

Explanatory Notes

Exercise – 1

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. Kingsley Amis' statement was just a joke, and he made this clear by his broad grin. But what the BBC presenter did was distorting the import of Amis' remark. He presented it as his research to expose what he called Amis' "hypocrisy." In this context what can be the warning that Amis is likely to issue to writers? Clearly it should relate to the experience that he had.
(A) CORRECT. This fits the bill. What the BBC presenter did was twisting Amis' remark.
(B) 'Quoting out of context' is irrelevant to the argument.
(C) There is nothing in the remark that others will not understand.
(D) This incident doesn't relate to 'quoting against' the speaker; it is a case of misinterpreting the remark the speaker made. Choice (A)
2. In wonderland, TV households increased by 19 percent, but TV individuals increased only by 10 percent. What information helps explain the paradoxical situation? Consider any factor that can increase the number of households only, and not the number of individuals watching TV. If new households were created by the same people who used to watch TVs, TV viewers' number will not increase, but the number of households will increase.
(A) Many families purchasing a second TV will increase neither the number of TV households nor the number of TV individuals.
(B) CORRECT. An increase in the number of nuclear families can explain the paradox. Nuclear families of newlyweds who started living separately can increase the number of TV households, and not the number of TV individuals.
(C) If this detail is true, the paradox becomes more mysterious.
(D) This detail doesn't provide information to explain the increase in the number of TV households. Choice (B)
3. Since the role of the Central Board of Film Certification is only to certify films to avoid them from being viewed by children, it was wrong to deny certification to the two films, *Lipstick Under my Burkha* and *Ka Bodyscapes*. What does the argument assume? The argument states that the Board's role is only to guide people to avoid wrong choices for juvenile audiences and that the ban was a wrong step, it presupposes that these films can be viewed by adults.
(A) The argument doesn't go to the extent of suggesting that the films can be viewed by both adults and children.
(B) This cannot be an assumption since it is a part of the argument.
(C) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption underlying the argument.
(D) The argument gives no clue about who the intended audiences were. Choice (C)
4. The national level debt waiver of ₹1,50,000 crore implemented did not improve the economic situation and repayment behaviour of farmers. Which of the given options cannot be the basis for the implementation of the scheme having no effect on the farmers' economic situation or repayment behaviour? Look for an option that doesn't have any negative effect on the economic well-being or repayment behaviour of farmers.
(A) This can explain why farmers' plight has not improved; they didn't get financial support to do farming.
(B) Drought condition also can affect agriculture and farmers' economic situation.
(C) CORRECT. This detail has no relevance to farmers' plight; it relates to all tax payers.
(D) A behavioral change of expecting future waivers can prevent farmers from repaying loans. Choice (C)
5. Since omega-3 fatty acids (OFAs) found in certain fish can prevent and treat the inflammation and oxidative stress caused by air pollution, such fish should be included in our daily diet. Which question is the most relevant to the proposal of including fish containing OFAs in our daily diet? Examine each option and choose the one relating to the fish that is recommended for inclusion in the daily diet.
(A) This doesn't relate to the fish proposed to be included in the daily diet.
(B) This is totally irrelevant to eating fish.
(C) This too has no relation to the recommendation.
(D) CORRECT. If the fish containing OFAs is polluted, it should not be included in our diet. Choice (D)
6. According to the findings of the National Health Survey, infant mortality has fallen, the sex ratio has improved and vaccine coverage has spread. These are positive signals. But the survey has also brought bad news: one-fifth of the population suffers from chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension making them vulnerable to life-threatening infectious diseases. What conclusion can be drawn from the information in the passage? The passage states that though there have been improvements in certain areas, non-communicable diseases are posing problems for the health of the people. Hence it is reasonable to conclude that non-communicable diseases are to be tackled to improve the health of the nation.
(A) Though this may be true, the passage doesn't make any attempt to compare communicable and non-communicable diseases.
(B) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
(C) The passage makes no reference to investment.
(D) Productivity of the nation is beyond the scope of the argument. Choice (B)
7. The novel revolves around the concept of serendipity (pleasant discoveries by chance) and zemblanity (making unhappy, unlucky and expected discoveries by design). If this be so, what in daily life can relate to serendipity and zemblanity? The word 'oscillates' suggests that the words should be antonyms. The option chosen should contain words which are as close as possible to serendipity and zemblanity.
(A) This is a close option to the right one, but 'comfort' is too mild to be equated with serendipity.
(B) 'Optimism' doesn't convey the same sense as 'serendipity.'
(C) CORRECT. 'Utopian dreams' can be close to 'serendipity', and 'dystopian reality' can be the antonym.
(D) 'Understatement' and 'hyperbole' cannot be related to daily life. Choice (C)
8. The increase in skilled working-age population doesn't match the increase in new jobs. The skilled working-age population is expected to register an increase of 25 crore by 2026. What inference can be drawn from this information? What will happen by 2026? It is logical to anticipate huge unemployment if additional employment opportunities are not created. Such a situation can be disastrous.
(A) There is no information about per capita GDP, so this option is irrelevant to the passage.
(B) 'Initiative for job creation by the government' being the only solution is not the focus of the argument.
(C) CORRECT. This is an inference that can be drawn from the passage.
(D) This is not an inference; it is a step suggested to tackle unemployment. Choice (C)

9. One UK scientist recommends plain-paper wrapping of packed fast-food and processed snacks to dissuade customers from buying them. This, he believes, will check the increase in the number of obese people in the UK. Which of the options will strengthen the argument? The argument is based on the attractiveness of packets that lures customers to buy them. An option that points to customers developing lack of interest in buying such packets will be the right option.

- (A) This option weakens the argument. If this is true, customers will continue to buy them.
 (B) CORRECT. If this is true, plain-paper packets will not attract them, and they will not buy the same.
 (C) If no-frill style of traditional home cooking has not promoted healthy apportioning of food, people are likely to continue buying unattractive food packets.
 (D) This is not relevant to the argument as this is not about fast food that people buy from super markets.

Choice (B)

10. The government has intervened in the market and reduced the prices of various stents used in cardiac treatment. The government expects that this sort of market intervention can help save patients a lot of money. What information will weaken the argument that government intervention in fixing the price of stents will help heart patients save a lot of money? The prediction that patients will save money is made on the basis that heart patients will continue to use stents. What will happen if hospitals resort to some other procedure to treat patients requiring stents?

- (A) CORRECT. This statement can weaken the argument. If hospitals recommend bypass surgery, stents will not be required.
 (B) Comparing prices of stents is irrelevant to the argument as prices of all stents have been reduced.
 (C) This statement is not quite related to the argument; the argument concerns the reduction in prices benefiting the patients.
 (D) This is a close choice, but it is not related to pricing. The statement talks about the quality of treatment.

Choice (A)

11. India has become the biggest test of Amazon's international ambitions. Flipkart and Snapdeal, funded by some of the biggest names in tech, are Amazon's competitors. Whoever wins or loses in the frenzied competition, the importance of e-commerce stretches beyond individual firms, into the broader economy. It's a battle for the online future of India, taking place in an unprecedented manner.

- (A) The last line of the passage states that India could become a model for emerging markets around the world. However, it does mean that *all* developing countries could become a model.
 (B) Our country's logistical woes, of course, test the ingenuity of e-commerce firms. But it is just one of the factors that companies experiment with in a sphere of activity like this.
 (C) CORRECT. Option (C) is a conclusion best supported by the passage. On going through the passage we understand that a battle is on in India among internet giants for supremacy in e-commerce.
 (D) There is nothing in the passage which tells about the status of shopping malls and chain stores in retail sales.

Choice (C)

12. If you have a dream and you are keen to change it to reality, then you will have to give up the notion that dreams cannot be realised. There is a famous quote: "It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow." From the good pieces of advice in the passage, one can assume that no great man would have achieved anything without dreaming and making sacrifices.

- (A) In support of the arguments contained in the passage, it goes without saying that one has to put in great efforts in order to materialise one's dreams.
 (B) CORRECT. Read and re-read the given sentence. It says, *great minds have wishes and little minds have*

purposes. Now read the first sentence of the passage. Once your goal is clear, decide on the paraphernalia of action which includes a determined approach and the requisite efforts. In short, you need a proper plan of action and clarity of purpose – **not a mere wish**. Therefore, in reality, great minds have *purposes* while little minds have only *wishes*.

- (C) This points to *positivity of thought*, mentioned in the passage. The positivity of thought leads you on a path of fulfillment and joy.
 (D) All men of action are, indeed, dreamers.

Choice (B)

13. A dangerous dwindling of biodiversity in our food supply is taking place. The green revolution is a mixed blessing. With the passage of time, farmers have come to rely heavily on broadly adapted, high-yield crops to the exclusion of varieties suitable for local conditions. Mono-cropping with the same genetically uniform seeds can meet immediate requirements. But these high-yield varieties are also genetically weaker crops that require expensive fertilizers and toxic pesticides. From a long term perspective this is not advisable.

- (A) Whether the farmers are blameworthy or not is not a point of contention.
 (B) Mono-cropping helps boost yield and meet *immediate* hunger needs.
 (C) The sentence is tangential.
 (D) CORRECT. India's green revolution, which is among the priorities of the government, is a mixed blessing. Our focus on increasing the amount of food we produce *today* can lead to food shortages *in future*.

Choice (D)

14. Bereft of transparency and competition, crony capitalism becomes harmful to free enterprise, opportunity and economic growth. It is a serious issue that needs to be tackled. It creates oligarchies that retard growth.

- (A) Convicting and punishing venal politicians can solve only a part of the problem.
 (B) Option (B) is a digression.
 (C) CORRECT. Option (C) is a conclusion that deals with the issue in a wider perspective. Greater transparency in the functioning of the government and promoting financial inclusion are needed today.
 (D) This too is a digression.

Choice (C)

15. Mobile wallets got a big boost thanks to the central government's decision to ban high-value notes on November 8, 2016 as more people took to digital mode of transaction. Demonetisation turned out to be a stroke of luck for mobile wallet companies.

- (A) This is about *banks* goading customers to switch over to mobile banking.
 (B) CORRECT. The fact that the country is gradually moving towards a cashless economy can be predicted by the delight that a large number of Indians experienced while transacting in a cashless manner.
 (C) The truth is just the opposite.
 (D) This is about the growth in credit and debit card usage.

Choice (B)

Exercise – 2

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. A British Parliamentarian says that most of his fellow members of the House of Lords contribute nothing to the proceedings. They just collect their daily allowance, eat subsidized food and snooze. In India, however, the members of the Rajya Sabh, are enthusiastic, and always keep their eyes open. What information helps to explain the behaviour of the Indian parliamentarians? Consider some situation that forces them to remain enthusiastic.
 (A) This can be a form of their protest, but it cannot be the reason why they are enthusiastic.

- (B) CORRECT. This statement explains the reason why they don't sleep in the house; the public watch the proceedings in the house.
- (C) This could prompt them to be absent, but then it is not related to the argument.
- (D) Having a two-chambered system has nothing to do with the argument. Choice (B)
2. When a herd of wild goats is hunted by predators, it is always the weakest members that get killed. Despite the weakest members getting killed, the herd is likely to increase its numbers in the future. Which point provides a basis for the prediction? The passage states that even though the weakest members of the herd get killed by predators, in the future the herd's population will increase. This suggests that strong members have some advantage over the weak ones to escape predators and produce more number of offspring.
- (A) Migration is not quite relevant to the argument as its success depends on many other factors.
- (B) This is very vague and cannot be the basis of the prediction.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies the best basis for the prediction. In the evolution of this herd, the future generations will be born healthy and possessing greater speed, making them fit to survive, thereby giving them the chance to produce more offspring.
- (D) This statement is irrelevant to the argument; some members are always weak in relation to other members; and who is weak cannot be explained in absolute terms. Choice (C)
3. Banks were aggressively offloading their bad loans to ARCs in 2013-14 after collecting just 5 per cent as upfront cash payment, and receiving the rest through 'security receipts.' But the banks tweaked the rules and increased the upfront payment from 5 to 15 percent in August 2014. This has adversely impacted the business of ARCs. What inference can be drawn from this information? The passage states that the business of ARCs was impacted because banks increased the upfront payment. So a possible inference is that a decrease in upfront payment will boost the sale of bad loans to ARCs.
- (A) The passage gives no clues about the behaviour of banks when it comes to sanctioning loans.
- (B) The passage concerns sale of bad loans to banks, not recovery of loans by banks.
- (C) This is not supported by the passage.
- (D) CORRECT. This is an inference that can be drawn from the given information. Choice (D)
4. Scientists have discovered seven Earth-size extra-solar planets, orbiting a dwarf star about 40 light years away. Three of them have great chance of having liquid water and they are in the habitable zone of the star. What conclusion can be drawn from the information in the passage? The passage states that the star is 40 light years away and the planets are in the habitable zone of the star, where there is a great possibility of the presence of water. So to know whether there is life on these planets, we require many years since they are 40 light years away.
- (A) The passage gives no clue about man's fascination for extraterrestrial life.
- (B) The passage mentions only about water, not atmosphere.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
- (D) Nothing in the passage gives any clue about the expenditure on space research or poverty. Choice (C)
5. 'None of the above option', introduced in 2013, did not have much effect on the voters in the past elections. The maximum NOTA vote share has not crossed 2.02% of the total votes polled in any election cycle. Hence it can be concluded that NOTA has had no effect on election results. What information weakens the conclusion? The assumption underlying the argument is that vote share of NOTA is so insignificant with the result that it cannot influence the election results as the candidate who gets the maximum number of votes wins the election. If there is an option that points to the significance of even such low percentage share of votes influencing the results, the conclusion can go wrong.
- (A) This option can only point to voters' prejudice against political reservation, it doesn't weaken the conclusion.
- (B) This also has no relevance to the results though it can suggest voters' disenchantment with the main political parties.
- (C) This option has no relevance to the election results.
- (D) CORRECT. This option identifies the information that can weaken the conclusion. If the winning margin was smaller than the number of NOTA votes polled, NOTA votes can surely affect election results. Choice (D)
6. When some bees were repeatedly shown how to manoeuvre a yellow ball over a target area to gain access to a sweet treat, they could succeed in the task. Bees that were not shown the demonstration could not. The bees even improved their test trials, and the result held even after changing the colour of the ball. What conclusion can be reached about the bees? The passage states that those bees that observed a demonstration could succeed; they could do that even after they were given a ball of a different colour from the one used for demonstration. Here what the bees tackled is a problem.
- (A) The passage gives no clue about the 'value of rewards.'
- (B) CORRECT. This is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage. Even a change in the colour of the ball did not affect their success. They could solve the problem before them.
- (C) This is a very general statement, not specific to the argument.
- (D) A sweet treat is mentioned only as an example of a reward, not as a representative food item. Choice (B)
7. The current administration has annulled the previous administration's order to phase out the use of prisons operated by private companies. The order argues that the previous administration's move last year impaired the Federal Bureau of Prisons' ability to meet the future needs of the federal correctional system. What assumption does the argument make? The conclusion that the previous administration's order impaired the Federal Bureau of Prisons' ability to meet future needs of the federal correction system presupposes that both the government and private prisons work well.
- (A) The argument doesn't make any reference to immigration violations.
- (B) The argument doesn't go so far as to say that the previous administration was not farsighted.
- (C) This is a part of the argument; hence it cannot be an assumption.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption underlying the argument: the privately managed prisons work as efficiently as the government-run prisons. Choice (D)
8. The passage states the result of a study about the distribution of Oscar and BAFTA awards. If the actors are Americans or British, they are likely to receive the award. Thus, these awards fall short of their claim that the best movies in the world receive the awards. Which is the option that best completes the passage? Pay attention to the words before the blank – "to reward the best movies irrespective of". "Irrespective of" what? Clearly the concluding words should relate to movies.
- (A) This is inappropriate as movies do not normally belong to social groups.
- (B) CORRECT. This option can relate to movies.
- (C) This option is tempting, but 'performances' doesn't go with movies.
- (D) 'Genre' of the film is irrelevant to the passage. Choice (B)

9. Twelve bacteria pose the greatest threat to human health as they are resistant to antibiotics. The government shouldn't leave the development of new drugs to market forces, but incentivize their development, failing which they will not be developed in time to save patients. What condition must be true for the conclusion to be true? Since the argument concludes that without incentivizing the development of new antibiotics they will not be developed, it assumes that the pharmaceutical companies are not interested in their development.
- (A) This is not an assumption since it relates to all infections; the argument concerns only some bacteria.
 (B) The argument is NOT based on selling, but developing.
 (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption. Incentivizing is required because pharmaceutical companies are reluctant to develop new antibiotics due to market forces.
 (D) This also cannot be assumed because the argument concerns only some bacteria, not all types.
 Choice (C)
10. An EB-5 visa gives an immigrant an opportunity to enter the US. It doesn't have the hassles associated with H1-B and L-1 visas. The only condition is that one has to invest \$500,000, which guarantees one a US citizenship within 18 months and a permanent work permit. Today, even students find this a good way to enter the US. Which of the options is least relevant to an Indian student who intends to apply for an EB-5 visa? An option that is of NO special concern to a student, and naturally the recipient of the EB-5 visa, will be the right option.
- (A) Subsidies will be available to the holder of this visa by virtue of his newly acquired citizenship. Hence this is relevant.
 (B) Working in a sensitive project is relevant to the visa holder.
 (C) CORRECT. This is a government policy which is relevant to all sections, not particularly to an American or an EB-5 visa holding student.
 (D) This is an obvious attraction for the student.
 Choice (C)
11. The passage argues that dog is a very intelligent animal that can be trained for carrying out various kinds of work for man. The dog has been man's faithful companion and has been helping him since time immemorial. *However*, we are **not entirely dependent** on this canine for jobs that they are capable of doing.
- (A) CORRECT. This statement clearly brings out the weakness in the argument. It is appreciable that dogs do perform different kinds of work for man. Going by the fact that many societies seem to manage fine without them. *But* dogs are **NOT indispensable**.
 (B) This supports the argument.
 (C) This supports the argument.
 (D) Dogs, as in the case of humans, are honoured for exemplary feats this might be true but does nothing to weaken the argument.
 Choice (A)
12. In the pursuit of materialistic passions, man gets isolated from others. Right from school children, everyone is under stress.
- (A) Everyone – not just the youth – is under stress in the modern world.
 (B) Doesn't give the feel of a conclusion.
 (C) CORRECT. Man's self-centred passions that are often materialistic bring unhappiness. Moreover, in the pursuit of materialistic passions, he becomes cut off from society. This is what we conclude from the passage.
 (D) This option is wrong because it is a *recommendation*, and **not** a conclusion.
 Choice (C)
13. We have to focus our attention on the conclusion at hand, and not on the larger issues – the response of the states to even the basic law on urban waste, the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, has been one of indifference and arrogance. It implies that states have scant regard for the rules.
- (A) This option contradicts the intent of the passage.
 (B) This tells about striking a balance between the two sets of rules, which is not a correct assumption.
 (C) This too is a contradiction of the intent of the passage.
 (D) CORRECT. The *indifference* and *arrogance* on the part of the states is manifested in the way in which they handle garbage. Many cities continue to simply burn garbage or dump it elsewhere, flouting all rules.
 Choice (D)
14. During the last two-and-a-half decades China has stayed away from playing any active role in international affairs. The main reason was that the country was focusing on domestic economic growth.
- (A) The third sentence in the passage reads, "In the **past** China's authorities have tended to downplay the country's international clout." Therefore, it is to be understood that **now** it is not so. Option (A) paints the **present** picture of China.
 (B) CORRECT. Traditionally, China has been a passive spectator in global affairs so as to focus on *domestic economic growth*; **not** to conceal its economic predicament.
 (C) After downplaying the country's international clout in the past, China has now taken up a new, active role in the world affairs.
 (D) This supports the argument stated in the first part of the passage.
 Choice (B)
15. Hear, hear! Noise is taking a toll. A study across 50 cities in the world found that noise pollution from vehicles, power drills, loudspeakers, headphone-use, etc. is robbing nearly two decades of healthy hearing from Delhiites and Mumbaikars.
- (A) CORRECT. The study found that noise pollution is robbing nearly 20 years of healthy hearing from the residents of Delhi and Mumbai – the truth. Option (A), on the other hand, seems to suggest that it is not noise, but age, that is responsible for hearing loss in the aged.
 (B) Read the last sentence of the passage. It says that elderly persons are prone to hearing loss due to age-related reasons. Thus, option (B) strengthens the conclusion.
 (C) It is amply clear that this too strengthens the conclusion.
 (D) This tells of a *possibility* related to noise levels in metros like Delhi and Mumbai, which makes the conclusion stronger
 Choice (A)

Exercise – 3

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. Exploitation of sharks has led to increasing of cownose rays, the major diet of sharks. Cownose rays have multiplied to such an extent that bay scallops, which were the prey of cownose rays, are now threatened with extinction. As a result, scallop fishery, once profitable, has become obsolete. Now efforts are made to recover the bay scallop. What conclusion can be drawn from the information in the passage? The passage demonstrates that the consequences of overfishing are not confined to the species that is exploited; its consequences spread to other species too.
- (A) The passage does not attempt to predict the future of fishing industry. Therefore the conclusion that the future of fishing industry is bleak is not acceptable.
 (B) CORRECT. This is a proper conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
 (C) The passage mentions the status of some other fishes too, so this is not an apt conclusion.
 (D) This is far-fetched as there is only a casual reference to scallop fishery in the passage.
 Choice (B)
2. A research shows that groups of genes that prompt people to spend more years in education became rarer in a country from 1910 to 1975. So it is concluded that humans are sliding downwards into stupidity. What information would

weaken the conclusion? The passage concludes that humans are sliding downwards into stupidity. This is based on the assumption that reduction of certain groups of genes that prompt people to spend more years in education leaves people less intelligent. But if there is some information that some other thing can contribute to increasing intelligence, it can weaken the conclusion.

- (A) This option can strengthen the conclusion to some extent since if the intelligent leave fewer descendents, the number of intelligent people in the country can come down.
- (B) CORRECT. This piece of information can weaken the conclusion. If technological and socio economic changes could increase IQ, reduction in education genes is not important.
- (C) This can only strengthen the reliability of the findings.
- (D) This is a clear indication that the conclusion is true.

Choice (B)

3. The US labour department sued a software giant for discriminatory hiring practices against White, Hispanic and African-Americans. With anger against outsourcing rising in America, there is bound to be a spike of law suits against such companies. Which point can give additional support to the possibility of a sharp spike of law suits against companies? The passage mentions anger against outsourcing and the new government assuming office as some factors in favour of law suits. Any factor that can add fuel to the sentiment against outsourcing can give additional support to the prediction.

- (A) If these companies started hiring locally, it involves no outsourcing, so this can only weaken the prediction.
- (B) This is only a possibility which has no direct bearing on the prediction.
- (C) This piece of information is irrelevant to the prediction. The argument concerns chances of increasing law suits against software companies that outsource.
- (D) CORRECT. If law suits against companies are blown up in the press, chances are that they will receive much publicity inducing more such actions.

Choice (D)

4. An astronomer studied an exoplanet, Wolf 1061c, and found that it could be habitable. But the planet Wolf 1061c is unlike Earth in the sense that it changes its orbit at a faster rate compared to Earth. What inference can be drawn from this information? The passage states that Earth experiences an ice age because of slow variations in its orbit around the sun, and that Wolf 1061c's orbit changes are faster. Hence it is reasonable to infer that there is some correlation between climate variations and orbit changes.

- (A) CORRECT. This is an inference that can be drawn because Wolf 1061c changes its orbit very fast.
- (B) This is not an inference because it is clearly stated in the passage. Exoplanet means a planet orbiting a star other than the sun.
- (C) The possibility of existence of other planets is not relevant to the argument.
- (D) This is irrelevant. The passage focuses on Wolf 1061c, and not Earth.

Choice (A)

5. The eruption of Mount Tambora in 1815 caused global climate anomalies which led to deaths of livestock and changes in fish patterns in New England. As a consequence, many people became dependent on mackerel. What is being assumed in this argument? The argument puts forth the reason that since climate change caused the death of livestock, people had to depend on mackerel. This presupposes that mackerel was not affected by the severe winter.

- (A) This is not an assumption on which the conclusion depends; it could be an inference.
- (B) This too cannot be an assumption since it is stated in the argument in different words.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption underlying the argument. Only because mackerel was not affected much, people could depend on it.
- (D) This has no relevance to the argument.

Choice (C)

6. A company wants to award employees who have served tenures of 5, 10, 15 or more years at the organization. The company believes that these awards will motivate employees to stay on. Which is the strongest justification for the company's plan? Under what circumstances will the plan make employees happy and cheerful?

- (A) This is irrelevant to the plan of awarding employees at the completion of tenures.
- (B) This also has nothing to do with the proposed plan.
- (C) A system of monthly appraisal has no relation to the proposed plan.
- (D) CORRECT. If employees change jobs every year or two, this plan is relevant to inspire them to stay on.

Choice (D)

7. Genetically modified male mosquitoes that carry a lethal gene will be released to mate with wild female Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. When the male GM mosquitoes mate with wild female mosquitoes, the lethal gene gets passed on to offspring. The lethal gene in the offspring kills the larvae before they reach adulthood. We can use this technology and prevent the spread of dengue, chikungunya and Zika. What piece of information gives the strongest indication that the plan is likely to be successful? The plan is that in course of time, there will be no mosquito to spread these diseases. It can be assumed that the success of the plan depends on the chance of people not getting bitten by such male mosquitoes.

- (A) This can reduce the frequency of releasing male mosquitoes, but it doesn't ensure any strong indication that the plan will succeed.
- (B) This is a piece of information in the argument; it is not an additional piece of information.
- (C) CORRECT. This piece of information suggests that humans are not going to be affected by the release of male Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. These male mosquitoes will only kill their offspring
- (D) This piece of information concerns the technology used, and not the success of the plan.

Choice (C)

8. Scientists in government institutions need the director's permission to talk to the media. This is unfair; they should be free to communicate the results of a public-funded work to the public. In evaluating the argument, which question would it be most useful to be answered? It would be useful to know whether the public correctly understands the results of the public-funded work; if it doesn't happen, there is no sense in attempting to communicate.

- (A) This has no bearing on the significance of removing the restriction. There are others who understand the work.
- (B) CORRECT. If those scientists who want to talk with the media are not good communicators, the significance of the work will not be understood by the public.
- (C) The argument suggests that they want to communicate the results of a public-funded work, so this is irrelevant to the evaluation of the argument.
- (D) This might be useful information with very limited significance. Even if the work has already been published in some journal, the impact it has made will not be the same as talking to the media because talking can draw questions, making further clarification necessary.

Choice (B)

9. Less developed countries have low per capita income. As a result, people save less, and so investments are also low. Thus people remain poor. This is the vicious circle of poverty. Which option would logically sum up the argument? The passage explains why people are poor in less developed countries, so the apt conclusion should highlight the reason for this.

- (A) CORRECT. This summarizes the paragraph – the reason why less developed countries remain poor is because they do not have sufficient capital resources for investment.
- (B) This choice is incorrect because the passage makes no reference to production meeting their requirements.
- (C) This option is too general to go with the paragraph.

- Though the paragraph is about the need for capital resources in less developing countries, it doesn't suggest that capital formation is all that matters in any economy.
- (D) This is too far-fetched. The paragraph doesn't suggest that economic development in poor countries is not going to happen. Choice (A)
10. The Republic of Utopia has introduced new medical technologies and effective treatments for melanoma, a deadly skin cancer. The country expects the death rates from melanoma to come down to 0.1 per 100,000 of the population in 2025 from twenty deaths per 100,000 in 2010. What condition must be true for the conclusion to be true? Since the argument concludes that death rates will fall drastically with the introduction of new and effective treatments, it assumes that all patients receive treatments. If patients don't receive treatment, the conclusion will be rendered false.
- (A) The argument makes no assumption about what causes melanoma; it assumes only about the effectiveness of the treatment.
- (B) This cannot be an assumption as the passage talks about the availability of treatment in 2010 though it had limited success.
- (C) Since the argument is based on decreasing death rate per 100,000, an assumption that the population has remained constant since 2010 is inapt.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies the assumption that all patients receive treatment leading to reduction in death rates. Choice (D)
11. Mega-herbivores such as elephants and rhinos are heading towards extinction. Strict **legislation** is needed to put a check on the **more intense** human factors that contribute to this alarming situation. Undoubtedly, poaching is the more intense factor in this case.
- (A) In our country, habitat loss and fragmentation are threatening the survival of elephants and rhinos. A new legislation in this matter can hardly be a solution to the problem.
- (B) The statistics are apparently correct, but do not support the argument.
- (C) The information pertaining to Japan is also non-supportive.
- (D) CORRECT. Poaching is the **more intense** human factor that contributes to the extinction of elephants / rhinos. Strict **legislation** is to be introduced worldwide to save the mega-herbivores. Choice (D)
12. Though heart failure affects millions worldwide, treatment options are not many. In cases where a transplant is not possible, a device can be implanted. But implants are not bereft of problems. Thus, we need to conclude that a device that can help weak hearts keep beating *without the dangers cited* is still a dream.
- (A) It's true that millions of people haplessly encounter the danger of heart failure. However, this is not an apt conclusion.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage since the search continues for something that prevents or cures heart failure without the attendant disadvantages.
- (C) A very vague statement that cannot be a proper conclusion.
- (D) Though the statement brings out a fact, it does not conclude the passage. Choice (B)
13. The Wright brothers who invented the first flying machine were probably inspired by the way in which birds fly. But today, aviators dread birds. Bird strikes continue to happen in the absence of dedicated research in the field. Some of you would have heard of incidents about a bird getting sucked by one of the engines and the pilot manoeuvring the aircraft to safety. But the passage is silent about it.
- (A) Birds were an inspiration for early aviators. The Wright brothers too, probably, derived inspiration from the avian class. This does not show any flaw in the reasoning.
- (B) The loss of \$1 billion is not unique to the USA. It's happening all over the world in varying degrees.
- (C) CORRECT. The statement identifies a flaw in the reasoning. The US Airways Airbus A320 suffered a multiple bird-strike that knocked out both engines. The data in the given passage is insufficient to draw a conclusion about the fate of an aircraft when **just one** engine is affected.
- (D) Though different methods are tried to scare away birds, there's hardly anyone who works for a prolonged duration. This might be true but it does not show a weakness or than in the reasoning. Choice (C)
14. In the past, farmers have gathered clues about weather from the natural environment. Today, the methods of forecasting India's monsoon are becoming advanced, to the benefit of the farmers. Scientists hope to gather more information on the processes by which the Indian Ocean interacts with the atmosphere.
- (A) The adjective *unpredictable* or its synonyms have not been used in the passage to describe the weather in our country, and so, cannot be concluded from the passage.
- (B) The right information about the arrival of monsoon is very important for farmers. But this is inconclusive.
- (C) The option tells about the erratic nature of weather, which is not an apt conclusion.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage. Since with the advancements in forecasting, the uncertainties associated with farming are reduced, this is a boon to the farmers. Choice (D)
15. Every year, there has been a mismatch between the number of people who attain working age and the availability of jobs worldwide. While ILO's forecasts speak of a bleak future, a sore point is that global GDP registered a six-year low last year.
- (A) The statement which talks of the fittest and not the unemployed is apparently true, but is not an inference based on the contents of the passage.
- (B) The world is indeed marching towards the poverty reduction targets under the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. However, this does not find a place in the passage.
- (C) CORRECT. This is clearly an inference that can be drawn from the passage; look at key phrases in the passage like global financial crisis and millions set to join the pool the fabless.
- (D) The effect of unemployment on the psyche of youngsters cannot be inferred from the passage. Choice (C)

Exercise – 4

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. An airlines company in Motuland is planning to charge passengers according to their weight, irrespective of the distance they travel. Which is a condition that would NOT have influenced the decision? The option you choose should NOT be a factor that can increase the company's profitability.
- (A) In a country that is mostly obese, the move will increase the profitability of the company, so this could have been considered by the company.
- (B) Domestic routes mean shorter distances, so this is also a favorable factor.
- (C) CORRECT. This piece of information has no relation to the proposed move.
- (D) This is a factor that can increase the profitability since distance travelled would be short resulting in lower running cost. Choice (C)
2. Independent directors of a company must not be promoters or persons related to promoters. They should also be efficient. Though they may, initially, be invited by the

- controlling share holders or managing director, they are appointed by the share holders at a General Meeting. Besides being loyal to the management, they have to perform. What inference can be drawn from this information? The passage states that though independent directors may be invited by the controlling shareholders or the MD, they are appointed by the share holders. So it is logical to infer about their loyalty to shareholders and stakeholders alike.
- (A) Since the passage provides no information about absence of accountability to the management, this is irrelevant.
- (B) CORRECT. This is a possible inference as these directors have the approval of both the stakeholders and shareholders.
- (C) This is irrelevant as the passage gives no indication about the presence of shareholder activism.
- (D) Since not being related to the promoters is just one of the prerequisites of appointment as independent directors, it cannot be inferred that all other directors will be related to them. Choice (B)
3. Despite the implementation of many schemes, pollution in Delhi has not reduced. What information helps explain the paradoxical situation here? Consider the effect of the schemes. Anything that points to lack of effectiveness of the schemes could explain the paradox.
- (A) CORRECT. This statement explains the lack of lasting effectiveness of the schemes.
- (B) This can explain the reason for the lack of sufficient number of schemes, but it doesn't explain the ineffectiveness of the schemes implemented.
- (C) This cannot be a reason for the ineffectiveness of the schemes.
- (D) 'Health risks' is irrelevant to the argument above. Choice (A)
4. The passage argues that drug misuse is a health issue, so people having a drug problem should not be treated differently from people having an alcohol problem or an obesity problem. Hence the responsibility should be moved from the Home Office to the Department of Health. What condition should be true for the recommendation-shifting responsibility from Home to Health Department - to be effective? The Department of Health should be equipped to treat addiction. This alone can justify shifting of responsibility from Home Office to Health Department.
- (A) Curing drug addiction is quite far-fetched; before that is achieved addicts should be treated.
- (B) CORRECT. Unless the Department of Health has strategies for treating addiction, there is no point in shifting responsibility to it, so this statement is an assumption.
- (C) This goes against the given information.
- (D) The argument makes no assumption about the treatment meted out to addicts by courts and prison; it assumes only that Home Office can tackle them. Choice (B)
5. A group of volunteers engaged in multitasking received electrical stimulation for their brain during a 36-minute-long test. They started performing better than a controlled group that received just 30 seconds of stimulation. What conclusion can be reached about the effect of electric current on the brain? The passage states that the group that received constant stimulation performed better than the other group. Thus, brain can be stimulated to enhance multitasking skills.
- (A) Although brain electrical stimulation enhanced multitasking capability, it cannot be concluded that it cannot be increased without some kind of brain stimulation.
- (B) No information about the time required to stimulate the brain is given, so this conclusion cannot be drawn.
- (C) Nothing in passage rules out the possibility of this difficulty being experienced by others.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn on the basis of test referred to above. Choice (D)
6. In spite of strong evidence that human activity is causing climate change, many BBC shows became victims of an editorial policy of impartiality. Hence, climate change deniers received much airtime. What assumption does the argument make? The report says that there was strong evidence that human activity is causing climate change, yet editorial guidelines on impartiality was responsible for granting too much airtime for climate change deniers. It is reasonable to assume the link between too much airtime for climate change deniers and editorial policy on impartiality – BBC gives airtime for both, those who believe in human activity causing climate change and its deniers.
- (A) Policy of impartiality and ignoring one side do not match, so this option is incorrect.
- (B) This also does not go with the argument; the argument states that there is overwhelming scientific evidence that human activity is driving climate change.
- (C) This is quite narrow; editorial policy on impartiality cannot be confined to climate change alone.
- (D) CORRECT. This is the right choice for the missing assumption. Without this the conclusion would be incorrect. Choice (D)
7. According to a research finding, people who have bosses with negative behavioral traits feel more depressed than others. What inference can be drawn from this? Since the passage states that bad behaviour of bosses and mental depression of workers can be correlated, it is logical to anticipate an inference about a positive relationship between compassionate bosses and development of fellow-feeling in workers.
- (A) This is too generalized a statement to relate to the given argument. The passage only states that there is a connection between depression found in workers and psychopathic behavioral traits in bosses.
- (B) Though there is a general correlation between objectionable behaviour of bosses and feeling of depression at workplace, it cannot be inferred that all objectionable behaviour and feeling of depression at workplace can be averted if bosses behave well.
- (C) CORRECT. It is reasonable to infer that if bad behaviour can cause depression, empathetic behaviour can cause fellow-feeling.
- (D) This is beyond the scope of the passage. Choice (C)
8. Nationalized banks plan to base interest rates on home loans to credit scores supplied by Credit Information Bureau of India. The higher the credit score one has, the lower will be one's interest. Hence in future, one's interest rate on home loan will be dependent on the discipline one maintains in repaying existing loans. What condition must be true for the conclusion to be true? The argument states that for granting home loans, banks will rely on credit scores of Credit Information Bureau. This presupposes that Credit Information Bureau has information supplied by all banks.
- (A) The argument makes no assumption about the reason for this move; it only assumes that credit score is important.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption that Credit Information Bureau of India has information about the loan history of all bank customers.
- (C) The argument makes no reference to banks making profits, hence this statement is irrelevant.
- (D) Since no comparison is attempted between nationalized banks and other banks, this cannot be a valid assumption. Choice (B)
9. During these days of viral and flu infections, paracetamol poisoning among children is widespread. In children, paracetamol overdosing occurs more easily than in adults. How could paracetamol poisoning in children happen more easily than in adults? Which option points to easy susceptibility of children to an overdosing of paracetamol?
- (A) This can be a possible explanation for overdosing in children, but this is true with any medicine given to children. So we have to see whether a better option is available.

- (B) This has no bearing on the occurrence of more incidence of paracetamol poisoning in children than in adults.
- (C) CORRECT. If the dosage of paracetamol is calibrated to body weight of children, any overdose is bound to have serious effects.
- (D) This is a possible reason for overdosing, but this can happen even with adults. Choice (C)
10. The US saw a drastic decline in incarceration rates in 2016. Which piece of information helps explain this drastic fall? Consider the option that affects all prisoners irrespective of the length of their stay in prison or nature of the crime they committed.
- (A) This statement can explain the fall in the number of new incarcerations, but it is not clear whether this will reduce the number drastically as this refers only to some states.
- (B) This does not explain the fall.
- (C) CORRECT. This can be the best reason for the drastic fall as it can affect all prisoners.
- (D) This can only increase the number of prisoners as war on drugs involves incarcerating people who commit drug related crimes. Choice (C)
11. The increase in central excise duty last year is attributed to increase in output. Which information weakens the argument? Any piece of information that can attribute the increase in excise duty to some other factor can be the answer.
- (A) Modernization of indirect tax structure is not relevant to central excise duty increase.
- (B) The effect of levying additional taxes on certain taxed items is likely to be marginal; hence it doesn't weaken the argument much.
- (C) Levying additional cess on private cars above 2500 cc is not likely to have much effect on the increase of central excise duty collection.
- (D) CORRECT. This information weakens the argument the most; if prices of petroleum products doubled, central excise duty collection which is based on the price of the product which, might have gone up due to cost-push inflation will increase considerably. Choice (D)
12. Though the number of prescriptions for antidepressants has risen dramatically since the 1990s, the number of people getting depressed in a year has not increased proportionately. What information helps explain the paradoxical situation here?
- (A) The information that the present antidepressants are cheap doesn't explain the paradoxical situation because the fact that a medicine is cheap doesn't force doctors to prescribe it.
- (B) This detail about a few cases of over prescription cannot explain the dramatic rise in prescription.
- (C) The safety of drugs cannot fully explain the dramatic increase in the prescription of antidepressants, though this could have some marginal effect.
- (D) CORRECT. If all people who have been prescribed stay longer on the drugs, the number of prescriptions will rise every year. Choice (D)
13. The Mayor of a city wants to declare certain crowded areas as pedestrian zones and to levy stiff congestion charges on vehicles entering those areas. She wants to provide better walking and public transport infrastructure, and clean up the air. Which step, if implemented, will give the greatest additional support to the claim? Imposing fines is intended to provide clean air to the residents, so any option that enhances the chance of making the air cleaner will provide support to the Mayor's aim.
- (A) CORRECT. The fact that the fine collected would be used to provide facilities for walkers and cyclists and emissions-free public transport infrastructure would contribute to making the air purer.
- (B) This choice doesn't give any support to the plan; it can only contribute to pollution.
- (C) This option can make it possible for the Mayor to realize the plan; it doesn't further support the Mayor's aim.
- (D) The passage concerns the Mayor's aim of making the city pollution-free; aesthetic features alone do not help realize this aim. Choice (A)
14. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Sons, who rose to the present position from an ordinary employee, could not jog beyond 100 metres when he attempted to do it for the first time. But 9 months later he completed his full marathon, and since then he has participated in many marathons the world over. What inference can be drawn from the information in the passage? The incident narrated shows that Chandrasekaran has the resolve to achieve what he wants, so it is logical to infer that this trait has something to do with his rising to the present position.
- (A) The passage doesn't establish any connection between his visits and the time of marathons.
- (B) CORRECT. The passage narrates the incident to highlight Chandrasekaran's most striking personality trait. This statement identifies that personality trait that he possesses – tenacity – which means persistence or drive.
- (C) The passage doesn't attribute physical fitness to his success.
- (D) This is not a valid inference as the passage gives no indication that his career was in jeopardy. Choice (B)
15. Forcing employers to raise minimum wages for workers is the most practical way of improving living standards for the working poor and reducing inequality. Which piece of information can weaken the argument that this step will improve living standards of workers and reduce inequality? The prediction is made on the basis that all existing workers will get the benefit. If an option points to the possibility of existing workers losing their jobs, that can weaken the prediction.
- (A) The employee turnover rate (the *rate* at which employees leave jobs in a company and are replaced by new hires) is not related to the argument.
- (B) This only suggests that the skilled workers were already earning wages close to the minimum wage, so this doesn't weaken the argument.
- (C) Since all of them would be paid minimum wage, this will not weaken the argument.
- (D) CORRECT. Since unskilled workers lost their jobs, and they were replaced by fewer workers who could complete the work done by more number of unskilled workers, the total number of employees came down. This information weakens the argument that the lot of the poor will improve. Choice (D)

Exercise – 5

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. Bits of non-edible wood were recovered from a 1.2-million-year-old tooth recovered from an excavation site. What information can be drawn from this information? The passage states that the bits were of non-edible wood, and that they were recovered from the groove at the bottom of the teeth. It is logical to establish a relationship between these two points, and infer that these bits were used to clean the teeth.
- (A) The fact that the bits were of non-edible wood negates this.
- (B) CORRECT. This is an inference that can be drawn from the passage. They must have used the bits to clean their teeth.
- (C) The passage makes no reference to taking care of the teeth, so this is irrelevant.
- (D) The passage gives no indication about the amount of food they consumed; hence this is not an apt inference. Choice (B)
2. The UK's market for high-protein products is rocketing and manufacturers have launched enhanced protein versions of popular health drinks. Supermarkets are also playing their

- part in enhancing the sale of such products. But people are already consuming more protein than they actually require. Even athletes can meet their protein requirement from what they eat - eggs, yoghurt and meat. What conclusion can be drawn from the information in the passage? The passage says that people don't require high-protein products, yet the market is expected to hit new heights. By adopting attractive marketing strategy manufacturers are duping people in general and athletes in particular. Clearly, consumers, particularly athletes, are falling victim to clever marketing.
- (A) 'Very low' is a vague expression. This cannot be concluded from the passage.
- (B) 'Misusing' refers to changing the real purpose for which something is intended. This cannot be an apt conclusion.
- (C) 'Misguiding' is too general a term to convey the essence of the passage. So this is not an apt conclusion.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage. Choice (D)
3. Sale of all popular brands of aerated drinks fell by 15 per cent during 2015-16. Analysts expect further dip in revenues of soft drink manufacturing companies next year. Which option, if true, would give the greatest additional support to the expectation of the analysts? Any piece of information leading to further dip in sales will be the answer.
- (A) This is a possible answer. But this trend can affect the sale of all commodities, and is not confined to aerated drinks alone.
- (B) CORRECT. This can add to dip in sales. An increase in the sale of health based drinks suggests that people prefer health drinks to soft drinks. This trend will affect sale of aerated drinks.
- (C) Sale of non aerated drinks not getting affected is irrelevant to the argument.
- (D) The argument doesn't concern sale targets fixed by companies. Choice (B)
4. Scientists say that gold was transferred from the old sediments to younger sediments by action of burrowing creatures, erosion and flooding. They have found gold in samples from termite mounds and acacia leaves. What inference can be drawn from this information? The passage states that samples collected from the surface have gold absorbed in them, and that gold came to the younger sediments by the action of burrowing creatures, erosion and flooding. One possible inference that can be made is that digging deep under gold-rich trees may lead to layers of gold.
- (A) CORRECT. It is a possible inference that digging deeper under gold-rich trees and mounds could lead to veins of gold.
- (B) The passage gives no indication that termite mounds and leaves from acacia can be "good" sources of gold.
- (C) 'Estimates of scientists' is outside the scope of the argument here.
- (D) This option is already stated in the passage, so it cannot be an inference. Choice (A)
5. In the US, fewer black and Asian engineering graduates find employment compared to white engineering graduates. It appears that there is a certain amount of stereotyping of who can be an engineer and what talent looks like. What assumption does the argument make? The analysis found fewer black and Asian engineering graduates find employment compared to white graduates. The argument concludes that there is some stereotyping of who can be an engineer and what talent looks like. It is reasonable to think that the argument is based on the assumption that employers think that a lot of black people and Asians lack talents to become good engineers, so they are not employed.
- (A) Since the argument does not refer to the percentage of minority students studying engineering courses, it cannot depend on an assumption about their proportions.
- (B) The argument is based on the percentage of black and Asian engineering graduates unemployed, and the reasons thereof, not shortage of engineers.
- (C) The argument doesn't say that they are reluctant to take up employment, so this option is irrelevant.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies the assumption that employers think that black people and Asians lack talents to be good engineers. This is the basis of stereotyping. Choice (D)
6. Dust pollution produced during the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001 in New York City caused babies in the area to be born prematurely and with low birth weight. What information can be drawn from this information? The passage states that there is some correlation between dust pollution and the birth of premature babies with low birth weight. One possible inference is that highly polluted cities may witness birth of premature babies.
- (A) The passage states that the cause of birth of premature babies is dust pollution caused by a terrorist attack, not terrorist attack itself. So this is not an inference.
- (B) This statement is conditional and vague.
- (C) CORRECT. This is an inference that can be drawn from the passage. On the basis of information provided in the passage, it can be inferred that cities like New Delhi, which are highly polluted, may witness birth of premature babies.
- (D) Since other causes of the birth of premature babies are not mentioned in the passage, this option is irrelevant. Choice (C)
7. Women suffer higher levels of work-related stress than men. If companies want to retain talented female staff, they should allow them to work from home wherever it is possible to do so. What is being assumed in this argument? When the argument states that in order to retain talented female employees, they should be allowed to work from home, it presupposes that working from home causes less tension.
- (A) The argument does not give any hint to suggest that companies and organizations are not interested in retaining their loyal and talented female staff.
- (B) This option appears like general rule; this has no relation to the conclusion.
- (C) The argument only states that women suffer higher levels of work related stress; it is illogical to assume that men do not suffer work related stress.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption underlying the argument. This has to be true for the conclusion to be true. Choice (D)
8. In the US, consumer prices in real terms have risen more than 50 percent over the last two decades, but clothing costs less today than it did 20 years ago. What information helps explain the paradoxical situation here? We should consider an option that can hint at a reduction in the cost of production considerably.
- (A) Though this can reduce cost of production to some extent, it applies only to garment factories in Los Angeles.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement explains the paradoxical situation. If the workers in this sector are paid less than the minimum wage prescribed, and the benefit passed on to consumers, prices can come down.
- (C) This cannot explain the paradox as just competing against low-cost hubs alone cannot bring down the price. This statement is quite vague.
- (D) This option is also not correct as selling garments at discount retailers cannot explain the reason for the fall in price. Choice (B)
9. Investors are worried that profitability from bank shares will erode as interest rates have been cut. But some advisors recommend buying the stocks of banks. Which option describes a consideration that would favour the advisors' recommendation? The correct option will be the one that points to chances of more profitability.
- (A) This option doesn't give any ground for good returns. It is a statement without any base.
- (B) This option disfavours the advisors' recommendation.

- (C) CORRECT. Higher demand for loans driven by government aid for interest will increase volume of business and profit.
- (D) This option is vague and without any substance.
Choice (C)
10. Statins, widely prescribed for lowering cholesterol can cause muscle pain, and persons who take statins and exercise are the most affected. Yet some scientists recommend that adults above 40 with any risk of cardiovascular disease should take them to lessen the risk of heart diseases. What information weakens the proposal made by the scientists? The assumption underlying the scientists' proposal is that statins are necessary to prevent heart diseases. If there is something else that can reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, it can weaken the validity of the proposal.
- (A) This is irrelevant to the proposal of the scientists as it doesn't concern the effectiveness of statins in reducing the risks of heart diseases.
- (B) CORRECT. If aerobic fitness is a better predictor of life span than cholesterol levels, taking statins is not necessary. Hence this option weakens the proposal.
- (C) This option concerns fitness of muscles and not effectiveness of statins, so this is irrelevant to the conclusion.
- (D) This is totally irrelevant to the argument as the argument is about the need for statins. Choice (B)
11. A stroke is a sudden disabling attack or loss of consciousness caused by an interruption in the flow of blood to the brain. Time is of paramount importance in helping a victim. If clot-busting drugs are swallowed too late, they can do more harm than good. Restoring blood flow three hours or so after the attack becomes damaging in itself.
- (A) CORRECT. In fact, doctors should be looking for means to **extend** the period during which clot-busting pills might help.
- (B) This statement *strengthens* what is said in the paragraph.
- (C) This statement is quite logical, and *supports* the contents of the paragraph.
- (D) This may or may not be appropriate as it does not talk about the effects of the drug.
Choice (A)
12. Betting a sum of money or playing games of chance for money is an addiction for many people. It's something like a mire from which it is hard to come out, be it the turf, poker, slot machines or anything of that sort. Very often, this is attributed to the 'risk' peculiarity of human psychology.
- (A) There is nothing in the passage which suggests that pathological gamblers have no time for their families.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies the assumption that a few are so pepped by *almost* winning that they are stimulated to carry on playing. It's a peculiarity of the human brain.
- (C) A flutter is a state of nervous excitement. Few think of giving up their habit in the face of fluctuations.
- (D) The information contained in the passage is insufficient to assume that gambling existed since the time of early man.
Choice (B)
13. In the human body, as sweat is generated, it also picks up a lot of information about how the body is behaving in the form of "biomarkers". If tiny traces of these substances can be measured, it should be **possible** to monitor an individual's health from his sweat. One of the best uses **could be** to monitor blood-sugar levels in diabetics. At present, such patients have to prick a finger regularly to obtain a drop of blood to calculate the amount of glucose in the blood. If sweat sensors can do the same job, there will be no more need for diabetics to prick the skin to obtain a blood sample.
- (A) It is a fact that human beings are born with up to 4 million sweat glands. There is no element of *possibility* in the statement.
- (B) This is again just a scientific truth.
- (C) The sentence tells of metabolism, unrelated to the *possibility* stated in the passage.
- (D) CORRECT. If tiny traces of "biomarkers" can be detected and measured, then it should be *possible* to monitor a person's health from his sweat, including monitoring blood-sugar levels in people with diabetes. If it happens (*possibility*), then diabetics can do away with the need to prick the skin to obtain a blood sample.
Choice (D)
14. Elephants in Africa have been interacting with humans and honeybees for millions of years. People and bees are more or less the only creatures an elephant is scared of. Recent studies show that elephants are able to recognise the languages of ethnic groups likely to be hostile to them, and of those which are not, and also that the pachyderms are able to warn one another about bees in a different way from the one they use to warn mutually about people. Thus, the zoologists arrived at the conclusion that elephants are shrewder than previously thought of.
- (A) This statement is factually correct, but is already stated.
- (B) This, again, merely states a fact; inappropriate for a conclusion.
- (C) CORRECT. A *pachyderm* is a very large mammal with thick skin, as the elephant. *Canny* is an adjective meaning shrewd (having good judgement). The studies apparently led the zoologists to believe that elephants are even cannier than previously thought.
- (D) The statement is irrelevant.
Choice (C)
15. Rapid advancements are being made in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Computers are being trained for various purposes. AI in medicine is bound to be a boon to man in the coming years. Increasingly, computers have begun to possess pattern-recognition skills that were long considered to be reserved for human beings.
- (A) The time isn't ripe to decide whether the skills possessed by computers are intricate or not. Development is a continuous process in the field.
- (B) CORRECT. Increasingly, computers possess the pattern-recognition skills. This was for decades thought to be the preserve of humans. Until a few years ago, man never imagined that a computer would be able to perform tasks such as identifying faces, interpreting pictures, listening to speech, etc.
- (C) We have traversed a long way since then. However, from the logical point of view, option (B) completes the argument in a better manner.
- (D) Not the prerogative of just computer wizards, but humans as a whole.
Choice (B)

Exercise – 6

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. Chinese insurance companies have introduced a novel 'love insurance policy'. Payouts are made only if they marry after 3 years or more. Insurance companies hope to make huge profits selling these policies. Which option, if true, would strengthen the expectation of the companies? The lock in period of the policy is 3 years, so there should be something special about this period.
- (A) Stabilizing of financial condition of the couples have no bearing on the profit of the companies.
- (B) This observation may be correct based on the passage, but it doesn't have any direct bearing on the profit. This factor may just influence the sale of policies.
- (C) CORRECT. If this is true, insurance companies can escape payouts, reaping huge profits.
- (D) This can only weaken the argument. If this is true, they will marry only after completing 3 years of love relation, necessitating payouts.
Choice (C)
2. Company executives, who watched the video of a man behaving rudely at a café, rated him as more likely to "get to make decisions" and "to get people to listen to what he says" than another group of executive who saw the man behaving politely. What conclusion can be drawn from the above information? Both the groups of executives that watched the

man behave had different opinions about his leadership qualities. The group that watched him behave rudely thought that people would listen to him. These executives knew the man's behaviour was rude, yet they thought he possessed leadership qualities. This means they took violating norms as a sign of power though in their profession they consider these violations rude.

- (A) This is a sweeping statement which cannot be a conclusion based on the passage.
- (B) CORRECT. This is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
- (C) The passage doesn't attempt to compare the behavior of two groups of people.
- (D) This option deviates from the main point; 'liked by people' is not supported by the passage.

Choice (B)

3. Today social media gives people mental satisfaction. They check on their timeline several times a day, and post snapshots of their outings. The social media is used for recording the ordinary things that people do, projecting their egotistic personality traits. What conclusion can be reached about people's use of social media today? The passage states that people use the social media to vent their narcissistic personality traits. Hence, it can be concluded that social media today is a platform for people to project their image.

- (A) The argument doesn't give any clue about any posts on social media destroying the purity of private lives.
- (B) 'Invisible' is used figuratively here. Although it seems likely, the passage doesn't lament people not making their appearance before others physically.
- (C) The passage doesn't give any clue that social media has contributed to the happiness of people who use it.
- (D) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.

Choice (D)

4. Neglected Tropical Diseases, or NTDs, are those infections which affect only the world's poorest populations. The affected people have low social status. These diseases are unlikely to be contained like HIV or Ebola. What condition must be true for the conclusion to be true? NTDs affect only the world's poorest population and these people have low social status. Since the argument concludes that NTDs are unlikely to be contained, it assumes that diseases affecting only the poor do not receive the same attention as those affecting people irrespective of their social status.

- (A) The argument doesn't attempt to compare the seriousness of NTDs to HIV and Ebola.
- (B) It cannot be assumed that inadequate funding causes the spread of the disease.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption that diseases affecting only the poor do not get proper funding. This makes the conclusion true.
- (D) The argument is concerned only with diseases affecting the poor not getting proper attention, and not with the scariness of any disease.

Choice (C)

5. A study shows that immunity of pregnant women can be affected by the gender of the baby. Women carrying female fetuses showed heightened inflammatory response. Inflammation is an important immune response involved in wound healing and responses to infections and chronic illnesses. What inference can be drawn from this information? The passage states that inflammation is an immune response to infections and chronic illnesses. One possible inference is that women carrying female fetuses can experience exacerbated symptoms of some medical conditions.

- (A) It cannot be inferred that women carrying female fetuses are more likely to abort than women carrying male fetuses because the passage doesn't say clearly whether infections will lead to abortion or not.
- (B) CORRECT. This is a logical inference. If inflammation is a critical part of the immune response involved in responses to chronic illnesses, conditions like asthma are likely to exacerbate.

- (C) This has no relevance to the argument; the argument is not concerned with the fatality of infection.
- (D) This is not an inference as this is already stated in the argument.

Choice (B)

6. The number of lifestyle diseases in the city has increased by 30 to 40 per cent in the last years. Doctors say that as people have moved further away from cities as they have become crowded, they spend a lot of time everyday in commuting up and down. They have no time for exercise. What can be done to bring down the number of lifestyle diseases in future? It can be inferred that time spent on commuting can be brought down and sufficient time can be devoted to exercise and relaxation if residences and offices are nearby.

- (A) CORRECT. This can be an effective measure to tackle the problem in future.

- (B) This option is irrelevant to devoting time for exercise and relaxation.

- (C) In the given situation, spreading message will not help if people do not have time for exercise.

- (D) This can help only those who are admitted in hospitals.

Choice (A)

7. Researchers found a different composition of intestinal bacteria in mice suffering from Alzheimer's disease. They argue that the bacteria in the gut may play a major role in the development of Alzheimer's disease. Which question is the most relevant to establishing the validity of the connection between the composition of intestinal bacteria and the development of AD? An affirmative answer to the question should establish the connection between the two.

- (A) This is not relevant to the connection between the composition of intestinal bacteria and the development of AD; it only helps trace the source of the bacteria.
- (B) General health is not the concern of the argument.
- (C) CORRECT. This has a bearing on the argument. An affirmative answer can reinforce the researchers' argument.

- (D) An answer to this is not relevant to the connection between the composition of intestinal bacteria and the development of AD.

Choice (C)

8. The action described in the passage refers to decision making by bees. So we have to look for an option that refers to decision making by a group. Option A and option D refer to decision making. The bees that approve of the new hive by wagging do so just because the scouts performed the waggle dance. We have to look for an option similar to this.

- (A) The action described in this option is prompted by the results (securing better facilities), hence this is not similar to the behaviour of bees.
- (B) This is inappropriate as the action is not prompted by any other action.
- (C) This mentions a behavioral trait of vultures; this is not similar to the action by the bees.
- (D) CORRECT. This identifies an action similar to the one by the bees.

Choice (D)

9. C. diff, a drug resistant bug, develops in a patient after he/she is given a course of antibiotics. The antibiotics wipe out protective microbes in the colon, allowing C. diff to flourish and produce the toxins that cause illness. What can be the best course of action to check C. diff infection? Since what causes the development of C. diff is the use of antibiotics the option chosen should relate to that.

- (A) CORRECT. This could reduce chances of C. diff development in humans.
- (B) Placebos have no medicinal properties, so this may not be an ideal option.
- (C) Nothing in the passage suggests that C. diff can be passed on from person to person, so this would have no effect.
- (D) Mere avoidance of hospitalization doesn't guarantee treatment using antibiotics, so this will not check C. diff infection.

Choice (A)

10. Headphones today can cancel ambient noise and enhance the sounds we are listening to. A little device in these

- headphones listens to such ambient sounds and produces the same wavelength of sound waves that cancel the ambient noise. It can be concluded that this technology is really fascinating. What additional information must be true for the conclusion to hold? We have to look for a piece of information that highlights the importance of cancellation of noise. If the noise can be eliminated or avoided by our own efforts, the new technology doesn't become very fascinating. So we have to look for some aspect beyond our control.
- (A) The argument is concerned with fascinating technology of headphones that cancels ambient noise; this statement undermines the conclusion by stating that certain sound waves become unbearable 'sometimes.'
- (B) CORRECT. This statement supports the claim that this is a fascinating technology because we have no control over the production of these sounds.
- (C) This is a general statement – a restatement of what is stated in the argument. Hence this does not support the conclusion.
- (D) This doesn't give any support to the conclusion; it is totally irrelevant. Choice (B)
11. Today people use Facebook for a variety of reasons. They use it to share thoughts with people who have the same ailments as they have, to register to vote, to donate to causes and to mark themselves safe after natural calamities. They even "go live" (broadcast when something is happening). What inference can be drawn from the given information? Since the passage states that Facebook today is used to perform a lot of services, it is logical to infer that it can become a utility or the state of being useful or beneficial.
- (A) The passage gives no information about the financial aspect of Facebook.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement properly identified an inference that can be drawn from the information given in the passage: Facebook is likely to become a utility in future.
- (C) This is not an inference since it is stated in the passage.
- (D) This statement is quite far-fetched; 'isolationism' is not indicated in the passage. Choice (B)
12. An article in a newspaper says that India's working age population is increasing, and in four years that will touch 87 crore. The article concludes that this will lead to a great advantage for the Indian economy. What condition must be true for the conclusion to be true? According to the article, working age population is increasing and that will touch 87 crore in 4 years. Since the argument concludes that working age population will contribute to the development of the economy, it assumes that they will be absorbed in the labour market.
- (A) The argument does not attempt to compare the skills of Indian workforce with those of workforce in other countries, so this option is irrelevant.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement identifies the assumption that the Indian workforce will be absorbed in the economic environment. This makes the conclusion true.
- (C) Creation of new jobs is not necessary for establishing the correctness of the conclusion.
- (D) 'World economic growth' is not relevant to the conclusion. Choice (B)
13. Founders of start-ups have a lot of issues to attend to, so they need not waste their time attending to some work which can be done by a person hired for a smaller amount than the money he would have made by attending to other pieces of work. It also spares the founders from making additional investments. What conclusion can be reached about start-ups hiring such people? The passage states that hiring others is better than the founder attempting to complete a piece of work, devoting a lot of his time. Thus, it can be logically concluded that for start-ups, outsourcing increases productivity besides saving costs.
- (A) Nothing in the passage suggests that hiring full-time employees is a waste of money; in fact, the passage is concerned only with the benefits of outsourcing compared to the founder doing the work himself.
- (B) This is totally irrelevant to the passage. The focus of the passage is on hiring.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
- (D) Nothing in the passage points to the efficacy of the work outsourced. Choice (C)
14. Scientists claim that they are just 2 years away from creating the now extinct woolly mammoth. They plan to programme mammoth traits into an Asian elephant and grow the animal in the womb of a female elephant. What assumption does the prediction of the scientists depend on? The scientists believe that the female Asian elephant will serve as a surrogate mother. So it is reasonable to think that the Asian elephant has something common between it and the woolly mammoth.
- (A) CORRECT. Without this, the scientists' claim would fail.
- (B) Just resembling, that too believed to resemble, makes the statement only a remote possibility; it cannot be an assumption.
- (C) The passage doesn't provide any information about the earlier attempts.
- (D) Mere look is no guarantee that the claim would succeed. Choice (A)
15. A large number of people in the UK carry a faulty gene that puts them at risk of a heart condition called ARVC. The progressive condition causes heart muscle to be replaced by fibrous tissue and fat. Due to this heart does not pump blood, resulting in the risk of cardiac arrest. What conclusion can be drawn from the information? The passage states that a large number of people carry a faulty gene that is responsible for this heart condition. So it can be concluded that there is a good chance of these gene getting transmitted to offspring.
- (A) No information about attempts to cure the condition is discussed in the passage.
- (B) Since ARVC is caused by the mutation of a gene, it is quite impossible that it is a new medical condition.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage. Since ARVC is caused by a gene that mutates, it can be concluded that such genes can be passed on from parent to children.
- (D) Although it is reasonable to think so, nothing in the passage gives a clue to this. Choice (C)

Exercise – 7

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. The passage argues that by encouraging people to switch to bicycles and by creating bike lanes by carving out portions of roads, pollution levels can be brought down and citizen can be provided with less polluted air. Encouraging cycling alone will not reduce pollution; vehicles also should not cause pollution. So any factor that forces vehicle to pollute the air can weaken the conclusion. We have to look for an option that doesn't force people to use vehicles.
- (A) This clearly weakens the argument: making the roads narrower and increasing the number of cycles on the road will congest the roads, making pollution worse.
- (B) CORRECT. This will have no bearing on the pollution situation; the passage doesn't make any reference to attempts made to entice people to use bicycles.
- (C) This also weakens the argument because if cars remain stationary on roads, the fumes from running engines can cause pollution.
- (D) If cyclists stay outdoors for long, they will be exposed to more pollution. Choice (B)
2. Under the present rules, sale of ivory objects made after 1947 is banned in Britain. But now the government proposes to ban the sale of all ivory objects, including antiques. The government feels that this is necessary to prevent traders from forging antiques, an activity that can incite poaching of elephants. Some feel that this move will lead to destruction of antiques by traders who fear punishment, but some art lovers feel this fear is unfounded. Which of the options would strengthen some art lovers' argument?

Some people are afraid that the ban will lead to the destruction of antiques by traders who fear punishment on grounds that they will be charged with forging antiques. If we have a system to determine the age of the antique, their fear is unfounded. Such an option can strengthen the art lovers' opinion.

- (A) Ban on killing of elephants is not directly related to destruction of antiques by traders.
 - (B) This option is also not related to the destruction of antiques.
 - (C) The fact that many people cannot afford ivory products has no relevance to the argument.
 - (D) CORRECT. This shows that the age of the antique can be correctly determined. If this is possible, the fear that traders will destroy antiques is quite unfounded.
Choice (D)
3. Air pollution is a leading risk factor for deaths. The World Bank estimates that these deaths cost the world economy USD 225 million in related lost labour incomes. What is being assumed in the World Bank's estimate? The argument states that the loss due to such deaths is USD 225 billion a year in labour income. This presupposes that work environment is a cause of these deaths.
- (A) The argument doesn't say that those who died due to air pollution exposure are young.
 - (B) CORRECT. This is an assumption that underlies the argument; if this is not true, such huge labour income loss would not have happened.
 - (C) This concerns providing health care which is not related to the argument.
 - (D) This cannot be an assumption as it is stated in the argument.
Choice (B)
4. The majority of Americans have no idea what "Use By", "Best if Used By" etc mean. These dates are set by the manufacturers. People don't use the products after the "use by" date printed on the label. This leads to food wastage, when these products are totally fit to be used even well after the dates printed on the label. Which option, if true, would most strengthen the argument? The argument says these dates are set by the manufacturers, and it concludes that these products are totally fine to be eaten after the so-called expiration dates. If there is an option that points to the quality of the products not getting affected even after the dates printed, that can strengthen the argument.
- (A) Financial loss to Americans is irrelevant to the safety of the product for consumption.
 - (B) The total cost of food thrown away is also not relevant to the safety of the food items for eating.
 - (C) Consumers not reading the label can only weaken the argument. In that case, they will not discard the item.
 - (D) CORRECT. If these labels are only subjective guesses of when the product should be consumed for peak flavor, it should not be discarded after the so called 'expiry date' is crossed. This strengthens the argument.
Choice (D)
5. Emotional intelligence is a key differentiator between star performers and the rest of the pack. Yet, many do not attempt to acquire this skill. The writer has never heard anyone wanting to work on his emotional intelligence. But she has often heard from people that their colleagues need to work on their emotional intelligence. What conclusion can be reached about the attitude of people towards emotional intelligence? The passage states that none wants to work on emotional intelligence, but often people say their colleagues badly need to work on it. Thus, those who need to develop emotional intelligence don't realize it.
- (A) This is a sweeping statement; it cannot be generalized that all executives lack emotional intelligence today.
 - (B) This is negated by the last sentence of the passage.
 - (C) CORRECT. This conclusion can be drawn from the passage. Those who really need to develop emotional intelligence don't realize their requirement; only others point it out.

- (D) The fact that those who are in need of emotional intelligence lack awareness of it doesn't mean that self-awareness is the hallmark of emotional intelligence.
Choice (C)

6. Biologists have succeeded in growing human cells in pig embryos to develop human organs for transplant. Stem cells, generated from a patient's skin, are used to grow the desired organ in a pig. These organs will be harvested for transplant into the patient's body. What point can provide the best support for the success of the plan mentioned above? The option chosen should give the strongest indication that this type of transplant will succeed.
- (A) Having a huge demand for organs does not strengthen the chances of success of the plan.
 - (B) This will have no bearing on the success of transplant.
 - (C) CORRECT. If there is practically no risk of immune rejection, the transplant will be a success.
 - (D) Mere availability of funds does not contribute to the success of the plan.
Choice (C)
7. Based on the dispatches it made to its dealers, an automaker claims that its market share has hit an all time high. Which option, if true, would most seriously weaken the automaker's claim? If the stock with the dealers remains unsold, the claim that the automaker's cars have the largest market share can be disproved.
- (A) Since this is a practice followed by all car makers, it doesn't weaken this particular car maker's claim.
 - (B) Some dealers executing orders placed in December in January can only strengthen the claim to some extent.
 - (C) This can apply to all car makers; hence this too doesn't weaken the automaker's claim.
 - (D) CORRECT. This information weakens the automaker's claim since inventory holding indicates stocks that remain unsold.
Choice (D)
8. It is unwise on the part of Y to think that she can hold on to power and popularity by swinging to the right and trying to outsmart UKIP. This was the same mistake committed by X. What inference can be drawn from this information? Since the passage states that Y is committing the same mistake her predecessor had committed, it can be inferred that she will have the same fate as X.
- (A) The passage gives no clue that her efforts to outmanoeuvre UKIP will not succeed.
 - (B) The passage doesn't give any hint about the fate of UKIP; it is concerned only about the fate of Y.
 - (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies an inference. Y may not get another term, given the fate of X.
 - (D) The focus of the passage is not on UK's exit from the European Union.
Choice (C)
9. Ideas expressed in the US media are echoed in India media. Indian media developing such bias is not smart journalism. This is especially true in the context of Trump's order of temporarily banning US travel by citizens from seven countries. In order to understand Trump and his actions, Indian media has to observe neutrality. Which of the following questions would NOT be relevant for an Indian journalist in adopting a neutral stand? Since the focus of the passage is on the importance of adopting a neutral stand with regard to Trump in the context of his banning US travel to citizens from seven countries, the option chosen should have the least relevance to that.
- (A) Ascertaining whether Trump was the only US President to impose a ban is relevant to holding a neutral opinion.
 - (B) This information also helps in adopting a neutral perspective. It helps the journalist in deciding whether America is the only country adopting such an attitude to travelers.
 - (C) This hypothetical situation is also worth considering for an Indian journalist to adopt a neutral perspective. If India had benefited from such a ban, Indian journalists would have welcomed it instead of criticizing the ban.
 - (D) CORRECT. This option has no relevance to the issue of Trump's banning US travel by citizens of seven countries.
Choice (D)

10. A group of researchers studied two preschool classes and found that some children started acquiring certain positive personality traits of their playmates. What conclusion can be reached about the development of personality traits of children? The passage states that some children easily changed their personality traits under the influence of their peers. That means personality traits are not deep-rooted in them.
- (A) This statement is rather sweeping. The passage doesn't completely rule out the role of genes in developing a child's personality.
- (B) CORRECT. This is a proper conclusion that can be drawn from the passage – a child's personality can be influenced because it is not ingrained in them.
- (C) This is a vague prediction about a possibility that can happen over time. 'Over time' refers to gradual change that takes place in course of time. The modal 'can' suggests possibility.
- (D) This is irrelevant because of the phrase 'than people think' which finds no support in the passage.
Choice (B)
11. The court did not accept the claim by a woman that she was married to a man because he had put sindoor on her forehead and tied a mangasutra around her neck. The court ruled that neither the community nor her relatives and friends were aware of their married relationship. What conclusion can be drawn from this passage? The passage states that the community, friends or relatives were not aware of the marriage, so their knowledge of the marriage is a must for accepting the marriage.
- (A) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage. Unless people are aware that the couple is married, that marriage is not considered a marriage.
- (B) Society approving of or disapproving of the relationship is not relevant to recognizing a marriage as marriage.
- (C) Applying sindoor and tying mangalsutra are illustrations of certain rituals; it cannot be concluded that they are not proof of a marriage.
- (D) Nothing in the passage suggests that the nuptial knot should be tied in the presence of relatives and friends.
Choice (A)
12. IT companies have been sending labour to countries such as the US for a long time. They claim that they do so because there is a shortage of skilled workers in the US. What point can weaken the argument made by the IT companies? The option chosen should mention some other reason for the US having to get skilled workers other than shortage of skilled workers there.
- (A) CORRECT. This statement weakens the claim. The companies are resorting to the practice of sending low paid workers to on-site projects in nations where labour is costly.
- (B) The argument is about generating revenue from on-site projects, not about ease of exporting labour.
- (C) This statement is irrelevant to the argument.
- (D) The argument is not about why IT companies have to generate revenue from on-site projects.
Choice (A)
13. Kiran Karnik in the book Crooked Minds, a book on innovation, gives the example of a crooked innovative mind. The passage says Karnik looks at crooked in the geometric sense – it is a deviation from the straight mode. What conclusion can be reached about innovation from the information? Since the passage states that Karnik looks at crooked in a geometric sense – a thought process that deviates from the straight and conventional mode – we can conclude that innovation is doing things differently.
- (A) Nothing in the passage justifies the conclusion that innovation is restricted to crooked minds alone.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement properly identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage. 'Deviating from the straight mode' indicates doing something differently.
- (C) No information about the possibility of innovation taking different forms is provided in the passage.
- (D) Although it is reasonable to think so, no clue is given in the passage about finding solutions to problems.
Choice (B)
14. In order to bring down the loss suffered on account of loss of power during transmission and distribution, a power project plans to invest in modernizing its transmission and distribution network. Which point does NOT contribute to the success of the plan? There could be many circumstances that can contribute to the success of the plan. Certain other circumstances can have no impact on the success of the plan or can adversely affect the prospects of success. The right answer will be one such condition.
- (A) This option is ideal for the success of the plan. If this doesn't happen, the plan will surely fail.
- (B) This condition will also ensure that revenue will not come down on account of low production.
- (C) CORRECT. This situation can prove detrimental to the survival of traditional power projects.
- (D) This is also a basic requirement for the success of the plan.
Choice (C)
15. The passage begins by mentioning what causes cannibalism among animals, and says that even modern humans have been driven to such behaviour on some occasions. The passage then lists the circumstances evolving now, which can lead to human cannibalism in the future. The concluding sentence acts a warning signal; it says 'remember that human cannibalism, so unthinkable now,' What option can best complete the concluding sentence? The tone of the concluding sentence can be your clue: it is a warning.
- (A) You don't remember something that may come in future.
- (B) CORRECT. This completes the sentence in the most logical way. You remember something that existed in the past.
- (C) This is a general statement that cannot fit in the context.
- (D) This too is a general statement not fully relevant to the context.
Choice (B)

Exercise – 8

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. A research points out that subtle changes in speech style occur in an Alzheimer's patient years before the symptoms start manifesting. Now scientists are of the opinion that it is possible to predict whether someone is at risk of developing the disease a decade in advance with the help of family members who can notice the differences. What is being assumed in this argument? The argument states that family members who notice the differences can help predict if someone is at risk of the diseases. This presupposes that the patients are unable to notice the changes themselves.
- (A) Incubation period is the period between exposure to an infection and the appearance of the first symptoms. This has no relevance to Alzheimer's.
- (B) The passage makes no reference to preventing or delaying Alzheimer's.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement is an assumption underlying the argument.
- (D) This contradicts the passage.
Choice (C)
2. A Japanese brand has designed a washing machine with a "curry" button. These machines are expected to be quite muscular to handle the tough stains caused by Indian gravies. Indians are known for putting washing machines for unconventional uses like lassi and butter making. What inference can be drawn from this information? The passage states that these machines are muscular and Indians have an inclination to use washing machines for unconventional uses. One possible inference is that these muscular machines will inspire some innovative uses of washing machines.

- (A) The passage gives no indication that Indian home makers are a harried lot.
- (B) CORRECT. This statement is an inference that can be drawn from the given information.
- (C) The passage states that these machines have been made muscular to remove the stains, so this cannot be an inference.
- (D) The passage gives no information about the washing machines sold in other countries. Choice (B)
3. Based on the analysis of DNA from microbes and food debris preserved in the dental tartar of Neanderthals, researchers conclude that Neanderthals from El Sidrón were vegetarian. What would be most important in establishing the truth of the conclusion? The conclusion is based on analysis of microbes and food debris preserved in the dental tartar of two Neanderthals. In this case, it is logical to ask whether the dental tartar preserved all the components of a Neanderthal's diet. If it did not, the conclusion will be wrong.
- (A) It is absurd to ask whether all Neanderthals from El Sidrón were covered in the study.
- (B) CORRECT. The statement identifies an issue that is important in establishing the correctness of the study. If the dental tartar did not preserve all components of the diet, the conclusion would be incorrect.
- (C) In this case, material from the animal would also be present.
- (D) Corroborating by other studies is not relevant to the correctness of the conclusion. Choice (B)
4. A group of doctors believe that the neurological disease, Multiple sclerosis MS, is triggered by a build-up of iron in veins from the brain and spinal cord, and recommend an invasive treatment, which carries risk as well as financial cost, to reduce the progression of the disease. But many in the medical community oppose it. What evidence supports the opponents of this therapy? The therapy is based on the assumption that narrowing of veins in MS patients is caused by the build-up of iron in the veins. If there is evidence that narrowing of veins is seen even in people without MS, there is no rationale behind performing the invasive treatment to reduce the progression of the disease.
- (A) This is applicable only in the case of confirmed MS patients. Here, the argument is that narrowing of veins in MS patients is caused by a build-up of iron.
- (B) The number of patients is irrelevant to the argument; the argument concerns a type of therapy.
- (C) Financial soundness of the patients has nothing to do with the effectiveness of the treatment.
- (D) CORRECT. This is evidence to oppose the therapy. If narrowing of veins is common in people without MS, it is meaningless to perform an invasive therapy. Choice (D)
5. First, the minister of Scotland wants to hold a referendum on whether the people want to leave the UK. The British Prime Minister has condemned the referendum call. But Sturgeon says that she was elected on a clear manifesto commitment to hold the referendum. Which of the information would be most important in evaluating the dispute regarding Sturgeon's right to hold the referendum and May's right to block it? While evaluating the argument, pay attention to Sturgeon's contention that she has the right to hold the referendum since she was elected on a clear manifesto commitment to hold the referendum. This vindicates her stand. It would be pertinent to see whether the British PM was elected on any such manifesto commitment.
- (A) Having similar views doesn't lead to any dispute.
- (B) This goes against the argument.
- (C) CORRECT. This information identifies the piece of information that is important in evaluating the dispute.
- (D) Conducting a referendum in the past is irrelevant to the right to conduct one now. Choice (C)
6. According to a newspaper, if you are born in Kolkata, you are either an East Bengal or a Mohaun Bagan fan, and you go to their matches and support them. What conclusion can be drawn from the above? The passage stresses the prominence of the two football clubs and asserts that anyone born in Kolkata will be a fan of either of the two clubs. Hence it can be concluded that football is in the blood of every Kolkata citizen and he/she will support one of these clubs.
- (A) This is a partial conclusion as it leaves out the position of East Bengal and Mohaun Bagan in their lives.
- (B) 'Equal number of fans' is beyond the argument.
- (C) CORRECT. This statement identifies a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage.
- (D) The passage gives no information about the 'enmity' between the two clubs. Choice (C)
7. Many countries are interested in lunar mining for Helium-3, which is a safe and clean fuel for power generation. The moon has enough Helium-3 to power the earth for thousands of years. Which information, out of the four pieces given in the options, would not be much useful while considering commercial exploitation of this lunar resource? We have to look for an option that may not hamper mining on the moon much.
- (A) Overcoming challenges to mining operations is a relevant point to be considered.
- (B) Economic viability is also a point to be considered.
- (C) If restrictions are imposed by the UN Outer Agency on mining on the moon, mining cannot take place, so this question is also relevant.
- (D) CORRECT. The answer to this question is least relevant since this is a situation that would happen only when many countries undertake mining on the moon. Again, this is not directly related to the success of mining. Choice (D)
8. The government intends to bring down the import of crude oil by encouraging the use of biofuels. Hence, the bioethanol industry in India is all set to see huge investments in the next few years. Which information can undermine the possibility of huge investments in this sector? We have to look for a situation where investments in the sector will result in loss for the investors.
- (A) Since viability gap funding is granted it can encourage investments.
- (B) This is also a favourable condition for investment.
- (C) This will ensure marketing of biofuel, hence it also encourages investment.
- (D) CORRECT. Biofuel production will be seriously affected if crops are damaged by locust attack. Hence this statement identifies information that is not favourable for investing in biofuel industry. Choice (D)
9. Over the last two decades, journalists have been relying on opinion polls to gauge the mood of the people during elections, rather than depending on field reporting. Now media houses give primacy to pre-poll and post-poll surveys. Why do media houses do this? The passage states that the intention of the journalists is to gauge the mood of the people. Which option can complete the passage? Clearly, the option should refer to the mood of the people.
- (A) CORRECT. This option identifies a phrase that can substitute the 'to gauge the mood of the people.'
- (B) This is rather vague; to get what numbers correct is not clear.
- (C) Predicting the future of a party is too narrow an aim.
- (D) No 'conundrum' is referred to in the passage; hence this is totally irrelevant to the passage. Choice (A)
10. The nose conditions the air that we breathe to ensure that it is warm and moist when it reaches the lungs. It also is one of our distinctive features. A recent research has shown that people whose ancestors lived in hot, humid places tend to have wider nostrils than those whose ancestors came from cold and dry environments. What conclusion can be drawn from this information? People whose ancestors lived in hot,

- humid places have wider nostrils and those whose ancestors lived in cold and dry environments have narrow nostrils. The size of the nose depends on where our ancestors lived. That means climatic conditions under which our ancestors lived are responsible for the shape our nose.
- (A) This conclusion is unwarranted because the passage gives no information about our nose adjusting to different climatic conditions.
- (B) The passage gives no information about the manifold functions of the nose.
- (C) This is totally irrelevant to the passage. It is absurd to conclude that a person's nose can change its size and shape depending on the climatic conditions of the place he lives in.
- (D) CORRECT. This conclusion is supported by the passage: the size and shape of the nose is evolved in response to local climatic conditions, i.e. where our ancestors lived. Choice (D)
11. Employment insecurity, harassment at work, and pressure to quit are some issues women have to deal with during pregnancy or maternity leave. Going soft on women, the Indian parliament passed the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill 2016, expected to benefit at least 1.8 million women, and put India on the global map as a progressive state.
- (A) The option supports the observation in the passage. World over, working mothers have been treated with bias due to the set pattern of perceiving women as primary caretakers of the family.
- (B) This also supports the views expressed in the passage.
- (C) CORRECT. To *disenfranchise* is to deprive of a privilege or right. If this sentence is to *support* the observation in the passage, it **should have been**: "Disenfranchising skilled, hard-working women because of fears about their maternity period is NOT in the best interests of the nation."
- (D) Supports the observation. Choice (C)
12. All fundamentalists, whether secular or religious, take the complex realities of life and language, and reduce them to a few parameters. Today, militant fundamentalism is rampant, with simultaneous efforts to defuse it. People are offering alternate messages to the fundamentalists, which don't appear to have any effect. With a touch of pessimism, the liberals and *decent* conservatives exclaim that *nothing seems to make a difference*. And then we read that no religion or ethnic group professes evil. The essence of every religion is good; but, sadly, many of us fail to **imbibe** that essence.
- (A) As discussed, no religion is bad. What is needed is imbibing the scriptures.
- (B) CORRECT. This is sheer negativism that contradicts the conclusion. It's NOT a state of hopelessness that prevails.
- (C) Be it a religious, cultural or political text, imbibing its essence is important.
- (D) Imbibing the good values of one's doctrine acts as an antidote to fundamentalism. Choice (B)
13. Traffic on the Indian roads is increasing at an alarming rate. A roadmap for effective traffic management is the need of the hour.
- (A) This cannot be considered as a flaw. The recent advancements in transportation network are metro rail and mono rail networks, and air-conditioned buses.
- (B) Providing information about self driving vehicles would not improve the argument.
- (C) It is not essential that every discussion about a problem has to be wound up with a solution.
- (D) CORRECT. At least some rough data pertaining to *the* number of vehicles on Indian roads would have made the discussion more realistic and meaningful. India does have a very large number of vehicles on the road. But a country like Japan has even more vehicles per capita. Choice (D)
14. Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a habitat. Water and biodiversity are interdependent. Vegetation and soil drive the movement of water. In the process, we get pure drinking water.
- (A) CORRECT. The hydrological cycle decides how biodiversity functions. Vegetation and soil drive the movement of water. The water that we get, on passing through various ecosystems, is cleansed. In fact, biodiversity sustains nature's ability to recycle water.
- (B) It is not possible to infer that living organisms could not have come into existence in the absence of the hydrological cycle.
- (C) This too cannot be inferred from the passage.
- (D) The passage says that water and biodiversity are inter-dependent. Choice (A)
15. The passage says that if climate adaptation is to be rendered effective, policies need to be designed in the context of other development concerns.
- (A) The comparison, as stated, cannot be inferred from the passage.
- (B) There is nothing in the paragraph which suggests this.
- (C) CORRECT. As rightly said, climate adaptation should be examined alongside **other** economic development options. This would be a pragmatic approach to the issue.
- (D) This is not necessarily true according to the passage. Choice (C)