects a substantive concern with the process's transparency and the broader implications for democratic governance, rather than a narrow focus on technical legalities. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.
16. (d) Reference Lines: The judgment's emphasis on the need for transparency in political funding and the critique of the electoral bonds scheme for its opacity indicates a prioritization of democratic ideals.
- Option (a) This option simplifies the complexity addressed by the Supreme Court, suggesting an overly accommodating stance towards corporate participation in democracy. The judgment, however, stressed the importance of not compromising transparency, which this option fails to fully capture. The Court's decision was not about facilitating greater corporate participation but ensuring that any

participation upheld democratic transparency. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) While this option touches on the importance of not compromising democratic values, it does not accurately reflect the Court's strong emphasis on transparency as a critical democratic value that was being compromised by the electoral bonds. The judgment did not leave room for conditional acceptance based on innovation but rather underscored the non-negotiability of transparency and accountability. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Mischaracterizes the judgment by implying a conditional support for corporate financing in political contributions. The Supreme Court's critique was not about the level of corporate participation but about how the mechanism of electoral bonds obscured the transparency essential to democracy. The judgment called for transparency over any level of corporate participation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Accurately captures the essence of the Supreme Court's reasoning, emphasizing the non-negotiable priority of democratic principles, particularly transparency, in the legal frameworks governing political contributions. This option directly reflects the judgment's critical stance on ensuring that political financing mechanisms do not undermine democratic transparency and integrity. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

17. (d) Reference Lines: The Court's decision to strike down the scheme due to its opacity and the removal of earlier limits on corporate donations suggests a move towards re-establishing those limits.

Option (a) While proposing a potential outcome of direct corporate donations with enhanced transparency, this option does not adequately address the judgment's emphasis on reinstating caps and ensuring all contributions are transparent and regulated. The Supreme Court's decision is more focused on creating a transparent and accountable environment for political financing than merely shifting the mode of corporate contributions. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) This option suggests a negative consequence that the judgment might limit corporate contributions, potentially misunderstanding the judgment's aim. The focus of the Supreme Court was not to limit contributions per se but to ensure they are made within a transparent and accountable framework. The judgment seeks to balance corporate contributions with the need for democratic integrity, not diminish them outright. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Implies a broader legislative reassessment without directly addressing the immediate implications for corporate donations highlighted by the judgment. While legislative reassessment is necessary, the judgment specifically

calls for enhanced transparency and accountability through stricter regulations, which this option only indirectly addresses. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Directly aligns with the judgment's implications for corporate donations, emphasizing the necessity of reinstating caps on donations and enhancing disclosure requirements to ensure transparency and reduce undue influence in politics. This reflects the judgment's directive for a more regulated and transparent political financing environment, directly addressing the issues raised by the electoral bonds scheme. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

18. (d) Reference Lines: The Supreme Court's reversal of amendments made to the RBI Act through the Finance Bill suggests a need for legislative adjustments that better reflect democratic ideals.

Option (a) This option, while addressing the need for balance, does not fully capture the judgment's emphasis on enhancing transparency. The Supreme Court's decision critiques the electoral bonds scheme for its lack of transparency, suggesting that any future mechanism must prioritize transparency over anonymity. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Suggests necessary legislative action but does not specifically address the implications for corporate donations and the broader need for transparency in political financing as highlighted by the judgment. The focus of legislative response should not only be on realigning specific acts but also on ensuring that all political contributions are transparent and accountable. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Indicates a shift towards public financing, which, while a potential legislative response, does not directly address the judgment's call for enhanced transparency in existing funding mechanisms. The judgment encourages more transparent and accountable financing models rather than specifying the type of financing model to be adopted. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Directly addresses the legislative implications of the Supreme Court's decision, underscoring the need for stringent disclosure requirements for political contributions. This aligns with the judgment's emphasis on transparency and the mitigation of undue corporate influence in politics, reflecting the immediate legislative actions required to comply with the judgment's directives. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

19. (b) Reference Lines: "his image had long been read as a visualization of the terrors of the sea, with the serene majesty of Mount Fuji—symbol of the nation—calmly positioned in the distance."

Option (a) This option misinterprets the role of Mount Fuji in the artwork. The passage highlights the contrast between the tumultuous wave and the

calm presence of Mount Fuji, suggesting a deeper symbolic meaning rather than directly associating the mountain with the power of nature or human struggle. The passage does not support this view directly but focuses on the serene majesty of Mount Fuji as a backdrop to the chaotic sea, indicating a symbolic counterpart rather than a direct representation of nature's force or human adversity. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) This is the correct interpretation based on the passage. Mount Fuji's depiction alongside the tumultuous wave serves as a powerful symbol of calmness and stability, representing the nation's enduring spirit in the face of adversity. The passage specifically notes the contrast between the "terrors of the sea" and the "serene majesty of Mount Fuji," highlighting the mountain's symbolic significance as an unchanging point of reference and stability, which contrasts with the transient and unpredictable nature of the sea. This interpretation aligns with the broader thematic content of the artwork, which juxtaposes the chaotic forces of nature with the enduring stability represented by Mount Fuji. Hence, Option (B) is the correct answer.

Option (c) This option oversimplifies the significance of Mount Fuji in the artwork. While geographical location is an element of the depiction, the passage explicitly frames Mount Fuji as a symbolic presence, far exceeding the role of a mere geographical marker. It signifies the nation's identity and resilience, rather than just indicating the setting of the depicted scene. The passage indicates that Mount Fuji's inclusion goes beyond topographical accuracy, imbuing the scene with a layer of cultural and national symbolism that speaks to the viewer on a deeper level. This understanding of Mount Fuji's role suggests a deliberate choice by Hokusai to embed symbolic meaning within the landscape, rather than merely documenting a location. Hence, Option (C) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) While Hokusai's skill in depicting landscapes is undeniable and contributes to the aesthetic appeal of the print, this option misses the symbolic depth the passage attributes to Mount Fuji within the composition. The focus is not solely on aesthetic beauty but on the interplay between the wave and the mountain, which carries a profound symbolic message regarding the nation's identity and resilience. The passage underlines the contrast between the dynamic, threatening waves and the serene, unchanging Mount Fuji, suggesting that the significance of the mountain in the artwork extends beyond its visual appeal to embody deeper thematic and symbolic content. Therefore, this option does not capture the essence of Mount Fuji's role as outlined in the passage. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

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(e) Reference Lines: This, writes Screech, was for such much "a matter of influence, but of cooption and adaptation," similar to Japan's approach in general to first European and then American culture and technology."

Option (a) This option misinterprets Screech's perspective. Rather than viewing the European influences as detracting from the authenticity of Japanese art, Screech emphasizes the selective incorporation and adaptation of these elements as part of a broader cultural engagement. The passage suggests that the integration of European techniques, such as perspective, into Japanese artwork represents a dynamic process of cultural exchange, wherein Japanese artists like Hokusai actively engaged with foreign elements to enrich their own artistic expressions. This process is framed not as a loss of authenticity but as evidence of Japan's capacity for selective adaptation and innovation within its *cultural* and artistic practices. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) While the adoption of European artistic techniques might seem like a departure from traditional Japanese aesthetics, Screech's analysis does not frame this as a dilution of Japanese values. Instead, the passage highlights the strategic adoption of these techniques as part of Japan's broader approach to cultural and technological exchange. By integrating European perspective into his work, Hokusai exemplifies the Japanese ability to assimilate and reinterpret foreign influences in a way that complements and expands the native artistic lexicon. This approach does not signify a rejection of Japanese values but demonstrates a complex interaction between maintaining traditional aesthetics and embracing innovation. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option accurately reflects Screech's interpretation of the "Great Wave off Kanagawa" within the context of Japanese engagement with European culture and technology. Screech argues that the artwork exemplifies Japan's broader strategy of assimilating and adapting foreign influences to serve its own cultural and artistic objectives. The passage suggests that this process of cooption and adaptation is not passive but an active and selective engagement with global cultures, resulting in a unique fusion that retains the essence of Japanese art while incorporating new perspectives and techniques. This interpretation acknowledges the dynamic and reciprocal nature of cultural exchange, framing the incorporation of European elements as a testament to Japan's innovative and adaptive spirit. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Although the passage discusses the commercial aspects of the print, particularly in relation to the depiction of merchant ships, Screech's critique focuses more on the thematic content and its reflection of Edo-period economic activities rather

than a direct critique of European influence leading to a prioritization of profit over artistic integrity. The incorporation of European elements is discussed in terms of artistic technique and cultural adaptation, rather than being directly linked to commercial motives. The passage does not suggest that European influence is responsible for a shift towards commercialization but rather highlights Hokusai's engagement with themes of risk and reward in the context of maritime commerce. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. (a) Reference Lines: "the boats are probably the property of merchants who were risking human life on ferocious seas for vast financial rewards."

Option (a) This option directly aligns with Screech's interpretation of the artwork. The depiction of the oshiokuribune boats struggling against the giant wave symbolizes the perilous nature of the economic ventures undertaken by merchants during the Edo period. These ventures were fraught with risk, yet driven by the promise of substantial financial gain, reflecting a broader societal reliance on maritime commerce for economic prosperity. This interpretation suggests that Hokusai's print serves as a critical reflection on the risks inherent in this reliance, offering a nuanced commentary on the socio-economic dynamics of the time. The artwork encapsulates the tension between the pursuit of economic growth and the dangers posed by the natural world, highlighting the precarious balance that Edo-period society navigated in its engagement with the sea. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) While the passage does discuss the adaptation of European elements, it does not frame the "Great Wave off Kanagawa" as a cautionary tale about the abandonment of Japanese values. Instead, the artwork's incorporation of European artistic techniques and perspectives is presented as part of a broader narrative of cultural exchange and adaptation. This option imposes an interpretive framework on the artwork that is not supported by the passage, which focuses on the thematic content related to maritime commerce and the risks associated with it, rather than a critique of cultural assimilation. The passage suggests that Hokusai's engagement with European elements was selective and strategic, rather than indicative of a cultural or value shift. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option mischaracterizes the tone and thematic focus of the artwork as interpreted by Screech. Rather than glorifying the risk-taking of merchants and fishermen, the passage highlights the perilous nature of their endeavors, suggesting a critical rather than celebratory perspective. The depiction of the boats in distress amidst the giant wave serves to underscore the dangers and uncertainties of maritime commerce, rather than exalting the adventurous spirit of those involved.

This interpretation is rooted in an understanding of the artwork as a reflection on the socio-economic realities of the Edo period, focusing on the challenges and risks of economic ventures, rather than an unambiguous celebration of daring or adventure. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) Although the passage touches upon the economic motivations behind the depicted sea voyages, it does not frame the artwork primarily as a commentary on hubris or the transient nature of success. Instead, the focus is on the tangible risks and dangers associated with these ventures, highlighting the practical and often life-threatening challenges faced by those seeking economic gain through maritime commerce. The artwork's thematic content, as interpreted by Screech, centers on the critical reflection of these economic activities and their implications for society, rather than abstract moralizing about success and downfall. This option extrapolates a thematic focus that is not explicitly supported by the passage's analysis of the artwork. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. (a) Reference Lines: The passage does not directly provide lines for this synthesis-based question, as it requires an interpretation that integrates multiple aspects of the passage.

Option (a) This option captures the essence of the passage's analysis of Hokusai's work. The mention of the "Great Wave" alongside the serene Mount Fuji, the inclusion of European perspective, and the depiction of oshiokuribune boats all speak to a complex interaction between human endeavors, natural forces, and the adoption of foreign techniques. This synthesis recognizes the multifaceted nature of the artwork, which not only depicts a literal scene but also invites contemplation on broader themes of cultural interaction, the challenges posed by nature, and humanity's response through innovation and adaptation. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option (b) While the passage does touch on commercial activities and the risks taken by merchants, it does not specifically critique Japan's modernization or suggest that the artwork serves as a commentary on the impact of such modernization on traditional life. This option introduces an interpretation that is not supported by the passage's discussion of the artwork, making it an inaccurate synthesis of the provided text. The focus on cultural exchange and adaptation, rather than a critique of modernization, is more aligned with the passage's content. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) This option simplifies the artwork's thematic richness by focusing solely on the power of nature over humanity. While the passage acknowledges the depiction of "seriously large breaking waves" and the risks faced by those at sea, it also highlights the cultural, technological, and

commercial layers of meaning within the print. The artwork's inclusion of Mount Fuji and its adaptation of European artistic techniques suggest a broader narrative than just the dominance of nature. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) The passage does not link the "Great Wave off Kanagawa" to Japan's isolationist policies or suggest that the sea represents barriers to international engagement. Instead, it emphasizes the artwork's role in cultural exchange and the adoption of foreign influences, contradicting the idea of isolationism. This option misrepresents the thematic content of the passage and the artwork's symbolism, focusing on a historical context that is not addressed in the text. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

23. (a) Option (a) This option underestimates the depth of Hokusai's work by ignoring the socio-economic and cultural implications highlighted in the passage. The "Great Wave" is not just a showcase of aesthetic evolution but a complex representation of the era's challenges, including the integration of Western elements and the depiction of human endeavors against nature's might. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) This choice accurately captures the essence of the passage, recognizing the artwork as a confluence of traditional Japanese values and the assimilation of Western influences. It acknowledges the print's role in symbolizing a critical juncture in Japan's cultural history, where traditional and foreign elements merge to create a new artistic paradigm. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option (c) While the passage mentions the commercial popularity of the print, it also emphasizes its cultural and artistic significance, which goes beyond mere commercial success. This option simplifies the artwork's impact by focusing solely on its commercial aspects, neglecting the broader cultural dialogue it engenders. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option (d) The passage does touch upon the commercial and economic themes within the print, but it does not present the artwork primarily as a critique. Instead, it highlights the integration of various elements, including the perilous yet ambitious spirit of the era's maritime endeavors. This option's focus on critique oversimplifies the artwork's layered significance. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

24. (c) Option (a) While convergence suggests a seamless blend of styles, it may not fully capture the nuanced approach of adaptation and selective incorporation described in the passage. Hokusai did not merely blend these influences but transformed them to fit within a Japanese context, making this option slightly off-mark. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option (b) Dissonance implies a level of conflict or lack of harmony, which contradicts the passage's depiction of Hokusai's work as a thoughtful integration of European perspectives within a Japanese artistic tradition. The term suggests a tension that the passage does not support, making this choice inaccurate. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option (c) Transmutation accurately reflects the passage's description of Hokusai's method. It emphasizes the active, creative process of adapting European elements in a way that respects and enhances the Japanese artistic tradition, aligning with the passage's emphasis on adaptation and co-option. This term captures the essence of Hokusai's approach as not just borrowing but fundamentally transforming foreign influences to enrich his art. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option (d) Appropriation suggests a more superficial or unconsidered adoption of elements from another culture, which does not align with the passage's depiction of Hokusai's thoughtful and transformative integration of European techniques. The passage indicates a deeper level of engagement with these influences than mere appropriation would imply, making this option misleading. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

#### **SECTION -B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

25. (a) The event was inaugurated by Dr Mohan Yadav, the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as a Special Guest who is visiting India to participate in the celebration of WWD 2024. The event was also graced by cabinet ministers of Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Jitendra Kumar, Director General (Forest) & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, and other senior officials from Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh.
26. (c) Although they cover only around 6 per cent of the Earth's land surface, 40 per cent of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands. Wetland biodiversity matters for our health, our food supply, for tourism and for jobs. Wetlands are vital for humans, for other ecosystems and for our climate, providing essential ecosystem services, such as water regulation, including flood control and water purification. More than a billion people across the world depend on wetlands for their livelihoods – that's about one in eight people on Earth.
27. (c) World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

- The Standing Committee of the Convention has approved the themes for World Wetlands Day as follows
- 2022: Wetlands action for people and nature,
  - 2023: Wetland restoration
  - 2024: Wetlands and human wellbeing
28. (d) World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971. India is a party to the Convention since 1982 and on the eve of WWD 2024, India has increased its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to 80 by designating five more wetlands as Ramsar sites. Three of these sites, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve are located in Karnataka whereas two, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest are in Tamil Nadu. With the addition of these five wetlands to List of Wetlands of International Importance, the total area covered under Ramsar sites is now 1.33 million ha which is an increase of 5,523.87 ha from existing area (of 1.327 million ha). Tamil Nadu continues to have maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
29. (b) World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- The Standing Committee of the Convention has approved the themes for World Wetlands Day as follows:
- 2022: Wetlands action for people and nature,
  - 2023: Wetland restoration
  - 2024: Wetlands and human wellbeing
30. (b) Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav said on the eve of World Wetlands Day 2024, India has increased its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to 80 from existing 75 by designating five more wetlands as Ramsar sites. In a post Shri Yadav said he met Dr Musonda Mumba, the Secretary General of Ramsar Convention who handed over the certificates of the aforesaid five sites.
31. (c) Neuralink Corp. is an American neurotechnology company that is developing implantable brain-computer interfaces, based in Fremont, California, as of 2024. Founded by Elon Musk and a team of seven scientists and engineers, Neuralink was launched in 2016 and was first publicly reported in March 2017.
32. (c) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration had given the company clearance last year to conduct its first trial to test its implant on humans, a critical milestone in the startup's ambitions to help patients

- overcome paralysis and a host of neurological conditions
33. (b) In a separate Monday post on X, Musk said that the first Neuralink product is called "Telepathy" - which, he said, will enable users to control their phones or computers "just by thinking." He added that initial users would be those who have lost use of their limbs.
34. (c) Initial users will be those who have lost the use of their limbs. He also claimed that the goal of the product is to make people with disabilities "communicate faster than a speed typist or auctioneer." While this is just the beginning, the successful implantation marks a significant milestone for the company.
35. (c) Spikes are activity by neurons, which the National Institute of Health describes as cells that use electrical and chemical signals to send information around the brain and to the body. Musk did not provide further details. Neuralink received FDA clearance last year for its first trial to test the company's implant in humans, a critical milestone for the startup. Reuters reported in June that the company was valued as high as \$5bn, based on private stock trades.
36. (d) Neuralink was quietly founded under the radar in 2016. Although Musk has touted the near-term applications of Neuralink, he often links the company up with his fears about artificial intelligence. Musk has said that he thinks humanity will be able to achieve "symbiosis with artificial intelligence" through Musk told "Artificial Intelligence" podcast host Lex Fridman in 2019 that Neuralink was "intended to address the existential risk associated with digital superintelligence."
- "We will not be able to be smarter than a digital supercomputer, so, therefore, if you cannot beat 'em, join 'em," Musk added.
37. (c) Union Minister Jitendra Singh revealed that the uncrewed 'Vyommitra' mission is slated for the third quarter of this year, while the manned 'Gaganyaan' mission is scheduled for 2025. The name 'Vyommitra,' derived from Sanskrit, signifies a space friend. The female robot astronaut is designed to monitor module parameters, issue alerts, and perform tasks like operating panels and responding to queries. Jitendra Singh elaborated that 'Vyommitra' is crafted to simulate human functions in the space environment and interact seamlessly with the life support system. Singh emphasized that the first Test Vehicle Flight TV D1 validated the crew escape and parachute system, marking preparations for the 'Gaganyaan' launch. The human rating of the launch vehicle is complete, and all propulsion stages are qualified.

38. (c) The Gaganyaan Programme envisages undertaking the demonstration of human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in the short-term and will lay the foundation for a sustained Indian human space exploration programme in the long run. The objective of Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to LEO.  
 As part of this programme, two unmanned missions and one manned mission are approved by Government of India (GoI).
39. (d) The first mission flight, Gaganyaan-1, an unmanned test flight to check technology readiness, is expected by the end of 2024. The manned mission, which will take a three-member crew into a low earth orbit of 400 km altitude and return to Earth after three days, will follow.  
 In 1984, Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian in space when he flew to the Salyut 7 space station on a Soviet spacecraft. In 2006, India started work on an orbital vehicle mission that was later named Gaganyaan. As the astronauts-designate are named, here's where the various aspects of the mission stand.
40. (d) The Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of human space capabilities by launching a crew of astronauts into an orbit of 400 kilometers and then bringing these astronauts safely back to earth by landing them in India's sea waters.  
 Other than the demonstration and evaluation of Test Vehicle subsystems, other objectives of the TV-D1 launch included flight demonstration and evaluation of the Crew Escape System including various separation systems, crew module characteristics; and deceleration system demonstration at higher altitudes and its recovery.
41. (a) The 'Gaganyaan' project aims to demonstrate human space capabilities by launching astronauts into a 400-kilometer orbit and safely returning them to Earth by landing in India's sea waters.  
 Union Minister Jitendra Singh revealed that the uncrewed 'Vyommitra' mission is slated for the third quarter of this year, while the manned 'Gaganyaan' mission is scheduled for 2025.
42. (d) All four Indian Air Force officers have had extensive experience as test pilots and are currently in training for the mission. Modi, who bestowed them with the prestigious astronaut wings, described them as "four forces" who represent the aspirations and optimism of 1.4 billion Indians.  
 The announcement was made at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thumba, Kerala, days after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said it had successfully tested the human readiness of the cryogenic engine that will be used on the Gaganyaan mission vehicles.
43. (c) The Henley Passport Index for 2024 has been released, and India slipped one rank down from last year to 85th. The index ranks 199 nations based on

the strength of their passports, and in 2024, France has topped the list, as its passport provides visa-free access to 194 countries.

India slipped one notch down from last year to 85th even as the countries with visa-free access to Indians increased to 62 from 60 in 2023. The rank of political crisis-hit Pakistan remained the same as last year, at 106, while Bangladesh's position slipped from 101 in 2023 to 102 this year.

44. (c) The Henley Passport Index for 2024 has been released, with France securing the top spot, while India's passport ranking has slipped one place from last year, moving from 84th to 85th position.

This decline in India's ranking may come as a surprise, as while last year Indian passport holders could travel visa-free to 60 countries, this year that number has increased to 62.

The Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on the strength of their passports. In 2024, France leads the list, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries.

45. (c) The Henley Passport Index for 2024 has been released, with France securing the top spot, while India's passport ranking has slipped one place from last year, moving from 84th to 85th position. This decline in India's ranking may come as a surprise, as while last year Indian passport holders could travel visa-free to 60 countries, this year that number has increased to 62. The Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on the strength of their passports. In 2024, France leads the list, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries.

46. (a) Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain are also among the top-ranked countries alongside France. Meanwhile, Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position. India's neighbour, Maldives, continues to have a strong passport, maintaining its position at 58th place, with Maldivian passport holders enjoying visa-free travel to 96 countries.

India's drop in the rankings comes even after recent announcements from Iran, Malaysia, and Thailand offering visa-free entry for Indian tourists.

The Henley Passport Index derives its rankings from data spanning the past 19 years, based on the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) specialized data, covering 199 different passports and 227 travel destinations worldwide.

47. (c) The index is updated monthly and serves as a global standard for citizens of independent countries. The data from the Henley Passport Index indicates significant changes in global mobility over the past two decades. In 2006, people could travel visa-free to an average of 58 countries, while this year that number has nearly doubled to 111 countries.

The Henley Passport Index derives its rankings from data spanning the past 19 years, based on the International Air Transport Association's (IATA)

- specialized data, covering 199 different passports and 227 travel destinations worldwide.
48. (d) The Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on the strength of their passports. In 2024, France leads the list, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries. Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain are also among the top-ranked countries alongside France. Meanwhile, Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position. Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain are also among the top-ranked countries alongside France. Meanwhile, Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position. India's neighbour, Maldives, continues to have a strong passport, maintaining its position at 58th place, with Maldivian passport holders enjoying visa-free travel to 96 countries.
49. (a) At the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Defence Minister, and the Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the World Governments Summit in Dubai as Guest of Honour, on 14 February 2024. He delivered the special keynote address on the theme of the Summit - "Shaping the Future Governments". Prime Minister had attended the World Governments Summit in 2018, also as Guest of Honour.
50. (b) The World Governments Summit Organisation announced the agenda for the upcoming 11th edition of World Government Summit (WGS), set to take place between 12 and 14 February 2024 in Dubai. Under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments", this year's summit will anticipate future opportunities and challenges, addressing the world's most pressing issues. Through its prominent agenda, WGS will discuss a common approach to improve governmental work and strengthen cooperation among governments worldwide. Additionally, it will focus on sharing knowledge and expertise and highlighting inspiring stories and models in governmental work.
- Hosting a brilliant lineup of keynote speakers, the Summit is set to address future trends and shifts on the global level, as well as ways to foster collaboration regionally and globally. Among heads of state speaking and attending the event the President of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi; President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame; William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya; and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, as well as President of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina, Maldives President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, Mauritius President Prithvirajsing Roopun and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan, who speak at one of the plenary sessions.
51. (c) In 2024, the World Governments Summit had took place under the theme of 'Shaping Future Governments' where the conversation will involve governments, international organizations, thought leaders, and private sector leaders from around the globe to international cooperation and enable governments to identify innovative solutions for future challenges— further rippling to inspire and empower the next generation of governments. Since its inception in 2013, the Summit has championed the mission of shaping future governments and creating a better future for humanity. The past editions of the Summit have successfully established a new model to collaborate on an international playing field to inspire and enable the next generation of governments.
52. (d) Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council since 2004. He served as Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi from 2004 until 2022. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. He also served as Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces from 1993 to 2005, before assuming the role of Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Working alongside the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the rulers of the other emirates, His Highness has dedicated his life in service to advancing the UAE's social, economic and cultural development with the goal of realizing a more secure, flourishing, and sustainable future for his country and people. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is a leader amongst his people, holding firm the belief that true leadership lies in empowering men and women to forge their own paths and shape the future of the nation.

### SECTION - C : LEGAL REASONING

53. (c) The correct answer option is answer option C because though he was there to discharge his official duties, his misconduct would not be ignored as he went there inebriated, and he beat an innocent civilian, even the passage mentions that the police officers cannot get away with the criminal misconduct behind the garb of the police duty. Option (a) is not the correct answer option because though he was there to discharge his official duties, his misconduct would not be ignored as he went there inebriated. Option (b) is not the correct answer option because it is not a fair thing to say that the civilian was at fault for being present there, he might have been there and had nothing to do with the drug dealing, and that does not excuse how Pooram behaved. Option (d) is not the correct answer option because being stressed does not render him not liable for his criminal misconduct.

54. (a) The correct answer is answer option A because here, he was not on duty, and the act of saving the child was merely a moral duty on his part, and hence he would not get any protection under section 197. Option B is not the correct answer option because though he exceeded the scope of his powers, he would have gotten immunity as it was a reasonable act, however he would have only gotten it if it was his duty and not moral duty, the passage mentions that however he can claim section 197 only in discharge of his official duty and not a moral duty. Option C is not the correct answer option because here it was his moral duty and not his official duty to protect the civilians, and every time they would protect someone it would not necessarily be their official duty, they would do it out of moral obligation. Option D is not the correct answer option because though he believed the child was getting kidnapped, he was not in his official capacity, he did it out of a moral obligation, and so, he will be held liable, and would not get protection under section 197.
55. (a) The correct answer option is answer option A because though he was not there in his official uniform, that does not mean that he was not on duty, and now it ceased to be his moral duty, it was now his duty in the capacity of being a police officer to protect the people and he was discharging the duty. Hence, he can claim protection under section 197 of CrPC. Option (b) is not the correct answer option because him being not in uniform does not mean he was not on duty; hence he can claim protection under section 197. Option (c) is not the correct answer option because it ceased to be his moral duty. He was on duty as a police officer and so, it was his official duty to protect people. Option (d) is not the correct answer option because he won't get immunity just because he was a police officer and was protecting a child, he will get immunity because he was discharging his official duty.
56. (a) The correct answer option is answer option A because here, Inno was discharging his official duties. He had to protect a lot of girls from being trafficked and he also was in danger while being there, so the act of using the gun was reasonably connected to the discharge of his official duties. Even if the girl got injured, she cannot sue him as he did not do anything wrong and that was an accident. He can get protection under section 197 of CrPC. Option (b) is not the correct answer option because though he did not intend to hurt the girl, intention is not any criterion to be considered under section 197 and so he can get protection under the section. Option (c) is just spewing illogical words, we have to give a reasonable and legally sound argument, and hence we will not choose this option.

- Option (d) is not the correct answer option because the act of opening fire was a reasonable act that was connected to the official duty for which he was present there, and the passage mentions that if the act alleged against a police officer is reasonably connected to the discharge of his official duty, it does not matter if the policeman has exceeded the scope of his power and/or beyond the four corners of the law.
57. (a) The correct answer option is answer option A because here, the act of beating the wife was not reasonably connected to the discharge of his official duties and so he cannot get any protection under section 197 of CrPC. Option (b) is not the correct answer option because she was not being any impediment to the search procedure as she did not do anything, Rakha was infuriated at her husband and just beat her up, so he cannot claim protection under section 197. Option (c) is not the correct answer option because he was not in the right for beating her up because her husband was a dacoit. Option (d) is not the correct answer option because though sure he did beat her up badly and should get punished, that is not the reason for him not getting protection under section 197 because the main reason is that the act of beating was not reasonably connected to the discharge of his official duties.
58. (c) The correct answer option is answer option C because as the passage mentions, if the act alleged against a police officer is reasonably connected to the discharge of his official duty, it does not matter if the policeman has exceeded the scope of his power and/or beyond the four corners of the law, the Court added, however he can claim section 197 only in discharge of his official duty and not a moral duty, and here he was trying to discharge his duty and the men there trying to threaten to kill him were impeding that hence, he can claim protection under section 197 of CrPC. All the other options are ruled out for this reason, as the passage mentions that the mandate to obtain sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for taking cognisance of offences against police personnel applies only if the alleged act is reasonably connected to the discharge of official duty, hence Rakha can claim protection under section 197 of CrPC.
59. (b) Option B is correct, as the threat was not a real one because the man behind him could have only been running in the park like he was running. A's threat was more based on what the astrologer had said rather than the man's action. Option (a) is incorrect, as no action done by the man could have been enough to prove that the man was an imminent threat. Option (c) is incorrect, as the course of action taken is not something that a reasonable person would take. Option (d) is incorrect, as there was no threat.

- in the first place to go to the authorities to be reported.
60. (b) Option B is correct, as the action of hitting the hood with a stick is sufficient to make any reasonable person fear that the person's life is in danger.  
 Option (a) is incorrect, despite the answer being correct the reasoning is incomplete.  
 Option (c) is incorrect, as in the situation of imminent threat A can act in a proportionate manner before going to the authorities.  
 Option (d) is incorrect, as the action taken was proportionate as he merely wanted to eradicate the imminent threat.
61. (c) Option C is correct, the threat has subsided when the group of men were fleeing, going after them is an act of aggression on the part of A.  
 Option (a) is incorrect, as the group of men did not pose any threat as they were fleeing the site.  
 Option (b) is incorrect, as despite the group of men being accomplices of the man they did not pose any further threat to A.  
 Option (d) is incorrect, despite the answer being correct the reasoning is not correct. The analysis is to be done if there was an imminent threat or not and not if they attacked A or not.
62. (a) Option A is correct, as Y was under the misconception that there was an actual robbery, and he had a right to defend his own self and his property.  
 Option (b) is incorrect, despite the answer being correct the reasoning is not complete.  
 Option (c) is incorrect, as the facts clearly identify that this is a case of misconception thus the exception is available.  
 Option (d) is incorrect, as the reasoning is not sound with respect to the passage and the facts of the question.
63. (a) Option A is correct, as K had acted in a manner to protect V's family and is thus eligible for the exception. Option (b) is incorrect, despite the answer being correct the reasoning for the same is not, as the case is of private defence and not mistake.  
 Option (c) is incorrect, as the exception of private defence applies to situations where the act is done for third party.  
 Option (d) is incorrect, as the act undertaken by K was reasonable.
64. (b) Option B is correct, as the ended when the car was stopped and there was no imminent threat to V or his family and any actions done now was him being the aggressor.  
 Option (a) is incorrect, as there did not exist a threat to V's family anymore.  
 Option (c) is incorrect, as V cannot take law in his own hands and decide to punish people.  
 Option (d) is incorrect, as it is first to be seen whether there is a threat in the first place and then see if the same is proportionate and reasonable.
65. (c) The correct answer is option (c). An agreement that is not enforceable is void. Here, the agreement is not enforceable and hence, not valid because the ship had already sunk before it started its journey so it could not complete the voyage and the contract cannot be enforced. Thus, options (a) and (d) are incorrect. Option (b) is incorrect because there is nothing given in the question that says such a transaction for shipment of goods is illegal.
66. (d) The correct answer is option (d). The agreement was void ab initio since the ship had already sunk before starting its voyage. Whereas agreements that are void ab initio i.e., void from the beginning, may be avoided altogether and if any price is paid, it cannot be recovered. Hence, options (a) and (b) are incorrect. Option (c) is incorrect because this was not a collateral transaction and money was paid by A in parts to fulfill the same contract.
67. (c) The correct answer is option (c). The contract was partly illegal i.e., stealing the painting but the travel was legal in nature. Option (d) is incorrect because since the two actions are separate, the legal part which is severable i.e., traveling in an airplane for Raghu can be enforced. Agreements which are only partly illegal/unlawful i.e., which are opposed to the law of the land, the court will enforce the part which is not illegal if it is severable from the rest of the agreement. Hence, option (a) is incorrect. Option (b) is incorrect because Tees Maar Khan completed the severable and legal part of the contract.
68. (c) The correct answer is option (c). If an illegal contract is severable, then the severable part will be enforced. In this case, the part on child labour is severable i.e., manufacturing of electronic components can be done without using child labour. Hence, clause on child labour will be severed and rest of the contract will be enforced. Thus, option (a) and (b) are incorrect. Option (d) is incorrect because an illegal contract cannot be enforced and if the entire contract is sought to be enforced, then the illegality of child labour will continue.
69. (b) The correct answer is option (b). The main transaction involving the narcotics is illegal and void due to its criminal nature. Hence, option (a) is incorrect. If the main transaction is illegal, as in this case, then the collateral transaction will also be tainted with the same illegality. Here, the collateral transaction cannot be severed from the main transaction as it is part of the same act and since the entire agreement is illegal, the collateral agreement will also not be enforced. Thus, option (c) is incorrect. Option (d) is incorrect because the prohibited narcotics are illegal and unenforceable in the first place.
70. (a) The correct answer is option A because as per the passage, the Karnataka High Court's ruling emphasizes that failing to disclose assets or concealing assets of a candidate, their spouse, or dependents constitutes a corrupt practice under the

Panchayat Raj Act (as per Section 19(1) (b)). Therefore, options B, C, and D all fall within the ambit of corrupt practices, leading to disqualification. However, option A refers to assets belonging to dependent children, which is not explicitly mentioned in the passage. While the passage emphasizes the requirement to disclose assets of the candidate, spouse, and dependents, it doesn't directly address the disclosure of assets belonging to dependent children. Thus, option A would NOT necessarily result in disqualification based on the information provided.

71. (c) The correct answer is C since, in accordance with the passage, it has been decided that it is corrupt practice for a candidate, their spouse, or dependents to fail to report or conceal their assets. The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act stipulates that such conduct could disqualify a candidate from standing in a panchayat election. Y does not qualify as P's husband because the two of them are still not engaged and planned to get married after the elections; as a result, Y is not legally obligated to reveal any of P's assets. Option A is incorrect since Y did not only mention his details but also all the details of his father's assets. Option B is incorrect since Y was not required to disclose any details of P's assets since they were not yet married. Since Y did not violate any provisions of the Act, we eliminate option D.
72. (a) The correct answer is A because, according to the passage, it has been decided that it is corrupt practice for a candidate, their spouse, or dependents to fail to report or conceal their assets. According to the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, the candidate may be disqualified from running in a panchayat election if they engage in such conduct. Option D is incorrect since she was not obligated to report about the assets belonging to her in-laws. Since option A provides a better reasoning dealing with the reason why the claim of O should not be entertained, option B is eliminated. Option C is incorrect since it is implausible to think that a six-month-old boy would possess any assets, but because she did not reveal the assets that belonged to her in-laws, her eligibility can be called into question.
73. (b) The correct answer is B since, according to the passage, the Karnataka High Court has decided that neglecting to report assets or concealing assets of a candidate, their spouse, or dependents constitutes a corrupt conduct. The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act states that such conduct could disqualify a candidate from running in a panchayat election.
- Option (a) is incorrect since F lived independently in another nation and cannot be considered a dependent and so Q's wife was not obligated to divulge the specifics of the assets owned by F.

Option (c) is incorrect because she did not violate the provisions of the act since she was not required to disclose any details of F in the first place.

Option (d) is incorrect because her candidature cannot be challenged considering that she was not required to disclose any financial details pertaining to F.

74. (e) The correct answer is C because, according to the passage, the Court relied on various Supreme Court judgments to observe that the purity of elections at all levels, whether to the Union Parliament, a State Legislature, a Municipal Corporation, or a Panchayat, is of national importance, in which area, uniform policies are desirable in the interest of all the States. As a result, the candidate, spouse, and other dependent members must disclose their assets. Option (a) is eliminated because transparency is needed for all types of elections. Option (b) is incorrect because he did not meet all the requirements by failing to disclose the financial details of his wife.
- Option (d) is incorrect since the passage makes no reference of a prohibition against contesting simultaneous elections.
75. (b) Option B is the correct answer because the passage mentions: "There are two more additional aspects to be borne in mind: first, valid consent can be obtained only from a patient who is competent to consent and secondly, such consent must also be informed consent. A person who has attained the competent age and who has sound mind can give valid consent to the medical practitioner for any treatment. Persons who have attained the age of 18 are generally considered to have attained the age of maturity and are competent to give consent." In this factual situation, Ashlesha was sixteen years old and she was not competent (as she was under eighteen years of age) to give consent. There must have been consent obtained from her guardians as her parents were out of the country.
- Option (a) is incorrect because she had not reached the age of competency for giving valid consent and therefore, despite being informed, it will not be valid for her medical procedure in which the doctors can negate their liability as she was a minor.
- Option (c) is incorrect because Article 21 is the source for self-determination and autonomy but Ashlesha cannot do so due to lack of competent age.
- Option (d) is incorrect because the consent is invalid due to her age; there is nothing about her being not of sound mind.
76. (b) Option B is the correct answer because the passage mentions: "The element of consent is one of the critical issues in medical treatment. He can refuse treatment except in an emergency situation where the doctor need not get consent for treatment for all cases." In this factual situation, Rajesh was in a life-threatening situation which makes it an emergency and therefore, despite lacking competency or being

of any legal group, the operation or surgery by the doctor will not invite criminal or civil action. Option (a) is incorrect because Rajesh's situation was of emergency and his parents or guardians were not available.

Option (c) is incorrect because a life threatening situation would be termed as an emergency condition for Rajesh in this situation.

Option (d) is incorrect because the hospital staff was not the protector of the child as they hardly knew the child.

77. (c) Option C is incorrect because the passage mentions: "There are two more additional aspects to be borne in mind: first, valid consent can be obtained only from a patient who is competent to consent and secondly, such consent must also be informed consent. Consent without necessary information is no consent at all. There must be information provided with all necessary details to the patient or his relatives." In this factual situation, Minku was a competent person to give consent (as he was above eighteen years of age and of sound mind) but the consent form is not enough for informed consent; there must have been all necessary information about risks and possible side-effects by the hospital staff or the doctors or medical practitioners concerned.

Option (a) is incorrect because a written detailed report is not necessary but there must be detailed information told to the patient in any form by the staff or doctor concerned.

Option (b) is incorrect because the consent form information was brief and crisp without detailed information about side-effects and other consequences.

Option (d) is incorrect because the detailed information prior to the surgery to make the "consent" informed was missing in this situation.

78. (d) Option D is the correct answer because the passage mentions: "If there is incompetency, consent of parents or guardians must be obtained. In absence of any legal guardians to give consent, the child and their protector's consent would do." In this factual situation, Uriva does not have either parents or legal guardians under the law. Therefore, her protectors, the people from her orphanage, must give consent after all things in detail are told to them.

Option (a) is incorrect because a child's protector would be the orphanage people more than her school headmaster. Therefore, her orphanage proprietors must give consent after full and detailed information.

Option (b) is incorrect because Uriva does have protectors in form of orphanage people and therefore, her sole incompetent (as she is under eighteen years) consent would not negate liability for the hospital or the doctor in crime or civil law.

Option (c) is incorrect as it is contrary to facts when clearly states that there exists no relatives of Uriva.

79. (b) Option B is the correct answer because the passage mentions "The element of consent is one of the critical issues in medical treatment. He can refuse treatment except in an emergency situation where the doctor need not get consent for treatment for all cases. If there is incompetency, consent of parents or guardians must be obtained." In this factual situation, Mr. Singh is unconscious which make his situation to fall under lack of sound mind and therefore, his guardians can give consent after all detailed information.

Option (a) is incorrect because there is no emergency situation involved and there is presence of relatives (or guardians) that can provide informed consent on his behalf.

Option (c) is incorrect because there is no exception as there is no emergency situation involved in this situation as five days have elapsed since the fatal incident and there are guardians present to give consent. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not state about tacit or implied consent in the passage or about any rejuvenating drug.

80. (c) Rationale: The correct answer is (C) – Recusal advised; maintaining public confidence in the judiciary outweighs the judge's personal integrity. The passage highlights the necessity of impartiality and the principle that justice must be seen to be done. In cases where a judge has a sibling working at the plaintiff's law firm, the perception of bias can undermine the judicial process's integrity. Recusal is advised to avoid any appearance of bias, adhering to the principle of ensuring public confidence in the judiciary. This approach prevents potential personal bias from affecting the case's impartiality. Options (A) and (D) do not fully address the importance of public perception in maintaining judicial integrity, while option (B) underestimates the impact of perceived biases, making (C) the most justified choice.

81. (a) Rationale: The correct answer is (A) – Ethical breach; personal financial interests should not influence legislative drafting. According to the "Nemo Judex In Causa Sua" principle, ensuring impartiality and avoiding bias are paramount in decision-making processes, including legislative drafting. This principle is compromised when a legislator, with a substantial stake in renewable energy, drafts a bill offering tax incentives potentially benefiting their own investments. Such a scenario illustrates a pecuniary bias, as the legislator's financial interests directly influence the legislative outcome. This not only breaches ethical standards but also undermines public trust in the legislative process by prioritizing personal gain over public interest.

Option (b) is incorrect because the presence of a personal stake constitutes an ethical breach, regardless of the incentive's scope.

Option (c) is incorrect because mere disclosure does not resolve the conflict of interest.

Option (d) is incorrect because the conflict of interest itself, not just direct intervention, makes the situation unethical.

82. (c) Rationale: The correct answer is (C) – Recusal necessary to avoid any perception of bias in the grant evaluation process. The principle "Nemo Judex In Causa Sua" mandates impartiality in decision-making, highlighting personal bias as a concern when prior opinions may influence judgment. The head's previous criticism of the applicant's research methodology risks perceived bias, aligning with the need for justice to be seen as impartial. Thus, recusal upholds the principles of natural justice by eliminating potential bias.  
Option (a) is incorrect as it assumes criticism doesn't affect impartiality if objectivity is maintained.  
Option (b) overlooks the need to avoid bias perception, despite professionalism.  
Option (d) assumes past criticism can be separated, ignoring the need for apparent impartiality.
83. (a) Rationale: The correct answer is (A) – Clear conflict of interest: financial transactions with bidding companies are inappropriate. According to "Nemo Judex In Causa Sua," decision-makers must avoid any personal or financial interest in matters they adjudicate, emphasizing the avoidance of pecuniary bias. The scenario where a government official receives loans from a CEO whose company bids for contracts directly contravenes this principle, establishing a pecuniary bias and a clear conflict of interest. Transparency and official declaration do not negate the inherent conflict presented by such financial transactions, as they compromise impartiality.  
Option (b) is incorrect as transparency doesn't negate the conflict of interest from financial transactions with bidders.  
Option (c) fails because a declaration doesn't remove the conflict inherent in such dealings.  
Option (d) is flawed, misunderstanding that conflict arises from potential bias, not proven influence.
84. (d) Rationale: The correct answer is (D) – Inappropriate, due to comments indicating a conflict of interest, necessitating resignation or recusal. The 'Nemo Judex In Causa Sua' principle demands impartiality. A candidate's biased public comments compromise electoral integrity, violating fairness and impartiality, essential in justice being seen to be done. Such actions erode public trust, suggesting recusal as the only remedy to maintain justice and electoral process integrity. Options A and C, involving retraction or monitoring, fail to fully rectify the trust deficit. Option B, by highlighting the inappropriateness due to bias, underscores the need for unambiguous action to preserve electoral fairness and the perception of impartiality, making

resignation or recusal the most fitting response to uphold natural justice principles.

#### SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

85. (a) The correct answer is a. The correct answer, Option A, captures the essence of the term "self-goal" by indicating that while the list may have been intended to highlight (or elucidate) biases, it unintentionally might be strengthening those biases. The double-layered construction of the option demands that the reader not only understand the Opposition's intended goal but also the unintended consequence of their action. Option B serves as a distractor by suggesting the Opposition's adeptness at managing narratives. While this could be inferred from their effort to control the narrative through the list, the term "self-goal" contradicts the idea of "elevated understanding". Option C is intricately crafted to lure the reader with the notion of 'strategic response' and 'legitimizing perceived imbalances', but it lacks the nuance of the unintended strengthening of biases that the term "self-goal" implies. Option D is deceptive, focusing on "balanced journalism", a theme present in the text. However, it does not directly address the unintended consequences of the Opposition's actions.
86. (d) The correct answer is d. Option D directly links the practice of creating a boycott list to potential threats to press freedom, suggesting a slippery slope that could eventually curtail media freedom. If true it underscores the potential danger of such actions, amplifying the author's argument. Option A is tempting because it directly addresses concerns from journalists about political interference. While this may hint at a perceived threat to press freedom, it doesn't establish a clear connection between the boycott list and the endangerment of press freedom. Option B introduces a thematic concern of human rights but does not specifically tie this to the idea of press freedom being threatened by the boycott list. It's nuanced but doesn't have the direct relevance that Option D possesses. Option C provides a metric of success for TV channels, potentially implying that the boycott list might be counterproductive. However, it doesn't necessarily show that the boycott list threatens press freedom.
87. (a) The correct answer is a. Option A speaks to the heart of the matter. The author argues that this action of the opposition alliance on journalists will reduce the space for honest journalists. So, this shows that this action will impact the honest journalists as well. Option B is a tempting distractor. It talks about journalists succumbing to political pressures. While this may resonate with the theme that journalists are influenced, it does not fundamentally capture the assumption about the essential nature of the relationship between honest journalists and political entities. Option C discusses the responsibility of

political entities. Although it reflects a desirable state, it does not directly address the inherent assumption the author holds about the relationship between journalists and political entities. Option D points to the credibility of journalists based on their ties with political entities. While the passage touches upon this, saying that certain journalists "flatter the government and discredit the Opposition," the essence isn't about credibility but the space for genuine journalism.

88. (b) Option B is the right answer read the lines "Many of them tread, and slip on, thinning lines, whipping up hate hour by hour. Indeed, for these very reasons, what INDIA has done is a stunning self-goal in a democracy where spaces for dissent and disagreement are increasingly coming under threat, the Opposition's boycott list strengthens that which it claims to oppose. It shrinks the space for honest, good journalism and journalists — it threatens press freedom." From these lines we can infer option B. A is incorrect because this option is partially correct and partially incorrect. It is not given in the passage that the boycott of these journalists is necessary. In fact the author argues the opposite. C is incorrect because this option tries to justify the opposition's move by calling it a step in the right direction, while the author argues against it. Hence, B.

89. (a) The correct answer is a. Option A is the most potent in diluting the allegation of intolerance. If the list was a result of public discourse and wide-ranging societal input, it moves the framing from a unilateral, intolerant decision to a broader, democratic consensus. Option B is a tempting distractor. The entire argument is about the space around dissent in India's democracy. Boycott list by the opposition despite the confession shows that there is no space of dissent in India. This doesn't weaken the argument, but strengthens it. Option C implies that the boycott list might be objective or justifiable. However, the endorsement of external bodies, while potentially adding credibility, doesn't directly challenge the "intolerance" frame. External endorsements can exist for various reasons, and their alignment doesn't inherently mean the Opposition's actions weren't intolerant. Option D is incorrect because the study was conducted by the internal body of the opposition. It doesn't show anything.

90. (a) The correct answer is a. Option A is directly related to the notion of a "precedent". To evaluate if a decision sets a disturbing precedent, one must look at similar past occurrences and their outcomes. If historical boycotts led to detrimental consequences for democratic societies, this would validate the author's concerns. Option B can be considered a red herring. While viewership data can highlight the popularity of the anchors, it doesn't directly aid in evaluating the precedent-setting nature of the boycott, nor does it illuminate its potential

disturbance to the broader media landscape. Option C is another distractor. Personal opinions of the boycotted anchors regarding the Opposition might explain potential reasons behind the boycott, but they don't help in evaluating the weight of the author's argument about a precedent. Option D, while intriguing and potentially pointing to ulterior motives, doesn't necessarily provide data to evaluate the precedent's potential disturbance. Financial interactions between media and politics are intricate and don't single-handedly validate or challenge the idea of a disturbing precedent.

91. (c) The correct answer is c. This choice accurately reflects the complexity and interconnected nature of agricultural economics. It acknowledges the impact of weather conditions on agriculture (and thereby on food prices) while also hinting at the interaction with other market factors such as supply chain issues, market speculation, and policy responses. This recognition of a broader network of influence requires a deeper understanding of economic systems and how individual factors interplay within them. (A): this option denies the relationship between dry spells and crop productivity, making this option incorrect. (B): This answer could mislead someone who assumes a straightforward proportional relationship between unseasonal rains and inflation. It's a distractor as it simplifies the relationship, disregarding other factors such as the type of crops affected, regional dependencies, and government interventions that can buffer or amplify the impact of weather on inflation. (D): This option is craftily deceptive, centering on the impact of weather variability on perishable goods only. While it's true that perishable items are more vulnerable to weather changes, the assertion that this influence is marginal in the context of overall inflation is misleading. It neglects the broader implications such variability can have on food supply chains and general price levels in the market.

92. (c) The correct answer is c. If vegetable prices are highly volatile, it introduces uncertainty and unpredictability into overall food inflation. This choice aligns with the idea that variability in a significant component (like vegetables) can complicate forecasting overall trends in a broader category (food prices). (A): This option is incorrect as it defies the idea presented in the passage. (B): The statement about a steady rise might seem plausible as a trend indicator. However, it doesn't necessarily make a conclusion about predictability. Steady rise (if true) is a past pattern, not necessarily a predictor of future trends, especially in the context of acknowledged volatility. Moreover, it is given in the passage that in past 100 months, the price has been very volatile, not steady. (D): This option might attract candidates who assume that seasonal patterns are easy to predict. However, even if vegetable prices show seasonal patterns, these alone

- may not be sufficient to predict overall food price inflation due to other influencing factors.
93. (d) The correct answer is d. (D): The assumption here is that changes in food and fuel prices could alter consumer expectations about future inflation, which in turn could drive actual inflation. This reflects an understanding of the psychological and anticipatory nature of inflation dynamics, directly aligning with the need to prevent spillover as stated by the RBI Governor. (A): While it's true that food and fuel prices affect core inflation, this option is more of a direct cause-and-effect statement rather than an assumption underlying the policy action. The Governor's claim points more towards the indirect impact (like expectations) rather than the direct impact. (B): Although market factors do influence food and fuel prices, this statement does not directly address the need for policy action to prevent spillover into general inflation trends, as it lacks a connection to the broader economic impact or consumer expectations. (C): This choice suggests that the central bank has direct control over food and fuel price volatility, which isn't necessarily implied in the Governor's statement. The focus of the statement is more on mitigating the broader impact of price shocks rather than on the control of the shocks themselves.
94. (c) The correct answer is c. (C): The reduction in the import of key inflation-sensitive commodities directly correlates with lower input costs and, consequently, could contribute to a decrease in overall inflation. This makes it a strong candidate for reinforcing the RBI's inflation forecast accuracy. (A): While a reduction in the repo rate can signal monetary policy easing and potentially impact inflation, its effects are usually broader and not always immediate, making it less directly supportive of the specific forecasted decrease. (B): An increase in industrial production and capacity utilization is indicative of economic growth and can have mixed effects on inflation. It might not specifically underline a reduction in inflation, as increased production can sometimes lead to higher demand and prices. (D): A steady decrease in the CPI for non-food, non-fuel items might initially seem to support a declining inflation trend. However, this doesn't directly assure the specific forecast of the RBI from 6.4% to 5.6%, as these items represent only a segment of the broader inflation measure.
95. (a) A is the right answer. This can be inferred from the last few lines of the passage where author say that the RBI cannot let its guard down. B is incorrect because this say that the RBI can now take a breather, but the author argues that the MPC must continue to remain vigilant. As the RBI Governor noted in his statement, policy must take action to "prevent any spillover from food and fuel price shocks to the underlying inflation trends". The

- guiding objective of the committee must be to ensure price stability. C is incorrect because this is extreme. This shows that the current inflation numbers are not good, but in the passage the author believes otherwise. D is incorrect because this talks about complete achievement of the target which is not given in the passage hence, A.
96. (c) C is the right answer. Nothing is given in the passage which impacts vegetable prices more, the demand supply gap or prolonged dry spells. The author states that both these impact the prices of vegetables. A is given in the passage. moreover, this was proved in September data that inflation came down as the price of vegetables eased. B is given in the passage. this can be inferred from the lines "Between 2019-20 and 2022-23, vegetable inflation averaged 5.7 per cent, up from 0 per cent between 2015-16 and 2018-19. Alongside, the frequency of the price spikes has also increased. As per the report, in the past 100 months, vegetable inflation was above 7 per cent in 35 months, and above 10 per cent in 30 months" D is also given in the passage read the lines "The September data, which was released after the MPC's October meeting, showed that food prices have indeed corrected sharply, vindicating the committee's decision to maintain status quo"
97. (d) Option D is the right answer. This can be understood from the last few lines of the passage where the author suggests that these states must take necessary steps immediately. A, B and C are incorrect because they are some of the pieces of information mentioned in the passage, not the main idea of the passage. The main idea will be the suggestion that is given towards the end of the passage. The author highlights some flaws in the mechanisms followed by states and then suggests that these states must take the necessary steps immediately. Hence, D
98. (b) The correct answer is b. This is a subtle yet foundational assumption. If the rural population does not utilize the newly transformed health and wellness centres, the initiative's goal of bringing healthcare closer to people's homes fails. The assumption is that by transforming PHCs into HWCs, rural populations will be more inclined or able to use these facilities, which is critical for the initiative's success. A: Incorrect because it is given that transforming public health centres (PHCs) to health and wellness centres (HWCs) would require addressing the sector's chronic shortages — doctors, frontline medical professionals and healthcare infrastructure. Transformation itself will not increase the presence of medical professionals. C: Incorrect. While addressing chronic diseases is important, the passage doesn't suggest that this is the sole or primary focus of the health and wellness centres. The transformation aims more broadly at improving accessibility and healthcare delivery, not just focusing on chronic diseases. D: Incorrect. The involvement and efficiency of state governments are

indeed crucial (as health is a state subject), but this is more of a prerequisite or a challenge than an underlying assumption about the transformation's impact on the healthcare crisis.

99. (c) The correct answer is c. A: Incorrect. While the number of centres converted is a measure of progress, it doesn't directly indicate effectiveness in terms of improved healthcare or accessibility, which is more crucial. B: Incorrect. Financial contributions are essential for implementation, but the key factor in evaluating effectiveness is how these contributions translate into actual healthcare delivery and utilization, not just the funding itself. C: Correct. The critical measure of effectiveness for the Ayushman Bharat program is whether it translates into actual healthcare usage and benefits for the rural population. An increase in the number of patients treated at these centres would directly indicate that more people are accessing and benefiting from the improved healthcare facilities, which is the program's primary goal. D: Incorrect. Although a reduction in infrastructure shortages is significant, it's more a prerequisite for effectiveness than a direct measure of it. The ultimate goal is not just to have infrastructure but to have it used effectively to improve health outcomes.
100. (b) The correct answer is b. A: Incorrect. Although facilities are important, the passage doesn't suggest they are the only factor affecting healthcare performance. Other elements like the availability of medical staff and supplies are also crucial. B: Correct. The passage mentions that over 200 community healthcare centres and PHCs in Uttar Pradesh are not even brick-and-mortar structures and implies a link to the state's poor performance in rural healthcare. This indicates a correlation (not necessarily causation) between the absence of physical healthcare facilities and subpar healthcare delivery or outcomes. C: Incorrect. The passage clearly shows concern over the lack of brick-and-mortar structures, indicating they have an impact on healthcare delivery, contrary to this option. D: Incorrect. This option takes the inference too far. While the passage suggests that physical healthcare facilities are important, it doesn't claim that merely increasing their number will automatically improve healthcare outcomes. The effectiveness of these facilities also depends on factors like staffing, equipment, and management.
101. (b) The correct answer is b. This option subtly challenges the passage's assertion by indicating that private healthcare facilities, though primarily urban-centric, could still be effective in rural healthcare through adaptable models. A: This choice is closely related but not entirely correct. It suggests that that private healthcare can provide telehealth services. This exposes the inability of providing permanent services and this is what the author says. So, this is not a flaw. C: This choice, while presenting a viable

method (mobile health units) for extending healthcare in rural areas, doesn't directly address the fundamental flaw in the passage's reasoning. It introduces an alternative model for rural healthcare delivery but fails short of questioning the effectiveness of urban-focused private facilities in rural settings. D: Similar to options A and C, this answer proposes an alternative way (satellite clinics) that private facilities might extend their reach into rural areas. However, it doesn't directly challenge the passage's underlying assumption about the inefficiency of private, urban-centered healthcare models in rural settings. Instead, it points to a possible solution rather than highlighting a flaw in the reasoning.

102. (a) The correct answer is a. A: Correct. This choice directly addresses the critical aspect of disease control as indicated in the passage - the ability to detect and manage diseases early in their development. Improved infrastructure and increased staffing at PHCs particularly in underperforming states like Uttar Pradesh, as mentioned in the passage, would logically enhance disease surveillance and early detection capabilities at the local level. This directly contributes to preventing disease escalation. B: This option, while plausible, addresses the outcome (reduced dependency on tertiary care facilities) rather than the direct role of PHCs in preventing disease escalation at local levels. It's a positive outcome but doesn't specifically link to the early stages of disease control as the correct answer does. C: This answer highlights an important role of PHCs - education and prevention strategies - but the link to the immediate need for infrastructure and staffing improvements for preventing disease escalation isn't as direct as in the correct answer. It's more about long-term health management than immediate disease control. D: Building trust in the healthcare system is undoubtedly crucial and can lead to timely medical consultations. However, this option is more indirectly linked to the prevention of disease escalation compared to the direct impact of enhanced surveillance and early detection as outlined in option A. Trust-building is a slower process and may not immediately address the urgency of preventing disease escalation.
103. (a) A is the right answer. The author's argument can be understood from the last few lines of the passage that this type of actions can undermine democracy especially if these actions are taken in the midst of elections. B is incorrect because nowhere it is given that the cases registered by the ED are false. The author says that this could have been considered true had the ED been impartial, but the author doesn't say that the cases are fabricated. C is incorrect because this is just one of the information in the passage that has been denied by the author. D is

**SECTION: QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES**

**Hint [109-114]:** Let the number of boys and girls in Class X be  $6x$  and  $5x$ .

$$\text{Number of boys in Class IX} = 5x + 30$$

$$\text{Number of girls in Class IX} = 900 - 6x - 5x - 30 = 870 - 16x$$

Class IX		Class X	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
$5x + 30$	$870 - 16x$	$6x$	$5x$

ATQ,

$$(5x + 30 + 6x) - (870 - 16x + 5x) = 260$$

$$11x + 30 - 870 + 16x = 260$$

$$22x - 840 = 260$$

$$22x = 1100$$

$$x = 50$$

Class IX		Class X	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
280	70	300	250

109. (a) Required percentage =  $\frac{20}{300} \times 100 = 6.66\%$

110. (c) Required ratio =  $350 : 550 = 7:11$

111. (b) Difference =  $250 - 70 = 180$

112. (d) Boys in yellow house in class X =  $\frac{40}{100} \times 300 = 120$

113. (a) Let the number of girls in X and XI class be  $10x$  and  $13x$ .  
 $10x = 250$   
 $x = 25$

$$\text{Girls in XI class} = 13x = 325$$

$$\text{Let the number of boys in IX and XI class be } 4y \text{ and } 5y.$$

$$4y = 280$$

$$y = 70$$

$$\text{Boys in XI class} = 5y = 350$$

$$\text{Total strength of XI class} = 325 + 350 = 675$$

114. (b) Difference in number of students =  $550 - 350 = 200$   
 Fees =  $25 \times 200 = 5000$

**Hint [115-120]:**

- 2000 locals were surveyed to know the famous spot.
- 1500 do not like Amusement Park  $\Rightarrow (2000 - 1500) = 500$  people like Amusement Park.
- 1250 do not like Lake View Drive  $\Rightarrow (2000 - 1250) = 750$  people like Lake View Drive.
- 150 people like only Amusement Park and Lake View Drive.
- Twice as many like all the three spots, as those who like only Lakeview Drive and Sunset Point. i.e. if  $x$  people like only Lakeview Drive and Sunset Point,  $2x$  people will like all the three spots.

$$\text{Now number of people who like only Lake View Drive} = 750 - 150 - 3x = 600 - 3x$$

VI. Number of people who like only Lakeview Drive is 3 times the number of people who like only Amusement Park.

Number of people who like only Amusement Park

$$= \frac{1}{3} (600 - 3x) = 200 - x$$

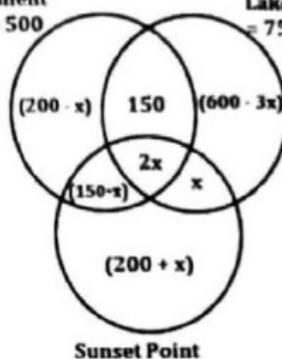
So, the number of people who like only Amusement Park and Sunset Point teams = 500  
 $- \{(200-x) + 2x + 150\} = 150 - x$

VII. 1100 people like at least one of the two spots – Lake View Drive or Sunset Point.

$$\text{So, number of people who like only Sunset Point} = 1100 - \{(600 - 3x) + x + 2x + 150 + (150 - x)\}$$

$$= 1100 - (900 - x) \Rightarrow = 200 + x.$$

Amusement park = 500      Lakeview Drive = 750



Sunset Point

VIII. Out of the people who like Sunset Point, the difference between the number of people not liking the Amusement Park and those liking the Amusement Park is 90. Out of the people who like sunset point, the people who like Amusement Park =  $A = (150 - x) + 2x = 150 + x$

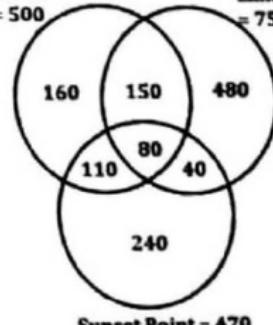
Out of the people who like Sunset Point, the people who do not like Amusement Park =  $\bar{A} = (200 + x) + x = 200 + 2x$

Now difference between A and  $\bar{A}$  is 400  $\Rightarrow A - \bar{A}$  or  $\bar{A} - A = 90$ .

$$\bar{A} - A = (200 + 2x) - (150 + x) = 50 + x, 50 + x = 90 \Rightarrow x = 40.$$

Now we know x and hence every value in the chart is now known.

Amusement park = 500      Lakeview Drive = 750



Sunset Point = 470

Solutions:

115. (d) Required Percentage =  $\frac{80}{480} \times 100 = 16.66\%$

116. (a) Required Percentage =  $\frac{2000 - (160 + 150 + 480 + 50 + 110 + 40 + 240)}{2000} \times 100 = \frac{740}{2000} \times 100 = 37\%$

117. (a) 160

118. (b) Required ratio = 240:150 = 8:5

incorrect because two different pieces of information is incorrectly connected. Hence, A.

104. (b) The correct answer, B, closely aligns with the passage's narrative about the ED's alleged selective targeting of Opposition leaders, particularly in the charged environment of the Assembly elections. This option captures the intricacies of the passage's implication that the ED's actions are not just about fighting corruption but are skewed to impact political outcomes, making it a challenging but logical inference. A is misleadingly straightforward and aligns superficially with an agency's expected role, but it fails to encapsulate the specific, nuanced critical view of the ED's actions highlighted in the passage. Option C, though seemingly plausible, sidesteps the critical tone of the passage regarding the alleged bias in the ED's application of anti-corruption laws, presenting too idealistic a perspective. Option D, while complex and involving internal party dynamics, strays slightly into speculation not directly supported by the text; it introduces an element (internal party disputes) that isn't a primary focus in the passage.
105. (c) The correct answer, C, directly relates to the notion of the ED's political bias, particularly during sensitive periods like elections. The passage discusses the ED's actions in the context of an upcoming election, suggesting an inference that the timing and target of these actions might reveal political motivations. A historical analysis during such crucial events would provide insights into whether there's a pattern that indicates bias. A, though tempting, offers a general frequency of raids, which might not necessarily demonstrate a bias, as it doesn't factor in the critical timings or the political situations during those raids. Option B presents a distraction by focusing on financial irregularities, which might not reflect on the ED's actions or motivations but rather on the state of financial governance in different states. Option D, involving the ED's budgetary aspects, diverges from assessing the agency's action patterns and political bias; financial resources allocation doesn't directly indicate operational biases or targets.
106. (c) The correct answer is c. C directly aligns with the passage's insinuation that the ED's enforcement actions, especially their timing around elections, are strategically aimed at influencing these electoral outcomes. This idea is underscored by the description of the ED being accused of selectively targeting opposition leaders during the election period, suggesting an underlying motive linked to affecting the election results. A presents a contrarian view to the passage's suggestion, assuming that the ED's actions are impartial and routine, which contradicts the critical tone of the passage regarding the timing and target of ED actions. Option B introduces an unsubstantiated assumption about the behavior of opposition parties, which is not implied

in the passage, the passage critiques the ED's actions, not the behavior of these parties. Option D, although nuanced, implies that the rise in ED actions is a response to increased irregularities during elections, which doesn't directly speak to the passage's hint of politically motivated timing of the actions.

107. (a) The correct answer is a. A strengthens the author's claim by providing a direct consequence (decreased public trust in governmental institutions) that relates to the detrimental impact on governance and democracy, as stated in the passage. This aligns with the idea that the perceived misuse of agencies like the ED for political purposes can erode public confidence in the fairness and impartiality of government institutions, undermining both governance and democratic values. B, while presenting a situation of the ED acting impartially, actually weakens rather than strengthens the author's claim by countering the notion of political misuse. Option C also weakens the claim by suggesting a positive outcome (increased successful prosecutions) from the ED's actions, which could imply an enhancement, rather than detriment, to governance. Option D, showing public approval for the ED's actions, is tricky because it talks about public perception of the ED's efficiency rather than its impact on governance and democracy; high approval ratings do not directly address the potential harm to institutional trust and democratic processes that the author is concerned with.
108. (b) The correct answer is b. B offers a direct challenge to the idea of bias by suggesting that the ED's activities are influenced more by the prevalence of public allegations (an external, ostensibly neutral factor) than by political affiliations, thereby countering the notion of selective targeting based on opposition to the BJP. A, while presenting a factor that might seem to counter the suggestion of bias (the alignment of investigations with reported financial irregularities), doesn't clearly sever the link between investigations and political affiliations. It fails to explicitly state that these irregularities are non-partisan or that BJP members are equally targeted, leaving room for bias. C appears to weaken the argument of bias by indicating active investigations into BJP officials. However, without context on the proportionality and depth of these investigations compared to those against the opposition, it falls short of conclusively undermining the suggested bias. D introduces an external comparative element (enforcement patterns in other democracies) but doesn't directly address the specific bias against opposition figures in the Indian context. It dilutes its effectiveness by not tackling the core of the bias allegation, which is about targeting based on opposition to the BJP, not just a generalized enforcement style.