

MOCK - 1



**CLAT
COMMUNITY**

MASTER MOCK

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2026

English

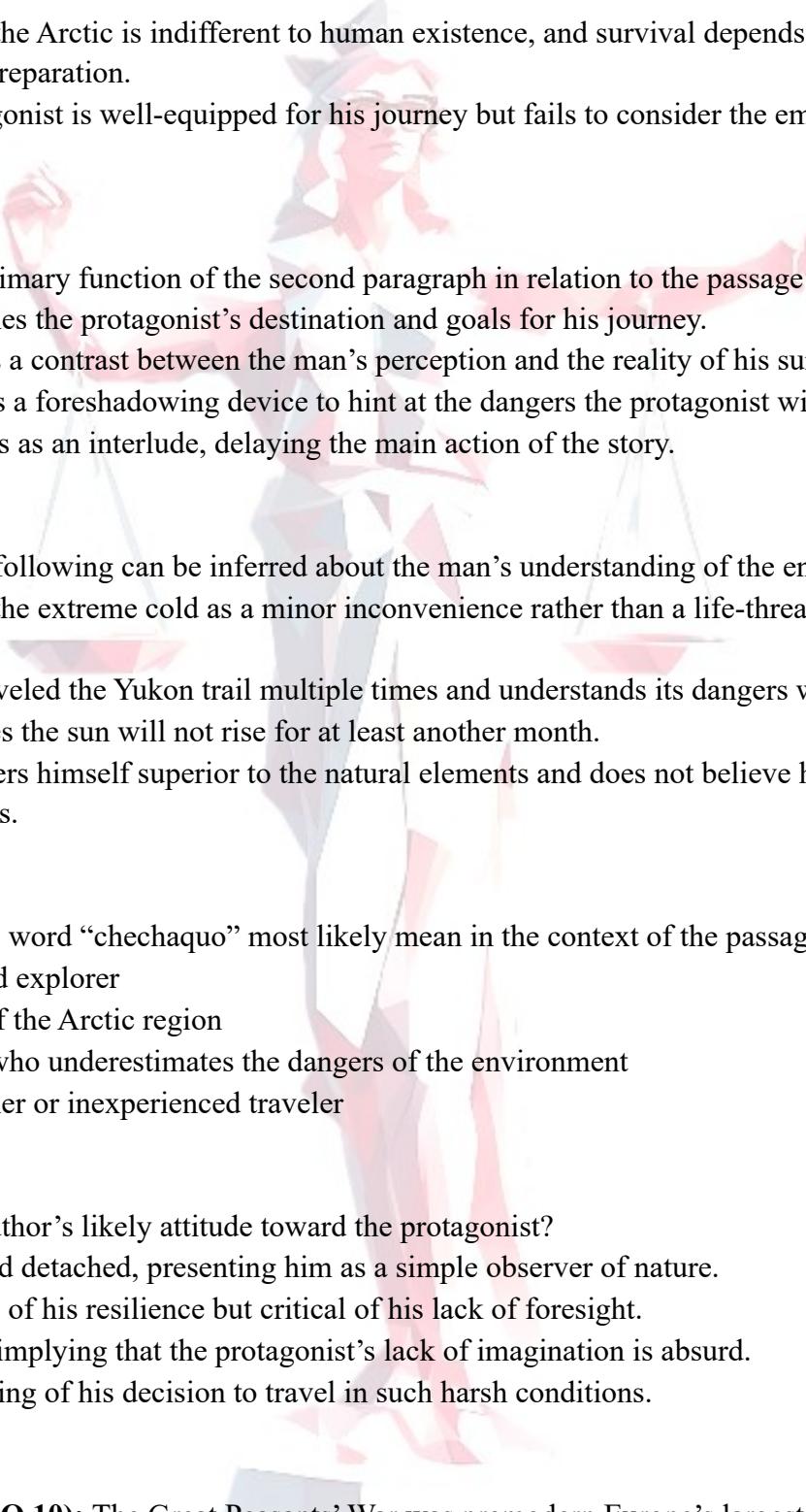
Passage (Q.1-Q.5): Day had broken cold and grey, exceedingly cold and grey, when the man turned aside from the main Yukon trail and climbed the high earth- bank, where a dim and little-travelled trail led eastward through the fat spruce timberland. It was a steep bank, and he paused for breath at the top, excusing the act to himself by looking at his watch. It was nine o'clock. There was no sun nor hint of sun, though there was not a cloud in the sky. It was a clear day, and yet there seemed an intangible pall over the face of things, a subtle gloom that made the day dark, and that was due to the absence of sun. This fact did not worry the man. He was used to the lack of sun. It had been days since he had seen the sun, and he knew that a few more days must pass before that cheerful orb, due south, would just peep above the sky- line and dip immediately from view.

The man flung a look back along the way he had come. The Yukon lay a mile wide and hidden under three feet of ice. On top of this ice were as many feet of snow. It was all pure white, rolling in gentle undulations where the ice-jams of the freeze-up had formed. North and south, as far as his eye could see, it was unbroken white, save for a dark hair-line that curved and twisted from around the spruce- covered island to the south, and that curved and twisted away into the north, where it disappeared behind another spruce-covered island. This dark hair-line was the trail--the main trail--that led south five hundred miles to the Chilcoot Pass, Dyea, and salt water; and that led north seventy miles to Dawson, and still on to the north a thousand miles to Nulato, and finally to St. Michael on Bering Sea, a thousand miles and half a thousand more.

But all this--the mysterious, far-reaching hairline trail, the absence of sun from the sky, the tremendous cold, and the strangeness and weirdness of it all--made no impression on the man. It was not because he was long used to it. He was a new-comer in the land, a chechaquo, and this was his first winter. The trouble with him was that he was without imagination. He was quick and alert in the things of life, but only in the things, and not in the significances. Fifty degrees below zero meant eighty odd degrees of frost. Such fact impressed him as being cold and uncomfortable, and that was all. It did not lead him to meditate upon his frailty as a creature of temperature, and upon man's frailty in general, able only to live within certain narrow limits of heat and cold; and from there on it did not lead him to the conjectural field of immortality and man's place in the universe. Fifty degrees below zero stood for a bite of frost that hurt and that must be guarded against by the use of mittens, ear-flaps, warm moccasins, and thick socks. Fifty degrees below zero was to him just precisely fifty degrees below zero. That there should be anything more to it than that was a thought that never entered his head.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “To Build a Fire”, *Jack London.*]

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.

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- (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.
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.
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.
4. What does the word "chechaquo" most likely mean in the context of the passage?
- (a) A seasoned explorer
- (b) A native of the Arctic region
- (c) A person who underestimates the dangers of the environment
- (d) A newcomer or inexperienced traveler
5. What is the author's likely attitude toward the protagonist?
- (a) Neutral and detached, presenting him as a simple observer of nature.
- (b) Respectful of his resilience but critical of his lack of foresight.
- (c) Sarcastic, implying that the protagonist's lack of imagination is absurd.
- (d) Disapproving of his decision to travel in such harsh conditions.

Passage (Q.6-Q.10): The Great Peasants' War was premodern Europe's largest popular rising. Early stirrings in the southwestern corner of what is now Germany in the summer of 1524 grew to affect vast parts of the Holy Roman Empire in the first half of 1525, before final confrontations in Austria brought the uprising to an end the following year. Well over 100,000 rebels mobilised in an attempt to force a new, more equitable order. The peasants sought a world built on Scripture, without exploitative lords. They organised in military bands, agreed

sets of demands, attacked castles, monasteries, and fortified settlements, and took on the professional armies of the Swabian League as well as those of other mighty princes. And they achieved some startling successes – notably the surrender of Weinsberg town and castle on 16 April 1525 – before crushing defeats in battles fought in May and June. Writing in 1975, Peter Blickle, the war's most influential interpreter, argued that the peasants' aim was nothing less than a 'Revolution of the Common Man'. In the end, however, military force triumphed over radical vision and tens of thousands paid with their lives.

This eruption of anger and violence had deep roots: the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, a complex and fragmented polity stretching over much of central Europe, was familiar with protests. In the early 1500s a series of small 'Bundschuh' revolts – named after the typical peasant footwear – broke out along the Upper Rhine. The late medieval era had seen a process of communalisation in the Empire, enabling not only major cities – such as Nuremberg, which acquired extensive territory – but also village councils to run local affairs fairly independently. This 'bottom-up' development was rooted in the growth of selfdetermined economic production, after many feudal lords decided to rely on rent rather than cultivate their lands themselves. Soon, therefore, associations of town- and countryfolk were punching above their social weight, gaining both political and religious influence. This is what the reformist preacher Johann Eberlin von Günzburg referred to when he wrote of the peasants becoming 'witzig' (aware) in the early 1520s.

In response, many nobles sought to bolster their powers through harsher conditions of tenure, in which peasants became serfs tied to their land and were subjected to marriage restrictions as well as humiliating death duties, such as losing their most valuable animal or garment. That this took place in the aftermath of Martin Luther's posting of his Ninety-Five Theses and the upheavals of the Reformation is significant: the timing of the Bauernkrieg – as the war was described while it was unfolding – tells us less about an immediate economic crisis or single trigger, and more about the potent fusion of religious fervour and longstanding social tensions brewing in the Holy Roman Empire.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "The Great German Peasants' War", *History Today*.]

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

7. Based on the passage, which of the following best explains why peasants rebelled?
 - (a) They sought to create a society based on religious principles without exploitative lords
 - (b) They were motivated primarily by economic hardship following a widespread agricultural collapse

- (c) They were inspired by Martin Luther's call for social and political revolution
(d) They wanted to overthrow all feudal authority and establish a fully democratic system
8. Which of the following can be inferred about the Holy Roman Empire's structure in the early 1500s?
- (a) It was primarily dominated by religious institutions, with little role for secular rulers
(b) It was in a state of economic collapse due to excessive taxation by feudal lords
(c) It was a rigidly centralized state with strong noble control over all economic production
(d) It allowed a degree of self-governance in both cities and villages, though tensions persisted
9. Why does the author mention Peter Blickle's interpretation of the war?
- (a) To emphasize that the war was primarily a military rather than a social movement
(b) To argue that the war was a failed attempt at democracy
(c) To provide historical context on how scholars have viewed the peasants' objectives
(d) To criticize the view that the peasants' war was revolutionary in nature
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

Passage (Q.11-Q.15): In one, what looks like a pointillist painting illustrates a young zebra finch's myriad attempts to sound more like an adult, capable of wooing a mate. In another, squiggly lines trace the ebb and flow of chemical signals in the reward circuit of the bird's brain.

"Their songs don't sound like much at first," said Mooney, who has studied birdsong for four decades.

That's because some things take considerable practice to master. Nobody walks onto a tennis court for the first time and plays a match worthy of Wimbledon, or takes up the piano and becomes a virtuoso overnight.

Likewise, in zebra finches, chicks don't start out life with the vocal chops to make their signature trills, chirps and peeps. It takes them a while to get the hang of it.

"The amount of effort that a juvenile bird makes to achieve vocal mastery is immense," Mooney said. "It takes them about one month of solid practice every day, up to 10,000 renditions a day."

Young finches keep at it hour after hour, day after day, even when no one is listening. Their motivation for mastery comes from within. And now, new research sheds light on the brain signals underlying their intrinsic desire to learn their songs; it also holds implications for understanding human learning and neurological disorders.

Thanks to new tools and techniques, including advances in machine learning and the ability to track subtle and rapid chemical fluctuations in the brain, Mooney and Duke neurobiology professor John Pearson are beginning to disentangle the molecular signals that drive learning for its own sake.

In new research published March 12 in the journal *Nature*, the team put male juvenile zebra finches into individual soundproof rooms where they could practice their songs at will.

In zebra finches, only the males sing; young birds learn their courtship song early in life by first listening closely to their dad and memorizing his song. Then, like babies learning to talk, they begin to babble, their squeaks slowly becoming more song-like. By practicing their songs and listening to the results, gradually they figure out how to produce the right notes and rhythms to match their mental template of their dad's song.

It takes a zebra finch chick about three months from hatching to become proficient singers.

To Mooney, a longtime rock 'n' roll fan, the males' practice sessions are a bit like the obsessive recording process for The Beatles. "The Beatles might have done a hundred takes" before they were satisfied, Mooney said. Similarly, "these birdsong data sets get so big so fast."

That's where Pearson's team came in. To get a handle on the data, they developed a machine learning model that can analyze the thousands of song renditions and score each attempt.

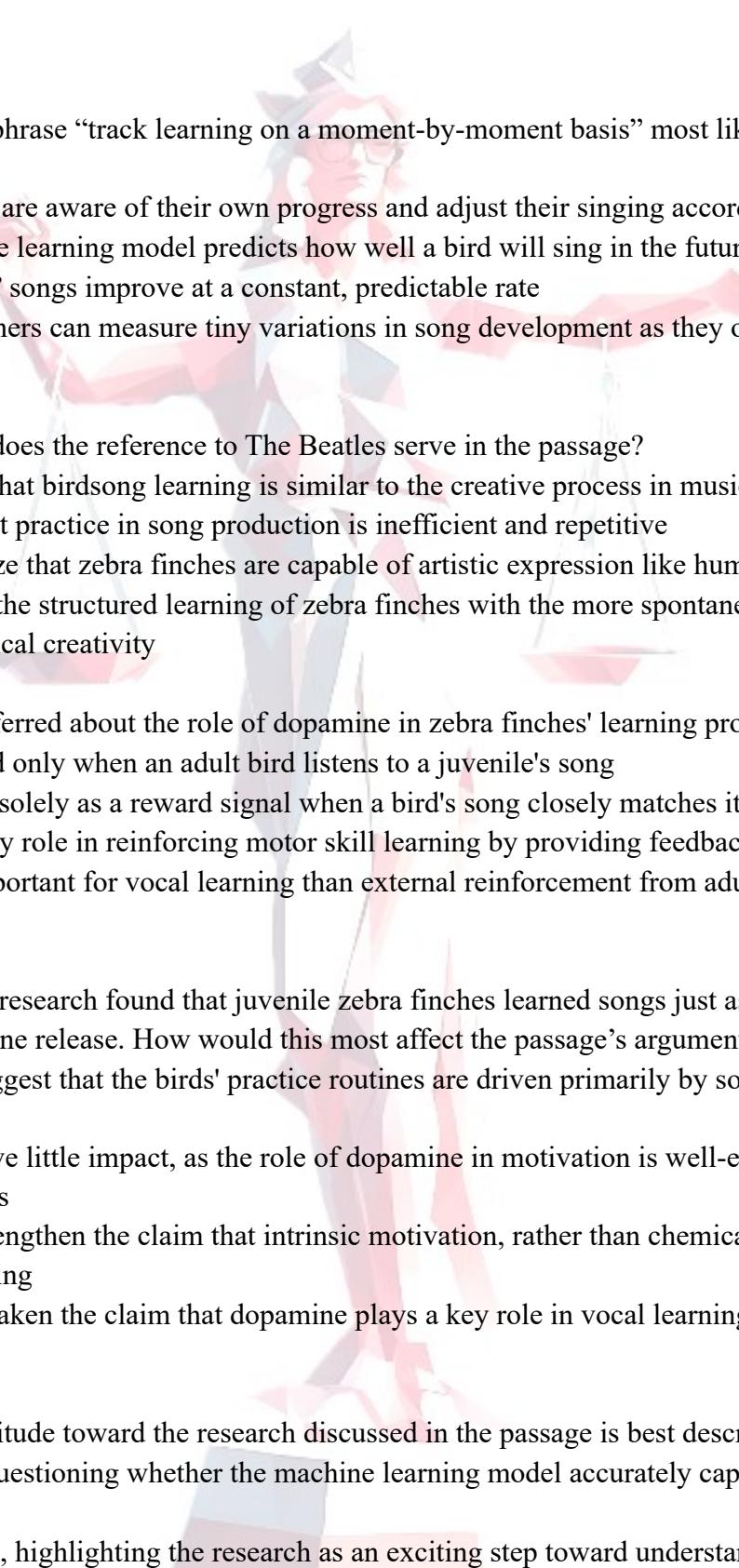
"This way we can track learning on a moment-by-moment basis," Pearson said.

"Some tries were a little better, and some were a little worse," he added. Generally the longer the birds worked at it, the better they got.

As the birds gradually mastered their tunes, the team also measured the level of dopamine released in the birds' basal ganglia, a part of the brain involved in learning new motor skills.

Dopamine is one of the brain's chemical messengers, transmitting important signals about learning, reward and motivation from one neuron to another.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "A hit of dopamine tells baby birds when their song practice is paying off", *ScienceDaily*.]

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

Passage (Q.16-Q.20): Causal understanding is the cognitive capacity that enables you to think about how things affect and influence each other. It is your concept of *making, doing, generating and producing* – of *causing* – that allows you to grasp how the Moon causes the tides, how a virus makes you sick, why tariffs change international trade, the social consequences of a faux pas, and the way each event in a story leads to what happens next. Causal understanding is the foundation of all thoughts *why, how, because, and what if*. When you plan for tomorrow, wonder how things could have turned out differently, or imagine something impossible (*What would it be like to fly?*), your causal understanding is at work.

In daily life, causal understanding imbues your observations of changes in the world with a kind of generativity and necessity. If you hear a sound, you assume something *made* it. If there's a dent on the car, you know that something – or someone – must have *done* it. You know that the downpour will *make* you wet, so you push the umbrella handle to *open* it and *avoid* getting soaked. You watch as an acorn falls from a tree, *producing* ripples in a puddle.

The human power to view cause-and-effect as part of ‘objective reality’ (a philosophically fraught idea, but for now: the mind-independent world ‘out there’) is so basic, so automatic, that it’s difficult to imagine our experience without it. Just as it’s nearly impossible to see letters and words as mere shapes on a page or a screen (try it!), it is terrifically challenging to observe changes in the world as *not* involving causation. We do not see: a key disappearing into a keyhole; hands moving; door swinging open. We see *someone unlocking the door*. We don’t see the puddle, then the puddle with ripples-plus-acorn. We see the acorn *making* a splash.

Most people don’t realise that any of this is a cognitive achievement. But, in fact, it is highly unusual. No other animal thinks about causation in the hyper-objective, hyper-general way that we do. Only we – adult humans – see the world suffused with causality. As a result, we have unparalleled power to change and control it. Our causal understanding is a superpower.

The scientific story of how our causal minds develop features another superpower: human sociality. It’s our unique sensitivity to other people that lets us acquire our special causal understanding. The story also raises questions about ‘other minds’. If our causal understanding is the exception, rather than the rule, then how does the world show up for other animals? If we try to suspend the causal necessity that structures so much of our experience, what’s left over?

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Suffused with causality”, *aeon*.]

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
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.
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.
19. The author's use of the phrase "human sociality" primarily serves to:
- (a) Propose that sociality evolved as a byproduct of humans' unique causal cognition.
 - (b) Argue that causal reasoning is a product of social interactions rather than innate cognition.
 - (c) Suggest that humans' ability to understand causality is closely linked to their interactions with others.
 - (d) Highlight that humans are more social than other animals, leading to stronger causal reasoning.
20. What assumption does the author make about human perception of causality?
- (a) It is unique to humans because other animals lack any awareness of cause-and-effect relationships.
 - (b) It is biologically hardwired and does not require experience to develop.
 - (c) It is shaped by social and cognitive factors but remains an objective feature of the world.

- (d) It is a mental construct rather than a reflection of how the world actually works.

Passage (Q.21-Q.25): I grew up in a mixed-heritage family. Both of my parents' childhoods were deeply affected by colonialism in India and they often told me stories about this period in their lives. As a result, I inherited a sense of place and a feeling for a country which was never my home.

It's a strange feeling, which I still struggle to put into words, though I tried in my memoir, Shalimar: A Story of Place and Migration, which holds at its heart the sensation and imagery of India's climate and its wildlife. India, for me, will always coexist with English weather and the roses my father tended to in our modest, suburban home in Hayes, west London.

While we now have beautifully written, tender children's books which address colonial history, from Nazneen Ahmed Pathak's City of Stolen Magic (2023) to Jasbinder Bilan's Nush and the Stolen Emerald (2024), The Secret Garden still holds a powerful spell over me. That's because of its representation of nature and its use of fiction to tell a story about England and India, two countries brought together through the healing space of the garden.

I believe that re-contextualising A Secret Garden as an early work of climate fiction – a type of storytelling that imagines how climate change could shape our world – is an apt way to rethink this classic tale.

Published in 1911, The Secret Garden unfolds against the backdrop of the fictional Misselthwaite Manor and its walled garden on the Yorkshire Moors.

While Yorkshire and its thick sheets of rain, enveloped in mist and fog, is portrayed vividly by Hodgson Burnett, the ghostly heat and skies of India are also woven throughout the book's micro-climates. Hodgson Burnett's attention to nature is masterful and magical:

One knows it sometimes when one gets up at the tender solemn dawn-time and goes out and stands out and throws one's head far back and looks up and up and watches the pale sky slowly changing and flushing ... And one knows it sometimes when one stands by oneself in a wood at sunset and the mysterious deep gold stillness slanting through and under the branches seems to be saying slowly again and again something one cannot quite hear, however much one tries.

The climates of India and Yorkshire blur into a new reality when seen through the eyes of the book's central protagonist, the recently orphaned Mary Lennox. She is sent to live with her uncle after her parents die of cholera in colonial Calcutta.

Wilful and fiery, Mary's grief and rootlessness seems to be unending until she follows a twitching robin into a walled garden. There she befriends other children including her cousin Colin, who uses a wheelchair, and the gardener, Weatherstaff.

The hidden sanctuary and wonder of the garden is intertwined with Mary's inner world and her search for solace after the loss of her parents. Her resilience thrives and blooms,

particularly when she becomes a storyteller and draws the other children into this secret place through her tales of adventure.

Here, the telling of the “story” of the garden is as important as the experience of the garden itself. This is where fiction does its work – we need stories like this to recover a sense of care in times of ecological crisis.

Last year saw the launch of the Climate Fiction Prize, a vital endeavour to specifically support literary fiction as a cultural form which permits writers the freedom to imagine alternative paths for human existence. The Secret Garden is a work of such imagination, of transformation from otherwise impossible states of crisis and inertia.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgeson Burnett was an early work of climate fiction”, *The Conversation*.]

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

General Knowledge

Passage (Q.26-Q.30): Indonesia has formally joined the BRICS group, a bloc of emerging economies featuring Russia, China and others that is viewed as a counterweight to the West.

Brazil, which holds the rotating presidency of the group, declared on Monday that Indonesia was set to join as a full member. Indonesia said on Tuesday that it “welcomes” the announcement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta said in a statement that BRICS membership is “a strategic step to improve the collaborations and cooperation with other developing nations, based on the principle of equality, mutual respect, and sustainable development”.

It also expressed “gratitude to Russia,” the 2024 BRICS chair, “for its support and leadership in facilitating Indonesia’s joining”.

The foreign ministry in Brazil said earlier that Southeast Asia’s most populous country “shares with the other members the will to reform the institutions of global governance and contribute positively to cooperation within the Global South”.

It noted that Indonesia’s bid to join the bloc was approved during a summit in 2023 in Johannesburg.

Its acronym originally coined by [1], a Goldman Sachs banker at the dawn of the century, the BRICS group was formally created in 2009 by founding members Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa joined the following year.

The bloc expanded again last year as Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates became full members.

BRICS is increasingly viewed as a counterweight to the West, with the “de-dollarisation” of international trade a key goal. Many members accuse Washington of using the greenback as a political tool, and the group has proposed a common currency.

US President Donald Trump has threatened 100 percent tariffs on BRICS nations if they replace the dollar in international trade.

However, Brazil has indicated that it aims to boost the effort during its presidency of BRICS. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s government has said its objective is the “development of means of payment” to facilitate trade between member countries.

Indonesia said in its statement: “This achievement shows Indonesia’s increasingly active role in global issues and commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation to create a global structure that is more inclusive and fair.”

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Indonesia joins BRICS group of emerging economies”, *Al Jazeera*.]

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

Passage (Q.31-Q.35): The Union Budget unveiled on February 1, 2025, has come at a time of unprecedented global uncertainty and a flagging domestic economy. The real GDP growth is estimated at 6.4% for 2024-25 and between 6.3-6.8% for 2025-26, a far cry from >8 percent growth required annually to make India a developed nation by 2047. While much attention has been devoted to the demand stimulus through income tax cuts, not enough is said about the proposed reforms in urban development, tariff rationalisation, and regulatory simplification aimed at making Indian cities and corporates more competitive. Since the majority of economic activity is located in cities (urban areas account for ~55% of GDP) and produced by large corporates (~40% of the national output and 55% of India's exports), the

above-mentioned reforms have a pivotal role in improving India's trend growth rate. Below we unpack each reform.

The government has identified "urban development" as one of the key growth pillars. World over, urbanisation and economic growth go hand in hand, and India is no exception. What makes prioritising cities important now is that the urban share of GDP has remained stagnant between 52-55% from 2000-2020. Given that the urban share of the population has continued to increase during this period, this implies that per capita urban income grew slower than rural during this period. Since our cities are at least 3 times more productive than their rural counterparts, deceleration in their productivity growth does not augur well for overall growth. Poor growth performance in urban areas could be directly related to the quality of life our cities offer. For example, though 95% of municipal waste is collected, only about 50% is treated. Water availability is about 115 lpcd (litre per capita per day) in big cities compared to the benchmark of 135-150 lpcd. And the price-to-income ratio (PTI)--the price to buy a 950 sq. feet apartment by the median earning household--is 11 in our cities as opposed to the affordability benchmark of 5.

Sub-optimal service delivery is due to many factors, with lack of funds being one of them. Indian cities spend about a quarter on urban infrastructure of what needs to be spent. The Centre's proposal to set up an [1] of ₹1 lakh crore is an interesting idea to push urban infrastructure build-out. The proposed Fund should incorporate elements of expenditure efficiency, transparent planning, and stable governance to move the needle on service delivery. Our analysis of expenditure and outcomes of 27 big municipalities on solid waste management (SWM) indicated that 19 of them were spending significantly more than the norm and yet none had a perfect score under the Swachh Bharat rankings. Spending accounted for about 23% of the variation in cleanliness services, the remainder attributable to non-monetary dimensions like stable leadership, citizen involvement, etc. Thus, together with more resources, there is also a crying need for better expenditure efficiency.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Budget 2025-26: A promising first step, but miles to go", *The Hindu*.]

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

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?
- (a) PM Samriddhi Khet Abhiyan
 - (b) PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana
 - (c) National Agriculture Infrastructure Mission
 - (d) Krishi Unnati Yojana
33. Which of the following has been redacted by [1] in the given passage?
- (a) National Urban Renewal Fund
 - (b) Smart Cities Development Fund
 - (c) Metropolitan Growth and Expansion Fund
 - (d) Urban Challenge Fund
34. Which major infrastructure issue is highlighted in Indian cities concerning water supply?
- (a) India's cities have the highest per capita water availability in the world
 - (b) Only 30% of cities have access to piped water
 - (c) Water availability is below the benchmark of 135-150 lpcd
 - (d) Rural areas receive more water than urban areas
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

Passage (Q.36-Q.40): Amphex 2025, the biennial tri-Services amphibious exercise, is currently underway at Karwar, Karnataka, with a focus on enhancing interoperability and synergy through joint training.

The exercise involves the force elements of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Puneheadquartered Southern Command, along with key formations of the Indian Navy and Air Force, conducting crucial drills related to amphibious operations.

The event was witnessed by Lt Gen Johnson P Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, the three Vice Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force, General Officer Commanding Bison Division and other senior dignitaries from tri-services. Amphex coincides with Navy's Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise (Tropex).

Navy shared on X that Amphex 25 showcased seamless coordination, rigorous training, and integrated mission planning by the amphibious 'Bisons' of Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command and ships of the Navy.

“Amphibious landing, an embodiment of joint operations. Onboard INS Jalashwa, the senior officers witnessed an amphibious landing by the 91 Infantry Brigade. The exercise progressed through bunker busting, combat free fall by Marine Commandos of the Indian Navy, and the landing of troops and BMPs (Infantry Fighting Vehicles) by Landing Craft Mechanised and Landing Craft Assault, culminating in the establishment of a beachhead,” the Navy stated. The conduct and Tropex and Amphex also witnessed Lt Gen Johnson P Mathew along with Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral K Swaminathan, Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SP Dharkar and Lt Gen Ajay Kumar, Director General Infantry embarking on aircraft-carrier INS Vikrant off the West coast on January 30, to witness joint phase of Tropex.

The visit was aimed at providing an insight to the senior hierarchy on maritime operations. Further, Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal S P Dharkar embarked on INS Vikrant in a Mig 29K trainer aircraft.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Amphex 2025: Amphibious exercise by Army’s Southern Command, Navy, IAF underway at Karwar”, *Indian Express*.]

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
37. Which major naval exercise coincides with Amphex 2025?
 - (a) Malabar
 - (b) Milan
 - (c) Tropex
 - (d) Varuna
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
39. How frequently is the Tropex exercise conducted?
 - (a) Annually
 - (b) Biennially
 - (c) Every five years
 - (d) Every three years

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

Passage (Q.41-Q.45): Armed conflict is the top risk in 2025, a World Economic Forum (WEF) survey released on Wednesday showed, a reminder of the deepening global fragmentation as government and business leaders attend an annual gathering in Davos next week.

Nearly one in four of the more than 900 experts surveyed across academia, business and policymaking ranked conflict, including wars and terrorism, as the most severe risk to economic growth for the year ahead.

Extreme weather, the no. 1 concern in 2024, was the second-ranked danger.

"Rising geopolitical tensions and a fracturing of trust are driving the global risk landscape," WEF Managing Director Mirek Dusek said in comments accompanying the report. "In this complex and dynamic context, leaders have a choice: to find ways to foster collaboration and resilience, or face compounding vulnerabilities."

The WEF gets underway on Jan. 20 and Donald Trump, who will be sworn in as the 47th president of the United States, will address the meeting virtually on Jan. 23. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy will attend the meeting and give a speech on Jan. 21, according to the WEF organisers.

Advisers to Trump concede that the Ukraine war will take months or even longer to resolve, Reuters reported on Wednesday, a sharp reality check on his pledge to strike a peace deal on his first day in the White House.

Among other global leaders due to attend the Davos meeting are European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and China's Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang.

Syria, the "terrible humanitarian situation in Gaza" and the potential escalation of the conflict in the Middle East will be a focus at the gathering, according to WEF President and CEO Borge Brende.

Negotiators were hammering out the final details of a potential ceasefire in Gaza on Wednesday, following marathon talks in Qatar. The threat of misinformation and disinformation was ranked as the most severe global risk over the next two years, according to the survey, the same ranking as in 2024.

Over a 10-year horizon environmental threats dominated experts' risk concerns, the survey showed. Extreme weather was the top longer-term global risk, followed by biodiversity loss, critical change to earth's systems and a shortage of natural resources.

Global temperatures last year exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial era for the first time, bringing the world closer to breaching the pledge governments made under the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

A global risk is defined by the survey as a condition that would negatively affect a significant proportion of global GDP, population or natural resources. Experts were surveyed in September and October.

The majority of respondents, 64%, expect a multipolar, fragmented global order to persist.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Wars top global risk as Davos elite gathers in shadow of fragmented world”, *Reuters*.]

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

42. Who addressed the WEF meeting virtually on January 23, 2025?
 - (a) Volodymyr Zelenskiy
 - (b) Joe Biden
 - (c) Vladimir Putin
 - (d) Donald Trump

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

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

45. Which of the following countries does not rank extreme weather among their top three shortterm risks?
 - (a) Dominican Republic
 - (b) Oman
 - (c) Bangladesh

(d) Mauritius

Passage (Q.46-Q.50): Traffic movement through national highways and some parts of the railways arrived at a grinding halt after volunteers of Twipra Students Federation staged blockades at different locations across Tripura.

The NESO affiliated students' body called the state-wide strike demanding an official approval on use of "Roman Script" as medium of writing for Kokborok language, the second most widely spoken language of Tripura, which also happens to be the mother tongue of the majority of the tribal communities.

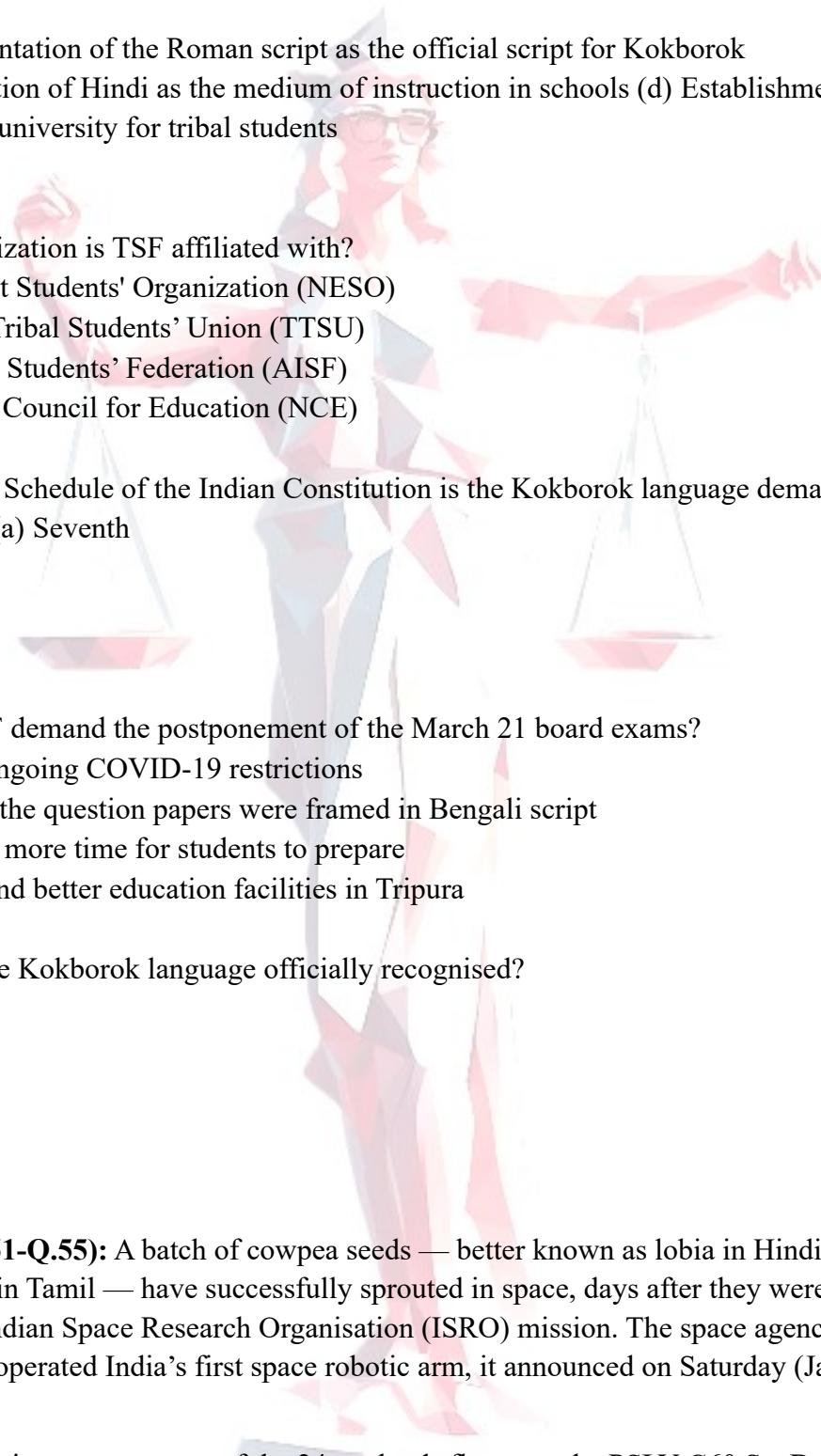
TSF raised four key demands: Implementation of Roman Script in all educational institutions for writing, teaching and learning Kokborok. The government should recognize "Roman Script" as an official script for the language. The exams of board scheduled on March 21 should be postponed and exams should be conducted with question papers framed in Roman Script. All policies that advocated for use of Bengali script should be scrapped.

TSF has expressed concern over the recent Madhyamik exams conducted by the Tripura Board, stating that the Kokborok question papers were framed in Bengali script. This, they argue, is unfair to students from English-medium schools who have learned Kokborok in Roman script since primary school.

Addressing the ongoing blockades and strikes, TSF General Secretary Hamalu Jamatia stated that all national highways have been blocked. Additionally, in Jolaibari, South Tripura district, activists have also staged a blockade on the railway tracks. He further emphasized that the protests would continue until the government initiates discussions with them. According to police sources, within West Tripura district, blockades have been reported at seven locations: Brajendra Colony, Gabordi, Champaknagar Sadhu Para, NIT First Gate, Khowai Chowmuhan, and Circuit House in Agartala. Senior Kokborok author and a founding member of Roman Script for Kokborok Choba Bikashrai Debbarma extended his support to the TSF sponsored blockade and urged Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha to pass a one liner resolution in favour of Roman script. "Now the ball is in the court of the Honourable CM and Bubagra. We want a one liner amendment in the official language act passed on the floor of the Legislative Assembly that the Roman script is the official script of Kokborok. This is the time to prove trustworthiness and fulfill the commitment to the aspirations of the people of Tripura," he wrote on his social media handle.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Twipra Students Federation-led strike cripples life in Tripura", *Assam Tribune*.]

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

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)
48. Under which Schedule of the Indian Constitution is the Kokborok language demanded to be recognised? (a) Seventh
 - (b) Sixth
 - (c) Eighth
 - (d) Fifth
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
50. When was the Kokborok language officially recognised?
 - (a) 1975
 - (b) 1979
 - (c) 1981
 - (d) 1988

Passage (Q.51-Q.55): A batch of cowpea seeds — better known as lobia in Hindi or thattapayaru in Tamil — have successfully sprouted in space, days after they were taken into orbit by an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission. The space agency has also successfully operated India's first space robotic arm, it announced on Saturday (January 4, 2025).

The two experiments were part of the 24 payloads flown on the PSLV-C60 SpaDeX mission's PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-4) on December 30, 2024.

In a series of posts on X, ISRO said, "Life sprouts in space! VSSC's CROPS (Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies) experiment onboard PSLV-C60 POEM-4 successfully sprouted cowpea seeds in 4 days. Leaves expected soon."

The CROPS payload, developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), is envisioned as a multi-phase platform to develop and evolve ISRO's capabilities for growing and sustaining flora in extra terrestrial environments.

"Designed as a fully automated system, a five to seven-day experiment is planned to demonstrate seed germination and plant sustenance until the two-leaf stage in a microgravity environment," ISRO had said prior to the launch. The experiment plans to grow eight cowpea seeds in a closed-box environment with active thermal control.

The Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD), also known as the Walking Robotic Arm, is India's first space robotic manipulator with walking capability, developed by IISU. It is a 7 Degree of Freedom (DoF) robotic arm that will perform relocation through 'inchworm walking' to defined targets on the POEM-4 platform.

"This experiment will demonstrate a large workspace for in-orbit servicing with robotic manipulators comprising indigenous robotic joints and arm controllers, a grappling mechanism and standardised adaptor with power and data transfer, cameras for eye-in-hand operation, and advanced software architecture with obstacle-aware motion planning and several layers of safety features deployed on a high-compute processor," ISRO said.

It added that the experiment will serve as a precursor technology demonstrator for certain robotic technologies of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), such as end-on-end walking, microgravity operation of robotic arms, vision-based 6DoF pose estimation, visual inspection of stages, robotic manipulation through visual servoing and compliance control, harness-free operation using power and data grappling fixtures, tele-operation, and a digital twin.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Cowpea seeds sprouts in space, leaves expected soon, says ISRO", *The Hindu*.]

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

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

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

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



Legal Reasoning

Passage (Q.56-Q.62): Arbitration has emerged as a crucial dispute resolution mechanism in India's commercial landscape. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996, modeled after the UNCITRAL framework, has undergone significant transformation through amendments in 2015, 2019, and 2021—each seeking to establish India as an arbitration-friendly jurisdiction.

The 2015 amendment marked a watershed moment. It introduced time-bound proceedings, reduced court intervention, and refined the interpretation of "public policy" as grounds for challenging awards. The amendment limited this interpretation to cases involving fraud, corruption, or fundamental violations of Indian law. Four years later, the 2019 amendment created the Arbitration Council of India while overhauling provisions for arbitrator qualifications. Most recently, the 2021 amendment introduced provisions for unconditional stays on enforcement when fraud taints the award.

In the landmark BALCO v. Kaiser Aluminium case (2012), the Supreme Court departed from its earlier position in Bhatia International. The Court held that Part I of the Act wouldn't apply to foreign-seated arbitrations, thereby significantly reducing judicial interference and enhancing India's international arbitration credentials.

Section 11, dealing with arbitrator appointments, underwent revision in 2015. The power previously vested with the Chief Justice shifted to designated arbitral institutions. Later, in Hindustan Construction Company v. Union of India (2019), the Court emphasized that automatic stays on award enforcement breached Article 14 of the Constitution.

The principle of kompetenz-kompetenz, codified in Section 16, empowers tribunals to determine their own jurisdiction. This includes addressing challenges to the arbitration agreement itself. The SMS Tea Estates case clarified that arbitration clauses in unstamped agreements remain unenforceable until proper stamping.

As a signatory to the 1958 New York Convention, India facilitates enforcement of foreign arbitral awards. Section 44 defines these as awards made in territories with reciprocal arrangements with India.

Section 9 permits parties to seek interim relief even before commencing arbitration. In the Amazon v. Future Retail case (2021), the Court ruled that emergency arbitrator awards are enforceable despite the Act lacking explicit provisions for them.

The separability doctrine, firmly established in Indian jurisprudence, ensures that challenges to the main contract don't automatically invalidate the embedded arbitration clause. This preserves the dispute resolution mechanism even when contract validity is questioned.

56. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 underwent significant amendments in:
- 2010, 2015, and 2019.
 - 2015, 2019, and 2021.
 - 2012, 2015, and 2020.
 - 2001, 2015, and 2021.

57. What did the Supreme Court establish in *BALCO v. Kaiser Aluminium* (2012)?
(a) Part I of the Arbitration Act applies to all arbitrations, including foreign-seated ones.
(b) Part I of the Arbitration Act would not apply to foreign-seated arbitrations. (c) Bhatia International continues to be good law for all arbitrations.
(d) Indian courts have unlimited jurisdiction over foreign arbitral proceedings.
58. The principle of “kompetenz-kompetenz” in arbitration refers to: (a) The power of courts to appoint arbitrators.
(b) The power of arbitral tribunals to rule on their own jurisdiction.
(c) The requirement that arbitrators must be competent in the subject matter.
(d) The concept that only competent courts can review arbitral awards.
59. What was the significance of the Supreme Court's decision in *Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC v. Future Retail Ltd.* (2021)?
(a) It established that emergency arbitrators' awards are not enforceable under Indian law.
(b) It confirmed that emergency arbitrators' awards are enforceable under Indian law.
(c) It disallowed interim relief under Section 9 of the Act.
(d) It overturned the principle of separability in arbitration.
60. In *SMS Tea Estates v. Chandmari Tea* (2011), the Supreme Court held that:
(a) Arbitration clauses in unstamped agreements are permanently void.
(b) Stamp duty is not applicable to arbitration agreements.
(c) An arbitration clause in an unstamped agreement would be unenforceable until adequately stamped.
(d) The principle of separability means arbitration clauses are always enforceable regardless of stamp duty requirements.
61. The concept of separability in arbitration means:
(a) Arbitral proceedings must be separate from court proceedings.
(b) The invalidity of the main contract does not necessarily affect the arbitration clause contained within it.
(c) Arbitrators must be separate and independent from the parties.
(d) Different disputes under the same contract must be arbitrated separately.
62. Under Section 44 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, a “foreign award” is defined as: (a) Any award made outside India.
(b) An award made in a territory with which India has a reciprocal arrangement.

- (c) An award involving foreign parties regardless of the seat of arbitration.
- (d) An award issued by a foreign arbitrator even if the arbitration was conducted in India.

Passage (Q.63-Q.69): Medical negligence has emerged as a significant area of concern in India's healthcare sector. The principle of medical negligence is rooted in the doctrine of negligence under tort law, which holds that professionals must exercise reasonable care and skill in their practice. 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.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which replaced the 1986 Act, continues to include medical services within its ambit. 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.

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. For instance, in cases involving retained surgical instruments or wrong-site surgeries, the very occurrence of the event suggests negligence. However, the Supreme Court has cautioned against the indiscriminate application of this doctrine, emphasising that medical science involves inherent uncertainties and not all adverse outcomes can be attributed to negligence.

Medical professionals are also bound by the regulations of the National Medical Commission (formerly Medical Council of India). The violation of these regulations may constitute evidence of negligence. Additionally, 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.

"Informed consent" is absolutely vital. As the Supreme Court explained in Samira Kohli v. Dr. Prabha Manchanda (2008), doctors have a duty to give patients clear information about treatments, including significant risks, available alternatives, and what might happen if they refuse treatment. Failing to get proper informed consent can itself be a breach of the doctor's duty. The level of care expected isn't one-size-fits-all; it depends on the doctor's speciality and the resources they have access to. In Kusum Sharma v. Batra Hospital (2010), the Supreme Court pointed out that just doing something differently from the usual practice isn't necessarily negligent. Doctors aren't typically held liable for genuine errors in judgment or for choosing one medically accepted treatment path over another. Finally, hospitals can be held responsible for the errors of their staff through 'vicarious liability'. The ruling in Savita Garg v. National Heart Institute (2004) established that hospitals generally have a core duty to provide adequate care and can be liable for negligence by their employees, and sometimes even independent doctors working on their premises.

63. According to the passage, in Jacob Mathew v. State of Punjab (2005), the Supreme Court established that to prove medical negligence:
- The patient must demonstrate actual harm caused by the doctor's actions.
 - The doctor's conduct must have fallen below the standard of reasonable care expected from a prudent medical professional.
 - The doctor must have violated specific provisions of the Medical Council of India's regulations.
 - The patient must prove that the doctor acted with malice or intent to harm.
64. The doctrine of res ipsa loquitur in medical negligence cases:
- Requires the plaintiff to provide extensive expert testimony to establish negligence.
 - Implies that the mere occurrence of an adverse event is sufficient to establish negligence in all medical cases.
 - Applies when the negligence is so obvious that no direct evidence is needed to establish it.
 - Has been consistently rejected by Indian courts in all medical negligence cases.
65. Under which section of the Indian Penal Code can a medical professional be punished for causing death by gross negligence?
- Section 304.
 - Section 304A.
 - Section 299.
 - Section 300.
66. Based on the passage, which of the following statements regarding informed consent is correct?
- Informed consent is only required for surgical procedures.
 - A doctor must provide adequate information about the proposed treatment, including material risks.
 - Once a patient signs a consent form, the doctor is absolved of all liability.
 - Informed consent is not necessary for emergency treatments.
67. In Indian Medical Association v. V.P. Shantha (1995), the Supreme Court held that:
- Medical services are excluded from the purview of the Consumer Protection Act.
 - Under the Consumer Protection Act, patients are 'consumers' and medical practitioners are 'service providers', with certain exceptions.
 - All medical services, including those provided free of charge, come under the Consumer Protection Act.
 - Medical negligence cases can only be tried in regular civil courts, not consumer forums.

68. According to the passage, vicarious liability in the context of medical negligence means:
- Doctors are liable for the negligence of their patients.
 - Hospitals can be held liable for the negligence of their staff.
 - Medical professionals are only liable for intentional acts, not negligence.
 - Patients assume all risks associated with medical treatment.
69. In *Kusum Sharma v. Batra Hospital* (2010), the Supreme Court established that:
- Medical professionals are liable for all adverse outcomes.
 - A mere deviation from normal practice necessarily constitutes negligence.
 - Medical professionals should not be held liable for errors of judgment when choosing one acceptable medical practice over another.
 - Hospitals are never liable for the actions of independent contractors.

Passage (Q.70-Q.74): For an agreement to count as a proper contract under India's Contract Act of 1872, it needs key ingredients like an offer, acceptance, something of value exchanged (consideration), and crucially, genuine agreement or "free consent" between the parties involved (Sections 2(h), 10, 14). Consent isn't considered 'free' if it's obtained through pressure tactics like coercion or undue influence, or through deception like fraud or misrepresentation, or even due to a significant mistake.

Consider coercion and undue influence. Coercion (Section 15) is quite direct: it involves forcing someone into a deal by committing or threatening illegal acts (specifically, acts forbidden by the Penal Code) or by unlawfully holding onto their property. Undue influence (Section 16) is more subtle. It happens when someone uses their position of power or trust to unfairly sway another person's decision, especially in relationships where one person naturally holds sway (like a doctor over a patient, a guardian over a child, or an employer over an employee). If it's shown that someone misused their dominant position to get an unfair deal, the contract can often be challenged.

What happens if consent was obtained this way? The contract isn't automatically dead, but it becomes 'voidable'. This gives the person who was pressured or unduly influenced the choice: they can either go ahead with the contract or choose to cancel it. But, they need to act reasonably quickly; waiting too long might mean their right to challenge the contract expires under the Limitation Act of 1963. Also, if that person later freely decides to stand by the contract after the pressure is off (this is called ratification), the contract becomes fully valid and binding. They can no longer claim coercion or undue influence.

70. Kavita, a young entrepreneur, enters into a contract to sell her property to her uncle. Later, Kavita claimed that she was under undue influence because her uncle, who provided her with financial advice, threatened to cut off all future financial support unless she sold the property

to him at a reduced price. Kavita wishes to set aside the contract on grounds of undue influence. Which of the following is the most relevant factor the court will consider in determining whether undue influence occurred?

- (a) Whether Kavita voluntarily entered into the contract and whether there was a fiduciary relationship between her and her uncle.
 - (b) Whether the contract was unfair to Kavita, regardless of any fiduciary relationship.
 - (c) Whether her uncle threatened legal action to force her to sign the contract.
 - (d) Whether Kavita continued to receive financial support from her uncle after entering into the contract.
71. Assume Kavita ratified the contract after her uncle ceased to exert undue influence. Can she now seek to void the contract on grounds of undue influence?
- (a) No, because ratification nullifies any claim of undue influence.
 - (b) Yes, because undue influence renders the contract void ab initio.
 - (c) No, unless Kavita can prove that she was unaware of her rights at the time of ratification.
 - (d) Yes, because the undue influence continued to have an effect even after ratification.
72. If Kavita waits for three years before approaching the court to void the contract, will her claim be barred by the Limitation Act of 1963?
- (a) Yes, as the Limitation Act provides only two years for seeking rescission of a contract entered under undue influence.
 - (b) No, because claims based on undue influence can be brought at any time.
 - (c) Yes, unless Kavita can prove that she was prevented from approaching the court due to ongoing influence by her uncle.
 - (d) No, because the limitation period begins only after the undue influence has ceased.
73. Assume Kavita's uncle had threatened to report her to the authorities for tax evasion unless she sold the property. Would this situation fall under coercion or undue influence?
- (a) Coercion, because the threat involves an unlawful act under the Indian Penal Code.
 - (b) B. Undue influence, because there is a fiduciary relationship between Kavita and her uncle.
 - (c) C. Coercion, because the threat of reporting her to the authorities constitutes an unlawful act.
 - (d) Both coercion and undue influence, as the threat is combined with a dominant relationship.

74. If the court determines that Kavita's consent was obtained through undue influence, what remedy is Kavita most likely entitled to?
- The contract will be declared void, and her uncle will have no further claim on the property.
 - The contract will be declared voidable, and Kavita will have the option to either rescind it or ratify it.
 - The contract will remain binding, but her uncle will be required to compensate Kavita for any losses she incurred.
 - The contract will be declared void, but only if Kavita repays any financial assistance her uncle provided after the sale.

Passage (Q.75-Q.81): Corporate criminal liability in India has evolved significantly, moving away from the traditional view that corporations, being artificial entities, cannot possess the mens rea necessary for criminal culpability. 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, and the criminal intent of key individuals within the corporation can be attributed to the company itself.

Section 11 of the Indian Penal Code includes companies within the definition of "person." In contrast, Section 149 of the Companies Act 2013 implicitly recognises corporate criminal liability by providing that officers in default can be punished for offences by companies. This dual approach ensures that both the corporation and its responsible individuals can be held accountable.

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. In Iridium India Telecom Ltd. v. Motorola Inc. (2011), the Supreme Court affirmed this principle, noting that a corporation can be held liable for crimes of intent if the "alter ego" of the company had the requisite intent.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, provides explicitly for corporate criminal liability under Section 70, stating that where a company commits a contravention, every person responsible for the conduct of the business at the time of contravention shall be deemed guilty. Similar provisions exist in other statutes, such as the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

The concept of strict liability, where intent is irrelevant, is particularly significant in environmental cases. In the 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 liable to compensate for the harm caused, regardless of intent or negligence. Corporate manslaughter, though not specifically codified in Indian law, has seen some jurisprudential development. In the aftermath of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, charges akin to culpable homicide were filed against Union Carbide Corporation, setting a precedent for holding corporations liable for deaths resulting from their operations.

The Companies Act, 2013, has strengthened the framework for corporate governance and accountability through provisions such as Section 166, which outlines directors' duties, and

Section 134, which requires directors to disclose material departures from applicable laws. Non-compliance with these provisions can lead to criminal sanctions.

Recent amendments to various laws have increasingly focused on ensuring corporate compliance through criminal penalties. For instance, the Companies (Amendment) Act 2020 decriminalised certain minor offences while retaining criminal liability for serious violations. This balanced approach aims to facilitate ease of doing business while maintaining robust corporate accountability.

75. According to the passage, what was the significance of the Standard Chartered Bank v. Directorate of Enforcement (2005) case?
- (a) It established that corporations cannot be held criminally liable.
 - (b) It held that corporations can be prosecuted for offences requiring mens rea.
 - (c) It limited corporate liability to civil penalties only.
 - (d) It exempted corporate directors from personal liability.
76. The doctrine of identification or the “alter ego” principle means:
- (a) Corporations can never be identified as criminal entities.
 - (b) Only employees, not directors, can be held liable for corporate crimes.
 - (c) The state of mind of directors and senior managers can be attributed to the corporation itself.
 - (d) Corporate and individual liability are always mutually exclusive.
77. Under Section 70 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:
- (a) Only the corporation, not individuals, can be held liable.
 - (b) Every person responsible for the conduct of business at the time of contravention shall be deemed guilty.
 - (c) Corporate liability is limited to financial penalties.
 - (d) Only majority shareholders can be held liable.
78. In Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India (1996), the Supreme Court applied:
- (a) The “company shield” principle protects corporations from environmental liability.
 - (b) The “polluter pays” principle imposes absolute liability for environmental harm.
 - (c) The principle that environmental damage must be proven to be intentional.
 - (d) The doctrine that only government bodies are liable for environmental protection.
79. Which section of the Indian Penal Code includes companies within the definition of “person”?
- (a) Section 11.
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- (b) Section 149.
- (c) Section 70.
- (d) Section 166.

80. A company manufactures food products that are contaminated due to poor quality control, resulting in consumers falling ill. Under Indian law, which of the following statements is most accurate?
- (a) The company cannot be held criminally liable as it lacks mens rea.
 - (b) Only the employees directly involved in manufacturing can be held liable.
 - (c) Both the company and responsible officers can be held criminally liable under food safety laws.
 - (d) Only civil liability for damages can be imposed, not criminal liability.
81. The Companies (Amendment) Act 2020 reflects which approach to corporate criminal liability?
- (a) Complete criminalization of all corporate violations.
 - (b) Decriminalisation of all corporate offences.
 - (c) Decriminalisation of minor offences while retaining criminal liability for serious violations.
 - (d) Removal of all personal liability for corporate directors.

Passage (Q.82-Q.85): Under Indian law, the Doctrine of Frustration (Section 56, Indian Contract Act, 1872) applies when contract performance becomes impossible due to unforeseen events beyond either party's control. The doctrine discharges both parties from further obligations, rendering the contract void. For successful frustration claims, the event must make performance impossible, illegal, or radically different from the original agreement.

Distinction matters between contracts that become merely difficult or expensive and contracts that become genuinely frustrated. Mere inconvenience or increased costs don't constitute frustration. Furthermore, force majeure clauses covering specific unforeseen events may preclude the application of the frustration doctrine.

In *Satyabrata Ghose vs. Mugneeram Bangur & Co.*, the Supreme Court clarified that impossibility under Section 56 refers not to literal impossibility but to situations where unforeseen events substantially alter contract performance. However, temporary impediments may not frustrate contracts if delays don't significantly alter the agreement's nature.

82. Amit enters into a contract with Deepak to deliver a shipment of goods by March 31. Before the delivery date, the government imposes a ban on the export of the goods, making it impossible for Amit to fulfil the contract. Can Amit claim frustration of the contract under Section 56?

- (a) Yes, because the government ban makes the performance of the contract illegal.
(b) No, because Amit could have foreseen the possibility of government intervention.
(c) Yes, because the contract has become impossible to perform due to an unforeseen event.
(d) No, because the contract did not contain a force majeure clause.
83. Assume that Amit's delivery was delayed instead of a government ban due to a labour strike, and the goods could still be delivered a week after the deadline. Could Amit claim frustration under these circumstances?
(a) Yes, because the delay makes timely performance impossible, frustrating the contract.
(b) No, because temporary impediments do not frustrate a contract if they do not fundamentally alter the agreement.
(c) Yes, because the strike was an unforeseen event beyond Amit's control.
(d) No, unless the delay caused a significant financial loss to Deepak.
84. Amit's contract with Deepak includes a force majeure clause that specifies natural disasters, strikes, and government actions as events that excuse performance. Amit argues that the ban constitutes a force majeure event. Can Amit rely on the force majeure clause instead of the Doctrine of Frustration?
(a) Yes, because the force majeure clause directly covers government actions.
(b) No, because force majeure clauses cannot override statutory provisions like Section 56.
(c) Yes, because the force majeure clause takes precedence over the Doctrine of Frustration in this case.
(d) No, because a force majeure clause only applies to reasonably foreseeable events.
85. In the Satyabrata Ghose case, the court ruled that literal impossibility is not required for frustration. Based on this ruling, which of the following scenarios is most likely to be considered frustration?
(a) A contract to supply goods that has become more expensive due to inflation.
(b) A contract to build a bridge where a flood temporarily halts construction but does not cause permanent damage.
(c) A contract to perform at a concert, where the venue burns down two days before the event.
(d) A contract to provide consulting services where the consulting company loses one of its major clients.

Logical Reasoning

Passage (Q.86-Q.90): Canadian politics may be at an unprecedented inflection point, both internally and externally, with two narrowly divided political parties domestically (the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party of Canada) and the Donald Trump presidency in the United States straining its stability amid external sovereignty claims. Within a matter of months, the domestic political landscape in Canada has changed considerably. Justin Trudeau, the former Prime Minister and from the ruling Liberal Party, lost support within his party and had to resign, paving the way for the party's new leader, Mark Carney.

Mr. Carney, who is considered a political rookie but also a reputable economist, realised that his party did not have the numbers in Canada's Parliament. As he stared at a no-confidence vote, which his Liberal party was certain to lose, he was compelled to call snap elections on April 28. It is probably the most opportune moment for the Liberal Party in the recent past for a nation-wide election, with soaring domestic support enabling it to close a double digit poll gap with the Conservative Party.

Behind the political resurgence of the Liberal Party has been a revanchist Trump presidency which has stridently argued for the geographical, political and economic unification of Canada with the U.S. as America's 51st State — a demand which has been vehemently rebuffed by the Canadian government and Canadians alike. Canadian sentiments have been further rattled by U.S. trade policies.

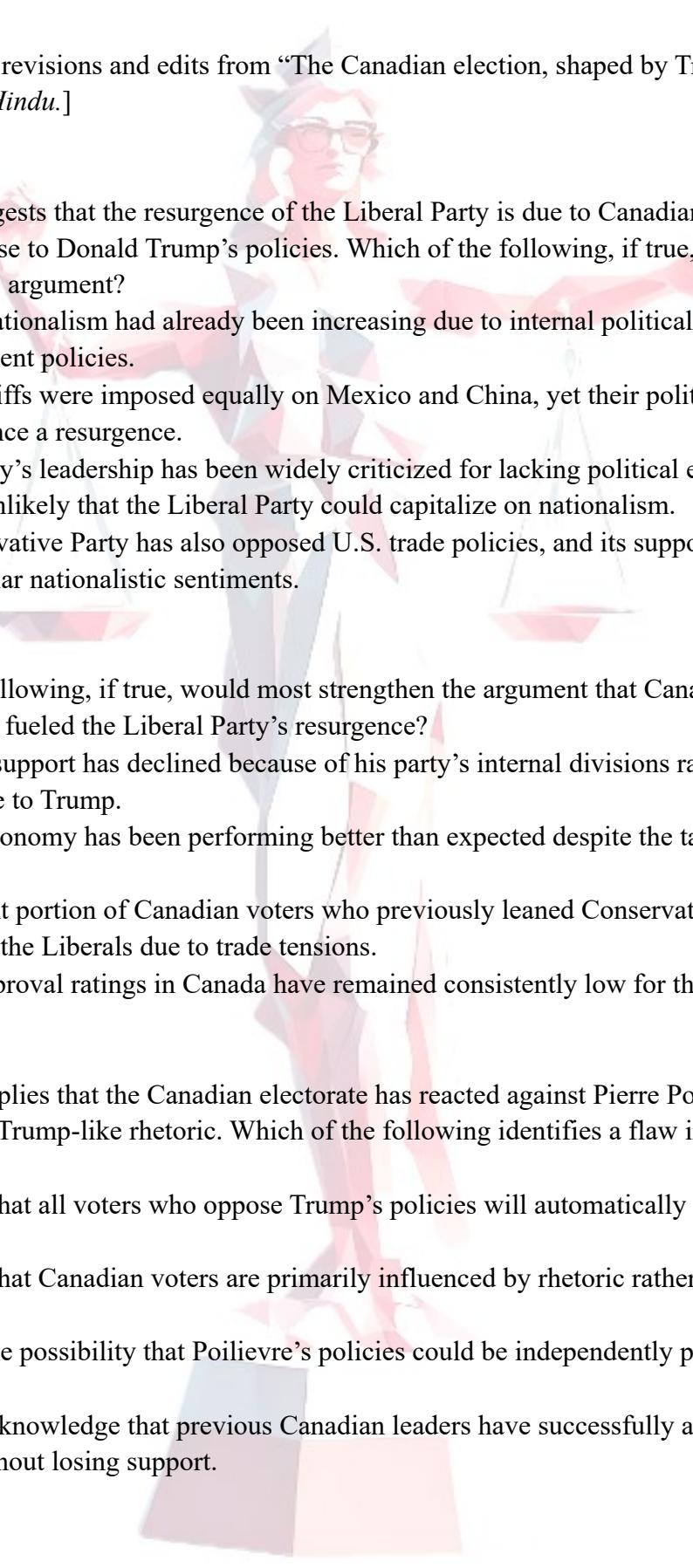
On February 1 this year, Trump imposed a 25% tariff on imports from Canada, Mexico and China. Mr. Trump backed off from raising additional tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminium to 50% in early March after Canada threatened retaliation by slapping a 25% tax on electricity supply from Ontario to the U.S. The Liberal Party used the opportunity to drumbeat a national unity calling for the unification of Canadians across political divides.

The other factor responsible for the party's resurgence in such a short time is the rising opposition to and even hatred for Mr. Trump and America in Canada. Mr. Trump's policies have fuelled a patriotic bout in Canada with a growing demand to boycott things that are American and to buy Canadian.

The Canadian reaction to American tariff coercion has been driven by a nationalistic impulse which was not witnessed in Ottawa in the past, especially against the U.S. In fact, the decision by most Canadians to avoid travel to the U.S. has caused Canadian airlines to stop service to some American cities.

The political fortunes of the leader of the Conservative Party, Pierre Poilievre, have altered to his detriment. The party has slipped to a tie in polls with the Liberal Party, thus squandering his earlier lead. Many Canadians now see a shadow of Mr. Trump in Mr. Poilievre who has espoused deregulation, tax cuts and talks about doing away with liberal policies of the Trudeau government on environment, energy, culture and gender. Mr. Poilievre has borrowed Mr. Trump's language in his war against the liberal elite of Canada, culture wars, gender, cryptocurrency and climate action among other issues.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “The Canadian election, shaped by Trudeau and Trump?”, *The Hindu*.]

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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?
- Canadian nationalism had already been increasing due to internal political issues before Trump’s recent policies.
 - Trump’s tariffs were imposed equally on Mexico and China, yet their political parties did not experience a resurgence.
 - Mark Carney’s leadership has been widely criticized for lacking political experience, making it unlikely that the Liberal Party could capitalize on nationalism.
 - The Conservative Party has also opposed U.S. trade policies, and its supporters have shown similar nationalistic sentiments.
87. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that Canadian nationalism has fueled the Liberal Party’s resurgence?
- Poilievre’s support has declined because of his party’s internal divisions rather than any resemblance to Trump.
 - Canada’s economy has been performing better than expected despite the tariffs imposed by Trump.
 - A significant portion of Canadian voters who previously leaned Conservative have switched to the Liberals due to trade tensions.
 - Trump’s approval ratings in Canada have remained consistently low for the past decade.
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?
- It assumes that all voters who oppose Trump’s policies will automatically oppose Poilievre.
 - It assumes that Canadian voters are primarily influenced by rhetoric rather than policy proposals.
 - It ignores the possibility that Poilievre’s policies could be independently popular despite his rhetoric.
 - It fails to acknowledge that previous Canadian leaders have successfully adopted populist rhetoric without losing support.

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.
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.

Passage (Q.91-Q.95): The new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Tuhin Kanta Pandey, has started his Mumbai innings on a strong footing. Among the first set of decisions taken by the regulator's board is the setting up of a high-level committee to conduct a detailed review of conflict of interest and disclosure norms related to property, investments, and liabilities of SEBI's board members and officials. The committee will be constituted independently from SEBI, with the markets regulator providing what Pandey called secretarial support. Though the SEBI chairman tried to skirt the issue at Monday's media conference, it can be assumed that the move was prompted by the controversy his predecessor faced following incessant charges of conflict of interest. Whatever be the reasons, such a review of the SEBI's Conflict Code (2008) was long overdue. It's quite laughable that the regulator, which felt the need to make numerous changes to several rules for the regulated, has kept its own code unchanged for 17 years. A course correction was thus necessary, which is precisely what the new chairman has sought to do.

The failure to review has led to the Conflict Code falling short on fulfilling its original purpose on several counts. For example, the code defines "family" as spouse and dependent children below 18 years of age. This defies logic as directors of listed entities are required to disclose details for a much wider number of relatives. SEBI's insider trading rules have expanded the definition of "connected persons" and "relative", far beyond what the Conflict Code says. Also, it's not enough for the chairman and SEBI board members to simply disclose stock transactions within 15 days or abide by a code that they shall not deal in listed

securities based on “unpublished price sensitive information”. Indeed, there should be unambiguous rules to address and minimise questions on other possible conflicts of interest. For example, what about possible earnings from properties rented out to business groups with listed companies?

This is particularly important as unlike a civil servant-turned SEBI chairman, a person who has worked in the private sector before becoming the regulator could run into conflicts due to his earlier association with listed entities and business decisions taken during his days in the private sector. Some may unintentionally not disclose investments sold long ago on the grounds that they were no longer relevant. The Code must have clear guidelines with granular details on such issues.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “A welcome review: SEBI’s new chairman takes action on outdated conflict code”, *Financial Express*.]

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Passage (Q.96-Q.100): DESI is an international experiment with more than 900 researchers from over 70 institutions around the world and is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab). The collaboration shared their findings today in multiple papers that will be posted on the online repository arXiv and in a presentation at the American Physical Society's Global Physics Summit in Anaheim, California.

"What we are seeing is deeply intriguing," said Alexie Leauthaud-Harnett, co-spokesperson for DESI and a professor at UC Santa Cruz. "It is exciting to think that we may be on the cusp of a major discovery about dark energy and the fundamental nature of our universe."

Taken alone, DESI's data are consistent with our standard model of the universe: Lambda CDM (where CDM is cold dark matter and Lambda represents the simplest case of dark energy, where it acts as a cosmological constant). However, when paired with other measurements, there are mounting indications that the impact of dark energy may be weakening over time and that other models may be a better fit. Those other measurements include the light leftover from the dawn of the universe (the cosmic microwave background or CMB), exploding stars (supernovae), and how light from distant galaxies is warped by gravity (weak lensing).

"We're guided by Occam's razor, and the simplest explanation for what we see is shifting," said Will Percival, co-spokesperson for DESI and a professor at the University of Waterloo. "It's looking more and more like we may need to modify our standard model of cosmology to make these different datasets make sense together -- and evolving dark energy seems promising."

So far, the preference for an evolving dark energy has not risen to "5 sigma," the gold standard in physics that represents the threshold for a discovery. However, different combinations of DESI data with the CMB, weak lensing, and supernovae datasets range from 2.8 to 4.2 sigma. (A 3-sigma event has a 0.3% chance of being a statistical fluke, but many 3-sigma events in physics have faded away with more data.) The analysis used a technique to hide the results from the scientists until the end, mitigating any unconscious bias about the data.

"We're in the business of letting the universe tell us how it works, and maybe the universe is telling us it's more complicated than we thought it was," said Andrei Cuceu, a postdoctoral researcher at Berkeley Lab and co-chair of DESI's Lyman-alpha working group, which uses the distribution of intergalactic hydrogen gas to map the distant universe. "It's interesting and gives us more confidence to see that many different lines of evidence are pointing in the same direction."

DESI is one of the most extensive surveys of the cosmos ever conducted. The state-of-the-art instrument, which captures light from 5,000 galaxies simultaneously, was constructed and is operated with funding from the DOE Office of Science. DESI is mounted on the U.S. National Science Foundation's Nicholas U. Mayall 4-meter Telescope at Kitt Peak National Observatory (a program of NSF NOIRLab) in Arizona. The experiment is now in its fourth of five years surveying the sky, with plans to measure roughly 50 million galaxies and quasars (extremely distant yet bright objects with black holes at their cores) by the time the project ends.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “New DESI results strengthen hints that dark energy may evolve”, *ScienceDaily*.]

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Passage (Q.101-Q.105): The SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID has killed more than 1.2 million people in the US.

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have begun cancelling billions of dollars in funding on research related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 research funds “were issued for a limited purpose: to ameliorate the effects of the pandemic”, according to an internal NIH document that *Nature* has obtained and that provides the agency’s staff members with updated guidance on how to terminate these grants. “Now that the pandemic is over, the grant funds are no longer necessary,” the document states. It is not clear how many COVID-19 grants will be terminated.

The crackdown on COVID-19 research comes as the NIH under US President Donald Trump has halted nearly 400 grants in the past month. An earlier version of the documents, obtained by *Nature* on 5 March, directed staff to identify and potentially cancel projects on transgender populations; gender identity; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the scientific workforce; and environmental justice.

The NIH, which is the world’s largest public funder of biomedical research, has awarded grants to nearly 600 ongoing projects that include ‘COVID’ in the title, worth nearly US\$850 million. Together these projects make up nearly 2% of the NIH’s \$47 billion budget. And the CDC plans to cancel \$11.4 billion in funds for pandemic response, NBC News reports.

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has killed more than 7 million people globally, including more than 1.2 million people in the United States, and continues to infect and kill people. Studying the virus, how it infects people and the government’s response to the pandemic is also crucial to preventing the next one, say scientists.

Among the terminations at the NIH is a \$577 million programme to identify and develop antiviral drugs against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and six other types of viruses with pandemic potential.

“These terminations are clearly shortsighted — we desperately need new treatments against viruses,” says Jason McLellan, a structural virologist at the University of Texas, Austin, whose project to develop broad-spectrum treatments that work against multiple types of viruses was part of the programme and terminated on 24 March. “To cancel the entire grant because a small portion involved SARS-CoV-2 is going to be dangerous for future pandemic preparedness.”

Neither the NIH nor its parent organization, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), responded to *Nature*’s queries about the grant terminations or scientists’ concerns about them.

The updated guidance document that *Nature* obtained was sent on 25 March to NIH staff members who oversee the business side of awarding research grants, called ‘grantsmanagement specialists’. This document includes COVID-19 on a list of “research activities that NIH no longer supports”, in addition to research on China, DEI, “transgender issues” and vaccine hesitancy. The latest guidance also says that grants related to South Africa and climate change should be terminated.

In addition to these research topics, the document outlines a new category of research that should be terminated: any project on a list sent by the NIH director or the HHS, which is currently helmed by longtime anti-vaccine advocate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “NIH to cut grants for COVID research, documents reveal”, *Nature*.]

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.

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.
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.
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.
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.

Passage (Q.106-Q.110): As the chancellor ekes out every last billion this week, it's worth stepping back and remembering one key reason why Britain fares worse than its neighbours: Brexit. On Monday, MPs debated whether to rejoin the EU following the success of a public petition that gained 134,000 signatures. Don't hold your breath. The government replied by

quoting it's not-until-hell-freezes-over manifesto pledge: "there will be no return to EU membership". But the global Trumpquake has shaken all certainties, upended all that seemed solid. The European defence emergency has made talk of Brexit and its future less taboo on both sides of the Channel. Close observers note the ice breaking. "Things are moving in the right direction," says Charles Grant of the Centre for European Reform (CER).

Nonetheless, Labour is so paralysed by Brexit that despite its hunt for growth, it has said nothing about the monumental sums that leaving the EU have cost the economy. Estimates vary, but the CER sets our losses at 5% of GDP. That's a vast sum: 1% of Britain's GDP is worth £25.6 billion. Goldman Sachs's calculations are similar. Researchers at the London School of Economics found that the UK lost £27 billion in exports to the EU in the first two years; the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) reckons Britain has seen a 15% reduction in trade.

Last week Policy Exchange, a pro-Brexit thinktank, tried to salvage some shred of Brexit's reputation, but to no avail. Sifting through the statistics, even it couldn't find any Brexit advantages. Try as it might to produce a positive narrative, its report *Less Than Meets the Eye* could only attempt to limit the damage. It concluded that the OBR's 15% trade reduction was "greatly exaggerated – and that the real impact is only a small fraction of what has been assumed".

Out tumbles more bad Brexit news. This month the Food and Drink Federation reported that its exports to the EU, much its biggest market, were down by 34%. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research found that businesses now invested 12.4% less than they would have done if Brexit hadn't happened. The City lost 40,000 finance jobs soon after Brexit: those high earners who have departed Britain lost the Treasury £1 billion a year in tax.

You want more? Brexit is a key factor in the worst UK medicine shortages in four years, the Nuffield Trust reported this month. I have folders full of similar figures, but let's leave it with this from the thinktank UK in a Changing Europe: "Five years on and Brexit still defines the UK economy ... and will continue to." In the long term, forget budgets picking over a little taxing and cutting here and there as Britain falls further behind. Rachel Reeves is right to call growth our only hope. But Brexit is a great drag on that ambition. Even if the UK schmoozes itself into avoiding Donald Trump's very worst tariffs, the EU is still our biggest market.

"The world has changed," the chancellor told the BBC. The doubt is whether the government is changing fast enough to repair the pain caused by Brexit. Now is the moment to speak honestly about Brexit's colossal harm. Most know it already, according to the polls. Even 54% of Britons who voted leave, including 59% of voters in "red wall" seats, say they would accept free movement for UK and EU citizens in exchange for single market access.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Rachel Reeves is all about growth. So why won't she admit that Brexit is its worst enemy?", *The Guardian*.]

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

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
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
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CLAT COMMUNITY

*EVERY SETBACK IS JUST A SETUP FOR A
GREATER COMEBACK. KEEP PUSHING
FORWARD – YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS
CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.*

