

Questions**S.1-4) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

On 1st December 1959, a new treaty was signed by 12 countries, including the US, the Soviet Union, France, and the UK. It was revolutionary. For the first time, amid the Cold War, the then three nuclear-weapon states agreed to transform a continent into a nuclear-free zone and, along with other parties, such as Australia and Argentina, committed themselves to a new governance regime. In a series of articles, the treaty offered a shared vision for how the polar continent and its ocean should be governed. The Antarctic would be demilitarized and characterised by peaceful cooperation. Science would be a catalyst for a collective culture of collaboration. The treaty parties, mindful of Cold War antagonisms, hardwired into their new arrangements a right to inspect one another's scientific activities.

60 years later, there is much to admire about the Antarctic Treaty and what it spawned, including a series of conventions, protocols and structures called the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). From the original 12 parties, there are now over 50 signatories, including China, India and Brazil. Notably, there is only one representative from Africa: South Africa. The treaty parties have tackled issues such as mineral resources and have found ways to cooperate on overfishing, tourism and environmental protection. The continent remains essentially free of military activity and has endured as a nuclear-free zone.

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There are, however, also concerns about Antarctic governance. One of the most pressing issues is balancing the impulse to protect Antarctica's environment with the desire to exploit its resources. The ownership of the continent remains disputed. Climate change continues to make itself felt on the ice, water and rock of Antarctica. Finally, there is no escaping the fact that the polar regions of the world are caught up in global geopolitical tensions, especially the growing presence of China.

The circumstances leading to the development of the treaty negotiations were mired in tension and uncertainty. One of the foundation myths of the Antarctic Treaty is that its genesis lay with the 1957 - 1958 International Geophysical Year (IGY). The IGY was a global scientific investigation period involving over 60 countries working on individual and shared projects. Twelve countries committed themselves to Antarctic research though, due to Cold War sensitivities, there was less scientific activity in the Arctic region. Informing the IGY was a so-called 1955 'gentlemen's

agreement' for the Antarctic programme, which stipulated that any interested party could conduct research regardless of geographical location.

Q.1) Which of the following would be the appropriate title for the passage?

- a) The Antarctic Treaty
- b) Demilitarisation of the Antarctic
- c) Climate Change in Antarctic Region
- d) The world dynamics during the Cold War

Q.2) Which of the following can be interpreted about the Antarctic Treaty from the passage?

- a) IGY acted as a foundational base for the ATS.
- b) The treaty has proved to be quite beneficial for establishing mutual trust among the members.
- c) It has been an unsuccessful one as most of the concerns about Antarctic governance prevail.
- d) None of the above

Q.3) What issues does the author does not refer to, when he says, 'There are, however, also concerns about Antarctic governance.'

- a) The ownership remains a key concern among the major 5 players including China.
- b) The military in the region has been uncooperating with innocent civilians.
- c) Geopolitical tensions around the poles have been on the rise, led by Russia and the USA.
- d) All of the above

Q.4) Which of the following statements is the author most likely to agree with?

- a) Controlling one's desire to exploit resources and minerals is a tough job.
- b) 1955 Gentlemen's agreement was the main motivation behind ATS for 12 nations.
- c) Climate change is one of the significant issues, the poles are dealing with, in the 21st century.
- d) It's surprising that Antarctica could be kept a nuclear-free zone by a bunch of nuke countries.

S.5-8) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Europe's longest river weaves through what has come to be seen as Russia's heartland, from the Valdai Hills northwest of Moscow to its delta near Astrakhan where it empties into the Caspian Sea. The Volga also links numerous peoples, including Bashkirs, Mari, Tatars, Udmurt, and Russians, all of whom live near its shores. Yet, though its length exceeds all other rivers in Europe, the Volga is still significantly shorter than several of Russia's Siberian arteries and, though renowned regionally, the river nevertheless remains somewhat inconspicuous among the world's 'greatest' rivers. It is certainly less thought about, spoken of or eulogised than the Nile, the Amazon, the Mississippi, the Yangtze or, perhaps, even the Danube.

Janet Hartley aims to correct Volga's marginalisation in her new book by putting it at the heart of national history. Previously the author of a sweeping history of Siberia, Hartley proves an able guide on a kaleidoscopic tour of the Volga and the history of the people who have resided by it. From the earliest proto-states of the Jewish-led Khazars and the Islamic Bolgars to contemporary negotiations about the waterway's status as a Russian river, Hartley treats the reader to captivating stories of conflict, conversion, trade, famine, migration, and myth. Throughout, Hartley convincingly shows that any understanding of Russian history requires an understanding of the Volga.

For centuries, the Volga was used as a major conduit for trade and commerce, tying locations together economically that was already linked by water. The river's utility for trade made it a confluence for divergent cultures, ethnicities and religions, which interacted with each other along its banks. Engagements among the diverse peoples of the Volga led to the formation of states and empires around it. Facilitated by the river, Muscovy's conquest of the Khanate of Kazan in the 16th century was one of the most crucial early moments in determining the massive continental empire that Russia would become. As the country grew to incorporate the entirety of the river, it became increasingly tied to national identity. As Hartley writes: 'Without the Volga, there would be no Russia.'

Beginning with the river's earliest history, Hartley introduces readers to the populations that lived with the Volga before the emergence of Russian influence, including various Turkic groups in the south and the Mongol Empire in the 13th century. Under Ivan IV the emergent Russian state conquered the Volga towns of Kazan and Astrakhan, replacing mosques with Orthodox churches. The Volga became something of a frontier in the 17th and 18th centuries. Rebellions and uprisings among populations of peasants and Cossacks became common events, even as the river grew more integrated into trade networks. Hartley then turns to social life along the

Volga and the river's cultural significance in Russian identity, examining the experiences of villagers and townspeople, the river as a motif in Russian literature and the tumultuous changes of the late imperial era. Concluding with the Soviet era, the book meanders through the 20th century, paying particular attention to the Volga's role in the momentous Battle of Stalingrad - today Volgograd - during the Second World War.

Q.5) Why does Hartley write: 'Without the Volga, there would be no Russia.?

- a) The river helped in the conquest which ultimately led to the development of Russia as it became a massive continent.
- b) After massive negotiations, it was given the status of a 'Russian river'.
- c) A lot of Russian tribes grew in and around the banks of the river.
- d) Russian states conquered the areas around the waterway and established their culture.

Q.6) Which of the following the roles of river Volga has not been discussed by Hartley in the book?

- a) The river acts as a common connection among a diversity of people including Bashkirs, Mari, Tatars, Udmurt, and Russians who stay along the banks.
- b) Stories of conflict, famine, and migration are associated with the river
- c) The river's role in the Battle of Stalingrad
- d) It was a major channel for all illegal trades

Q.7) The passage is likely to be taken from which of the following writing formats?

- a) An article from Geography Journal on rivers
- b) A chapter in the book on Russia
- c) An article in History Today
- d) A book review

Q.8) Which of the following cannot be inferred about the Volga from the given passage?

- a) It turned out to be an important part of shaping Russia's identity.
- b) It had become a common ground for rebellions for peasants.
- c) Due to Russian influence, the river is now popularly known as the 'Russian river'.
- d) None of the above.

S.9-12) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

To discover 'Reality' is to identify what is eternal and true, that is, what exists always. This is the most meaningful quest for every human being who is concerned about the purpose of his birth and existence, pointed out Srimati Sunanda in a discourse. If we move away from the truth, we cannot catch reality. One way to explore reality is by analysing the states of waking, dreaming and deep sleep that all of us experience in our day-to-day life.

Janaka is such a seeker of truth and tries to learn from each and every experience in his life. Once, he dreamt that he was a beggar suffering from starvation. It seemed so real at that time and the vivid experience of this dream pursued him even after he woke up. He then sought clarification about this from his mentor Ashtavakra. The preceptor said that neither the dream nor waking state is real. Then, Janaka wanted to know what is real. The answer was, "There is a state beyond these two. Discover that. It alone is real."

In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna makes it clear that all this cyclic process of creation and dissolution that seems to go on indefinitely is only temporary. His abode above and beyond all Prakriti and the Gunas alone is eternal and once this is attained through single-minded devotion to Him, there is no coming back to this world. This means the soul is liberated from the bondage of birth.

But most of us are attracted to this world and the general attitude is to shelve the thought of liberation for a later time or birth. We think that all this mysterious and wonderful creation is real. Only when we wake up to the reality of the ephemeral nature of all this can we see like realised souls, the unsubstantial reality behind both the waking and dream states.

Q.9) According to the given passage, which of the following is 'real'?

- a) The state of dreaming
- b) The state of ecstasy
- c) The state of awakening
- d) The state of eternity

Q.10) Which of the following ways to discover 'reality' have not been discussed in the passage?

- a) Exploring the routine states, we experience
- b) The indefinite process of suffering from hunger
- c) Focussed devotion to Lord Krishna
- d) Curiosity to seek the truth after death

Q.11) According to Krishna, when does the soul attain salvation?

- a) By experiencing the eternal and avoiding the ephemeral
- b) Through focused devotion to god and religion
- c) By cutting all ties with the materialistic world
- d) By involving oneself in good habits

Q.12) Which of the following would weaken the author's argument w.r.t 'what is real'?

- a) The state of dreaming where life and death coincide is 'real'
- b) The transient nature is only real and nothing is 'forever'
- c) Neither A nor B
- d) Both A and B

**S.13-16) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

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Across the UK, schools are again preparing for a phased or full return of pupils to the classroom. Most weary parents, compassionate teachers, and lonely kids will be delighted to see this day come, but concerns remain about the effect that protracted school closures have had on our children and young people.

Much of the debate has focused on how to help pupils “catch up” on their “lost learning”. This narrative is profoundly unhelpful and potentially damaging, due to the psychological pressure it places on children and young people. It’s our national obsession with summative assessment that makes children feel that they have “fallen behind” if they haven’t learned certain things at certain times. But in every year group, pupils are at various stages of cognitive, physical and emotional development. There is no such thing as “behind”, there is only where children are at. Besides, if we truly believe that everyone can be a lifelong learner, then a few months of parents struggling to teach phonics is a brief bump on their educational journey.

When I read recently of measures being planned to help children make up for lost school time through extended school days, tutoring and summer schools, my first instinct was that we should do the exact opposite. Pre-Covid research from the US has been referenced in support of extending school days, but studies have not provided evidence of a positive impact on attainment. Research by the Education Endowment Foundation has highlighted limited evidence of small group tutoring benefiting learners who are “falling behind” and some small benefits of summer schools.

Whether the small gains seen in these studies could be replicated on a larger scale post-pandemic is as yet untested, and open to debate. Given limited time and resources, rather than hoping for a slight boost in standardised attainment scores, educators and government should focus instead on addressing the immediate impact of the crisis, with an eye to what interventions will help children most in the long-term.

Q.13) What does the author imply when he says, “there is no such thing as behind”?

- a) Extended sessions would enable kids to catch up and not fall behind any further
- b) Education and learning are a continuous process and there is no end to it.
- c) A break from studies would only help students learn better.
- d) One must focus on getting ahead by breaking all psychological barriers

Q.14) Which of the steps to help children get back on track, is the author most likely to take?

- a) Continuous counselling sessions are essential to address the immediate emotional crisis as children come back to school post lockdown.
- b) Focus on the overall physical and mental development of kids via multiple extra-curricular activities
- c) Slowly enable the transition to the new normal and avoid any sudden extension of classes and additional load.
- d) Ignore the gap year due to COVID and continue the sessions like before.

Q.15) Which of the following statements is the author most likely to agree with?

- a) As soon as the schools reopen, students should be given extra assignments to make up for the lost time.
- b) As students missed social connections during the lockdown, various activities should be planned that would help them cope in the long run in any sort of uncertain situation.
- c) Schools should follow status quo techniques as were before the lockdown so that the students are not psychologically affected.
- d) Remote learning has been much more effective than expected and could continue forever in some or other form.

Q.16) According to the passage, which of the following could be concluded from the information given in the passage?

- a) The more we create hype over the children needing to make up for the lost time, the more pressure will it put on their minds.
- b) Children who are lifelong learners are most likely to become CEOs
- c) Summer schools would prove to be highly effective in training kids and speeding up the learning process.
- d) None of the above

S.17-20) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Perhaps nothing inspires as much fascination and repulsion as human cannibalism. Although it is now regarded as one of society's greatest taboos and is often associated with evil—think Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991)—history reveals a practice that is more complex and, surprisingly, sometimes even reverential.

Funeral rituals involving cannibalism have been well documented. The Fore of Papua New Guinea, for example, was known to have eaten the bodies of their deceased. The practice was seen as a sign of love and respect, preventing corpses from rotting or being devoured by insects. In addition, the ritual was thought to protect the body from any dangerous spirits. The Wari of the Brazilian Amazon included cannibalism in their funereal rites into the 1960s when missionaries precipitated the end of the practice. Also, common were religious rituals that featured cannibalism. After making human sacrifices to the gods, the Aztecs reportedly ate the corpses, which they considered sacred.

Eating the body of an enemy was perhaps the ultimate act of revenge. In addition to showing domination and inspiring fear, consuming one's foe was thought to enable the victor to possess the strength and bravery of the vanquished. Japanese soldiers during World War II consumed POWs, while the Korowai of New Guinea were within their rights to eat men thought to be witches. Ugandan leader Idi Amin, whose regime (1971-79) was noted for brutality, was accused of cannibalizing his opponents, and he responded with a non-denial: "I don't like human flesh. It's too salty for me." The Carib of the Caribbean islands were also thought to have eaten their enemies, and Europeans used claims of cannibalism to justify the murder and enslavement of numerous indigenous people. Though the veracity of the allegations against the Carib is still debated, the term cannibalism derives from a corruption of their name.

Medicinal cannibalism seems to have existed around the world, with nearly every body part ending up in some concoction. Chinese compounds included human organs as well as nails and hair, while, in early Greece, human blood was thought to treat epilepsy. And even as they were decrying cannibals in the New World as savages, Europeans were routinely consuming human parts as a medicinal treatment. Followers of the 16th-century Swiss physician Paracelsus, for example, sought to cure dysentery with medicines that contained powdered human skulls, and in 17th-century England, pulverized mummies were used in treatments for epilepsy and

stomach aches. In some cases, not just any mummy would do: one concoction called for the body of a red-headed man who had died from hanging.

And then there is cannibal cuisine. (For the record, human flesh allegedly is similar in taste to veal or pork.) The Batak of Sumatra reportedly sold human flesh in markets, and in China, human-based dishes were once considered a luxury. During the Yuan dynasty (13th - 14th century), it was noted that "children's meat was the best food of all in taste." The country also reported cases of children cutting off various body parts—usually a section of the thigh or upper arm—to use in dishes for their elders as a show of respect.

Q.17) Which of the following cannot be interpreted from the given passage about "Funereal Cannibalism"?

- a) It played an important role in purifying the soul of the dead.
- b) There has been no evidence of cannibalism being practised on dead bodies.
- c) Human meat is considered best in taste, especially for dead children.
- d) Both options B and C.

Q.18) According to the passage, which of the following is not one of the justifications for practising cannibalism?

- a) Human blood helped in the treatment of diseases.
- b) Eating the bodies of the deceased to show reverence.
- c) Consuming one's enemy was considered an act of bravery.
- d) None of the above

Q.19) Which amongst the following best captures the essence of the passage?

- a) Human Cannibalism led to the killing of many in the name of medicine, revenge and luxury cuisines.
- b) Human Cannibalism is practised in various forms and though frowned upon today, it had been a practice that many followed and cherished.
- c) Human Cannibalism is a significant part of human society as it is utilised for treating people and showing respect for the elderly.
- d) While killing people has always been a part of age-old traditions, eating human flesh was limited to a select few.

Q.20) Why does the author believe that “nothing inspires as much fascination and repulsion as human cannibalism”?

- a) Human Cannibalism is a complicated concept which is both worshipped and looked down upon at the same time.
- b) Eating human flesh is considered a luxury in South Asian regions.
- c) History has shown the cure of deadly diseases through medicines containing a powdered human skull.
- d) Cannibalism involving the consumption of a human body which belonged to a friend was considered salvatory.



S.21-24) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war of liberation and the centenary year of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina showcased the deep history the two nations share, their future plans and the challenges ahead. The events, which included an emotive ceremony in Dhaka, a cultural programme, India's conferring of the Gandhi Peace Prize posthumously on Mujib, and a visit by Mr Modi to the Bangabandhu (Mujib) memorial at his hometown in Tungipara, the leaders paid homage to the nation's founders, millions massacred by the Pakistani military regime in 1971, and those who died fighting for Bangladeshi freedom, including nearly 4,000 Indian soldiers.

India's role in the creation of Bangladesh was highlighted by Ms Hasina as she thanked India for its aid, and later, for providing her shelter when members of her family, including her father Mujib, were assassinated. Mr Modi wrote in an editorial of the hope for a Shonali Adhyaya (Golden Chapter) in South Asia that Bangabandhu may have brought about had he not been killed. The two leaders built on their December 2020 (virtual) meet by bolstering plans for connectivity and infrastructure projects with a framework for cooperation on trade, along with other MoUs on sports, education, and disaster management. India-Bangladesh ties in the past 15 years, since Ms Hasina was elected, have been marked by new areas of cooperation and an ability to resolve specific differences. Ms Hasina's decision, beginning in 2009, to shut down anti-India terror camps and to hand over nearly two dozen of India's "most wanted", reversed mistrust. Mr Modi's push to conclude the long-pending Land Boundary Agreement in 2015, and to accept an international tribunal verdict in favour of Bangladesh that resolved a 40-year-old maritime dispute, built confidence as well. Other issues, if unresolved, could pose challenges.

The joint statement noted the need to resolve the dispute over Teesta water sharing, and six other rivers. The problem of Bangladeshi civilians being killed at the border has dented relations. The Modi government's concerns over the treatment of Hindus, an impetus for the CAA, were highlighted as the PM performed two temple poojas and addressed a rally of minority Matua Hindus. The visits raised eyebrows in India as they took place even as West Bengal went to vote, but it became clear they will have repercussions in Bangladesh as well: protests against Mr Modi's visit turned violent, with at least 11 members of the Hefazat-e-Islam shot dead by police, and reprisal violence against the Hindu minority by Islamist mobs. The events only underline the

need for a deeper understanding of both sides of the sensitivities of the India-Bangladesh relationship, even as its many successes are counted and celebrated.

Q.21) Which of the following best captures the essence of the passage?

- a) India's role in building Bangladesh as a nation has been paramount, however, the two nations are still at loggerheads with each other.
- b) Mr Modi's efforts in establishing relations with Sri Lanka have been quite successful.
- c) While the two nations have come a long way in the resolution of a variety of matters, a deeper understanding between India and Bangladesh would help them address the existing issues better.
- d) With India's support, Sri Lanka has travelled far in establishing a war-free nation for its people.

Q.22) Which of the following is in line with the author's outlook on India-Bangladesh ties as presented in the given passage?

- a) Meaningful negotiations between countries' leadership have paved the path for the resolution of multiple issues and the ties should be strengthened for a smoother path ahead.
- b) Modi's approach toward the resolution of conflict with Bangladesh has been quite aggressive and needs to be toned down.
- c) India shouldn't have been keen on accepting the tribunal's verdict in Bangladesh's favour as it would indicate its weakness.
- d) The dispute over Teesta water sharing has been a minor one and doesn't need involvement at a higher level.

Q.23) Which of the following appropriately captures the tone of the penultimate paragraph?

- a) Introspective
- b) Laudatory
- c) Acerbic
- d) Analytical

Q.24) Which of the following steps could be logical, basis the unresolved issues as discussed in the passage?

- a) A policy draft protecting the rights of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh.
- b) Strict instructions to Indian soldiers and officers for avoiding any harm to Bangladeshi civilians across borders.
- c) Negotiations regarding equitable rights over Teesta and other rivers' water sharing.
- d) All of the above

**S.25-28) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

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The achievements of women dairy farmers in contributing to India's "White Revolution" are perhaps the greatest cause for celebrating Women's History Month in March. That this has happened despite around a majority of dairy farmers owning only small landholdings — typically households with two to five cows — is also a testament to the success of the dairy cooperatives models that were at the heart of Operation Flood.

The approach made it possible to enhance backward and forward linkages in the dairy value chain, paving the way for freeing small farmers from the clutches of middlemen, and guaranteed minimum procurement price for milk. A study by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) indicates that 93% of women farmers who receive training alongside financial support succeed in their ventures, compared to the 57% success rate of those who receive financial aid alone. Institutionalising such inputs, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) now organises farmer's orientation programmes across the country, under which women farmers are trained in scientific best practices on animal health, fodder quality, clean milk production, and accounts management.

According to the latest data, there are more than 1,90,000 dairy cooperative societies across the country, with approximately 6 million women members. A study conducted on Women Dairy Cooperative Society (WDCS) members across Rajasthan showed that with the income generated through dairying, 31% of the women had converted their mud houses to cement structures, while 39% had constructed concrete sheds for their cattle. Importantly, women-led cooperatives also provide fertile ground for grooming women from rural areas for leadership positions. In many instances, this becomes the first step for women in breaking free from traditional practices.

This was amply demonstrated through the testimonials of women dairy farmers highlighted by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on International Women's Day earlier this month. Among the many stories that stood out, it was heartening to hear the account of Prem Bai from Rajasthan who never had access to education or formal employment but experienced a life transformation after she became a member of the Bhilwara Milk Union. She is now the main breadwinner in her family and recently bought 25 acres of land with the income she earned through dairy farming.

Another major challenge in this sector is information asymmetry among farmers. Statistics indicate that small and marginal farmers have access to only 50% - 70% of the resources that large and medium farmers have. Once again, the presence of collectives in the form of cooperatives and milk unions plays a significant role in enhancing the knowledge and bargaining power of women.

Q.25) In line with the reasoning given in the second paragraph, in which of the following situations are women farmers likely to succeed in their ventures?

- a) Sheetal opted for a 1-year course in farming from a university and ended up joining an agri-based start-up.
- b) Madhuri, along with all her partners on the dairy farm were given orientation on best practices, once they started.
- c) Laxmi took an SME loan from the bank and started a small dairy farm with 5 women workers.
- d) Sita joined a cooperative as a partner which received an interest-free loan from the government.

Q.26) Which of the following can be concluded from the given passage?

- a) Animal health improved reasonably once the farmers were part of NDDB.
- b) A woman dairy farmer can buy her own land and build her own house with less than 2 years of learning.
- c) The establishment of dairy cooperatives has helped support the cause of women empowerment.
- d) Small and Marginal farmers are dependent on the landlords for all their money and infra needs for farming.

Q.27) Which of the following benefits of dairy cooperatives have not been discussed by the author?

- a) Improvement in the relevant knowledge areas
- b) Easy accessibility of loans to women entrepreneurs
- c) Benefiting the small and marginal farmers by removing the middlemen
- d) A boost to leadership among rural women

Q.28) Based on the information given in paragraphs 2 and 3, which of the following situations cannot hold TRUE?

- a) All 100 women who took loan from the local landlord could repay him post their earnings from the dairy farming.
- b) 7 out of 20 women from a particular dairy cooperative went on to lead higher level leadership positions.
- c) Children of none of the women who involved themselves in dairy farming ever lived in a mud house.
- d) 150 out of 256 women farmers who received training in animal husbandry, succeeded in their dairy farming businesses.



S.29-32) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

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Modern democracies are erected upon the twin pillars of rights and representation. While rights define the minimum due of individuals and communities vis-à-vis the state, representation enables the diverse voices in a polity to be heard. However, most critics interrogate Hindutva through the limited lens of representation, arguing that it essentially represents the interests of upper-caste Hindus. This is a misleading claim.

A case in point is West Bengal, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 18 seats in the last Lok Sabha election and secured 40.3% of the votes, including five out of 10 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and both the seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. This is not an exception. Earlier, the BJP registered victories in Tripura and Uttar Pradesh and has continually dominated Madhya Pradesh and Bihar on the back of widespread subaltern support. Even then, academia is in denial about the ideological resonance of Hindutva among the subaltern sections because of a flawed understanding of the Hindutva project and its relationship with the politics of representation.

The claim that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) aspires to revive an old, ritually sanctioned, caste-based social order is incorrect. Often, examples like the introduction of policies like reservations for Economically Weaker Sections are advanced to bolster this claim, ignoring the fact that parties like the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party, and the Janata Dal (United), which were catapulted to power by the Mandal agitation, put up only a tokenistic opposition to it. The ambition of Hindutva is not restricted to pushing a certain policy — it is to convert Hinduism into an ethnic order and reconstitute it as a race, a term repeatedly employed by Savarkar. This entails the process of simultaneous inclusion of the marginalised within Hinduism and the exclusion of the Muslim and Christian ‘other’. As a result, Hindutva has always nurtured disdain for rituals. They are only a means of political mobilisation and reinforcing the Hindu identity, bereft of any innate sanctity. This is apparent in the party’s duplicitous stance on eating beef, a practice it opposes in the Hindi belt but condones in the northeast.

In India, the imposition of a modern state on a traditional society under colonialism destabilised the Hindu social order and gave rise to the politics of Hindutva and social justice. Modernity provided the hitherto unavailable language of rights and mechanisms of representation. Marginalised communities used these resources for ensuring upward mobility through representation and complemented it with struggles for moral and spiritual self-determination.

The latter primarily included demands for inclusion within the Hindu fold via the renegotiation of tradition. It was only when these demands of renegotiation remained unfulfilled that a section of subaltern communities rejected Hinduism and embraced Buddhism.

Q.29) Why does the author say, "This is a misleading claim"?

- a) To bring to notice that people are blindsided by the politics of caste and religion.
- b) To discuss how people play the politics of 'representation' to win elections.
- c) To focus on the point that BJP ignores the lower castes.
- d) To bring to light the fact that people do not try and interpret the Hindutva ideology holistically.

Q.30) Which of the following statements could be concluded from the last paragraph?

- a) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled more towards Buddhism when Hinduism could no longer give them the respect they yearned for, in society.
- b) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled more towards Buddhism when Hinduism could no longer support their quest for upward mobility.
- c) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled by the ideas of Buddhism as Hinduism could no longer serve their needs.
- d) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled by the ideas of Buddhism as it gave them the soulful experience that Hinduism couldn't.

Q.31) Which of the following is the author most likely to believe about Hindutva ideology?

- a) It favours all Hindus except the SCs and STs.
- b) It focuses on pushing policies which favour upper-caste Hindus.
- c) It aims to favour secularism and follow the principle of equality.
- d) It means to establish Hinduism as a culture and practice for all sections of Hindus.

Q.32) Which of the following negates the author's opinion and stance on the relationship between Hindutva and modernity?

- a) Modern approaches killed the idea of social justice prevailing in Hindutva circles.
- b) The social order of Hindutva was severely impacted by traditional ideas.

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Q.29) Why does the author say, "This is a misleading claim"?

- a) To bring to notice that people are blindsided by the politics of caste and religion.
- b) To discuss how people, play the politics of 'representation' to win elections.
- c) To focus on the point that BJP ignores the lower castes.
- d) To bring to light the fact that people do not try and interpret the Hindutva ideology holistically.

Q.30) Which of the following statements could be concluded from the last paragraph?

- a) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled more towards Buddhism when Hinduism could no longer give them the respect they yearned for, in society.
- b) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled more towards Buddhism when Hinduism could no longer support their quest for upward mobility.
- c) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled by the ideas of Buddhism as Hinduism could no longer serve their needs.
- d) The marginalised sections of the society were pulled by the ideas of Buddhism as it gave them the soulful experience that Hinduism couldn't.

Q.31) Which of the following is the author most likely to believe about Hindutva ideology?

- a) It favours all Hindus except the SCs and STs.
- b) It focuses on pushing policies which favour upper-caste Hindus.
- c) It aims to favour secularism and follow the principle of equality.
- d) It means to establish Hinduism as a culture and practice for all sections of Hindus.

Q.32) Which of the following negates the author's opinion and stance on the relationship between Hindutva and modernity?

- a) Modern approaches killed the idea of social justice prevailing in Hindutva circles.
- b) The social order of Hindutva was severely impacted by traditional ideas.

- c) Hindutva criticised all aspects of modern culture.
- d) Hindutva emerges parallel to the concept of modernity.

**S.33-36) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

Sri Lanka's tragic political history is in many ways a consequence of the failures of its political elite, and their rank opportunism and nationalist worldview. They could have negotiated a solution long before Sri Lanka got embroiled in armed conflict. International engagement and

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solutions have only aggravated national crises from the time of the Indian Peace Keeping debacle in the late 1980s to the failed Norwegian peace process of the mid-2000s that eventually led to the cataclysmic end of the war in 2009. Moreover, the golden opportunity soon after the war to address the ethnic problem was squandered by the Rajapaksa regime due to its hubris and eventually paid with regime change in 2015. The current Rajapaksa leadership and its core base are again polarising Sri Lanka, undermining possibilities for a plural and democratic future for the country.

In this context, India's vote at the Council was closely watched, given New Delhi's frustration with Colombo, particularly after it reneged on the East Container Terminal project at the Colombo Port, and the impending Tamil Nadu elections. India abstaining on the resolution was considered a betrayal by the narrow Tamil nationalist lobby, whose nonsensical campaign seeks to move Sri Lanka's justice question from Geneva to the International Criminal Court. Nevertheless, India in its oral intervention did insist that Provincial Council elections should be held and openly expressed its "support to the Tamils of Sri Lanka for equality, justice, dignity and peace." Sadly, India under the Modi regime can neither claim to be a beacon of devolution as it undermines the powers of its own States nor does it have the credibility to call out Sri Lanka on Muslim rights, given its own despicable attacks on Muslims.

The resolution has been forthright in highlighting the ongoing human rights abuses and places the spotlight on the state of democracy in Sri Lanka. With the economy in free fall, protests by indebted women, disgruntled farmers, and citizens aghast at the government's destructive environment policy are beginning to question their rulers. Such resistance, from both working people and the minorities whom the regime repeatedly scapegoats, is invaluable in the face of authoritarian repression pregnant with fascist tendencies. It is a democratic struggle within Sri Lanka, rather than advocacy in Geneva, which will put an end to this dangerous trajectory of polarization and dispossession.

Q.33) According to the passage, how international engagement and solutions have only aggravated the national crisis?

- a) As they didn't help but worsen the war situation.
- b) Because nations stepped back from investing in projects in Sri Lanka.
- c) The Rajapaksa regime which was cruel to the masses was supported by Norway and India.

d) Foreign countries fuelled the crisis by being on the side of the rebels.

Q.34) Which of the following scenarios are not aligned with the idea of “authoritarian repression pregnant with fascist tendencies.”?

- a) India supporting Tamilians’ rights in Sri Lanka.
- b) Indian government forcing a policy which is for the benefit of lower strata of the society.
- c) Rajapaksa regime polarising the groups in Sri Lanka.
- d) Both a and b

Q.35) Why does the author say that “India can neither claim to be a beacon of devolution”?

- a) Because he/she thinks India can neither claim to be a beacon of devolution.
- b) In India, power resides in the hands of the people who elect their representatives.
- c) Although India supports equality beyond borders, what is preached isn’t followed at home.
- d) India treats all non-Hindus as second-class citizens.

Q.36) About the situation in Sri Lanka, which of the following opinions is the author most likely to agree with?

- a) It’s in people’s best interest to take all possible support from Geneva.
- b) Protestors in Sri Lanka questioning their masters is the need of the hour.
- c) There is no point in fighting the current regime and it’s best to avoid any war-like situation.
- d) None of the above

S.37-40) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Service of India — the ambition of Gandhiji was “to wipe every tear from every eye” — should be every civil service aspirant’s zeal. Once in service, over time, a plethora of reasons cause the deterioration of this idealism. Empathy with concerns of the public, which once provided

synergy for the burning passion to join the service to make a difference in their lives, "is not now as it hath been of yore".

The single-minded pursuit of the officer slowly, but steadily, gives way to indifference, indolence and incompetence. It graduates into narcissism with its attendant squabbles "trying" for "plum" postings as the "be-all and end-all". Public perception of a "successful" officer negates any introspection. Borrowing Oscar Wilde's words, "...begins by deceiving oneself, ...one always ends by deceiving others". During my initial days in service, I kept two lists, one of the officers I should emulate, and the other whose traits to eschew. Years passed by; the first list became shorter, the second longer — Gresham's law of bad driving good out of circulation.

Where greater things are given, greater will be expected. So are the hopes pinned on civil servants, whose role ahead is critical. Its challenges — fulfilment and frustration — should be faced with equanimity.

The constitutional concepts — socialism, now a dead letter, and secularism under challenge — is no more a sheet anchor. The Right to Information and the Prevention of Corruption Acts lose their teeth, leading to a yawning gap between the mounting problems and the sharpness of the tools to solve them. Only a sigh of relief — the immutably sacred inscription adorning our national symbol: Satyameva Jayate.

Gandhiji's famous talisman, whenever in doubt or self-overtakes one, is to give the benefit of the doubt to the poor. Ducking cleaning of the Augean stables or floating unwet-like lotus leaf on the water is no gallantry. But steer clear of controversies, for truth is the first casualty in any controversy. When something goes wrong, everyone is on the right side. Better be forewarned, always, by Lord Denning's "be ye never so high, the law is above you" rather than seeking anticipatory bail.

In our interlocked Constitutional system, no political executive can indulge in corruption without civil servants' support or vice versa. Our corruption-charred files tell the saddest story of the civil servants' dismal role — deliberately giving wrong advice or sparing the unwelcome right advice.

Lord Acton's caution, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely", is often an "irritant". Two mantras — transparency and accountability — must ever reverberate in one's ears.

Q.37) Which of the following reasons the writer doesn't refer to, when he says, "a plethora of reasons cause a deterioration of this idealism."

- a) Truth doesn't behold anymore.
- b) Focus shifts from public service to self-service.
- c) Corruption becomes a hindrance.
- d) Egoism gains way.

Q.38) Based on the passage, which of the following would not be an appropriate situation for 'Gresham's law of bad driving good out of circulation.'

- a) Majority of criminals joining politics and winning major seats.
- b) Slack employees promote a laid-back culture and drive out the motivated employees.
- c) An honest police officer wiping off corruption from the entire local department.
- d) Both a and c

Q.39) Which of the following sayings citation in the passage would align with the given situation, "The CEO of an organisation did a scam of US\$ 20 Bn. It was employees' hard-earned money."?

- a) Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely
- b) Be ye never so high, the law is above you
- c) Where greater things are given, greater will be expected
- d) Be-all and end-all

Q.40) According to the author, the current situation of civil services officers can be best described as:

- a) Filled with pride for one's country and service
- b) Mired in the bureaucratic system's anomalies
- c) Demotivated by the corruption in the system
- d) One of extreme respect and responsibility

S.41-44) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

"No one will ever be as fond of my pets as I have been", lamented the American lawyer Adrian H. Joline after his *Meditations of an Autograph Collector* (1902). He was not speaking of corgis and calicos, but of handwritten artefacts: "I look down upon them almost as one might upon

children whom he must leave behind." Joline was one of many collectors suffering from what the 19th-century librarian Theodore F. Dwight diagnosed as "autograph mania": a collective obsession, which intensified in Britain and the US during the 1880s and 1890s, with the handwriting of both notable individuals and intimate familiars.

Within months of Joline's meditations, British illustrator Harry Furniss asked a question in the Strand Magazine: "Is there any inoculation possible to avert autograph fever?" Another collector replied: "autograph fever clutches all sorts and conditions of men in its deadly grip". That both should employ the language of illness reveals what was at stake. One person's quaint pastime is another's consuming infatuation. That same year, P.G. Wodehouse wrote a tale for Punch about a man who "passed safely through a sharp attack of Philatelism", or, stamp collecting, only to fall prey to "a rather nasty bout of Autographomania".

Those afflicted with signatures were a recognised type. "The autograph fiend" was often portrayed as originating in the US. One account, in an 1887 issue of the Leicester Chronicle, finds a fiend from Chicago impersonating a courier to penetrate the House of Commons, stuffing the members' name cards into his pocket on the fly. The English social reformer Laura Ormiston Chant received 1,307 autograph requests during her four-month tour through the US in 1890. And, amid characteristically pithy correspondence, Oscar Wilde recounts how he employed three secretaries while travelling a similar route in the 1880s: one to receive flowers; another to sign autographs; and a final unshorn attendant to clip trimmings from his locks - something the writer's fanbase desired. The autograph supposedly developed a condition akin to carpal tunnel syndrome. Wilde's hair surrogate went bald at an early age.

While it reached a fever pitch during the fin de siècle, autograph collecting is a much older tradition. Collecting in the US began in earnest during the 1810s, while 16th-century German students gathered specimens in dedicated autograph books. Bear in mind that "autograph" in this context stands for any sample of handwriting, not solely the signature. Only toward the end of the 19th century did the pastime turn pathological, when larger cultural and commercial forces vitalised what we now call autographs.

Several arguments can be made in tandem for why autograph mania arrived when it did. It coincided, for instance, with the rise of transatlantic celebrity, the formalisation of signed cheques as a monetary instrument and an emerging market for the resale of signatures. This is also the period in which handwriting gained a newfound aura thanks to the popularity of

chirography and graphology: pseudoscientific attempts to find correspondence between a person's moral character and the shape of their scribbled characters. After Charles J. Guiteau assassinated President James A. Garfield in 1881, there was a flurry of discussion about his penmanship. 'An inspection of the autograph gave decided evidence of nervousness in its formation, the "C" especially being muchly elongated and the curve lines irregular.' The criminologist Cesare Lombroso took this equation even further. In 1878, he updated his influential book Criminal Man to include a section on handwriting, claiming that graphology not only reveals a person's guilt over past actions, but also the probability they will commit future crimes.

Q.41) Which of the following titles best captures the idea of the passage?

- a) The Autograph Fiend
- b) Autographomania v/s Philatelism
- c) Artefacts of Handwriting
- d) Signatures are forever

Q.42) It is mentioned in the passage, "Several arguments can be made in tandem for why autographomania arrived when it did."

Which of the arguments has not been discussed above?

- a) Rising of celebrity phenomena
- b) Madness for chirography on body parts
- c) An emerging market for cheque resale
- d) Both b and c

Q.43) What is implied by the authors' comparison of his collection of handwritten artefacts with pets?

- a) His madness to play with his collection.
- b) His attachment to his collection.

- c) His love and passion for collecting autographs.
- d) The vast amount of time he spends pursuing his hobby of autograph collection

Q.44) Below are the assumption/assumptions that the author has made while discussing autograph mania?

- a) Collecting autographs as a tradition date back to the early nineteenth century.
- b) Collecting autographs is an addiction.
- c) Collecting autographs is one of the most effortless hobbies.
- d) Collecting autographs is interesting for both parties.

- c) His love and passion for collecting autographs.
- d) The vast amount of time he spends pursuing his hobby of autograph collection

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S.45-47) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

There has probably never been a better time to read long novels or even a cycle of them, than the last 12 months - at least if you're working from home, with a bit of space and free of such challenges as homeschooling.

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Perceptions of time have changed a great deal over the year and many of the novels I've read recently, more than for many years, have been concerned with its passing. For example, Anthony Powell's cycle, *A Dance to the Music of Time*. It takes its title from Poussin's painting of the same name, which suggests to the narrator an inability, common to all of us, to control the melody of life as it unfolds (and it includes a pen portrait of my predecessor at History Today, Peter Quennell).

But the novel that sheds most light on our times - indeed, on time itself - is one I returned to this year after at least a decade: Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*, a work born of a particular moment in history, one, like today, of crisis and doubt. The novel was published in 1924, between two European catastrophes and in the wake of a pandemic. By then, the very notion of a fixed time had changed with Einstein's Theory of Relativity of 1905 adding hard science to the meditations of philosophers such as Bergson, Nietzsche and Heidegger.

It tells the story of Hans Castorp, a marine engineer with a private income, who visits a tubercular cousin receiving treatment at the International Sanatorium Berghof above the Swiss resort of Davos. 'Can one tell', asks Castorp, 'that is to say, narrate - time, time itself, as such, for its own sake?' He intends to stay three weeks - but remains there for seven years. His circumstances change time's tempo. Why bother with the office, he thinks, when one can walk the mountains in the company of cosmopolitans, pursue love affairs and indulge one's interests in the arts and the occult and the natural world? The clinicians at the sanatorium are only too happy to give him a medical reason for his retreat from the world - and to part him from his money. But reality cannot be put off forever. Which prompts the question of how we will deal with life's return when this is all over?

Q.45) Why does the author say, "There has probably never been a better time to read long novels"?

- a) As he has probably been idle at home for the past 1 year.
- b) As he has probably been on a family vacation last 12 months.

- c) As he has probably been staying solo for the last 12 months.
- d) As he has probably been in hospital last 1 year.

Q.46) Which of the following concepts has not been discussed in the given passage concerning the novels mentioned?

- a) Dealing with crisis
- b) Limited control over life events
- c) The passage of time
- d) The benefits of living with nature

Q.47) What could be the probable reason that Castorp who intends to stay for 3 weeks ends up staying for 7 years?

- a) He discovered his interest in art and magic and stayed to become a magician
- b) His cousin needed utmost care for a long time
- c) He found more purpose in living his own way
- d) He got ill and needed to stay near the mountains



S.48-50) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

For Tony Sewell to argue that there is no evidence of institutional racism in the UK is delusional. It is deeply disturbing to see this government-commissioned report riddled with so many distortions. Neither the existence nor the extent of institutionalised racism can be denied.

Take the government's anti-extremism Prevent strategy, which embeds Islamophobia into our school system by ordering teachers to report "suspicious" Muslim children. Children doing innocent childish things have become suspects. We see young Black men far more likely to be stopped and searched by the Metropolitan Police, and twice as likely to die in custody. British Pakistanis are paid 15% less than their white British peers. And how can we forget the entire Windrush generation who were degraded, denied hospital treatment and benefits, and many deported by a Home Office that saw British people as foreign because of their race?

If the prime minister and Tony Sewell genuinely believe in their whitewash of a report, then perhaps they could sit down and explain their point of view to the Black women who are four times more likely to die in childbirth than white mothers-to-be, or the NHS health workers, from consultants to hospital porters, so much more likely to die during the pandemic. It is inequality that makes these people vulnerable. Structural, institutional, entrenched racial inequality.

Sewell ascribes the relative success of some ethnic minority students not to government policy, but to some kind of aspirational work ethic. What his report fails to acknowledge or explain is that this aspiration is born of the knowledge among ethnic minority parents that our children will have to work so much harder than their white British peers to be given the same opportunities.

Simply put, the Sewell commission demonstrates the extent to which the government that sponsored it and shaped its findings, is utterly lacking in any empathy or understanding of the lived realities faced by Britain's ethnic-minority communities today. No doubt the Conservatives feel this will play well among their new northern white working-class voters. Ultimately though, this report is nothing short of an insult. It is government-sponsored gaslighting, and a clear repudiation of any intent to achieve genuine racial equality in our country.

Q.48) Why does the author say, "this report is nothing short of an insult"?

- a) As it claims to be able to general equal opportunities for the tribal people when the truth is otherwise.
- b) As it claims the non-existence of racism which is in fact quite prominent in the system.

- c) As it claims to have eradicated all gender bias when black women still suffer when it comes to access to better facilities.
- d) As it claims to show empathy towards the neglected communities.

Q.49) Which of the following examples of racism has/have not been discussed in the passage?

- 1. Muslim children are asked to sit in separate classrooms in the school.
- 2. Black men are at greater risk than white, while in custody.
- 3. National Health Service teams are at a greater risk from the pandemic.
- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 2 and 3
- d) Both 1 and 3

Q.50) Which of the following statements supports the author's viewpoint on racism in Britain?

- a) The existence of racism has been appropriately addressed by the officials, although the pace has been slow.
- b) Racism is seen in various forms, especially concerning minorities, however, the authorities have been denying the spread and gravity of the issue.
- c) While ignored by authorities, the civilians have been consciously trying to ensure that none feels excluded.
- d) Women have been the worst victims of racism, especially concerning job opportunities.

S.51-55) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

I read about five or six advice columns a week. Sometimes more. I don't think I need this much advice (I doubt anyone does), but I have an enduring fondness for the format. I love the small window into a stranger's life, and how those who write intend to frame their problems in a way that is, if not unbiased (because who can truly appraise themselves objectively?), then at least not totally self-flattering. I like to read things that aren't written by writers, and therefore not coaxed into a conventional narrative, and of course, I like the replies, too.

Over the past year, as contact with other people (especially acquaintances and new people) has been limited, I have found the snippets of family and relationship trouble, bad bosses, nightmare

colleagues and irksome friends serve as a sort of replacement for the stories you hear when you have regular spontaneous interactions. And in a year when everyone has been through a lot, advice columns can serve as a reminder that there is always someone out there dealing with something worse.

Sometimes, this isn't even because of a cataclysmically bad event, but just a few too many of life's natural disappointments. One recent example is a woman who wrote into The Cut's Ask Polly to say that she was turning 40, living with a boyfriend she is barely intimate with, estranged from her alcoholic parents, had recently lost her best friend to anti-vax conspiracy theories and had just been passed over for a promotion at work in favour of a junior man. "I want to burn down everything and scream at everyone and hide in the forest after I throw my phone in a lake so nobody can find me and I can take a break from the world," she wrote. And, honestly, fair enough!

Others put things in perspective because they are frankly bizarre, such as the letter that went viral a few years ago when a man wrote into the Observer's Ask Mariella seeking advice. After all, he had recently met his fiancée's married parents, only to discover he had previously been intimating with her father, having met him on a cruising site (his fiancée did not know he was bisexual). "I asked [her father] if his wife knew," he wrote, "and we have reached something of an impasse." The ones that go viral tend to be so juicy, they blur the line between ridiculous and funny and probably have something to do with sex. (Why is it that other people's sexual misadventures often seem so funny when we would never see our own in these terms?)

But even those that are fairly mundane can give you a lot to think about: the many partners who are jealous over basically nothing, or preoccupied with the details of each other's former lives, or letters like the one from a man fretting over potentially asking a colleague to go for a walk (hoping to eventually start dating), stressed because his lack of relationship experience makes him confused about the protocol in such situations.

Q.51) According to the passage, why does the author read advice columns?

- a) A peek into a stranger's life fascinates him compared to the usual writing formats.
- b) He needs captivating content to write short stories.
- c) Because he needs advice on the natural disappointments of life.

d) He likes to reply and solve the problems faced by people.

Q.52) As per the reasoning supported by the passage, which of the following advice columns is most likely to go viral?

- a) An unmarried couple seeking advice on raising a kid out of wedlock.
- b) A man in live-in seeking advice for unusually proposing to her partner.
- c) A girl asking for advice on sexual experiences while she is concerned with her partner's old age.
- d) A gay couple asking advice about being comfortable with sexy girlfriends.

Q.53) Which of the following is the author least likely to categorize as a few too many of life's natural disappointments?

- a) A kid being estranged from divorced parents.
- b) A woman suffering from depression from the loss of a dear one.
- c) Not being able to get promoted despite continuous efforts at work.
- d) A guy obsessed over her wife's former boyfriends.

Q.54) Which of the following concepts have been mentioned as a part of the stories of advice columnists as described in the passage?

- a) Jealousy
- b) Sexual Orientation
- c) Alcoholism
- d) All of the above

Q.55) Which of the following would the author be most interested to read?

- a) Editorial section of a newspaper
- b) Interviews of common people as part of a travel blog
- c) Podcasts made as a monologue, sharing life experiences
- d) Comments of trolls on a social media

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**S.56-60) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

After protests in Bristol turned sour last week, one account came out on top as numerous media outlets splashed on reports from Avon and Somerset police that injuries to officers included broken bones and a collapsed lung.

To the average reader, such headlines helped build an incriminating and unsympathetic portrait of protesters as anarchic thugs. Given this was a protest over the policing bill - a piece of legislation granting the authorities sweeping powers to ban any protest - the story of a beleaguered force struggling to hold back the mob was politically convenient. Controlling the narrative is a precondition to winning any political battle.

Later in the week, the force reported that no serious injuries took place. This correction failed to receive comparable coverage with the original story. Curiously, an on-duty NHS worker told the observer that no officers received hospital treatment, while “the hospital designated for protesters was inundated with injured people”.

Yet, with most media outlets uncritically repeating the police’s original claims, the narrative was of a rabble of protesters versus a police force under siege. The forces of the state were portrayed as requiring ever more sweeping powers, while dissidents need further containment. It is easy to see how these narratives can lead to, as one former police chief warned, “paramilitary policing”.

What is so jarring about media deference to the police is not just that the fourth estate styles itself as courageously speaking truth to power while all too frequently finding itself complicit in the stripping away of hard-won rights, but that this gullibility appears immune to lessons from history. Media outlets have repeatedly amplified false police claims about demonised “others” - striking workers, working-class football fans, protesters and Black people.

In some cases, there have been concerns that media organisations have actively collaborated in facilitating outright police dishonesty. After the “battle of Orgreave” - a confrontation at the height of the 1984-85 miners’ strike - miners and the Independent Police Complaints Commission reported that the BBC ran the coverage in the wrong order to make it look as though the miners had initiated a violent confrontation when it was actually the other way round. The BBC has never officially accepted this account. Most of the media did little to reveal the active cover-up of police brutality at Orgreave and the miners’ battle for justice remains.

Q.56) Which of the following options best describes the tone of the author in the given passage?

- a) Indignant
- b) Biased
- c) Patronizing
- d) Euphemistic

Q.57) Which of the following situations implies “paramilitary policing” regarding the passage?

- a) Paramilitary forces taking over the police force in situations of heavy protests.
- b) Police officers using paramilitary help for controlling the crowds.
- c) Police having unlimited power to control public actions.
- d) Police being given decision-making over and above their level to fight crime more effectively.

Q.58) Which of the following opinions about media is the author most likely to agree with?

- a) Media is focused on showing only viral stories
- b) Media favours the rich
- c) Media gives an unbiased opinion
- d) Media hardly shows the truth

Q.59) Why does the author call the media story, as stated in paragraph 2 “politically convenient”?

- a) As the media companies have always supported the police side of the story, no matter the integrity of it.
- b) As the narrative being showcased by the media was in the favour of the administration as well as believable by the public.
- c) As the entire story was supported by evidence from widely popular political figures.
- d) As the protest was about the passing of a bill which denied the very same ability to protest.

Q.60) The passage mentions, “Controlling the narrative is a precondition to winning any political battle.”

Which of the following situations would NOT align with the above statement?

- a) People being interviewed telling true stories.
- b) Showing what is apparently the truth and supporting the agenda of politicians.
- c) Bribery the public to support the selfish interests of parties.
- d) None of the above

**S.61-63) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

The term popular theatre denotes performances in the tradition of the music hall, vaudeville, burlesque, follies, revue, circus, and musical comedy, as distinguished from the legitimate, high, or artistic theatre. The singers, dancers, comedians, clowns, puppeteers, jugglers, acrobats, conjurers, and ventriloquists of popular theatre make up much of what is known as "show business."

Music, movement, and humour are all essential ingredients used by popular theatre throughout its history. Movement most often presents itself through eroticism, exaggeration, or acrobatics. England's traditional music hall, virtually identical to vaudeville, originated in working-class alehouses but became a standard entertainment for all classes of society. As with revue and

vaudeville, it generally offered a variety of short pieces—sentimental and patriotic songs, dances, comic turns, and magicians, jugglers, and acrobats.

Humour itself may distort reality—crudely, as in slapstick, or corrosively, as in the mockery of a stand-up comic. Its effect—earthy, ribald laughter—has been sought in all kinds of theatre.

The effect of music as a form of communication has always been highly valued in popular theatre. Music aids the suspension of disbelief and joins the performer and viewer more closely in a shared event in which there is no pretence of realism. Musical comedy evolved from a wide variety of musical, dramatic, and dance styles going back to the Elizabethan dramatists, who used simple ballads to reinforce their narratives, through the tradition of Viennese operetta and the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan in England. The 20th century saw these traditions, although Americanized, flowering again in the United States in a seemingly endless procession of popular Broadway musicals.

Q.61) What is not a part of show business in “popular theatre”?

- a) Instrumentalists
- b) Magicians
- c) Stage Artists
- d) All of the above



Q.62) What is the role of music in popular theatre as discussed in the passage?

- a) It helps people relate theatre with popular Broadway musicals and hence get more attracted.
- b) It helps in conveying the intended message effectively.
- c) It's a standard entertainment which all classes can identify with.
- d) It helps the artists pretend better, such that it looks real.

Q.63) What does the author imply when he says, “Humour itself may distort reality”?

- a) Theatre artists have an inclination to ignore realistic situations while doing humour.
- b) It's a double distortion of reality when we include humour in theatre.

- c) We don't need any other element except humour to play with reality.
- d) None of the above

**S.64-68) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.**

Language is a system of conventional spoken, manual (signed), or written symbols using which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves. The functions of language include communication, the expression of identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release.

Many definitions of language have been proposed. Henry Sweet, an English phonetician and language scholar, stated: "Language is the expression of ideas using speech sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts." The American linguists Bernard Bloch and George L. Trager formulated the following definition: "A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols using which a social

group cooperates." Any succinct definition of language makes several presuppositions and begs several questions. The first, for example, puts excessive weight on "thought," and the second uses "arbitrary" in a specialized, though legitimate, way.

Several considerations (marked in italics below) enter into a proper understanding of language as a subject:

Every physiologically and mentally typical person acquires in childhood the ability to make use, as both sender and receiver, of a system of communication that comprises a circumscribed set of symbols (e.g., sounds, gestures, or written or typed characters). In spoken language, this symbol set consists of noises resulting from movements of certain organs within the throat and mouth. In signed languages, these symbols may be hand or body movements, gestures, or facial expressions. Using these symbols, people can impart information, express feelings and emotions, influence the activities of others, and comport themselves with varying degrees of friendliness or hostility toward persons who make use of substantially the same set of symbols.

Different systems of communication constitute different languages; the degree of difference needed to establish a different language cannot be stated exactly. No two people speak exactly alike; hence, one can recognize the voices of friends over the telephone and keep distinct several unseen speakers in a radio broadcast. Yet, clearly, no one would say that they speak different languages. Generally, systems of communication are recognized as different languages if they cannot be understood without specific learning by both parties, though the precise limits of mutual intelligibility are hard to draw and belong on a scale rather than on either side of a definite dividing line. Substantially different systems of communication that may impede but do not prevent mutual comprehension are called dialects of a language. To describe in detail the actual different language patterns of individuals, the term idiolect, meaning the habits of expression of a single person, has been coined.

Typically, people acquire a single language initially—their first language, or native tongue, the language used by those with whom, or by whom, they are brought up from infancy. Subsequent "second" languages are learned to different degrees of competence under various conditions. Complete mastery of two languages is designated as bilingualism; in many cases—such as upbringing by parents using different languages at home or being raised within a multilingual community—children grow up as bilinguals. In traditionally monolingual cultures, the learning,

to any extent, of a second or other language is an activity superimposed on the prior mastery of one's first language and is a different process intellectually.

Q.64) The following statement doesn't explain one of the functions of 'language' as discussed in the passage:

- a) She belonged to a community where people spoke only Vietnamese and failed to understand even the basics of the English Language.
- b) As most people in the audience were not educated enough and knew only the vernacular language, they couldn't understand what the Professor spoke in English.
- c) In the foreign land, no one but a migrant waiter from her country could understand the pain she was going through, as she narrated the entire story.
- d) As she could fluently speak French, it wasn't very difficult for her to find a job in Paris.

Q.65) The following conclusion/s can't be made from the information given in the passage:

- 1. Multilingualism is an essential aspect of one's physical, mental, and emotional growth.
- 2. Language is nothing more than a group of symbols.
- 3. Verbal Language is the only way of expressing oneself.
- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All 1, 2, and 3

Q.66) Which of the following options best captures the difference b/w dialect and idiolect as mentioned in the passage?

- a) Idiolects are variations of the same language while dialect is a specific way of expressing something by an individual
- b) Dialects are variations of the same language while idiolect is a specific way of expressing something by an individual
- c) Dialect refers to vernacular while idiolect is a tribal language
- d) Idiolect is specific to an individual and dialect is a sign language

Q.67) How has the author described the process of learning more than one language?

- a) People growing up in homes with monolingual cultures, are intellectually quite slow at learning any other language.

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Q.67) How has the author described the process of learning more than one language?

- a) People growing up in homes with monolingual cultures, are intellectually quite slow at learning any other language.

- b) One can learn multiple languages with ease, despite their background.
- c) Bilinguals know one language completely, while they manage to speak the other one with a decent degree of fluency.
- d) It becomes easier for children to master multiple languages if they are exposed to their usage from the beginning.

Q.68) Which of the following aspects of language is not captured by any of the proposed definitions?

- a) Usage of symbols
- b) A combination of ideas and thoughts
- c) A tool to enable cooperation among individuals
- d) A method to learn new things

S.69-72) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Arguably, for a citizen, one of the important expressions of the right to freedom is to become politically vigilant, not so much for self-interest but for the collective interest of protecting India's democratic ethos. One could look at this as a positive aspect of freedom in as much as it is based on the cognitive capacity to critically evaluate the performance of the government which has a bounded duty to protect the ethos.

Political vigilance, therefore, is all about keeping the ruler in tune with the democracy that will enable citizens to lead a life without unreasonable constraints. This would mean that people's political vigilance should be aimed at overseeing that political power is kept safe from its arbitrary use, both against an individual as well as the collective common good. The sense of citizens' self-worth depends not on the voters' complacency to allow a politician to take the former for granted, while the latter takes decisions even to change the loyalties. Voters in a democracy are expected to realise the cost they have to pay for cultivating a "servile" attitude, which suggests that the democratic existence of citizens depends on the courtesy of the politicians.

Political vigilance, which has a cognitive basis, needs to be ethically active against the government that continuously errs on many fronts such as poverty, unemployment, social and communal harmony. Arguably, there is an alarming degree of people's withdrawal from political vigilance. This is evident from the arbitrary power that the politicians and legislators have been

using in the most recent times. The other aspect of the expression of freedom has been called negative.

However, the negative aspect of freedom could be understood not in terms of the “leave me alone” or “I want to be left alone” scenario. In fact, the negative aspect of freedom has to be necessarily understood in terms of the inability to exercise the freedom to be vigilant. This involves the capacity to impose unfreedom on oneself. It could be called self-incurred constraints.

Withdrawal from the politics of being vigilant is not caused by laziness or cowardice. In fact, it is a self-imposed constraint produced by structural conditions. For example, we have come across some municipal councillors and panchayat raj members who have declined to become either mayor in the first case or sarpanch in the second. This withdrawal is just because these people's representatives lack material, cultural and social capital. The expressions such as “running the state or government are not our business,” and “contesting elections has become more expensive even in the reserved constituencies” are indicative of this withdrawal syndrome. The self-denial of freedom or seeking withdrawal from interventionist politics leads to two problems for democracy. First, such self-denial, in effect, does permit so much freedom to the legislators and politicians that the latter have been enjoying unlimited freedom to change parties and join governments. Second, it also suggests that the citizens can escape from taking responsibility to become politically vigilant.

Q.69) Which of the below statement/statements is TRUE of 'political vigilance' as per the passage?

- a) Both c and d
- b) The negative aspects of freedom may or may not involve the inability to be politically vigilant.
- c) It is necessary to keep a check on the administration's undemocratic approaches and behaviour.
- d) It is mandatory and beneficial for the common good of the entire nation.

Q.70) Which of the following could be one of the concerns of the author basis the information given in the passage?

- a) People just want to be left alone and not participate in any of the protests which are intended to do good to the nation.
- b) The citizens are paying bribes to get the basics which should ideally be free of cost.
- c) Politicians have been going beyond bounds to exercise their powers illegitimately.
- d) Not many people are being politically vigilant these days and letting themselves be overpowered by the likes of manipulative politicians.

Q.71) What does the author say about the 'negative aspect of freedom'?

- a) Being politically vigilant is the most negative aspect one can derive from freedom.
- b) Absence of political vigilance is like having chosen wrong.
- c) Only introspection and spending time with oneself can enable a person to understand the negativity that freedom brings with it.
- d) A person learns them only in a solitary environment.

Q.72) What is most likely to be one of the author's suggestions/viewpoints for citizens in a democracy?

- a) Its citizens' prerogative to be mindful of any sort of interference from their end, which hampers the functioning of the administration
- b) It's essential in a democratic society that people remain alert to various political initiatives and question administrative decisions if required.
- c) Citizens have the choice of escaping from political vigilance and should exercise it if they want to.
- d) In a democracy, citizens have the full right to exercise freedom and do whatever they want.

S.73-76) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

The idea of the Hirakud dam project was potentially dynamic and productive since it was intended to serve multiple purposes for the substantial population of Odisha. But the circumstances clearly underpin that the dam oustee has been grossly neglected and deprived of their legitimate rights by the state power till date, that is, even after more than 63 years of the completion of the project. Primarily, the dam was proposed for flood management, hydropower production, irrigation and navigation. There were several justified reasons for the construction of a dam on the Mahanadi River at Hirakud.

However, the initial phase of land acquisition and people displacement was trouble-ridden and the affected people staged agitations and showed their unwillingness. Despite people's resistance and indifference, they were persuaded for the greater cause and displaced with the assurance of immediate rehabilitation and adequate compensation for their sacrifice. There are several accounts of the circumstances of post-stage development. This includes a dark history of rehabilitation ventures and inadequacy in its fulfilment of the purposes originally spelt out. Time and again, the displaced people have organised under the banner of Hirakud Budi Anchal Sangram Samiti, which has been spearheading movements for a long time for compensation for the ouster of the dam project, but without many adequate and constructive outcomes. The construction of the dam induced a major displacement of people in Odisha and the undivided Madhya Pradesh. About 1 lakh people, excluding Madhya Pradesh, were displaced in the erstwhile Odisha alone. The construction work of the dam started in 1946 and was completed in 1957. All land above river level (RL) 632 feet was acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (Government of Orissa 1968). By the time the construction was complete, it submerged 325 villages (291 villages in Odisha and 34 villages in undivided Madhya Pradesh) covering 1,83,000 acres of land, including 1,23,000 acres of cultivated land (Government of Orissa 2007).

The government of Odisha announced its rehabilitation policy as early as April 1946, when construction had started. The policy included both the methods of cash compensation and physical rehabilitation. Compensation for lands likely to be submerged proposed in the feasibility report ranged from ₹50 to ₹1,000 per acre, according to their classification in terms of productivity. However, in reality, they were paid more or less at a rate ranging from ₹200 to ₹600 per acre, which was much lower than the market value back then. Similarly, the amount of compensation for submerged houses was too little and insufficient to construct a new home elsewhere (Government of India 1947). Besides that, each household was willing to accept compensation in money which would be paid according to the value of the land and house lost; and those who were willing to accept compensation in kind would be provided land and houses. The government promised that the resettled villages would be provided with modern amenities like water, and electricity and the resettled evacuees would be vested with the proprietary right on the lands allotted to them. As a part of rehabilitation initiatives, 12 colonies were established for 28 villages.

The nature of deprivation and stigma is found to be profound and widespread among the oustee. Here the accounts of the first generation, that is, the successors of the evictees and who had witnessed the impact directly have been taken into consideration. Their narratives related to problems induced by the megaproject can be categorically understood in terms of landholding, agricultural inputs, gain and loss, socio-political withdrawal and stigma, unstable sources of the economy leading to abject poverty and inadequate schooling, higher education and availability of basic public amenities despite the occasional assurance in election manifestos. Deprivation has been an unabated and widespread cycle in the life of dam outsee.

Q.73) The central idea of the passage is:

- a) To describe the situation of the people of Odisha.
- b) To capture the protests and the struggle faced by the people post the dam construction.
- c) To show how the homes of people were destroyed when Hirakud was built.
- d) To bring forward the impact of the construction of the Hirakud dam on the oustees.

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Q.74) The tone of the passage:

- a) Indignant
- b) Critical
- c) Commiserating
- d) Populist

Q.75) The below argument/info doesn't support 'Deprivation has been an unabated and widespread cycle in the life of dam oustees.'

- a) Inadequate rehabilitation irked the oustee and the anger manifested itself in the form of protests.
- b) Households were given limited compensation to start their lives afresh.
- c) The successors of the displaced have been thrown into abject poverty.
- d) Odisha Government announced a rehabilitation policy as early as April 1946.

Q.76) Which of the following information could be concluded from the information given in the passage?

- a) All oustees were paid appropriate compensation of ₹1000/- per acre to deal with their land losses.
- b) Land Acquisition Act was misused to illegally claim the land for the Hirakud dam's construction.
- c) When villages and fertile land submerged, all affected were given reasonable compensation.
- d) None of the above

S.77-80) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Reflecting on the restriction of women's agency to exclusive platforms in rural Northeast India, this article locates women's agency in common resources, which define their sociocultural identities. The exclusivity of common knowledge, skills, practices, resources and social security has restricted women and farmers, from accessing equitable power and decision-making. Women's agency in common institutions is marginalised where patriarchal practices dominate. Exclusivity cannot replace empowerment outside common village-level institutions. The emergence of an exclusive strategy to marginalise women's perspectives within the larger context of sustainability, policy formulation, political assertion, and ecological regeneration is examined.

Women farmers in Nagaland and Manipur have practised subsistence agriculture for generations. Ester Boserup in "Enquiry into the Status of Women in Nagaland" (Northeast Network 2016) claims that shifting agriculture is women's agriculture. Since ancestral times,

women have worked on the steep slopes of the Naga Hills in Northeast India, which ascend from the highlands of Nagaland and Manipur. As part of a PhD research study during 2015 - 16, the author travelled through the hilly terrains of the Phek, Longleng, and Peren districts of Nagaland and engaged in fieldwork in Tamenglong, Churachandpur, and Bishen-pur districts and Jiribam subdivision in Manipur. During these extensive field visits and interactions with women, village institutions, key informants, women society members, women self-help group (SHG) members, and women farmers, diverse issues were discussed. The researcher captured field experiences and emerging concerns that were flagged during the interactive sessions, focus group discussions, and individual interviews.

Although rural women in Nagaland and the Manipur Hills have contributed to sustainable agricultural practices for many decades over several generations as part of their living customary traditions, their work has remained restricted to family or community work. Their work was not considered productive formal sector work that would lead to adequate employment and social security benefits. Women's ecological practices uphold the community, tribe, and village identity, which have a collective relevance in the lives of Naga women. When a woman farmer offers a freshly cooked plate of food to a family member or guest, she presents not just a satisfying meal with intense flavours, but her laborious farm work, ancestral seed heritage, the time taken to prepare the meal, and willingness to share what she gathered, collected, sowed, harvested, or preserved through the whole season. Such actions signify a deep sense of solidarity with one's living environment, community, and identity; these qualities characterise the essence of being a woman farmer.

Q.77) Which of the following can be interpreted about the flow and idea of the given passage.

- a) The author seems to be a part of the farmer community being talked about in the passage.
- b) The passage follows an indifferent tone throughout.
- c) It tries to bring into notice the biases and discrimination faced by the efforts of women farmers in the northeast.
- d) It's a descriptive analysis of farming in Nagaland, not intended to rise any feelings for the subjugated.

Q.78) According to the passage, which of the following situations is the author disappointed with?

- a) The patriarchy still exists and proves to be a hindrance for women to establish their careers.
- b) Men and Women being treated as equals in terms of decision making.
- c) Farmers haven't been paid enough, considering the amount of toil they do.
- d) The efforts put forth by the rural women farmers in Nagaland and Manipur have not been recognised.

Q.79) Below statement captures the significance of “women practising subsistence agriculture” as described in the passage:

- a) Women have gained a lot of respect while serving their communities through sustainable agricultural practices.
- b) They have been practising agriculture for home needs over generations and it has been a part of their identity and culture.
- c) A woman sharing a meal is the symbol of her caring and loving nature.
- d) Women have been practising agriculture at a small scale but may not be successful in running bigger ventures.

Q.80) Which of the following statements resonates well with the author's viewpoint around the involvement and work done by women farmers?

- a) It is of sub-par quality.
- b) It isn't considered as significant as it is.
- c) It is better than that done by men farmers.
- d) It is unworthy of appreciation.

S.81-85) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

India's small savings instruments witnessed unprecedented overnight volatility in rates this week. On Wednesday evening, the Budget division in the Department of Economic Affairs revised downwards the interest rates payable on small savings instruments for the April-June 2021 quarter, by 40 basis points (0.4%) to 110 basis points (1.1%). The return on the most popular PPF scheme was pegged at 6.4%, the lowest level in 46 years. The government had refrained from tweaking these rates for the last three quarters after effecting a similarly sharp cut in Q1 of 2020-21 when the PPF interest was pruned from 7.9% to 7.1%. However, by early

Thursday, the rate cuts had disappeared and the status quo reinstated, following a tweet by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The only explanation: 'Orders issued by oversight shall be withdrawn.' It is not clear whose 'oversight' led to the rates being cut. In the process, the intent has been revealed even if the impact is deferred. Surely, Wednesday's order, approved by the competent authority, was not based on random numbers keyed in and notified inadvertently amidst a flurry of last-minute economy-related government notifications on the last day of the financial year.

It is difficult to believe that the oversight is on the bureaucracy's part, for it simply executed the stated policy decision to link small savings rates to the interest paid on government securities of a comparable tenure every quarter. So, one must deduce the oversight is on the political executive's part on the timing and implications of executing the required decision as per the extant policy. The clinching factor — the five Assembly polls. The government, which has brazened it out on Opposition jibes about rising unemployment, high inflation along with soaring fuel prices, could ill afford to yield a fresh talking point — the squeezing of the middle class and senior citizens, even as they brace up for the fresh tax on provident fund incomes. This rollback is not the first instance of post-haste policy adhocism, but it may make the government's ₹12.05-lakh crore borrowing plan for the year harder as the central bank has been complaining of high small savings rates as a deterrent to lower interest rates. Another instance is the mysterious practice of oil companies freezing pump prices during electoral campaigns, even though oil prices are deregulated. The PM, as part of his 'One Nation, One Election' pitch, has often said that the virtually perennial poll season hits development. On the same note, if governments need permission to announce initiatives while the model code of conduct is in force, any deviation or reversal from routine administrative decisions should also attract the Election Commission's scrutiny.

Q.81) About the line, "In the process, the intent has been revealed even if the impact is deferred."; what is the intent as understood from the passage?

- a) The government wanted the decision to have an impact on the oil prices so that their profits maximise.
- b) The intent of the Government is to reduce interest rates on small savings instruments to push more public investments in the market.

- c) The intent of the Government is to link the interest rates of small savings with comparable government securities to be able to raise more through the latter.
- d) The intent was to satiate people's fears around rising unemployment in the country.

Q.82) Which of the following argument would weaken the support for the "One Nation, One Election" concept as put forward in the passage?

- a) Elections should happen only once a year for any state in India.
- b) With all states having different elections in their own times and own way, federalism is empowered.
- c) India should have a one-party rule across the country.
- d) Multiple elections create an environment of campaigning every now and then and disturb the flow of development across the country

Q.83) What reason would the author tend to agree on, for rolling back the decision on interest rates?

- a) To avoid any conflict and controversy during the polls.
- b) As they had made the earlier decision in haste without making proper calculations.
- c) To ensure that people invest more in Government securities.
- d) As the decision was made by bureaucracy without consulting the politicians

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Q.84) Which of the following societal issues have not been referred to in the passage?

- 1. Rising oil prices
- 2. Lack of employment opportunities
- 3. Inappropriate taxation for the middle class
- a) Only a
- b) All a, b, and c
- c) Both a and b
- d) None of the above

Q.85) What does the usage of the word 'oversight' imply as mentioned in the passage?

- a) The PM of the country
- b) Who blackmailed the government to roll back the rate cuts on small savings

- c) The political group under whose guidance and control the decision to reduce interest rates was made
- d) Who was responsible for announcing the decision to reduce interest rates

S.86-88) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Ramakrishna Ramaswamy's (2020) recent article "Science in the Public Sphere: Obligation and Responsibility" raises an important question about the obligation and responsibility of scientists towards the public. He isolates some of the obstacles in constructing a meaningful relationship between scientists and the public, such as problems relating to trust, concerns about certain politicians' statements linking science to the ancient past, as well as the lack of scientific temper. He identifies open access to scientific work as well as a more effective science communication actively led by scientists as ways to deal with this problem. While these are important points to consider, it is necessary—at least for the sake of a vibrant public discussion with the scientists—to consider ways of strengthening these suggestions.

The tendency to blame politicians or the public for the shortcomings of Indian Science has now become a matter of habit. To strengthen the sense of responsibility between scientists and the public, it is necessary, to begin with, an internal critique of Indian science. Ramaswamy correctly points out the lack of quality of Indian research due to a "lack of critical mass" and "inadequate funding," but these are ever-present problems in any academic discipline. In fact, an important contributor to the low quality of research is the way science and scientific/academic institutions are administered in India. Even today, there is very little public accountability or social audit of the major government funders of science. We have among the largest number of scientists in the world, and yet countries with a smaller critical mass produce higher quality research.

Q.86) Which of the following could be interpreted about the nature of Indian Scientists from the given passage?

- a) There is a need for responsible dialogue and communication b/w the scientists and the public.
- b) There is a lack of scientific talent in India.
- c) The accountability of scientific institutions is questionable.
- d) Both a and c

Q.87) What is the author's standpoint on "lack of critical mass" as one of the reasons for the lower quality of Indian research?

- a) He believes it to be the one and only reason
- b) He believes it to be one of the genuine reasons
- c) He believes that it may be the reason but not an important one
- d) He negates its link to poor quality research by giving relevant references in the passage

Q.88) What is the author's opinion about the role of politicians w.r.t science?

- a) They relate science with magic, which is totally inappropriate.
- b) They are right to be blamed for the shortcomings of Indian Science.
- c) Both a and b
- d) Neither a nor b

S.89-92) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

In the past decade, one witnessed a boom in the production of academic works on the texts written by B R Ambedkar. It is necessary to demonstrate some degree of cognitive generosity and welcome such "productive practice" as it is expected to enhance the material, if not spiritual, presence of these texts on Ambedkar. However, the production and sale of these copies may go up, but one is not sure whether such bumper production would lead scholars to enhance the quality of debate on the original works by Ambedkar. One is again sceptical whether such intellectual enterprise would lead to a perceptive readership or scholarship in Ambedkar Studies. Similarly, and most importantly, one is not sure whether such a productive enterprise would contribute to shaping and sharpening the political understanding of the activists.

Scepticism may seem cynical but does this cynicism not stand on the grain of truth? Ambedkar's texts and texts on his works have been getting scholarly reception from readers and indifference from political activists who do not need serious reflection on Ambedkar's ideas as his ideas have been reduced to a simple self-serving slogan. This is evident from the absence of any worthwhile scholarly debate over Ambedkar's texts. In the past, Ambedkar's texts, particularly *Riddles in Hinduism*, did face some ill-informed opposition from the socio-political forces that hardly have any interest in serious debates. If this is the case, should we not raise some pertinent questions that are necessary to understand the nature of the work that is being done by scholars on the

texts of Ambedkar? What is the intellectual character of the work in Ambedkar's texts? Why does it fail to produce creative mediation between Ambedkar's texts with the ethical sensibility of the reader and political practice by the activists? What exactly is the ethical relation of the texts by "Ambedkar scholars" with the determinate self (untouchable) that forms the core of Ambedkar's texts? Arguably, one could answer these questions by adopting at least two modes, namely fashion and fascination, which scholars seem to have adopted to access Ambedkar's texts.

Before we briefly outline these two modes, it is necessary to caution that any attempt to assess the intellectual relations between academic work and its take on Ambedkar's text, arguably, comes with ethical risk. Because, like an act of comparison, critical assessment of the work tends to hurt particularly those who have accessed Ambedkar's texts by taking recourse to these two modes. However, in the interest of deciding the status of the debate on Ambedkar's texts, it is necessary to go into such assessment, howsoever morally painful it could be.

**Q.89) The next paragraph's first line is most likely to be:**

- a) The fascination mode, compared to fashion, has merit, for it is driven by minimum disciplinary ethic, which would create in a scholar a continuous theoretical interest.
- b) Accessing texts from the point of view of fashion, however, fails to factor in the concerns that have a bearing not just on the desire to consume the text, but to appreciate its emancipatory and, hence, theoretical thrust.
- c) The fashion mode does not contribute to the intellectual process of creating in Ambedkar Studies or the school of Ambedkar's thought a vibrant intellectual tradition.
- d) Although these modes of accessing Ambedkar's texts to produce secondary literature on him are important, they have their problems.

Q.90) Basis the information given in the passage, which of the following can be concluded about the Ambedkar studies?

- a) It is not worthy to raise any questions on the intellectual nature of work in Ambedkar's texts.

- b) The understanding and usage of Ambedkar's texts have been superficial and need sincere debate.
- c) The readership of Ambedkar texts is likely to increase post the enhanced interest in the subject at the academic level.
- d) The more research papers published around Ambedkar's texts, the better the political activists would understand Ambedkar's ideologies.

Q.91) Which of the following about Ambedkar's texts has not been questioned in the given passage?

- a) All as given below
- b) The ethical relation of these texts created by scholars with the core idea raised by Ambedkar.
- c) The cognitive nature of work done on these texts.
- d) The creative relationship of the texts with the selfish motives of political parties.

Q.92) Which of the following statements best describes the "ethical risk" involved in assessing the intellectual relations between academic work and its take on Ambedkar's text which the author refers to in the given passage?

- a) The risk of hurting the feelings of those who have already read and worked on Ambedkar's texts.
- b) It is ethically wrong to question the work of a dedicated scholar.
- c) It hurts the feelings of those who had been subjected to untouchability.
- d) All of the above

S.93-95) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Although the Indian pharmaceutical industry has played an important role in the development of generic medicines, it is not clear whether drug development, which is dominated by the private sector, is informed of the disease burden and public health priorities. An attempt is made to address this question by juxtaposing the therapeutic focus of the drugs approved for marketing and the new chemical entities in the pipeline with the disease burden across age groups.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry has played an important role in the development of generic medicines and biosimilars. However, whether patients who are heavily dependent on the public sector, benefit from this advancement made by the sector is a critical question for several reasons. First, as it is well known, the bulk of these generic drugs are exported to international markets and are inaccessible in India. Second is the dominance of branded generics in the market, which are priced significantly higher than their corresponding generics. Third, the quality of essential generic medicines that are available in the public sector has also been under question. Most importantly, we still do not sufficiently know whether medicinal development in India is informed of the public health priorities of the country and the emerging disease burden.

Studies, hitherto, have analysed research and development (R&D) and drug development in the pharmaceutical sector from the point of view of the response of the sector to the new intellectual property rights (IPR) regime after 1995, strategies and types of R&D investments, R&D innovation, performance and growth of Indian companies, the relationship of export performance and R&D, therapeutic focus and the status and challenges of proprietary drug discovery in India. The nature and patterns of drug development and R&D priorities of this sector in the light of disease burden are under-researched in the country. Differding has discussed this issue very briefly by examining the therapeutic areas of new chemical entities (NCEs) in the pipeline but has not offered an in-depth analysis across disease categories and non-NCE drugs developed and marketed in India.

Q.93) According to the information given in the passage, what statement best captures the concern of the author?

- a) Whether enough drugs are being circulated in the market across several disease categories.
- b) If the systems in place for drug development have been taking into account the kind of disease burden expected.
- c) If the generic medicines are good enough for the public
- d) Whether the brands are selling low-quality drugs without any appropriate R&D going into their making

Q.94) The passage is most probably an excerpt from:

- a) Summary of a non-fiction book on generic medicines and biosimilars.
- b) The abstract of a research paper on drug discovery.
- c) The article in a financial newspaper.
- d) The newsletter of a drug development company.

Q.95) Which of the following might not be a part of the Differing report?

- a) Both b and d
- b) Innovation in R&D for surgery methods
- c) The therapeutic role of any new chemical entity
- d) Detailed analysis of drugs across various categories of diseases

S.96-100) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Hong Kong, China's Special Administrative Region (SAR), has served as the mainland's most important gateway to the world for the past 24 years. Since its handover from British rule in 1997, the SAR has defied expectations that it would lose its unique identity. Unlike the mainland, the unique "one country, two systems" model guaranteed a high degree of autonomy and freedom, including a free press, the right to protest, and a rambunctious political scene with a noisy pro-democracy opposition. Perhaps, most importantly, for the hundreds of multinationals, it also enjoyed an independent judiciary, a stark contrast to the Communist Party-controlled courts across the border. This week, Beijing dealt a blow to many of those unique freedoms. On March 30, the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), approved sweeping changes to Hong Kong's electoral system that will significantly reduce the share of directly elected representatives in the SAR's Legislative Council (LegCo). President Xi Jinping signed orders to promulgate amended annexes to Hong Kong's Basic Law, the constitution that has governed the SAR and ensured its autonomy, marking the biggest change since 1997.

While previously, 35 of LegCo's 70 members were directly elected, that number has now been reduced to 20, even as the size of the legislature has been expanded to 90. The remaining 70 will be nominated from broadly pro-establishment groups, thereby ensuring a majority for the pro-Beijing camp in perpetuity. The most controversial change is the establishment of a Candidate Eligibility Review Committee to decide the eligibility of candidates and deem whether they are "patriotic" enough. Its verdicts cannot be challenged in the courts, the only standing independent institution. Beijing has justified the changes to ensure "patriots" were administering Hong Kong and as a response to the 2019 protest movement, which was silenced by last year's stringent national security law. The protesters had demanded universal suffrage, promised in the 1997 handover. That the protest movement had wide backing was clear in the 2019 district council elections, after which the pro-democracy camp ended up with 90% of the seats. That will now count for little, as the amendments no longer give district councillors a place either in LegCo or in the Election Committee. With the new change and the national security law in place, Beijing's grip on Hong Kong is tighter than ever. While Beijing may succeed in assuaging the business community's concerns with the continued attraction of the mainland's market, it remains no closer to winning the hearts and minds of Hongkongers. By reducing the space for democratic representation, Beijing appears to have given up efforts to do so, at least for now. That the changes are being framed by China as a historic political victory does little to change the perception.

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Q.96) According to the passage which of the following best describes the tone of relation between China and Hong Kong?

- a) Supportive
- b) Agnostic
- c) Caring
- d) Dictating

Q.97) It is mentioned in the passage "This week, Beijing dealt a blow to many of those unique freedoms."

Which of the following unique freedoms has not been discussed in the passage?

- a) press freedom
- b) protest rights
- c) freedom to choose one's life partner

d) vocal approach towards democracy

Q.98) It is mentioned by the author in the passage, 'The most controversial change is the establishment of a Candidate Eligibility Review Committee to decide the eligibility of candidates and deem whether they are "patriotic" enough.'

Why does the author call it 'the most controversial' change as spoken above?

- a) None of the below options.
- b) As it is well understood that the "patriots" would be none but who the Chinese authorities want.
- c) The eligibility for CERC is based on no merit but corruption.
- d) There is nothing controversial and the author has just exaggerated.

Q.99) Which amongst the following best captures the essence of the passage?

- a) China is out for Hong Kong's democratic endeavours.
- b) HK and China have always been at peace despite the unique 'one-country two systems' model
- c) HK is a nation which has always stood on principles of truth
- d) None of the above.

Q.100) What is most likely the pair of adjectives which would describe Hong Kong and China respectively?

- a) liberal, bully
- b) disturbed, controlling
- c) poor, powerful
- d) discriminating, pacifier

Solutions

**Q.1) Answer - A**

The passage clearly talks about how 'The Atlantic Treaty' has fared. Other given options capture only parts of what has been discussed in the passage.

Q.2) Answer - D

Option A is false as it says it's a myth. So, it isn't true.

Reference: "One of the foundation myths of the Antarctic Treaty is that its genesis lay with the 1957 - 1958 International Geophysical Year (IGY)."

As for Option B, we can't infer if mutual trust developed. Rather, the parties have been wary of each other's actions.

Reference: "The treaty parties, mindful of Cold War antagonisms, hardwired into their new arrangements a right to inspect one another's scientific activities."

Option C isn't correct as the passage clearly discusses both the wins (paragraph 2) and shortcomings (paragraph 3) of the treaty, so we can't really say that it hasn't been a success.

Q.3) Answer - D

All the given three statements in A, B and C are not true.

In option A, it says 5 parties. It was in fact 12 original which then became 50 signatories.

Option B is not one of the reasons we conclude from the penultimate paragraph.

Option C says Russia and USA, rather it should be China as stated in the paragraph.

Thus, Option D would be the correct choice.

Q.4) Answer - D

Option D can be interpreted from the below references from paragraphs 1 and 2 respectively: It was revolutionary. For the first time, amid the Cold War, then the three nuclear-weapon states agreed to transform a continent into a nuclear-free zone and, along with other parties, such as Australia and Argentina, committed themselves to a new governance regime. The continent remains largely free of military activity and has endured as a nuclear-free zone.

Q.5) Answer - A

Option A can be interpreted from the penultimate paragraph where the line is taken from, "Facilitated by the river, ----- it became increasingly tied to national identity."

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Q.6) Answer - D

Option A can be interpreted as "The Volga also links numerous peoples, including Bashkirs, Mari, Tatars, Udmurt, and Russians, all of whom live near its shores."

As given in the second paragraph, "Hartley treats the reader to captivating stories of conflict, conversion, trade, famine, migration and myth." Option B can be noted.

Option C can be understood from, "the book meanders through the 20th century, paying particular attention to the Volga's role in the momentous Battle of Stalingrad."

While Option D is right about the point on a trade, nowhere does the passage mention that they were illegal.

Q.7) Answer - C

The passage doesn't capture the details only from a geographical perspective but captures various socio-cultural aspects. Thus, A is out.

The passage is not about Russia alone, rather it captures all points related to the role of the river Volga. So, B is off-limits.

The article tries to capture the entire story of the significance of the river Volga.

It isn't any book review, so Option D can be ruled out.

Thus, Option C is quite probably the source.

Q.8) Answer - C

Option A can be received from "Facilitated by the river, ----- As Hartley writes: Without the Volga, there would be no Russia."

Option B can be inferred from "Rebellions and uprisings among populations of peasants and Cossacks became common events, even as the river grew more integrated into trade networks."

Option C can't be inferred from the given info in the passage.

Q.9) Answer - D

As given in paragraph 1, "To discover 'Reality' is to identify what is eternal and true, that is, what exists always." Option D can be interpreted.

Options A & C are clearly negated by the given statement, "The preceptor said that neither the dream nor waking state is real."

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Q.10) Answer - B

The passage discusses exploring reality through the routine states we experience (waking, dreaming, deep sleep), mentions the example of Janaka suffering from hunger in a dream, and refers to focused devotion to Lord Krishna as a path to discovering eternal reality. However, it does not discuss seeking the truth after death.

Q.11) Answer - A

We need to refer to paragraph 3 where Krishna says that it's only when people ignore the cyclic temporary process and focus on his abode which alone is eternal, would they attain salvation. Option A can be made out of this.

Referring to Option B, while Krishna has spoken of devotion to him, religion is nowhere mentioned.

Similarly, Options C and D can't be interpreted from the given info.

Q.12) Answer - D

Both A & B oppose what is given.

From paragraph 2, "The preceptor said that neither the dream nor waking state is real."

From paragraph 1, "To discover 'Reality' is to identify what is eternal and true."

Q.13) Answer - B

Refer to paragraph 2, "But in every year group, ----- educational journey."

The author clearly mentions that people are at different stages of learning and that there is no end to how much one learns, thus the concept of falling behind might not be true. Option B clearly captures this and is the correct choice.

Q.14) Answer - C

Referring to Option A, while the passage does mention the psychological pressure, no specific discussion is being done about their physical health.

Referring Option B, the author doesn't say anything about extra-curricular activities.

Referring Option D, ignoring the situation as an option is not really evident from the author's tone. The last paragraph clearly indicates that the author would rather suggest focusing on the long-term impact and not just a temporary rise in some scores.

Also, as stated, "When I read recently of measures being planned to help children make up for lost school time through extended school days, tutoring and summer schools, my first instinct was that we should do the exact opposite."

The above resonates with Option C.

Q.15) Answer - B

For Option A, the author disagrees with it.

For Option C, there is no hint at the author's view toward maintaining the status quo. Rather he just talks about being mindful of the steps we take.

For Option D, the passage doesn't mention anything about the good effects of remote learning. Option B would be the correct choice, keeping in mind the author's tone and his focus on long-term impact. (Refer to the last paragraph).

Q.16) Answer - A

Option A can be concluded from paragraph 2. Referring to "Much of the debate ----- children and young people."

Q.17) Answer - D

Paragraph 2 talks about funerals involving cannibalism. Option A can be inferred from the same paragraph which mentions. "In addition, the ritual was thought to protect the body from any dangerous spirits."

Option B negates the existence of funeral cannibalism which is clearly false.

About Option C, while the passage mentions, "children's meat was the best food of all in taste", this is not concerning Funeral Cannibalism/dead bodies.

Q.18) Answer - C

We can understand Option A from "Chinese compounds included human organs as well as nails and hair, while, in early Greece, human blood was thought to treat epilepsy."

The reference for Option B can be noted from, "After making human sacrifices to the gods, the Aztecs reportedly ate the corpses, which they considered sacred."

Although the passage does mention the victor to get the bravery and strength of the defeated, the act itself is not being called brave, thus Option C can't be interpreted and is the correct choice. (Refer to line paragraph 3 "consuming one's foe was thought to enable the victor to possess the strength and bravery of the vanquished.")

Q.19) Answer - B

Option B best captures the idea.

Other choices cover only isolated aspects of what is being discussed.

Q.20) Answer - A

We shall refer to the introductory paragraph for this. The author brings about the fascinating nature by mentioning both sides and perspectives of the practice of human cannibalism. This makes Option A to be the apt choice.

Q.21) Answer - C

The passage talks about India-Bangladesh ties as to what is achieved and what remains.

Q.22) Answer - A

Option A is in line with the tone of the narrative.

Referring to Option B, Mr Modi's aggression is not highlighted w.r.t ties with Bangladesh.

Referring to Option C, the tribunal verdict was essential to resolve the 40-year-old dispute.

Referring to Option D, the dispute is rather significant as per the passage.

Q.23) Answer - D

The tone can be best described as analytical as the author tries to analyse the issue by discussing it in detail.

Q.24) Answer - D

All three options capture the steps regarding the unresolved issues and would be logical.

Refer to the line, "Other issues, if unresolved, could pose challenges."

Clearly, the author focuses on the need for resolving the existing issues.

Q.25) Answer - B

It is given that training helped in succeeding, which is why Option B would be the correct choice.

Q.26) Answer - C

The entire passage states how in various ways the dairy cooperatives have been able to help women financially as well as let them assume leadership positions. Thus, Option C would be the right choice.

Q.27) Answer - B

Option A can be understood from the information, "women farmers are trained in scientific best practices on animal health, fodder quality, clean milk production, and accounts management." Also given in the last line.

Option C can be interpreted as, "paving the way for freeing small farmers from the clutches of middlemen".

Option D can be interpreted as, "Importantly, women-led cooperatives also provide fertile ground for grooming women from rural areas for leadership positions."

Q.28) Answer - D

As nothing specific is given about the repayment rates, option a may or may not be true. While it's given that, "women-led cooperatives also provide fertile ground for grooming women from rural areas for leadership positions", no stats are given to support the data in Option B, thus it may or may not be true.

Referring to Option C, although women did build a mud house, we can't say whether their children ever lived in them.

The numbers in Option D roughly translate to 63.2% while as given. "93% of women farmers who receive training alongside financial support succeed in their ventures". Thus, this statement cannot hold true.

Q.29) Answer - D

In the first paragraph, the author mentions how we see Hindutva through a 'limited lens' which may not hold true. About this, Option D would be the best choice.

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Q.30) Answer - D

Referring to the last paragraph, option d can be interpreted from the last couple of lines "Marginalised ----- Buddhism" where the author talks about upward mobility.

Q.31) Answer - D

As it is given in paragraph 3, "it is to convert Hinduism into an ethnic order and reconstitute it as a race, a term repeatedly employed by Savarkar. This entails the process of simultaneous inclusion of the marginalised within Hinduism and the exclusion of the Muslim and Christian other".

We can safely conclude Option D.

Q.32) Answer - D

Option D would be the right choice as the author mentions in the last paragraph, that people move toward Buddhism while Hinduism fails to align itself with modern ideas. This option negates that.

Q.33) Answer - A

From the info given in the first paragraph, "International engagement and solutions ----- led to the cataclysmic end of the war in 2009." It could be understood that option a would be the right choice as it speaks about worsening the war situation.

Q.34) Answer - D

Only Option C indicates suppression. Both A & B are rather democratic and supportive tendencies.

Q.35) Answer - C

Option c can be interpreted from the last line of the given paragraph where the given statement occurs, "as it undermines the powers -----despicable attacks on Muslims."

Q.36) Answer - B

Basis the last sentence of the passage, "It is democratic ----- rather than advocacy in Geneva ----- dispossession.", clearly the author doesn't feel that support from Geneva would do much. Thus, A is ruled out.

Referring to Option C, nothing is mentioned in the passage which would imply this.

Referring to Option D, the author rather mentions the peace-keeping intentions of countries like India, Norway and Geneva and may not really agree with this.

Option B would be the most appropriate choice as the author does express his support for democratic struggle in the last line of the passage.

Q.37) Answer - A

The author has discussed several reasons throughout the passage.

Option B & D finds root in the statement, "The single-minded pursuit ----- as the be-all and end-all." from paragraph 2.

In Referring to Option C, Corruption is talked of in the second last paragraph, "no political executive can indulge in corruption without civil servants' support or vice versa."

Q.38) Answer - D

Option B is the only one which resonates with the given condition of bad (slack employees) driving good (motivated employees) out of circulation.

Neither A nor C goes in line with it. Thus, D would be the correct choice.

Q.39) Answer - A

The situation in the sentence clearly indicates corruption and fraud. Hence, it would be in line with Option A.

Q.40) Answer - B

Option A can be clearly eliminated as the author discusses how all negative aspects and challenges have become a part of a civil servant's life.

Option C showcases a single aspect while Option B kind of summarizes the whole scenario of civil service that the author is trying to explain.

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Q.41) Answer - A

The passage is all about the one who has a hobby of collecting autographs. Thus, Option A would be most apt as the title.

Q.42) Answer - D

This is discussed at the beginning of the last paragraph. While the celebrity factor is being mentioned, the other two are not there. Thus, Option D is the correct choice.

Q.43) Answer - B

The author clearly says that he has been fond of his pets. Thus, 'attachment' makes sense here.

Q.44) Answer - B

An assumption is something which is implied but not overtly stated. Option a can be concluded as various related instances have been mentioned of the 1880s etc. Option C is rather not true as the author discusses collecting autographs as most intriguing and passionate but not effortless.

Option D can be concluded from the ref “One person’s quaint pastime is another’s consuming infatuation” in paragraph 2.

Option B would be the correct choice, considering how the author describes the people as crazy and how obsessive they become.

Q.45) Answer - C

In the first paragraph, as he says, “working from home”, we can’t choose ‘idle’ in Option A. Similarly, vacation and hospital are out of the question (as he is at home), given in Option B and D respectively.

Option C is the only possible choice.

Q.46) Answer - D

For Option A, referring to line, “like today, of crisis and doubt” from paragraph 3.

For Option B, referring to line, “to control the melody of life as it unfolds” from paragraph 2.

For Option C, referring to line, ‘Perceptions of time have changed a great deal over the year and many of the novels I’ve read recently, more than for many years, have been concerned with its passing.’

There is no mention of the benefits of living with nature.

Q.47) Answer - C

It could be understood from the last paragraph that he liked staying doing what he liked.

Reference, “He intends to stay three weeks ----- occult and the natural world?”

Q.48) Answer - B

In the entire passage, the author discusses that why the report is wrong from racial parity perspective as it negates even its existence when it’s out there in so many forms. Thus, Option B is the right choice.

Q.49) Answer - A

While it is mentioned that Muslim children raised suspicion easily, we can't conclude if they were separated from other kids during classes. Option A is the correct choice.

Reference for statement 2 is in paragraph 2, "We see young Black men far more likely to be stopped and searched by the Metropolitan Police, and twice as likely to die in custody."

Reference for statement 3 is in paragraph 3, "or the NHS health workers, from consultants to hospital porters, so much more likely to die during the pandemic."

Q.50) Answer - B

Option A can't be true as throughout the passage the author describes the ignorance of the government and inaction against racism.

W.r.t Option D, the passage talks about "black women" and not just any woman. Ref line, "Black women who are four times more likely to die in childbirth than white mothers-to-be."

Given the context, the author is most likely to agree with Option B.

Q.51) Answer - A

For Option A, Ref paragraph 1, "I love the small window into a stranger's life-----not totally self-flattering."

Q.52) Answer - C

Basis the given statement, "The ones that go viral tend to be so juicy, they blur the line between ridiculous and funny, and probably have something to do with sex.", Option C is most likely to go viral.

Q.53) Answer- B

The given statement is mentioned in paragraph 3.

For Option A, "estranged from her alcoholic parents", in paragraph 3 is the reference.

For Option C, "and had just been passed over for a promotion at work in favour of a junior man" in paragraph 3 acts as reference.

For Option D, info given in the last paragraph could be referred to, "-----preoccupied with the details of each other's former lives-----"

As for Option B, death has not been mentioned in the passage as one of the common problems.

Q.54) Answer – D

For Option A, refer to “many partners who are jealous over basically nothing” in the last paragraph.

Alcoholism is referred to in paragraph 3, “estranged from her alcoholic parents”.

Sexual orientation is mentioned in the penultimate paragraph.

Thus, D would be the correct choice.

Q.55) Answer - B

In the first paragraph, it is given that, “I like to read things that aren’t written by writers, and therefore not coaxed into a conventional narrative, and of course, I like the replies, too.”

Basis the above interest, Option B would be the most suitable choice.

Q.56) Answer - A

The author is clearly angry about the way media showcases twisted narratives. Indignant would be the apt choice.

Q.57) Answer - C

Referring to the statement from the fourth paragraph, “The forces of the state were portrayed as requiring ever more sweeping powers, while dissidents need further containment. It is easy to see how these narratives can lead to, as one former police chief warned, paramilitary policing”.

Paramilitary policing in the given context resonates with Option C.

Q.58) Answer - D

There are multiple references which lead us to conclude Option D.

Ref: “In some cases, there have been concerns that media organisations have actively collaborated in facilitating outright police dishonesty.”

“Most of the media did little to reveal the active cover-up of police brutality at Orgreave and the miners’ battle for justice remains.”

Q.59) Answer - B

As understood from paragraph 2, the media was clearly controlling the narrative in favour of the police. Considering that, option b would be the apt choice.

Q.60) Answer - A

While B & C clearly indicates controlling the narrative and the benefits for politicians, A doesn't do that. It rather talks about truth.

Q.61) Answer - A

The last line in the first paragraph mentions magicians (conjurers) and various stage artists. Instrumentalists have not been specifically stated. Thus, a is the correct choice.

Ref, "The singers, dancers, comedians, clowns, puppeteers, jugglers, acrobats, conjurers, and ventriloquists of popular theatre make up much of what is known as show business."

Q.62) Answer - B

The role of music is discussed in the last paragraph, "The effect of music as a form of communication has always been highly valued in popular theatre."

Considering the above, we can clearly interpret Option B.

**Q.63) Answer - B**

Humour is being mentioned as one of the important ingredients of 'popular theatre' in the passage. While theatre itself is pretension, humour too doesn't really use truth. Thus, we have option b as our choice.

Q.64) Answer - D

Refer Paragraph 1, Options A, B and C could be associated with expression of identity, communication, and emotional release respectively.

However, the function of aiding to advance in a career/securing job is not really mentioned in the passage.

Q.65) Answer - D

W.r.t statement 1, while knowledge of different languages is considered beneficial in different ways, it's nowhere considered essential per se.

W.r.t statement 2, various definitions of language throughout the passage capture many more aspects of it, than just being a group of symbols.

W.r.t statement 3, language need not be just verbal. Various forms of expression could be used. Refer line, "Language, a system of conventional spoken, manual (signed), or written symbols using which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves."

Thus, none of the statements can be concluded. Hence, Option D.

Q.66) Answer - B

From the penultimate paragraph, we have, "Substantially different systems of communication that may impede but do not prevent mutual comprehension are called dialects of a language. To describe in detail, the actual different language patterns of individuals, the term idiolect, meaning the habits of expression of a single person, has been coined."

Q.67) Answer - D

The author has discussed learning more than one language in the last paragraph.

W.r.t Option A, while it is mentioned that in monolingual cultures, the process of learning a second language is intellectually different, we can't conclude if it is quite slow.

W.r.t Option B, we can't conclude from the given info that it is easy in general to learn any language. Rather the author has mentioned that learning processes vary depending on cultures and communities.

W.r.t Option C, the passage mentions that bilingualism is the complete mastery of two languages, ref line, "Complete mastery of two languages is designated as bilingualism." Option D could be correlated with being born and brought up in multilingual environments.

Q.68) Answer - D

Various inclusions of the definition of language are referred to below:

All except language as a method of learning.

For Option A, "spoken, manual (signed), or written symbols" (Paragraph 1)

For Option B, "this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts."

(Paragraph 2)

For Option C, "using which a social group cooperates" (Paragraph 2)

Q.69) Answer - A

Option C can be interpreted from paragraph 2, ref line, "Political vigilance, therefore, is all about keeping the ruler in tune with the democracy that will enable citizens to lead a life without unreasonable constraints."

Option D can be interpreted from paragraph 1, ref line, "not so much for self-interest but for the collective interest of protecting India's democratic ethos."

Q.70) Answer - D

From paragraph 3, we have, "Arguably, there is an alarming degree of people's withdrawal from political vigilance." This relates to what is given in Option D.

Q.71) Answer - B

From paragraph 4, we have, "In fact, the negative aspect of freedom has to be necessarily understood in terms of the inability to exercise the freedom to be vigilant."

The author clearly says that if one is choosing not to exercise his/her political vigilance, which is when one should feel the downside of freedom (to choose) and not when one wants to be alone. Basis the above, Option B is the closest which could be true.

Q.72) Answer - B

Clearly, throughout the entire passage, the author has laid down the significance of 'political vigilance' which is captured and expressed in Option B.

Q.73) Answer - D

Throughout the passage, the author has taken an effort to describe the impact of building the Hirakud dam on the locals. That is also the tone he starts with.

"The idea of the Hirakud dam project was potentially dynamic and productive since it was intended to serve multiple purposes for the substantial population of Odisha." Basis the above, Option D would be the apt choice.

Q.74) Answer - B

Indignant is 'angry'.

Critical is 'expressing adverse or disapproving comments or judgements.'

Commiserating is 'express or feel sympathy or pity; sympathize.'

Populists are, 'appealing to or aimed at ordinary people.'

The author is clearly disapproving of the way the people got negatively impacted by the construction of the dam and how the authorities treated them. Critical would be the appropriate choice.

Q.75) Answer - D

Option D is the only one which doesn't capture any negative impact per se, rather talks of the rehabilitation policy. Thus, that wouldn't be in line with the given statement.

Q.76) Answer - D

W.r.t Option A, various ranges of compensation are given in paragraph 4, and not all are 1000.

W.r.t Option B, while it is mentioned that the act was used, its illegal use can't be figured from the info given. Ref line, "All land above river level (RL) 632 feet was acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894."

W.r.t Option C, there was no appropriate compensation, "Similarly, the amount of compensation for submerged houses was too little and insufficient to construct a new home elsewhere."

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Q.77) Answer - C

The passage talks about the women farmers in northeast India (particularly Nagaland and Manipur), and the way they have been excluded from the main domain. Option C tries to bring this into the picture.

Q.78) Answer – D

The author mentions in the last paragraph that "Their work was not considered productive formal sector work that would lead to adequate employment and social security benefits."

He is clearly bringing forth that this is not something to be proud of.

Q.79) Answer - B

Option B can be interpreted from the info given in the last paragraph.

Q.80) Answer - B

Clearly, the author tries to bring forward the importance of contributions made by women farmers over some time and believes that there could be more to it.

Q.81) Answer - C

Although the government rolled back the decision, its intent of lowering the rates was clear. Also, ref the below line, it is clear as to why the government wanted to reduce.

"This rollback is not the first instance of post-haste policy adhocism, but it may make the government's ₹12.05-lakh crore borrowing plan for the year harder as the central bank has been complaining of high small savings rates as a deterrent to lower interest rates." Option C captures this well.

Q.82) Answer - B

Option B is the only one which suggests the reason why it might be better to hold multiple elections. Thus, it weakens the "One nation, one election" concept.

Q.83) Answer - A

From paragraph 2, we have, "So, one must deduce the oversight is on the political executive's part on the timing and implications of executing the required decision as per the extant policy. The clinching factor — the five Assembly polls."

Option A can be clearly deduced from the above.

Q.84) Answer - B

None of the given issues has been referred to in the entire passage.

Q.85) Answer - C

It is clear that 'oversight' had issued orders: "Orders issued by oversight shall be withdrawn."

Also, while the author suggests who that might be in the second paragraph and his bet is on a political executive. Basis this, Option C is the most appropriate choice.

Q.86) Answer - D

From the first paragraph, we have, “raises an important question about the obligation and responsibility of scientists towards the public.”

Option A can be deduced from this.

From paragraph 2, we have, “Even today, there is very little public accountability or social audit of the major government funders of science.”

Option C can be deduced from the above.

As for Option B, it's mentioned in the last line that we have enough scientists but we need to improve the functioning of the systems. Thus, B can't be concluded.

Q.87) Answer - D

The author says that “lack of critical mass” and “inadequate funding,” are common issues which can be seen across fields. Rather he considers administration issues within the institution as a major contributor to low-quality output.

Option D relates to the above and would be the correct choice here.

Q.88) Answer - D

None of the given statements can be interpreted to be true from the information given in the passage.

It is given in the second paragraph that it has become a habit to blame the politicians and the public when what Indian Science need is internal critique. Thus, the author doesn't seem to believe in the credibility of completely blaming the politicians.

Q.89) Answer - D

The last given paragraph in the passage talks about the need for discussing the two modes (Fashion & Fascination). Thus, the next paragraph is likely to start talking about these two. The starting line could be as given in Option D and then the remaining individual definitions may follow. (Options C, B, and A).

Q.90) Answer - B

For Option A, it is stated in the second paragraph, that we should in fact ask questions. So, a can be ruled out.

“If this is the case, should we not raise some pertinent questions that are necessary to understand the nature of the work that is being done by scholars on the texts of Ambedkar?”



Reading Comprehensions

CATKing LOD -2 Reading Comprehension

Bully (someone who habitually seeks to harm or intimidate those whom they perceive as vulnerable.)



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