

# MOCK KEY - 1



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# MASTER **MOCK KEY**

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## English

1. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
  - (a) The protagonist's lack of imagination hinders his ability to grasp the deeper significance of his environment.
  - (b) The Yukon trail is a desolate and dangerous place, unsuitable for inexperienced travelers.
  - (c) Nature in the Arctic is indifferent to human existence, and survival depends solely on practical preparation.
  - (d) The protagonist is well-equipped for his journey but fails to consider the emotional toll of isolation.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage emphasizes the protagonist's lack of imagination—he perceives the extreme cold only as a number rather than grasping its deeper dangers. The final paragraph explicitly states that he fails to reflect on human frailty and mortality. Option (b) is too broad; the passage does not generalize about all inexperienced travelers, only this man. Option (c) is partly true but does not highlight the protagonist's mindset, which is the central focus. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss emotional toll—only his lack of foresight regarding physical survival.

2. What is the primary function of the second paragraph in relation to the passage as a whole?
  - (a) It establishes the protagonist's destination and goals for his journey.
  - (b) It provides a contrast between the man's perception and the reality of his surroundings.
  - (c) It serves as a foreshadowing device to hint at the dangers the protagonist will face.
  - (d) It functions as an interlude, delaying the main action of the story.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because the second paragraph describes the harsh, desolate landscape and extreme cold, subtly hinting at the dangers ahead. The man's failure to grasp the severity of his environment foreshadows potential trouble. Option (a) is incorrect because the paragraph does not focus on his destination or goals. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the passage contrasts perception and reality, the second paragraph primarily builds an ominous tone rather than directly contrasting his views. Option (d) is incorrect because the paragraph does not merely delay the action; it sets up crucial context for the story's impending conflict.

3. Which of the following can be inferred about the man's understanding of the environment?
  - (a) He views the extreme cold as a minor inconvenience rather than a life-threatening condition.
  - (b) He has traveled the Yukon trail multiple times and understands its dangers well.
  - (c) He believes the sun will not rise for at least another month.
  - (d) He considers himself superior to the natural elements and does not believe he needs extra precautions.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage shows that the man views fifty degrees below zero as merely uncomfortable rather than truly life-threatening. He fails to grasp the deeper danger of extreme cold, highlighting his lack of imagination. Option (b) is incorrect because he is a chechaquo (newcomer) experiencing his first winter. Option (c) is incorrect as he acknowledges the sun's

absence but does not claim it will be gone for a month. Option (d) is wrong because he does take some precautions (mittens, ear-flaps) but does not fully appreciate the risks posed by the cold.

4. What does the word "chechaquo" most likely mean in the context of the passage?
- A seasoned explorer
  - A native of the Arctic region
  - A person who underestimates the dangers of the environment
  - A newcomer or inexperienced traveler

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage states that the man is a chechaquo and explicitly mentions that this is his first winter in the region, indicating he is a newcomer. Option (a) is incorrect because a seasoned explorer would have experience with such conditions, whereas the man lacks understanding. Option (b) is incorrect because a native of the Arctic would be well-adapted to the environment, unlike the protagonist. Option (c) is incorrect because while the man does underestimate the dangers, the word "chechaquo" itself refers to inexperience, not necessarily a lack of caution or awareness.

5. What is the author's likely attitude toward the protagonist?
- Neutral and detached, presenting him as a simple observer of nature.
  - Respectful of his resilience but critical of his lack of foresight.
  - Sarcastic, implying that the protagonist's lack of imagination is absurd.
  - Disapproving of his decision to travel in such harsh conditions.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because the author describes the protagonist's preparedness but also highlights his lack of imagination and inability to grasp the deeper significance of the extreme cold, suggesting a mix of respect and criticism. Option (a) is incorrect because the narration is not entirely neutral; it subtly critiques the man's limited perception. Option (c) is incorrect because the tone is serious and foreboding rather than sarcastic. Option (d) is incorrect because the author does not directly condemn the man's decision to travel but instead focuses on his failure to fully comprehend the risks involved.

6. What is the primary purpose of the passage?
- To argue that the Great Peasants' War was a direct result of the Protestant Reformation
  - To analyze the causes and consequences of the Great Peasants' War in the Holy Roman Empire
  - To compare the Great Peasants' War with earlier peasant uprisings in Europe
  - To highlight the military strategies used by peasants in resisting feudal rule

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because the passage examines both the causes and outcomes of the Great Peasants' War, discussing its deep social, economic, and religious roots, as well as its eventual suppression. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the Reformation is mentioned, the passage explicitly states that the war was driven by a fusion of religious fervor and longstanding social tensions rather than being a direct result of Luther's actions. Option (c) is incorrect because earlier uprisings are referenced briefly but not compared in detail. Option (d) is incorrect because military

strategies are only mentioned in passing, not analyzed comprehensively.

7. Based on the passage, which of the following best explains why peasants rebelled?
- They sought to create a society based on religious principles without exploitative lords
  - They were motivated primarily by economic hardship following a widespread agricultural collapse
  - They were inspired by Martin Luther's call for social and political revolution
  - They wanted to overthrow all feudal authority and establish a fully democratic system

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage explicitly states that the peasants "sought a world built on Scripture, without exploitative lords," indicating that their rebellion was driven by both religious ideals and social grievances. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage rejects the idea of a single economic crisis as the primary cause. Option (c) is incorrect because it does not claim that Martin Luther directly called for social or political revolution. Option (d) is incorrect because the peasants were not aiming to completely abolish all feudal structures but rather to establish a more just system based on religious principles.

8. Which of the following can be inferred about the Holy Roman Empire's structure in the early 1500s?

- It was primarily dominated by religious institutions, with little role for secular rulers
- It was in a state of economic collapse due to excessive taxation by feudal lords
- It was a rigidly centralized state with strong noble control over all economic production
- It allowed a degree of self-governance in both cities and villages, though tensions persisted

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage describes how both major cities and village councils gained some autonomy in managing local affairs, indicating a system that allowed self-governance despite ongoing tensions with the nobility. Option (a) is incorrect because while religious institutions played a role, the passage highlights the power of secular lords and noble resistance to peasant demands. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest a widespread economic collapse, but rather increased noble oppression. Option (c) is incorrect because the Holy Roman Empire was not a rigidly centralized state; it was fragmented, with various regions exercising different levels of autonomy.

9. Why does the author mention Peter Blickle's interpretation of the war?

- To emphasize that the war was primarily a military rather than a social movement
- To argue that the war was a failed attempt at democracy
- To provide historical context on how scholars have viewed the peasants' objectives
- To criticize the view that the peasants' war was revolutionary in nature

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because the passage introduces Peter Blickle's interpretation to show how scholars have understood the peasants' objectives, specifically as a "Revolution of the Common Man." This provides historical context for different perspectives on the war. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Blickle viewed the war as primarily military; it emphasizes its social and political aspects. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that the war was an attempt at democracy. Option (d) is incorrect because the author does not criticize

Blickle's view but rather presents it as influential.

10. Suppose new historical evidence emerged showing that the Swabian League had already planned to suppress peasant revolts before 1524. How would this most affect the passage's argument?

- (a) It would undermine the claim that religious tensions were a major factor in the war's outbreak
- (b) It would support the idea that the peasants were responding to immediate military threats rather than long-term grievances
- (c) It would strengthen the view that the war was driven primarily by economic collapse rather than political factors
- (d) It would have little impact, as the war's causes were deeply rooted in long-standing social and economic tensions

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage argues that the war was the result of long-standing social, economic, and religious tensions, not merely an immediate military conflict. Even if the Swabian League had preemptively planned suppression, the underlying causes—peasant grievances, noble oppression, and religious fervor—would still have played a crucial role. Option (a) is incorrect because religious tensions would still be relevant. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage emphasizes long-term factors rather than immediate threats. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage explicitly rejects economic collapse as the primary cause, instead highlighting a mix of social and religious motivations.

11. What does the phrase “track learning on a moment-by-moment basis” most likely mean in the passage?

- (a) The finches are aware of their own progress and adjust their singing accordingly
- (b) The machine learning model predicts how well a bird will sing in the future
- (c) The finches' songs improve at a constant, predictable rate
- (d) The researchers can measure tiny variations in song development as they occur

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage describes how researchers used machine learning to analyze thousands of song renditions, allowing them to observe subtle, ongoing improvements in learning. This suggests they can measure variations in song development as they happen. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not state that finches are consciously aware of their progress or intentionally adjust their singing. Option (b) is incorrect because tracking learning is different from predicting future performance. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage implies variability in improvement, not a constant, predictable rate.

- (a) What function does the reference to The Beatles serve in the passage?
- (b) To suggest that birdsong learning is similar to the creative process in music production
- (c) To show that practice in song production is inefficient and repetitive
- (d) To emphasize that zebra finches are capable of artistic expression like human musicians
- (e) To contrast the structured learning of zebra finches with the more spontaneous nature of human musical creativity

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage compares the finches' repetitive practice to The Beatles' meticulous recording process, illustrating that mastering birdsong, like human music production, requires extensive repetition and refinement. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not imply that practice is inefficient—rather, it is essential for improvement. Option (c) is

incorrect because it does not claim that finches exhibit artistic expression like humans, only that their learning process is rigorous. Option (d) is incorrect because it does not contrast structured and spontaneous learning but instead draws a parallel between them.

13. What can be inferred about the role of dopamine in zebra finches' learning process?

- (a) It is released only when an adult bird listens to a juvenile's song
- (b) It functions solely as a reward signal when a bird's song closely matches its template
- (c) It plays a key role in reinforcing motor skill learning by providing feedback
- (d) It is less important for vocal learning than external reinforcement from adult birds

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because the passage states that dopamine is involved in learning new motor skills, implying that it provides internal feedback to reinforce vocal learning. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that dopamine is released only when an adult listens; rather, it is linked to the juvenile's learning process. Option (b) is incorrect because dopamine is not solely a reward signal—it also plays a broader role in motivation and learning. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage emphasizes internal dopamine-driven reinforcement over external feedback from adult birds.

14. Suppose future research found that juvenile zebra finches learned songs just as quickly without dopamine release. How would this most affect the passage's argument?

- (a) It would suggest that the birds' practice routines are driven primarily by social feedback from adults
- (b) It would have little impact, as the role of dopamine in motivation is well-established in other species
- (c) It would strengthen the claim that intrinsic motivation, rather than chemical signals, drives learning
- (d) It would weaken the claim that dopamine plays a key role in vocal learning and skill acquisition

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage emphasizes dopamine's role in reinforcing motor skill learning, so evidence that birds learn equally well without it would undermine this claim. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage focuses on intrinsic motivation rather than social feedback from adults. Option (b) is incorrect because, while dopamine's role in motivation is recognized in other species, the passage specifically links it to birdsong learning, which would be challenged by the new research. Option (c) is incorrect because intrinsic motivation is already highlighted, but the passage argues that dopamine is a key mechanism driving that motivation.

15. The author's attitude toward the research discussed in the passage is best described as:

- (a) Skeptical, questioning whether the machine learning model accurately captures birdsong learning
- (b) Enthusiastic, highlighting the research as an exciting step toward understanding intrinsic learning mechanisms
- (c) Critical, pointing out that the findings lack direct application to human neurological disorders
- (d) Neutral, presenting the study's findings without any clear approval or disapproval

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because the author presents the research in a positive light, emphasizing its innovative methods and potential implications for understanding learning. The passage discusses new tools like machine learning and dopamine tracking with excitement, suggesting enthusiasm. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no skepticism about the machine learning model's accuracy. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not criticize the research for lacking human applications; rather, it suggests its relevance to neurological studies. Option (d) is incorrect because the author's tone is more engaged and appreciative than strictly neutral.

16. What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- (a) To argue that human cognition is superior to that of other animals due to causal understanding
- (b) To explore the nature and development of human causal reasoning and its implications
- (c) To critique the philosophical assumptions underlying human perceptions of causality
- (d) To present recent scientific discoveries about the neurological basis of causal thinking

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not argue that human cognition is superior but rather that causal understanding is a unique cognitive trait. Option (c) is incorrect because, while the passage acknowledges the philosophical complexity of causality, it does not primarily critique those assumptions. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not focus on recent neurological discoveries but rather on the broader cognitive and developmental aspects of causal reasoning. Option (b) is correct because the passage explains what causal understanding is, how it develops in humans, and its broader cognitive and practical implications.

17. Which of the following best expresses the significance of the example of an acorn falling into a puddle?

- (a) It illustrates how humans automatically perceive causal relationships in everyday events.
- (b) It demonstrates that humans often misinterpret mere sequences of events as causal connections.
- (c) It suggests that humans impose causal structures onto events that do not actually have them.
- (d) It highlights that causal understanding is an innate human ability, rather than a learned one.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage highlights causal understanding as a uniquely human cognitive ability, distinguishing it from other animals and emphasizing how it grants humans unparalleled power to change and control the world. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the passage explores causal reasoning, its central argument is about its role in making human cognition exceptional. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not primarily critique philosophical assumptions but rather describes causal cognition. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not focus on scientific discoveries about neurology but on the cognitive uniqueness of humans.

18. Suppose research found that some non-human primates consistently recognize causality in new situations. How would this most affect the passage's argument?

- (a) It would undermine the idea that causal understanding provides humans with an evolutionary advantage.
- (b) It would have little impact, since the passage only claims that causal understanding is more advanced in humans.
- (c) It would weaken the claim that only adult humans possess general causal reasoning.
- (d) It would strengthen the claim that social learning is essential for developing causal understanding.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because the passage asserts that only adult humans possess a generalized, hyper-objective sense of causality. If research showed that non-human primates also recognize causality in novel situations, it would challenge this exclusivity, weakening the claim. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not argue that causal understanding is the sole reason for human evolutionary advantage. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage strongly implies that this ability is unique to humans, so such research would significantly impact its argument. Option (d) is incorrect because the research concerns innate causal recognition, not social learning.

19. The author's use of the phrase "human sociality" primarily serves to:
- Propose that sociality evolved as a byproduct of humans' unique causal cognition.
  - Argue that causal reasoning is a product of social interactions rather than innate cognition.
  - Suggest that humans' ability to understand causality is closely linked to their interactions with others.
  - Highlight that humans are more social than other animals, leading to stronger causal reasoning.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because the passage suggests that human causal understanding develops through social interactions, emphasizing a link between cognition and sociality. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that sociality evolved as a byproduct of causal cognition; rather, it suggests the reverse—that sociality aids causal learning. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not argue that causal reasoning is purely a product of social interactions but acknowledges both innate and learned aspects. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not compare human and animal sociality to establish causal reasoning as a direct consequence.

20. What assumption does the author make about human perception of causality?
- It is unique to humans because other animals lack any awareness of cause-and-effect relationships.
  - It is biologically hardwired and does not require experience to develop.
  - It is shaped by social and cognitive factors but remains an objective feature of the world.
  - It is a mental construct rather than a reflection of how the world actually works.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because the passage describes causal understanding as both a cognitive achievement influenced by sociality and an aspect of how humans perceive the objective world. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that other animals entirely lack cause-and-effect awareness—only that human causal reasoning is uniquely advanced. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage emphasizes learning and development rather than causality being purely hardwired. Option (d) is incorrect because, while the passage acknowledges philosophical debates, it presents causality as an intrinsic part of human perception rather than merely a mental construct.

21. What is the primary argument made by the author regarding The Secret Garden?
- It should be reinterpreted as a work of climate fiction due to its depiction of nature.
  - It romanticizes colonialism and should no longer be read uncritically.
  - It portrays the contrast between England and India in a way that reinforces stereotypes.
  - It primarily serves as an example of classic children's literature rather than a commentary on nature.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage argues that The Secret Garden can be reinterpreted as an early work of climate fiction, emphasizing its engagement with nature and transformation. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the book involves colonial themes, the author does not argue that it should be dismissed or read solely as a critique of colonialism. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that the book reinforces stereotypes but rather explores the blending of climates and identities. Option (d) is incorrect because the author views the novel as more than just children's literature, highlighting its environmental themes.

22. What is the function of the passage's discussion about the Climate Fiction Prize?

- (a) To suggest that The Secret Garden is an early example of climate fiction that aligns with modern literary trends.
- (b) To argue that classic literature should be rewritten to better reflect contemporary climate concerns.
- (c) To highlight how modern literature has surpassed The Secret Garden in its ecological awareness.
- (d) To critique the overuse of literary awards in defining cultural significance.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage connects The Secret Garden to modern climate fiction, suggesting it aligns with contemporary literary trends that explore ecological themes. Option (b) is incorrect because the author does not advocate rewriting classic literature but rather reinterpreting it in a new context. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that modern literature has surpassed The Secret Garden in ecological awareness but rather that it shares thematic similarities. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not critique literary awards but instead presents the Climate Fiction Prize as a positive development.

23. Which of the following is most strongly implied about the author's personal connection to The Secret Garden?

- (a) The author feels nostalgic about The Secret Garden but acknowledges its outdated colonial perspectives.
- (b) The book influenced the author's views on migration and displacement, leading them to reject its idealized portrayal of England.
- (c) The author appreciates The Secret Garden primarily for its literary style rather than its themes.
- (d) The book resonates with the author because of its portrayal of the interconnectedness of places and identities.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the author describes a personal connection to The Secret Garden through its depiction of nature and the blending of England and India, mirroring their own mixed-heritage background. Option (a) is incorrect because, while the author acknowledges colonial history, they focus on the book's emotional and ecological themes rather than solely critiquing its colonial aspects. Option (b) is incorrect because the author does not reject the book's portrayal of England but rather reinterprets it. Option (c) is incorrect because the author values both the literary style and the thematic depth, not just the style alone.

24. The passage suggests that the garden in The Secret Garden functions primarily as:

- (a) A symbol of England's control over colonial landscapes.
- (b) A reflection of Mary's grief and isolation.
- (c) A literal space where children learn about nature and gardening techniques.
- (d) A metaphor for healing and personal transformation.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage emphasizes how the garden represents healing and transformation, particularly for Mary, who overcomes grief and rootlessness through her connection to it. Option (a) is incorrect because the garden is not framed as a symbol of colonial control but rather as a personal sanctuary. Option (b) is incorrect because, while Mary's grief is part of her journey, the garden's primary function is to facilitate her emotional and personal growth. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage focuses on the garden's symbolic role rather than its practical function as a site for learning gardening skills.

25. If new evidence showed that *The Secret Garden* was actually inspired by an entirely different novel with no connection to climate concerns, how would this most affect the passage's argument?

- (a) It would strengthen the argument that literature should be analyzed independently of authorial intent.
- (b) It would undermine the author's claim that storytelling is essential in times of ecological crisis.
- (c) It would have no impact, as the passage primarily focuses on the literary quality of *The Secret Garden*.
- (d) It would weaken the claim that *The Secret Garden* should be seen as climate fiction.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because the passage argues that *The Secret Garden* should be reinterpreted as climate fiction based on its depiction of nature and transformation. If new evidence showed no connection to climate concerns, this reinterpretation would be weakened. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not emphasize separating literature from authorial intent but rather reanalyzing its themes. Option (b) is incorrect because the broader argument about storytelling's importance in ecological crises would still stand. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage's focus is not just on literary quality but also on thematic reinterpretation related to climate fiction.

## General Knowledge

26. Which of the following is a framework established in 2015 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa to provide short-term liquidity support to member countries facing balance of payments pressures, complementing existing international arrangements like the IMF?

- (a) New Development Fund (NDF)
- (b) Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
- (c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- (d) Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM)

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) by BRICS is a framework established in 2015 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa to provide short-term liquidity support to member countries facing balance of payments pressures, complementing existing international arrangements like the IMF.

27. Which of the following has been redacted by [1] in the given passage?

- (a) Jeffrey Sachs
- (b) Joseph Stiglitz
- (c) John Maynard Keynes
- (d) Jim O'Neill

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Jim O'Neill introduced BRIC as a concept in 2001.

28. What is one of the primary goals of BRICS in international trade?

- (a) Promoting the Euro as the global currency
- (b) Encouraging the use of the US dollar in trade
- (c) De-dollarisation and enhancing South-South cooperation
- (d) Establishing trade agreements with NATO

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** De-dollarisation and enhancing South-South cooperation are among the primary goals of BRICS in international trade.

29. Which of the following statements is true regarding Indonesia's BRICS membership?

- (a) Its membership was facilitated by Russia in 2024
- (b) It was the first Asian country to join BRICS
- (c) It was rejected in the 2023 Johannesburg summit
- (d) It joined BRICS under the chairmanship of China

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Under Russia's chairmanship, Indonesia's membership was finalized, and it officially joined BRICS.

30. Why do many BRICS members criticize the role of the US dollar in global trade?
- They believe it is an unstable currency
  - They accuse Washington of using it as a political tool
  - They prefer using cryptocurrencies instead
  - They want to replace it with the Euro

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** BRICS members accuse Washington of using it as a political tool.

31. Why is urban development identified as a key pillar for economic growth in the 2025 Union Budget?
- The urban share of GDP has remained stagnant despite increasing urban population
  - Rural areas are more productive than urban areas
  - The government wants to shift economic activity to rural regions
  - India's urban infrastructure is already fully developed

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Prioritising cities has been deemed important because the urban share of GDP has remained stagnant between 52-55% from 2000-2020.

32. Which of the following schemes announced in the Union Budget 2025 is designed to cover 100 low agricultural productivity districts, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers by enhancing irrigation and post-harvest storage facilities?
- PM Samriddhi Khet Abhiyan
  - PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana
  - National Agriculture Infrastructure Mission
  - Krishi Unnati Yojana

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana announced in the Union Budget 2025 is designed to cover 100 low agricultural productivity districts, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers by enhancing irrigation and post-harvest storage facilities.

33. Which of the following has been redacted by [1] in the given passage?
- National Urban Renewal Fund
  - Smart Cities Development Fund
  - Metropolitan Growth and Expansion Fund
  - Urban Challenge Fund

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The Urban Challenge Fund has been redacted by [1] in the given passage.

34. Which major infrastructure issue is highlighted in Indian cities concerning water supply?
- India's cities have the highest per capita water availability in the world
  - Only 30% of cities have access to piped water
  - Water availability is below the benchmark of 135-150 lpcd
  - Rural areas receive more water than urban areas

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Water availability not meeting the benchmark of 135-150 lpcd is a major infrastructure issue is highlighted in Indian cities concerning water supply.

35. What was the key finding of the expenditure analysis of 27 big municipalities on solid waste management (SWM)?

- (a) Higher spending alone did not ensure better cleanliness outcomes
- (b) Spending was the sole determinant of urban cleanliness
- (c) Most municipalities spent exactly as per the norms
- (d) All municipalities scored perfectly under Swachh Bharat rankings

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** The key finding of the expenditure analysis of 27 big municipalities on solid waste management (SWM) was that higher spending alone did not ensure better cleanliness outcomes.

36. What is the primary objective of the Amphex 2025 exercise?

- (a) Testing new naval weapons
- (b) Enhancing interoperability and synergy through joint training
- (c) Conducting air combat operations
- (d) Strengthening diplomatic relations with other nations

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The primary objective of the Amphex 2025 exercise is to enhance interoperability and synergy through joint training.

37. Which major naval exercise coincides with Amphex 2025?

- (a) Malabar
- (b) Milan
- (c) Tropex
- (d) Varuna

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Tropex is the major naval exercise which coincides with Amphex 2025.

38. What is the full form of Tropex, the Indian Navy's major exercise?

- (a) Tactical Readiness and Operational Exercise
- (b) Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise
- (c) Tri-Services Readiness and Operational Exercise
- (d) Territorial Reconnaissance and Operational Expansion

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Tropex stands for Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise.

39. How frequently is the Tropex exercise conducted?

- (a) Annually
- (b) Biennially
- (c) Every five years
- (d) Every three years

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** The Tropex exercise is conducted annually.

40. What is the phase of Tropex which involves preparing forces with planning, logistics, and mission coordination?

- (a) Sea Phase
- (b) Groundwork Phase
- (c) Harbour Phase
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** The Harbour Phase of Tropex involves preparing forces with planning, logistics, and mission coordination.

41. What is identified as the most severe global risk over the next two years?

- (a) Misinformation and disinformation
- (b) Cybersecurity threats
- (c) Economic collapse
- (d) Energy crisis

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Misinformation and disinformation has been identified as the most severe global risk over the next two years.

42. Who addressed the WEF meeting virtually on January 23, 2025?

- (a) Volodymyr Zelenskiy
- (b) Joe Biden
- (c) Vladimir Putin
- (d) Donald Trump

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Donald Trump addressed the WEF meeting virtually on January 23, 2025.

43. Which major event is the WEF preparing for in January 2025?

- (a) G20 Summit
- (b) COP30 Climate Summit
- (c) NATO Security Conference
- (d) Annual meeting in Davos

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The WEF was preparing for the annual meeting in Davos in January 2025.

44. Who among the following is the founder of the World Economic Forum?

- (a) Yuval Noah Harari
- (b) George Soros
- (c) Klaus Schwab
- (d) Larry Fink

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Klaus Schwab founded the World Economic Forum in 1971.

45. Which of the following countries does not rank extreme weather among their top three short-term risks?

- (a) Dominican Republic
- (b) Oman
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Mauritius

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Mauritius is not among the countries which rank extreme weather among their top three short-term risks.

46. What was the primary demand of the Twipra Students Federation (TSF) during the strike in Tripura?

- (a) Recognition of Bengali script as the only official script for Kokborok
- (b) Implementation of the Roman script as the official script for Kokborok
- (c) Introduction of Hindi as the medium of instruction in schools
- (d) Establishment of a separate university for tribal students

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The primary demand of the Twipra Students Federation (TSF) during the strike in Tripura is the implementation of the Roman script as the official script for Kokborok.

47. Which organization is TSF affiliated with?

- (a) Northeast Students' Organization (NESO)
- (b) Tripura Tribal Students' Union (TTSU)
- (c) All India Students' Federation (AISF)
- (d) National Council for Education (NCE)

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** TSF is affiliated with the Northeast Students' Organization (NESO).

48. Under which Schedule of the Indian Constitution is the Kokborok language demanded to be recognised?

- (a) Seventh
- (b) Sixth

- (c) Eighth
- (d) Fifth

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** The Kokborok language demanded to be recognised under the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

49. Why did TSF demand the postponement of the March 21 board exams?

- (a) Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions
- (b) Because the question papers were framed in Bengali script
- (c) To allow more time for students to prepare
- (d) To demand better education facilities in Tripura

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** TSF demanded the postponement of the March 21 board exams because the question papers were framed in Bengali script.

50. When was the Kokborok language officially recognised?

- (a) 1975
- (b) 1979
- (c) 1981
- (d) 1988

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The Kokborok language was officially recognised in 1979.

51. What is the objective of the CROPS experiment?

- (a) To create artificial soil for space farming
- (b) To test water purification techniques in space
- (c) To study plant genetics in deep space
- (d) To develop ISRO's capability to grow and sustain plants in space

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The objective of the CROPS experiment is to develop ISRO's capability to grow and sustain plants in space.

52. What is India's first space robotic arm called?

- (a) Vikram Manipulator
- (b) Gaganyaan Arm
- (c) Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD)
- (d) ISRO Astro-Hand

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** India's first space robotic arm is called the Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD).

53. Which of the following is not a way in which plants can be grown in space?
- (a) Geponics
  - (b) Hydroponics
  - (c) Aeroponics
  - (d) Employment of soil-like media

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Geponics is not a way in which plants can be grown in space.

54. Which launch vehicle carried the payloads for the plant experiment and robotic manipulator demonstration?
- (a) GSLV Mk III
  - (b) PSLV-C60
  - (c) RLV-TD
  - (d) Gaganyaan Crew Module

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** PSLV-C60 carried the payloads for the plant experiment and robotic manipulator demonstration.

55. Which of the following would not be an ideal plant for space?
- (a) Tobacco
  - (b) Spinach
  - (c) Wheat
  - (d) Beans

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Tobacco would not be an ideal plant for space since plants selected for space cultivation are fast-growing and nutrient-rich. Leafy greens like lettuce and spinach are ideal, along with beans for their protein content. Root vegetables and grains like wheat and rice are also suitable for long-term sustenance.

## Legal Reasoning

**56. Correct Answer: B. 2015, 2019, and 2021.**

Solution: As mentioned in the first paragraph of Section I, “The Act underwent significant amendments in 2015, 2019, and 2021, aiming to make India an arbitration-friendly jurisdiction.” The passage specifically details these three amendment years, making option B correct.

**57. Correct Answer: B. Part I of the Arbitration Act would not apply to foreign-seated arbitrations.**

Solution: As stated in the third paragraph of Section I, “In BALCO v. Kaiser Aluminium (2012), the Supreme Court overruled its earlier decision in Bhatia International, holding that Part I of the Act (which includes provisions for court intervention) would not apply to foreign-seated arbitrations.”

**58. Correct Answer: B. The power of arbitral tribunals to rule on their own jurisdiction.**

Solution: The passage explains in the fifth paragraph of Section I that “The concept of kompetenz-kompetenz, codified in Section 16, empowers arbitral tribunals to rule on their own jurisdiction, including objections to the existence or validity of the arbitration agreement.”

**59. Correct Answer: B. It confirmed that emergency arbitrators' awards are enforceable under Indian law.**

Solution: As stated in the seventh paragraph of Section I, “In Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC v. Future Retail Ltd. (2021), the Supreme Court held that an emergency arbitrator's award is enforceable under Indian law, despite the absence of explicit provisions in the Act.”

**60. Correct Answer: C. An arbitration clause in an unstamped agreement would be unenforceable until adequately stamped.**

Solution: The fifth paragraph of Section I states, “In SMS Tea Estates v. Chandmari Tea (2011), the Supreme Court clarified that an arbitration clause in an unstamped agreement would be unenforceable until the document is properly stamped.”

**61. Correct Answer: B. The invalidity of the main contract does not necessarily affect the arbitration clause contained within it.**

Solution: The last paragraph of Section I explains, “The principle of separability, recognised in Indian jurisprudence, holds that the invalidity of the main contract does not necessarily affect the arbitration clause contained within it.”

**62. Correct Answer: B. An award made in a territory with which India has a reciprocal arrangement.**

Solution: As mentioned in the sixth paragraph of Section I, “Section 44 of the Act defines a 'foreign award' as an award made in a territory with which India has a reciprocal arrangement.”

**63. Correct Answer: B. The doctor's conduct must have fallen below the standard of reasonable care expected from a prudent medical professional.**

**Solution:** As stated in the first paragraph of Section II, "In the landmark case of Jacob Mathew v. State of Punjab (2005), the Supreme Court established that to prove medical negligence, the complainant must show that the doctor's conduct fell below the standard of reasonable care expected from a prudent medical professional."

**64. Correct Answer: C. Applies when the negligence is so evident that no direct evidence is needed to establish it.**

**Solution:** The third paragraph of Section II explains, "The doctrine of res ipsa loquitur (the thing speaks for itself) is often invoked in medical negligence cases where the negligence is so obvious that no direct evidence is needed to establish it."

**65. Correct Answer: B. Section 304A.**

**Solution:** The fourth paragraph of Section II states, "Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code provides for punishment for causing death by negligence, applicable to cases of gross medical negligence resulting in a patient's death."

**66. Correct Answer: B. A doctor must provide adequate information about the proposed treatment, including material risks.**

**Solution:** As mentioned in the fifth paragraph of Section II, "In Samira Kohli v. Dr. Prabha Manchanda (2008), the Supreme Court held that a doctor must provide adequate information to the patient about the proposed treatment, including material risks, alternative treatments, and consequences of refusing treatment."

**67. Correct Answer: B. Patients are 'consumers' and medical practitioners are 'service providers' under the Consumer Protection Act, with certain exceptions.**

**Solution:** The second paragraph of Section II states, "This inclusion was initially established in Indian Medical Association v. V.P. Shantha (1995), where the Supreme Court held that patients are 'consumers' and medical practitioners come under the purview of 'service providers' as defined under the Act, except when services are rendered free of charge or under a contract of personal service."

**68. Correct Answer: B. Hospitals can be held liable for the negligence of their staff.**

**Solution:** The last paragraph of Section II explains, "Vicarious liability applies in the context of medical negligence, where hospitals can be held liable for the negligence of their staff."

**69. Correct Answer: C. Medical professionals should not be held liable for errors of judgment when choosing one acceptable medical practice over another.**

**Solution:** The sixth paragraph of Section II states, "In Kusum Sharma v. Batra Hospital (2010), the Supreme Court outlined several principles to determine medical negligence, including the principle that a mere deviation from normal practice does not necessarily constitute negligence. The Court emphasised that medical professionals should not be held liable for errors of judgment or choosing one course of treatment over another when both are acceptable medical practices."

**70. Correct Answer: A. Whether Kavita voluntarily entered into the contract and whether there was a fiduciary relationship between her and her uncle.**

**Solution:** According to Section III, undue influence, as defined under Section 16, refers to using one's position of power to obtain an unfair advantage over another, especially in

situations with a fiduciary relationship. The court would consider both the voluntary nature of the contract and the existence of a fiduciary relationship in determining undue influence.

**71. Correct Answer: A. No, because ratification nullifies any claim of undue influence.**

Solution: As stated in the last paragraph of Section III, “if the aggrieved party ratifies the contract after the cessation of undue influence or coercion, the contract becomes fully binding.” Ratification effectively nullifies the claim of undue influence.

**72. Correct Answer: C. Yes, unless Kavita can prove that she was prevented from approaching the court due to ongoing influence by her uncle.**

Solution: The passage states that “the aggrieved party must take action within a reasonable time; otherwise, their claim may be barred by the Limitation Act, 1963.” Three years would likely be considered beyond a reasonable time unless Kavita could prove she was prevented from approaching the court due to ongoing influence.

**73. Correct Answer: A. Coercion, because the threat involves an unlawful act under the Indian Penal Code.**

Solution: Section 15 of the Indian Contract Act defines coercion as involving “committing or threatening to commit any act forbidden by the Indian Penal Code.” Threatening to report someone for tax evasion (which could lead to legal consequences) would likely qualify as coercion rather than undue influence.

**74. Correct Answer: B. The contract will be declared voidable, and Kavita will have the option to either rescind it or ratify it.**

Solution: The passage states, “If the consent of one of the parties is obtained through coercion or undue influence, the contract is voidable at the option of the aggrieved party.” This means Kavita would have the option to either rescind or ratify the contract.

**75. Correct Answer: B. It held that corporations can be prosecuted for offences requiring mens rea.**

Solution: The first paragraph of Section IV states, “The landmark case of Standard Chartered Bank v. Directorate of Enforcement (2005) marked a significant shift when the Supreme Court held that corporations can be prosecuted for offences requiring mens rea.”

**76. Correct Answer: C. The state of mind of directors and senior managers can be attributed to the corporation itself.**

Solution: The third paragraph of Section IV explains, “The doctrine of identification or the ‘alter ego’ principle, adopted from English law, attributes the state of mind of directors and senior managers, who represent the ‘directing mind and will’ of the company, to the corporation itself.”

**77. Correct Answer: B. Every person responsible for business conduct at the time of contravention shall be deemed guilty.**

Solution: The fourth paragraph of Section IV states, “The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, specifically provides for corporate criminal liability under Section 70, stating that where a contravention is committed by a company, every person who was responsible for the conduct of the business at the time of contravention shall be deemed guilty.”

**78. Correct Answer: B. The “polluter pays” principle imposes absolute liability for environmental harm.**

Solution: The fifth paragraph of Section IV mentions, “In Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India (1996), the Supreme Court applied the 'polluter pays' principle, holding that companies causing pollution are absolutely liable to compensate for the harm caused, regardless of intent or negligence.”

**79. Correct Answer: A. Section 11.**

Solution: The second paragraph of Section IV states, “Section 11 of the Indian Penal Code includes companies within the definition of 'person'.”

**80. Correct Answer: C. Both the company and responsible officers can be held criminally liable under food safety laws.**

Solution: Based on the principles outlined in the passage, notably the mention of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the dual approach to corporate criminal liability, both the company and its responsible officers would be held criminally liable.

**81. Correct Answer: C. Decriminalisation of minor offences while retaining criminal liability for serious violations.**

Solution: The last paragraph of Section IV states, “The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020, for instance, decriminalised certain minor offences while retaining criminal liability for serious violations.”

**82. Correct Answer: A. Yes, because the government ban makes the performance of the contract illegal.**

Solution: According to Section V on the Doctrine of Frustration, when performance becomes illegal due to an unforeseen event beyond the control of either party, the contract is considered frustrated. A government ban would make performance illegal.

**83. Correct Answer: B. No, because temporary impediments do not frustrate a contract if they do not fundamentally alter the agreement.**

Solution: The passage states, “The court also emphasised that temporary impediments may not necessarily frustrate a contract if the delay does not significantly alter the nature of the agreement.” A week's delay would likely be considered temporary and not fundamental.

**84. Correct Answer: A. Yes, because the force majeure clause directly covers government actions.**

Solution: The passage explains that “if a contract contains a force majeure clause that covers specific unforeseen events, the clause may prevent the application of the Doctrine of Frustration.” Since the force majeure clause specifically covers government actions, Amit can rely on it.

**85. Correct Answer: C. A contract to perform at a concert, where the venue burns down two days before the event.**

Solution: Based on the Satyabrata Ghose case ruling that impossibility refers to situations where performance is “substantially altered by unforeseen events,” the destruction of the concert venue would render the performance impossible in the way originally contemplated, making this the most likely scenario for frustration.

## Logical Reasoning

86. The author suggests that the resurgence of the Liberal Party is due to Canadian nationalism rising in response to Donald Trump's policies. Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines this argument?

- (a) Canadian nationalism had already been increasing due to internal political issues before Trump's recent policies.
- (b) Trump's tariffs were imposed equally on Mexico and China, yet their political parties did not experience a resurgence.
- (c) Mark Carney's leadership has been widely criticized for lacking political experience, making it unlikely that the Liberal Party could capitalize on nationalism.
- (d) The Conservative Party has also opposed U.S. trade policies, and its supporters have shown similar nationalistic sentiments.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because if the Conservative Party also opposed U.S. trade policies and fostered nationalism, then nationalism alone cannot explain the Liberal Party's resurgence, directly weakening the argument. Option (a) is incorrect because even if nationalism was rising earlier, Trump's policies could still have intensified it. Option (b) is incorrect because Mexico and China have different political dynamics, so their lack of resurgence does not disprove Canada's case. Option (c) is incorrect because Carney's leadership concerns do not refute the idea that nationalism, rather than his leadership, was the key factor behind the Liberal Party's rise.

87. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that Canadian nationalism has fueled the Liberal Party's resurgence?

- (a) Poilievre's support has declined because of his party's internal divisions rather than any resemblance to Trump.
- (b) Canada's economy has been performing better than expected despite the tariffs imposed by Trump.
- (c) A significant portion of Canadian voters who previously leaned Conservative have switched to the Liberals due to trade tensions.
- (d) Trump's approval ratings in Canada have remained consistently low for the past decade.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because if former Conservative voters switched to the Liberals due to trade tensions, it directly links nationalism—sparked by Trump's policies—to the Liberal Party's resurgence, strengthening the argument. Option (a) is incorrect because Poilievre's internal party issues do not establish a connection between nationalism and Liberal support. Option (b) is incorrect because economic resilience does not necessarily indicate nationalism as the driving force behind the political shift. Option (d) is incorrect because consistently low Trump approval ratings do not explain why nationalism has specifically fueled the recent rise of the Liberal Party.

88. The passage implies that the Canadian electorate has reacted against Pierre Poilievre because he has adopted Trump-like rhetoric. Which of the following identifies a flaw in this reasoning?

- (a) It assumes that all voters who oppose Trump's policies will automatically oppose Poilievre.
- (b) It assumes that Canadian voters are primarily influenced by rhetoric rather than policy proposals.

- (c) It ignores the possibility that Poilievre's policies could be independently popular despite his rhetoric.
- (d) It fails to acknowledge that previous Canadian leaders have successfully adopted populist rhetoric without losing support.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the reasoning assumes that all voters who dislike Trump's policies will also reject Poilievre, which is an overgeneralization. Some voters may oppose Trump but still support Poilievre for other reasons. Option (b) is incorrect because the argument does not dismiss policy influence; it simply links Poilievre's rhetoric to voter reaction. Option (c) is incorrect because even if Poilievre's policies are independently popular, the argument focuses on voter reaction to his rhetoric, not his policies. Option (d) is incorrect because past leaders using populist rhetoric does not refute the specific reasoning applied to Poilievre.

89. Which of the following principles, if true, best explains the Liberal Party's strategy in calling for national unity?

- (a) A political party facing internal divisions should emphasize its differences from external adversaries to consolidate support.
- (b) When a nation is economically threatened by an external power, the ruling party should promote nationalism to shift focus from domestic weaknesses.
- (c) The best way to win an election is to present a stark contrast between one's own party and the opposition.
- (d) Politicians should avoid policy discussions during elections and instead focus on emotional appeals to patriotism.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because it directly explains the Liberal Party's strategy—using nationalism to rally support amid economic threats from Trump's tariffs, shifting focus from internal challenges. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not emphasize internal Liberal Party divisions as a key issue. Option (c) is incorrect because while contrast with the opposition matters, the Liberal Party's strategy specifically leveraged nationalism, not just differentiation. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest the Liberals avoided policy discussions entirely; rather, they used nationalism alongside other political strategies to regain support.

90. Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information in the passage?

- (a) Canadian public opinion towards the U.S. is increasingly shaped by economic rather than cultural factors.
- (b) If the Canadian elections had been scheduled for a later date, the Conservative Party would have regained its lead.
- (c) U.S. economic policies have historically played a major role in shaping Canadian elections.
- (d) Trump's attempt to impose 50% tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum would have led to a severe energy crisis in the U.S.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the passage emphasizes that Canadian nationalism and political shifts have been driven by economic tensions, such as Trump's tariffs and trade policies, rather than cultural factors. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage suggesting that a later election would have favored the Conservatives. Option (c) is incorrect because while U.S. policies influenced this election, the passage does not claim they have historically shaped all Canadian elections. Option (d) is incorrect because while tariffs were a concern, the passage does

not state that they would have caused a severe energy crisis in the U.S.

91. The author argues that SEBI's Conflict Code must be revised because it has not been updated for 17 years. Which of the following best describes a flaw in this reasoning?

- (a) It assumes that a rule must be updated periodically to remain effective, without considering whether it is still adequate.
- (b) It assumes that revising a rule will automatically lead to better compliance and enforcement.
- (c) It fails to acknowledge that certain ethical standards remain constant regardless of changes in the financial sector.
- (d) It assumes that all outdated regulations create serious problems, even if they are not actively causing harm.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the author's reasoning is based on the assumption that simply because the SEBI Conflict Code has not been updated for 17 years, it is necessarily outdated and ineffective. However, this does not consider whether the existing rules might still be sufficient. Option (b) is incorrect because the argument is about the need for revision, not whether revision guarantees better enforcement. Option (c) is incorrect because the author does not deny that some ethical standards remain constant. Option (d) is incorrect because the argument does not claim that all outdated regulations cause harm, only that revision is needed.

92. If SEBI updates its Conflict Code to include stricter disclosure requirements for board members and officials, which of the following is most likely to result?

- (a) SEBI officials will be held to stricter ethical standards than the directors of listed companies.
- (b) SEBI will become more resistant to external political pressures in financial regulation.
- (c) Cases of financial misconduct within SEBI will become easier to detect and address.
- (d) The stock market will experience increased volatility as investors react to the new policies.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because stricter disclosure requirements would improve transparency, making it easier to detect and address financial misconduct within SEBI. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage indicates that directors of listed companies already follow broader disclosure norms, so SEBI officials may not necessarily be held to stricter standards. Option (b) is incorrect because while improved regulations enhance integrity, they do not directly shield SEBI from political pressures. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that regulatory changes regarding SEBI's internal ethics would significantly impact market volatility.

93. The SEBI Conflict Code (2008) has remained unchanged for 17 years, yet there has been no major financial scandal involving SEBI officials during this period. This seems to contradict the author's claim that the code is outdated and requires urgent revision. Which of the following, if true, would best resolve this apparent contradiction?

- (a) Many SEBI officials have voluntarily adhered to stricter ethical standards than those outlined in the Conflict Code.
- (b) The lack of financial scandals is due to weak enforcement mechanisms rather than the effectiveness of the Conflict Code.
- (c) The financial sector has undergone significant regulatory reforms that indirectly reduced the likelihood of conflicts of interest.
- (d) Most major financial scandals in India have involved private sector firms rather than regulatory bodies like SEBI.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because it explains that the absence of scandals does not necessarily indicate that the Conflict Code is effective; rather, weak enforcement may have allowed conflicts of interest to go undetected. This aligns with the author's argument that the code needs revision. Option (a) is incorrect because voluntary adherence to higher standards does not negate the need for formal regulatory improvements. Option (c) is incorrect because broader financial reforms do not directly address SEBI's internal conflict-of-interest rules. Option (d) is incorrect because the argument concerns SEBI's internal regulations, not financial scandals in the private sector.

94. The passage argues that SEBI's outdated Conflict Code has contributed to concerns about conflicts of interest. Which of the following, if true, would provide an alternative explanation for these concerns?

- (a) The media has exaggerated concerns about SEBI's ethical standards, even though no major violations have occurred.
- (b) High-profile cases of corporate corruption in India have made the public more skeptical of all financial institutions.
- (c) The previous SEBI chairman was accused of unethical behavior unrelated to the Conflict Code.
- (d) Other financial regulators in India have also faced criticism for failing to disclose their officials' financial interests.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because it presents an alternative explanation: the rise in concerns about SEBI's conflicts of interest may be due to broader public skepticism fueled by corporate corruption cases, rather than deficiencies in the Conflict Code itself. Option (a) is incorrect because media exaggeration does not explain why concerns exist in the first place. Option (c) is incorrect because an individual chairman's unethical behavior does not necessarily reflect the adequacy of the Conflict Code. Option (d) is incorrect because criticism of other regulators does not explain why SEBI specifically is facing scrutiny over its conflict-of-interest rules.

95. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that revising SEBI's Conflict Code would improve investor confidence in Indian markets?

- (a) A survey shows that most Indian investors believe financial regulators are influenced by corporate interests.
- (b) Several recent market scandals have involved SEBI officials being accused of ethical misconduct.
- (c) Countries with stricter financial disclosure rules for regulators tend to have higher investor trust.
- (d) Foreign investors are more likely to invest in Indian markets when SEBI updates its policies.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because it provides empirical support that stricter financial disclosure rules correlate with higher investor trust, directly strengthening the argument that revising SEBI's Conflict Code would improve confidence. Option (a) is incorrect because investor skepticism alone does not prove that revising the code will restore trust. Option (b) is incorrect because past scandals suggest a need for reform but do not establish that revisions will necessarily improve investor confidence. Option (d) is incorrect because foreign investment may increase due to various factors beyond SEBI's policies, making it a weaker link to investor confidence in Indian markets.

96. The passage suggests that DESI's findings could indicate a need to modify the standard model of cosmology. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken this suggestion?

- (a) The DESI project's funding depends on producing findings that challenge existing cosmological models.
- (b) Several alternative models of dark energy exist, but none are as well-supported as Lambda CDM.
- (c) Other cosmological observations suggest that dark energy is behaving in a way inconsistent with DESI's findings.
- (d) A new analysis finds that similar discrepancies have appeared in past studies but were later resolved by better data collection methods.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because it directly undermines the argument that DESI's findings require modifying the standard model by showing that past discrepancies were later resolved without such modifications. This suggests that the current inconsistencies may also be temporary or due to data limitations rather than fundamental flaws in the Lambda CDM model. Option (a) implies potential bias but does not directly refute the scientific validity of DESI's findings. Option (b) only highlights the lack of strong alternatives but does not weaken the argument for modification. Option (c) presents conflicting evidence but does not necessarily negate the need for revision.

97. The argument that evolving dark energy may be a better fit than Lambda CDM relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (a) The combination of DESI data with CMB, weak lensing, and supernovae datasets is an accurate method for assessing dark energy.
- (b) Any model that explains current data better than Lambda CDM must be the correct model.
- (c) If evolving dark energy were false, DESI's data would not show any inconsistencies with other measurements.
- (d) Statistical significance alone is a sufficient criterion for determining the validity of a new cosmological model.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because the argument depends on the assumption that combining DESI data with CMB, weak lensing, and supernovae datasets is a valid method for testing cosmological models; if this method were unreliable, the conclusion about evolving dark energy would be undermined. Option (b) is incorrect because a model that fits current data better is not necessarily correct in absolute terms. Option (c) is flawed as data inconsistencies could arise for reasons unrelated to evolving dark energy. Option (d) is incorrect because statistical significance alone does not confirm a model's validity without further theoretical and empirical support.

98. If DESI's findings reach the 5-sigma threshold for statistical significance, which of the following conclusions would be most justified?

- (a) The findings will necessarily lead to a major paradigm shift in cosmology.
- (b) The 5-sigma threshold guarantees that there is no chance of error in DESI's data or methodology.
- (c) The Lambda CDM model is completely incorrect and should be discarded in favor of evolving dark energy.
- (d) The evidence for evolving dark energy is strong enough to be considered a scientific discovery, but further research is still needed.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because reaching the 5-sigma threshold indicates strong evidence for evolving dark energy, meeting the standard for a scientific discovery, but it does not eliminate the need for further verification and refinement. Option (a) is incorrect because while a paradigm shift is possible, scientific consensus requires replication and additional validation. Option (b) is flawed since the 5-sigma threshold reduces the likelihood of error but does not eliminate it entirely. Option (c) is incorrect because even if Lambda CDM is challenged, it remains a well-supported model that may still explain many aspects of cosmology.

99. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the argument that evolving dark energy is the best explanation for the discrepancies between DESI's data and other measurements?

- (a) New observations show that weak lensing measurements have a systematic bias that makes dark energy appear weaker than it actually is.
- (b) An independent study finds that the cosmic microwave background data has been misinterpreted due to calibration errors.
- (c) A new theoretical model demonstrates that fluctuations in cold dark matter alone can explain the apparent inconsistencies in the data.
- (d) Additional DESI data, when analyzed over the next year, further strengthens the case for evolving dark energy.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because if fluctuations in cold dark matter alone can explain the observed inconsistencies, then evolving dark energy is not necessary to account for the data, directly undermining the argument for its existence. Option (a) is incorrect because a systematic bias in weak lensing would only affect one dataset, not all the combined evidence. Option (b) weakens one piece of supporting evidence but does not rule out evolving dark energy as the best explanation. Option (d) strengthens, rather than undermines, the argument, making it the opposite of what is needed to weaken the claim.

100. The passage implies that DESI's findings could challenge the standard Lambda CDM model. Which of the following, if true, would most support the argument that the Lambda CDM model remains valid?

- (a) Future DESI analyses show that the observed deviations are within the expected margin of error in measurement techniques.
- (b) A new model of dark matter interactions accounts for the observed variations without requiring modifications to dark energy.
- (c) Other astrophysical surveys, independent of DESI, confirm that Lambda CDM accurately predicts cosmic structures.
- (d) Researchers identify a minor calculation error in DESI's data that slightly shifts their results in favor of Lambda CDM.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because if future DESI analyses show that the observed deviations fall within the expected margin of error, then there is no real discrepancy requiring a modification to Lambda CDM, reinforcing its validity. Option (b) introduces an alternative explanation for the data inconsistencies but does not directly confirm Lambda CDM's accuracy. Option (c) strengthens Lambda CDM overall but does not specifically address the deviations DESI observed. Option (d) suggests an error in DESI's findings but does not necessarily validate Lambda CDM if discrepancies remain after correction. Thus, (a) is the strongest support for Lambda CDM's validity.

101. The passage implies that canceling research on COVID-19 and other topics could have political motivations. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support this inference?

- (a) The terminated research topics include areas that are politically controversial.
- (b) The NIH's decision aligns closely with policy priorities of the current administration.
- (c) Other scientific agencies around the world continue to fund similar research.
- (d) Many canceled grants were initially approved under a previous administration.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because it directly links the NIH's decision to political motivations by showing that the cancellations align with the policy priorities of the current administration, implying a political rather than a purely scientific rationale. Option (a) is weaker because while the research topics are controversial, this does not necessarily prove that politics influenced the decision. Option (c) shows that other agencies fund similar research, but this does not establish political influence over NIH's decision. Option (d) suggests a correlation with past approvals but does not necessarily prove a political motive in the cancellations.

102. Suppose the NIH defends its decision by arguing that research funding should focus on "emerging threats" rather than diseases that have already spread. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken this argument?

- (a) Research into SARS-CoV-2 variants could prevent future outbreaks of new strains.
- (b) Some of the NIH's newly funded projects focus on non-infectious diseases.
- (c) The majority of past pandemics resulted from previously known viruses.
- (d) Many scientists believe emerging threats can be identified only by studying past pandemics.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because it directly undermines the NIH's reasoning by showing that studying past pandemics is essential for identifying future threats, contradicting the argument that research should focus only on emerging diseases. Option (a) is weaker because preventing future outbreaks of known variants does not directly challenge the focus on new threats. Option (b) highlights inconsistency in funding priorities but does not specifically refute the argument. Option (c) suggests that past pandemics resulted from known viruses, but it does not establish that studying past pandemics is necessary for predicting future ones.

103. A critic argues that terminating COVID-19 research funding will weaken the U.S.'s ability to respond to future pandemics. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the critic's claim?

- (a) The government still funds pandemic preparedness through other public health initiatives.
- (b) Several terminated grants were focused on developing broad-spectrum antiviral treatments.
- (c) Past pandemics have typically been followed by funding cuts for infectious disease research.
- (d) Many of the terminated research projects had already produced useful findings.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because it shows that the terminated grants were directly working on broad-spectrum antiviral treatments, which are crucial for responding to future pandemics. This directly supports the critic's argument that cutting this funding weakens preparedness. Option (a) weakens the critic's claim by suggesting that pandemic preparedness is still being funded through other initiatives. Option (c) describes a historical pattern but does not establish a direct causal link between these cuts and a weakened future response. Option (d) shows the research was valuable but does not demonstrate that its termination will specifically harm future pandemic response.

104. The NIH claims that terminating COVID-19 research grants is justified because "the pandemic is over." Which of the following, if true, would expose the most fundamental flaw in this reasoning?

- (a) Other terminated grants focus on viruses with future pandemic potential, not just COVID-19.
- (b) The term "pandemic" refers to a global outbreak, but COVID-19's impact varies by country.
- (c) Scientists widely disagree on whether COVID-19 has truly ended, as new variants continue to emerge.
- (d) The definition of a "pandemic" used by the NIH differs from that of other major health organizations.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because it highlights a fundamental flaw in the NIH's reasoning—if its definition of "pandemic" differs from that of major health organizations, then its justification for terminating grants may be arbitrary or misleading. This directly undermines the validity of its claim. Option (a) is relevant but focuses on other viruses rather than exposing a flaw in the reasoning about COVID-19 itself. Option (b) points to geographical variation but does not directly challenge whether the pandemic is truly over. Option (c) suggests scientific disagreement but does not prove that the NIH's reasoning is fundamentally flawed.

105. The NIH argues that because the pandemic is over, funding COVID-19 research is no longer necessary. Which of the following arguments is most similar in reasoning?

- (a) A hospital discontinues a successful cancer treatment program because a new treatment option is now available.
- (b) A company stops manufacturing a product because demand has declined over the past year.
- (c) A city government argues that because crime has decreased, there is no longer a need to invest in public safety initiatives.
- (d) A university decides to cut funding for its astronomy department because most students are majoring in engineering.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because it mirrors the flawed reasoning of the NIH: assuming that because a problem has diminished, continued investment is unnecessary, despite the risk of resurgence. Similarly, just as crime reduction does not eliminate the need for public safety measures, declaring the pandemic "over" does not mean COVID-19 research is no longer needed. Option (a) is different because it involves replacing an outdated method with a better one, not stopping efforts altogether. Option (b) is based on declining demand, not the assumption that the problem is solved. Option (d) involves shifting priorities based on enrollment, not a perceived resolution of an issue.

106. The passage suggests that Brexit has had no clear economic benefits. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly challenge this claim?

- (a) Some UK-based businesses report an increase in profits due to reduced EU regulatory burdens.
- (b) The UK government has implemented new policies that aim to offset Brexit-related economic losses.
- (c) Brexit has given the UK greater control over its trade policies, allowing it to negotiate new deals.
- (d) A recent study found that Brexit has had mixed economic effects, benefiting some industries while harming others.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) directly challenges the claim by providing concrete evidence of an economic benefit—higher profits due to reduced EU regulatory burdens. This contradicts the idea that Brexit has had no clear benefits. Option (b) does not show that Brexit itself created benefits, only that the government is trying to mitigate its negative effects. Option (c) mentions trade policy control but does not prove economic gains. Option (d) acknowledges both positive and negative effects, but mixed outcomes do not refute the claim that no clear benefits exist. Thus, (a) is the strongest counterargument.

107. The passage states that Brexit has led to a 12.4% decline in business investment. Which of the following most strongly suggests that this figure does not fully capture the economic impact of Brexit?

- (a) Business investment was also affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- (b) The decline in business investment varies significantly by industry and region.
- (c) Many UK businesses have expanded operations in non-EU countries to compensate for lost EU trade.
- (d) Some industries have increased their investments due to regulatory flexibility gained from Brexit.

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Option (a) is correct because it introduces an alternative explanation—the global COVID-19 pandemic—which may have influenced the decline in business investment, suggesting that the 12.4% figure may not be solely due to Brexit. This undermines the claim that Brexit alone caused the drop. Option (b) acknowledges variation but does not challenge the overall accuracy of the figure. Option (c) suggests businesses are adapting but does not dispute the measurement of the decline. Option (d) presents counterexamples but does not prove that the reported 12.4% decline is inaccurate or incomplete. Therefore, (a) most strongly questions the figure's completeness.

108. The passage suggests that the UK's economic decline due to Brexit is substantial. Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in this argument?

- (a) A company that stops advertising experiences a decline in sales, but competitors also see declining sales, so advertising may not be the primary factor.
- (b) A city that cuts funding for road maintenance sees a sharp increase in traffic congestion, leading to slower economic activity.
- (c) A professional athlete who changes their training regimen sees their performance decline, but also suffers an injury during the same period.
- (d) A university that eliminates a popular course sees reduced student enrollment, though overall demand for higher education remains unchanged.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Option (b) is correct because it closely mirrors the reasoning in the passage: a direct action (cutting road maintenance funding) leads to a measurable negative consequence (increased congestion and slower economic activity), just as Brexit is argued to have caused economic decline. Option (a) introduces an alternative explanation (competitors also seeing declines), which weakens causality. Option (c) presents confounding factors (a training change and an injury), making it unclear what caused the decline. Option (d) suggests correlation but not a clear causal link between the course elimination and enrollment decline. Thus, (b) best parallels the passage's reasoning.

109. Suppose a policymaker argues that Brexit has been beneficial because it allows the UK to control its own trade policies. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine this argument?

- (a) Some trade agreements signed after Brexit include terms that are more favorable than those under EU rules.
- (b) Other countries have expressed interest in signing trade deals with the UK that were not possible before Brexit.
- (c) The UK has struggled to negotiate new trade deals that provide the same level of market access as EU membership.
- (d) Brexit has reduced the UK's reliance on EU trade and encouraged greater diversification.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Option (c) is correct because it directly undermines the policymaker's claim by showing that the UK's control over trade policy has not resulted in deals as beneficial as those under EU membership. If new trade agreements provide less market access, the supposed benefit of independent trade policy is weakened. Option (a) supports the argument by suggesting some deals are more favorable. Option (b) implies potential future gains, not current drawbacks. Option (d) presents diversification as a positive outcome rather than a challenge. Thus, (c) most effectively weakens the claim that Brexit has improved UK trade policy.

110. The passage implies that Brexit is a major contributor to UK medicine shortages. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously call this claim into question?

- (a) Medicine shortages have also been reported in several EU countries.
- (b) The UK has increased its domestic production of essential medicines since Brexit.
- (c) A majority of UK pharmaceutical companies cite regulatory delays, not Brexit, as the main cause of supply chain disruptions.
- (d) The Nuffield Trust's study did not control for other potential causes of medicine shortages.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Option (d) is correct because it directly questions the validity of the study linking Brexit to medicine shortages. If the study did not control for other possible causes, its conclusion that Brexit is a major contributor becomes unreliable. Option (a) weakens the argument but does not eliminate Brexit as a contributing factor. Option (b) suggests a mitigating factor but does not disprove the link between Brexit and shortages. Option (c) shifts blame to regulatory delays but does not clarify whether those delays are themselves Brexit-related. Thus, (d) most effectively challenges the claim by questioning the study's methodology.

## Quantitative Techniques

**Passage (Q.111-Q.115):** A logistics company, SpeedHaul Pvt. Ltd., manages the transportation of goods across four cities: A, B, C, and D. Each city has a warehouse with different storage capacities and handling costs. The company uses three types of trucks for transporting goods: Types 1, 2, and 3. Truck Type 1 can carry 20 tons of goods, with a fuel efficiency of 5 km per liter and a per-trip maintenance cost of ₹2,000. Truck Type 2 can carry 30 tons, with a fuel efficiency of 4 km per liter and a per-trip maintenance cost of ₹3,500. Truck Type 3 can carry 40 tons, with a fuel efficiency of 3.5 km per liter and a per-trip maintenance cost of ₹5,000.

The diesel price is ₹90 per liter. The distance between City A and City B is 300 km, City B and City C is 250 km, and City C and City D is 400 km; the direct route between City A and City D is 700 km long.

Each warehouse has different costs associated with handling goods. Warehouse A costs ₹150 per ton, Warehouse B costs ₹120 per ton, Warehouse C costs ₹130 per ton, and finally Warehouse D costs ₹140 per ton.

A shipment of 500 tons needs to be transported from City A to City D using different truck types while minimizing costs.

111. If only Truck Type 2 is used, how many trips are required to transport the full shipment?

- (a) 15
- (b) 16
- (c) 17
- (d) 18

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** Since Truck Type 2 has a capacity of 30 tons per trip, we divide the total shipment weight (500 tons) by the truck's capacity:

$$\text{Total shipment weight} / \text{Capacity of Truck Type 2} = 500 \text{ tons} / 30 \text{ tons} = 16.67 \text{ trips}$$

Since the number of trips must be a whole number, we round up to 17 trips.

112. If the company decides to use an optimal mix of Truck Type 1 and Truck Type 3 to complete the shipment, what is the minimum number of trips required?

- (a) 12
- (b) 13
- (c) 14
- (d) 15

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Truck Type 1 can carry 20 tons per trip, and Truck Type 3 can carry 40 tons per trip. We must distribute 500 tons in a way that minimizes the number of trips. Since Truck Type 3 can carry more than Truck Type 1, the least number of trips would be needed if Truck Type 3 makes as many maximum capacity trips as can be made from the shipment quantity. With respect to the remainder of the shipment, since transporting 500 tons will not require all maximum capacity trips of Truck Type 3, if the remaining shipment amount is  $\leq 20$  tons, Truck Type 1 can be used for transportation (because its maximum capacity is 20 tons), otherwise Truck Type 3 may be used for another trip. Regardless, this culminates to only 1 more trip, which can be calculated by rounding off

the quotient obtained from dividing the total shipment weight by the capacity of Truck Type 3. This is enumerated here,

$$\text{Total shipment weight} / \text{Capacity of Truck Type 3} = 500 \text{ tons} / 40 \text{ tons} = 12.5 \text{ trips}$$

This means that after Truck Type 3 completes 12 trips at its maximum capacity, 20 tons will still remain. For this, Truck Type 1 may be used for 1 trip, since the question asks for an optimal mix of the use of both the trucks. Therefore, the optimal mix of the usage of Truck Types 1 and 3 would be 1 trip of Truck Type 1 with 12 trips of Truck Type 3, adding up to a total of 13 trips.

113. What is the total *approximate* fuel cost, including maintenance, if only Truck Type 3 is used for the entire shipment via the direct route (A to D)?

- (a) ₹2,70,000
- (b) ₹2,80,000
- (c) ₹2,85,000
- (d) ₹3,00,000

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** Truck Type 3 has a fuel efficiency of 3.5 km per liter and travels 700 km (A to D). Fuel required per trip:

$$\text{Distance travelled} / \text{Fuel efficiency} = 700 \text{ km} / 3.5 \text{ km/litre} = 200 \text{ litres}$$

Diesel cost per trip:

$$\text{Fuel required per trip} \times \text{Fuel price per litre} = 200 \text{ litres} \times ₹90 = ₹18,000$$

Number of trips needed:

$$\text{Total shipment weight} / \text{Capacity of Truck Type 3} = 500 \text{ tons} / 40 \text{ tons} = 12.5 \text{ trips}$$

Since the number of trips has to be a whole number, we round off 12.5 to 13 trips.

Therefore, the total fuel cost:

$$\text{Fuel cost per trip} \times \text{Number of trips} = ₹18,000 \times 13 = ₹2,34,000$$

Now, we add the total maintenance costs:

$$\text{Maintenance cost per trip} \times \text{Number of trips} = ₹5,000 \times 13 = ₹65,000$$

Finally, the total transportation cost:

$$\text{Total fuel cost} + \text{Total maintenance cost} = ₹2,34,000 + ₹65,000 = ₹2,99,000$$

The figure closest to ₹2,99,000 among the given options is ₹3,00,000, which becomes the total *approximate* fuel cost including maintenance if only Truck Type 3 is used for the entire shipment via the direct route (A to D).

114. If the shipment is split such that 200 tons go through route A → B → C → D and 300 tons via the direct route, and Truck Type 2 is used for the indirect route while Truck Type 3 is used for the direct route, what is the total *approximate* transportation cost (including fuel and maintenance)?

- (a) ₹3,60,000
- (b) ₹3,75,000
- (c) ₹3,85,000
- (d) ₹4,00,000

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Since 200 tons go via the indirect route and 300 tons via the direct route, we analyze each separately.

For the indirect route ( $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$ ), Truck Type 2 (30 tons per trip) is used, requiring:

$$\text{Shipment weightCapacity of Truck Type 2} = 200 \text{ tons} / 30 \text{ tons} \approx 7 \text{ trips}$$

The total distance for this route is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Distance between A and B} + \text{Distance between B and C} + \text{Distance between C and D} &= 300 \\ \text{km} + 250 \text{ km} + 400 \text{ km} &= 950 \text{ km} \end{aligned}$$

Fuel required per trip:

$$\text{Total distance to be covered} / \text{Fuel efficiency per trip} = 950 \text{ km} / 4 \text{ km/litre} = 237.5 \text{ litres}$$

Fuel cost per trip:

$$\text{Fuel required per trip} \times \text{Price of fuel} = 237.5 \text{ litres} \times ₹90 = ₹21,375$$

Total fuel cost:

$$\text{Fuel cost per trip} \times \text{Number of trips} = ₹21,375 \times 7 = ₹149,625$$

Total maintenance cost:

$$\text{Maintenance cost per trip} \times \text{Number of trips} = ₹3,500 \times 7 = ₹24,500$$

Total cost for indirect route:

$$\text{Total maintenance cost} + \text{Total fuel cost} = ₹149,625 + ₹24,500 = ₹174,125$$

For the direct route (300 tons via Truck Type 3), the number of trips required is:

$$\text{Shipment weightCapacity of Truck Type 3} = 300 \text{ tons} / 40 \text{ tons} \approx 8 \text{ trips}$$

Fuel required per trip:

$$\text{Total distance to be covered} / \text{Fuel efficiency per trip} = 700 \text{ km} / 3.5 \text{ km/litre} = 200 \text{ litres}$$

Fuel cost per trip:

$$\text{Fuel required per trip} \times \text{Price of fuel} = 200 \text{ litres} \times ₹90 = ₹18,000$$

Total fuel cost:

$$\text{Fuel cost per trip} \times \text{Number of trips} = ₹18,000 \times 8 = ₹144,000$$

Total maintenance cost:

$$\text{Maintenance cost per trip} \times \text{Number of trips} = ₹5,000 \times 8 = ₹40,000$$

Total cost for direct route:

$$\text{Total maintenance cost} + \text{Total fuel cost} = ₹144,000 + ₹40,000 = ₹184,000$$

Total transportation cost:

$$\text{Total cost for indirect route} + \text{Total cost for direct route} = ₹174,125 + ₹184,000 = ₹3,58,125$$

The figure closest to ₹3,58,125 among the given options becomes ₹3,60,000.

115. If an additional 10% warehouse handling charge is applied at the destination warehouse (Warehouse D) due to labor shortages, what is the new total warehouse cost for the shipment?

- (a) ₹83,600
- (b) ₹77,000
- (c) ₹79,200
- (d) ₹81,400

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Original cost of Warehouse D is ₹140 per ton.

With the additional charges,

$$110100 \times ₹140 = ₹154$$

The revised handling charge would be ₹154 per ton. Therefore, the new warehouse cost for the shipment:

$$\text{Handling charge per ton} \times \text{Weight of the shipment} = ₹154 \times 500 = ₹77,000$$

**Passage (Q.116-Q.120):** Funland Amusement Park has a ticketing system that offers three types of passes for visitors: the Regular Pass, which costs ₹500 per person; the Express Pass, which costs ₹750 per person and allows visitors to skip queues; and the VIP Pass, which costs ₹1000 per person and includes free refreshments.

A family of six visits the park. They initially plan to purchase only Regular Passes, but later, two members upgrade to Express Passes, and one member upgrades to a VIP Pass.

To encourage visitors, the park offers a discount system:

- i.If the total bill exceeds ₹4000, a 10% discount is applied.
- ii.If the bill exceeds ₹5000, a 15% discount is applied instead.

Additionally, the park has a rides restriction where:

- i.Regular pass holders can enjoy only 10 rides.
- ii.Express pass holders can enjoy 15 rides.
- iii.VIP pass holders can enjoy unlimited rides.

Each ride takes 8 minutes on average, and the park remains open for 6 hours.

At the end of their visit, the family wants to analyze:

- i.How much they spent on tickets after discounts.
- ii.The maximum number of rides each family member could take.
- iii.Whether any member could complete all available rides in the given time.

116. What is the total cost before applying any discounts?

- (a) ₹3520
- (b) ₹3000
- (c) ₹4250
- (d) ₹4000

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** There are 2 members with Express Passes, 1 with VIP Pass, and the rest 3 with Regular passes. Therefore,

$$2 \times ₹750 + 3 \times ₹500 + ₹1,000 = ₹4,000$$

117. What is the final amount to be paid after applying the discount?

- (a) ₹3600
- (b) ₹4400
- (c) ₹3250
- (d) ₹3550

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Since the total bill for the family is ₹4,000, a discount of 10% will be applied. Therefore, the bill after discount will be,

$$90\% \times ₹4,000 = ₹3,600$$

The final bill after discount will be ₹3,600.

118. If the family decides to spend exactly ₹5000 on tickets, what is the maximum number of VIP Passes they can afford while still ensuring that all six members get a pass?

- (a) 6
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 7

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** A VIP Pass costs ₹1,000. To ensure that the maximum number of members get VIP Passes while ensuring that everyone gets one pass all under ₹5,000, we have to use Regular Passes, which are the cheapest passes for the remaining members. Therefore, with 6 members, if 4 have VIP Passes costing ₹4,000 in total and the remaining 2 have Regular Passes costing to ₹1,000 in total, it adds up to ₹5,000, ensuring that the maximum number of family members have VIP Passes with everyone having a pass.

119. If two Express Pass holders decide to swap their passes for VIP Passes and one Regular Pass holder upgrades to Express, what is the new total cost?

- (a) ₹5250
- (b) ₹4750
- (c) ₹5500
- (d) ₹4600

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** If 2 Express Pass holders decide to swap their passes for VIP Passes and 1 Regular Pass holder upgrades to Express, then the family will have 3 VIP Passes, 1 Express Pass, and 2 Regular Passes. Therefore, the final bill for the family will be,

$$₹1,000 \times 3 + ₹750 + 2 \times ₹500 = ₹4,750$$

120. If a VIP Pass holder takes 20 rides and spends 10% of the total park time resting, how many more rides can they take in the remaining time?

- (a) 20

- (b) 25
- (c) 22
- (d) 21

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Each ride takes 8 minutes.

The park is open for 6 hours, which is 360 minutes. The total time resting time,

$$10100 \times 360 \text{ minutes} = 36 \text{ minutes}$$

Total number of rides which can be taken excluding rest =  $3248 = 40.5 \approx 40$  rides

Since the VIP Pass holder has already taken 20 rides, he can take only 20 more rides.

# CLAT COMMUNITY

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FORWARD – YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS  
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