

## Exercise – 1

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

When Kingsley Amis won the Booker prize for *The Old Devils* in 1986, he said that he had previously thought of the Booker as a rather trivial, showbizzy sort of caper, but now considered it a very serious, reliable indication of literary merit. It was a joke, evidently. Indeed, when he said it during his acceptance speech he grinned from ear to ear, just to make it crystal clear that he was being ironic. But in a BBC round-up of the events of the year, the presenter said that Amis had won the distinguished literary prize in spite of having previously disparaged it. This was portrayed as a brilliant bit of sleuthing on the presenter's part, as if his own dogged research had exposed Amis's ghastly hypocrisy. In his memoirs, Amis concludes this anecdote by issuing a warning to writers that they should never make a joke against themselves that \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) their enemies can twist.
- (B) can be quoted out of context.
- (C) others may not understand.
- (D) can be quoted against the speaker.

2. According to a recent survey, TV households in Wonderland increased from 153 million in 2015 to 183 million in 2016, registering an increase of 19 percent over the previous year. But the number of TV individuals increased only by 10 percent from 700 million to 770 million during the same period.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent paradox?

- (A) Many families purchased a second TV.
- (B) There was a drastic increase in the number of nuclear families of newlyweds during this period.
- (C) Affluent families purchased other consumer items instead of a second TV.
- (D) People of Wonderland have the unique habit of the entire family sitting together to watch the TV.

3. The editorial of a newspaper says: As the name suggests, the role of the Central Board of Film Certification is to certify films. We only need certification to guide people to avoid wrong choices for juvenile audiences. Hence, it was wrong to deny certification to the two films, *Lipstick Under my Burkha* and *Ka Bodyscapes*.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Ka Bodyscapes* can be viewed by both adults and children.
- (B) The Central Board of Film Certification is not mandated to deny certification to films.
- (C) *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Ka Bodyscapes* are fit to be viewed by adults.
- (D) *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Ka Bodyscapes* were not intended to be children's films.

4. The government of India implemented a massive national level debt waiver of ₹1,50,000 crore to farmers in a financial year following reports of farmer suicides allegedly caused by indebtedness. The government expected that the move will improve the economic situation and the repayment behaviour of the farmers, but the waiver had no impact on the farmers.

All of the following can be the basis for farmers' economic situation not improving, EXCEPT:

- (A) A number of wavier beneficiaries were denied access to bank loans during a window of four years after the waiver.
- (B) Drought conditions prevailed in India for two consecutive years after the waiver.
- (C) Tax payers continued to cough up significant sum of money in the name of the poor.
- (D) There was a strategic behaviour change in the farmers as they started expecting future waivers.

5. A new research on mice showed that omega-3 fatty acids (OFAs) found in salmon and herring can both prevent and treat the inflammation and oxidative stress caused by air pollution, with the OFAs delivering a 30-50% reduction in harm. The research also shows that air pollution particles can penetrate through the lungs of lab animals into many major organs, including the brain, liver, kidneys and spleen. Hence, in this age of increasing pollution, fish containing OFAs should be included in our daily diet.

Which of the following questions is the most relevant to the proposal of including fish containing OFAs in our daily diet?

- (A) Is there any other source of OFAs, other than fish?
- (B) What are the differences in pollution responses in mice and humans?
- (C) Can some other solution for reducing the disease burden of air pollution be tried?
- (D) Is the fish we get free of harmful mercury and other pollutants?

6. The findings of the National Family Health Survey bring good news: infant mortality has fallen, the sex ratio has improved and vaccine coverage has spread. It also brings bad news: non-communicable diseases are gaining ground – the incidence of diabetes is 20% and that of hypertension, 22.2%. These chronic diseases increase the possibility of infectious diseases. That at least one-fifth of the population suffers from chronic diseases make them vulnerable to life-threatening infectious diseases.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) Non-communicable diseases are more dangerous than communicable diseases.
- (B) Unless non-communicable diseases are tackled, the general health of the nation will not improve.
- (C) Higher levels of investment are required in the health sector.
- (D) The nation's productivity cannot improve unless chronic diseases are controlled.

7. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

William Boyd in his 1998 novel, *Armadillo*, created an antonym for serendipity. He called it zemblanity. If serendipity implies pleasant discoveries by chance, zemblanity is "the faculty of making unhappy, unlucky and expected discoveries by design."

The novel revolves around these twin poles of serendipity and zemblanity, bringing out our daily life that oscillates between \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) comfort at home and drudgery outside
- (B) sanguine optimism and pallid pessimism
- (C) utopian dreams and a dystopian reality
- (D) understatement and hyperbole

8. Between 2004 and 2014, India's skilled working age population increased by 14 crore. The economy, however, added only 4 crore new jobs. The skilled working-age population has been rising rapidly over the last few years, and is likely to register an increase of 25 crore by 2026.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage above?

- (A) Providing employment to the skilled working-age population is critical for increased per capita GDP.
- (B) Large scale government initiatives for job creation are the only possible solutions for unemployment.
- (C) Unless large scale employment is created, India's demographic dividend can transmute into a demographic disaster.
- (D) Exporting labour to geographies with declining populations should be tried as a plank for employment.

9. One UK scientist has said that attractiveness of food is a temptation to ingest more calories. Brightly packed fast-food and processed snacks on super market shelves lure customers into buying them. The scientist advocates plain-paper wrapping to discourage the impulse of buying and consumption of fatty and sugary foods. He believes that this step will check the increase in the fast growing number of obese people in the UK.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Dopamine, the hormone that makes people feel good when they eat, cannot be controlled.
- (B) People engage in impulsive buying when they find attractive packets placed on the shelves at eye level.
- (C) Another study reveals that no-frill style of traditional home cooking has not promoted healthy apportioning of food.
- (D) Bewitching garnishes and foams have been traditionally used to present food to guests.

10. With the retail prices of coronary stent prices often being as high as 300 to 1,200% of their landed price, the government has notified metal, drug eluting, and bio-degradable stents as Schedule 1 drugs, bringing them under price control, and cutting their prices by up to 85 per cent. In the healthcare sector, government intervention is preferable to leaving pricing to market competition, and this step will surely help heart patients seeking stent implant save a lot of money.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument above?

- (A) Hospitals resort to practices like bypass surgery to make money.

- (B) Cardiac patients seldom have enough information and adequate time to compare stents and purchase a cheap but effective one.

- (C) Patients do not mind incurring heavy costs if the quality of treatment is good.

- (D) Price-caps drive away state-of-the-art technology developed with considerable R & D spending-from the market.

11. India has become the biggest test of Amazon's international ambitions. Its opponents are platforms like Flipkart and Snapdeal, founded by Indians and funded by some of the biggest names in tech, among them Alibaba, China's e-commerce champion. As these companies jostle for market share, they are spending feverishly on logistics and discounts to lure consumers online.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the passage?

- (A) Any developing country is a good template for the e-commerce battle in other emerging markets.
- (B) India's logistical woes provide a test of firms' ingenuity because if they find a way to deliver goods profitably at every part of the country, they may succeed elsewhere.
- (C) No battle for the online shopping future of India is more intense than the one now being waged in e-commerce.
- (D) Shopping malls and chain stores account for a small fraction of the total retail sales.

12. In order to carve out a niche for yourself, you have to first decide on the paraphernalia of action which comprises a determined approach and the requisite efforts among other things. In other words, you concentrate all your time and energy to look for the ways that your goal calls for. You get so involved mentally that your mind allows nothing except the thought of efforts you have to make to achieve your goal and probable difficulties that may crop up *en route* to the accomplishment of your task. Actually, your goal turns into your dream and this dream encourages you to march in a definite direction in a stepwise manner. Without making your goal your dream, you cannot think of changing all your negativity into positivity. The positivity of thought leads you on a way of fulfilment and joy. You are able to ignore the obstacles or do away with them only when you have the will to march on the path to success.

All of the following, if true, provide some support for the argument above EXCEPT:

- (A) Struggle is essential to realise dreams.
- (B) Great minds have wishes; little minds have purposes.
- (C) Dispelling all doubts from the mind is fundamental to success.
- (D) All men of action are dreamers.

13. Of late, we have been witnessing a dangerous dwindling of biodiversity in our food supply. The green revolution is a mixed blessing. Over time, farmers have come to rely heavily on broadly adapted, high-yield crops to the exclusion of varieties adapted to the local conditions. Mono-cropping vast fields with the same genetically uniform seeds helps boost yield and meet immediate hunger needs. Yet high-yield varieties are also genetically weaker crops that

require expensive chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. In our focus on increasing the amount of food we produce today, we have accidentally put ourselves at risk for food shortages in future.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) It would be ludicrous to squarely blame farmers for the dangerous dwindling of biodiversity being witnessed in our food supply.
- (B) Mono-cropping vast areas with high-yield varieties of crops will be a long-term solution to the needs of the country.
- (C) In our desperate efforts to enhance food production, we end up using costly chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides.
- (D) The green revolution can turn out to be a threat to biodiversity in food supply and food security in the long run.

14. In the absence of transparency and competition, crony capitalism is harmful to free enterprise, opportunity and economic growth. Crony capitalism, where the rich and influential are alleged to have received land and natural resources and various licences in return for payoffs to venal politicians, is now a major issue to be tackled. One of the greatest dangers to growth of developing economies like India is the middle-income trap where crony capitalism creates oligarchies that slow down growth.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information contained in the passage?

- (A) Punishing venal politicians and promoting equitable growth is the need of the hour.
- (B) Manufacturing must increase rapidly to reduce the pressure of population on agricultural lands.

- (C) Ensuring better transparency in the functioning of the government and boosting financial inclusion is the need of the hour.
- (D) Manufacturing must increase rapidly to create jobs for the one million-plus additions to the workforce every month.

15. Mobile wallets in India have become synonymous with cashless transactions. Although a number of mobile wallets were launched or were already in use in many areas prior to November 8, 2016, a lot has drastically changed for the companies post that fateful event called demonetisation. Mobile wallet, a digital equivalent to the physical wallet, is an online tool enabling users to keep money just like in a bank account. Some of the popular mobile wallet providers are Paytm, MobiKwik, Citrus, Oxigen, Free charge and Itzcash. Despite these wallets being around for quite some time, only a fraction of the 900 million phone users in India have been using them. However, the crackdown on legal tender of ₹500 and ₹1000 by the government was a godsend for mobile wallet companies.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest grounds for the argument that we might be moving to a largely cashless society?

- (A) Banks are currently exploring 'over the air' customer consent instead of requiring customers to visit the bank branch or ATM, as is required now.
- (B) In the past few days, the sheer convenience of just one's thumb to make payments was confirmed by a whopping 50 million Indians.
- (C) The central government's decision to ban high-value notes on November 8, 2016 had little impact on mobile wallets.
- (D) As banks are slowly raising charges on cash transactions, it is imminent that plastic currency will be the future.

## Exercise – 2

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. In a soon-to-be released TV documentary, a British Parliamentarian has contended that many of his 804 fellow members of the House of Lords collect their daily allowance but contribute practically nothing to the proceedings. And yet another has pronounced it to be the "the best daycare centre for the elderly in London", complete with snoozing areas and subsidized food. But in India, while the issue of subsidized food in Parliament has periodically caused heartburn in some quarters, the members of the Rajya Sabha are more enthusiastic than their British counterparts: they always keep their eyes open.

Which of the following best explains the behaviour of the Indian parliamentarians?

- (A) Members of the Indian Parliament often walk out.
- (B) There is live TV coverage of the Parliament proceedings in India.
- (C) Debates on 'live topics' conducted outside the House often give them more individual TV time to vent her views.
- (D) India has a bicameral system of democracy.

2. In a forest, a herd of wild goats normally moves only as fast as the slowest goat while the herd is grazing. But when the herd is hunted by predators it is the

slowest and the weakest ones at the back that are killed first. Though the weakest members are killed, the herd is likely to increase its numbers in the future.

Which of the following forms the best basis for the prediction that the herd is likely to increase its numbers in the future despite the weaker ones getting killed?

- (A) The strong ones in the herd migrate to safer places.
- (B) Affected by the killing of the weaker members in the herd, the strong ones become more cautious.
- (C) In natural selection, the speed and the health of the whole herd keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.
- (D) There are not many weak members in the herd.

3. The primary task of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) is to acquire, manage and recover bad loans. After a lacklustre beginning, banks started aggressively offloading their bad loans to these companies in 2013-14, lured by better pricing. This was thanks to deals done through the 'security receipts' (SR) route. Instead of taking an upfront cash payment, banks were willing to accept delayed payment in the form of SRs. ARCs made a down

payment of a minimum 5 per cent of the agreed value and the balance 95 per cent was redeemed against the SR, when the amount was finally recovered. In August 2014, the RBI tweaked the rules and increased the upfront payment to be made by ARCs from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. This has impacted the returns for ARCs, which until then were able to make an internal rate of return (IRR) of 20-22 per cent on their investment.

If the statements above are true, which of the following can be inferred on the basis of them?

- (A) Banks are likely to be wary of sanctioning huge loans in the future.
  - (B) The recovery rate of bad loans has shown a drastic rise.
  - (C) Banks are unlikely to sell bad loans to ARCs in future.
  - (D) A decrease in upfront cash payment to be paid as down payment to banks by ARCs is likely to increase sale of bad loans to ARCs.
4. Using several ground-based telescopes, scientists have discovered seven Earth-size extra-solar planets, or exoplanets, orbiting a dwarf star about 40 light years away. Unlike earlier discoveries of extra-solar planets, all seven planets could possibly have liquid water, with three planets having the greatest chance. This is by far the largest collection of Earth-like planets in the habitable 'Goldilocks' zone of a star – neither too close nor too far from a star, which raises the possibility of liquid water being present on the surface.

Which of the following can be concluded on the basis of the above passage?

- (A) The search for extraterrestrial life has always fascinated man.
  - (B) The newly discovered planets have almost the same atmosphere as the Earth's.
  - (C) It will take us many years to know whether there is life on these planets.
  - (D) Huge amounts spent on space research could be better spent on alleviation of poverty.
5. 'None of The Above' (NOTA) option was introduced in the Indian electoral system in 2013. One Lok Sabha election and four rounds of Assembly elections have passed since its introduction. Though many elections saw active canvassing for NOTA, which allows voters to express their dissent against all the contestants, NOTA polling figures are very small. On average, 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 as candidates with the maximum votes win the election irrespective of the number of NOTA votes polled.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion above?

- (A) Constituencies reserved for SC/STs have seen a relatively larger number of NOTA votes.
- (B) NOTA figures are comparatively higher in those constituencies which have seen a direct contest between two main political parties.
- (C) NOTA was introduced in India following the 2013 Supreme Court directive in the *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India* judgment.
- (D) The number of NOTA votes polled was larger than the winning margin in many constituencies which went to the polls.

6. In a study by researchers from Queen Mary University, bees were presented with a platform, a yellow ball and a target area containing a concealed reservoir of sucrose. The bees were repeatedly shown how to maneuver the ball over the target area to gain access to the sweet treat by means of a fake bee on a stick. They were then tested on their abilities. While 10 bees, which were not shown a demonstration, almost never managed to succeed in the task, the nine that were, all succeeded. What's more, they improved over test trials, taking less time and shorter paths. The result held even when the ball was black rather than yellow.

Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage?

- (A) Bees understand the value of rewards.
  - (B) Bees are good at problem solving.
  - (C) Bees are smart creatures.
  - (D) When it comes to accessing food, bees can accomplish the incredible.
7. The US President's administration has reinstated the use of private prisons for use of federal inmates. The attorney general, in his order, officially rescinded the previous administration's move last year to phase out the management of prisons run by private companies, and to confine incarcerations to government run prisons. The attorney general, in the order, opines 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.

The attorney general's opinion is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) More immigration violations requiring incarceration are expected in future.
  - (B) The previous administration was not farsighted.
  - (C) There will be increase in incarceration rates in future.
  - (D) Commercial prison operators are as efficient as government run prisons.
8. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Researchers from the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland analysed the distribution of awards since 1968 for Best Actor/ Actress in a leading role by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars) and the same by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTAs). The study shows that actors vying for the Oscars are more likely to win if they are American and portray themes that resonate with American culture. The same holds true for the BAFTA awards and British actors. These awards thus fall short of their claim to reward the best movies in the world, irrespective of \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) the fact that they belong to different social groups
  - (B) where they are made
  - (C) their performances
  - (D) the genre of the film
9. The World Health Organisation has published a list of the 12 bacteria which pose the greatest threat to human health because they are resistant to antibiotics. Without effective drugs, doctors cannot treat patients. Within a generation, without new antibiotics, deaths from drug resistant infection could

reach 10m a year. The government cannot leave it to market forces alone; instead policies have to be put in place to incentivize the development of new drugs, or else, the new antibiotics we most urgently need are not going to be developed in time.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) We are fast running out of effective antibiotics to treat infections.
- (B) Selling antibiotics is not as profitable as selling other drugs.
- (C) Pharmaceutical firms are reluctant to develop new antibiotics as they are not profitable.
- (D) New antibiotics will be effective against all types of bacteria.

10. A little-known visa category, EB-5, is opening doors to the dream-destination US. At half a million dollars, its price tag is stiff, but does away with the hassles of the popular H1-B and L-1 visas.

EB-5 is an Immigration Investor programme by the US government which, through an investment of \$500,000, guarantees US citizenship within 18 months and helps a person get a permanent work permit. EB-5 attracts not just qualified individuals, but even students, who see this as a good way to enter the US.

Which of the following is LEAST relevant to an Indian student who intends to apply for an EB-5 visa?

- (A) The US States grant subsidies in tuition fees to their students.
- (B) The student who applies for the EB-5 visa can get employment even in 'sensitive' projects which are "off limits for non-US citizens" after completing his/her studies.
- (C) The US government focuses on science, technology, engineering and math, popularly known as STEM.
- (D) The student will get placed in good jobs.

11. The dog is a very intelligent animal and it can be trained for many duties. Some dogs work with the police and the army as sentries and trackers, and there are medals that are awarded to dogs for bravery in action. Other dogs act as seeing-eyes for the blind, and some breeds are specially trained for rescue work among mountains and snow. Jobs like herding sheep and cattle, and guarding homes are also done by them. Whenever man lives and works in the Arctic Circle, in the desert, in the jungle, in the moors or mountains, the dog is his faithful companion and help. A common mongrel may possess these qualities just as much as the aristocratic bloodhound.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument above?

- (A) There are some societies where it is virtually impossible to spot a dog.
- (B) The dog has certain qualities that make it man's trustworthy companion – an added reason why many people keep it as a pet.
- (C) Just as some other animals, dogs are trainable to do different kinds of work.
- (D) Medals are awarded to some dogs for their brave deeds; the way in which exemplary acts by humans are honoured.

12. The sole reason of unhappiness finding refuge in the heart of man is the unhindered growth of self-centred passions. These passions are more often materialistic. And, in the pursuit of materialistic passions, man becomes alienated from society. Failure in his pursuit often leads him to discontentment and dejection, and he finds himself a misfit in this world. In the modern world, no man is unaffected by stress. The stress to outdo others in this mad rat race of consumerism often leads to depression. Even children are not spared from this. They are supposed to fare better than their classmates in examinations and other co-curricular activities. So man, right from childhood, has to face the brunt of being born in this fast-changing society.

Which among the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) Inability to cope with the demands of the modern world and stiff competition with peer group members cause undue stress among the youth.
- (B) Man is in a mire of self-centred materialistic passions which never gives him contentment.
- (C) Man's materialistic self-centredness, which alienates him from the society, coupled with failure in his pursuits leads him to unhappiness.
- (D) In this rapidly changing world, man cannot be happy unless he gives up his pursuit of materialistic passions.

13. The e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2017, notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, have the potential to turn a growing problem into a developmental opportunity. With almost half-a-year to go before the rules take effect, there is enough time to create the necessary infrastructure for collection, dismantling, and recycling of electronic waste. The focus must be on sincere and efficient implementation. Only decisive action can reduce the pollution and health costs associated with India's hazardous waste recycling industry. If India can achieve a transformation, it will be creating a whole new employment sector that provides good wages and working conditions for tens of thousands. However, 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.

The conclusion above is properly drawn if which of the following is noted?

- (A) Most of the states follow the Solid Wastes Rules in letter and spirit.
- (B) On segregation of waste at source, it should be feasible to implement both sets of rules efficiently.
- (C) Cities burn garbage in designated areas or send them for recycling.
- (D) Many cities continue to simply burn garbage or dump it in lakes.

14. Though the last 25 years have seen China dazzle the world with its excellent economic performance, it has shied away from playing the kind of active role in international affairs that would seem commensurate with its economic weight. This is because traditionally China's politics has been defined by the need for economic development above all else. In the past,

China's authorities have tended to downplay the country's international clout, choosing to stress instead its 'developing country' status and 'limited' military capabilities. Such modest rhetoric was intended to allay the fears that China's rise was causing across its immediate neighbourhood.

All of the following provide some support for the argument above EXCEPT:

- (A) Beijing is finally acknowledging its status as a major player in the international system.
  - (B) Traditionally, China has been a passive spectator in global affairs to conceal its economic predicament.
  - (C) China's recent willingness to be a more active player internationally stems from complex factors.
  - (D) Traditionally, China has been a passive spectator in global affairs to focus on domestic economic growth.
15. It isn't news anymore that air pollution is impairing the lungs of Indians, particularly in north Indian cities like Delhi that have to cope with unfavourable meteorology. However, a study across 50 cities in the world finds that noise pollution – from

vehicles, power drills, wedding bands, loudspeakers, headphone-use, television and humanity in general – is robbing nearly two decades of healthy hearing from the denizens of Delhi and Mumbai. Using data gathered from over 2,00,000 participants of their hearing test, the study by Mimi, a German company that works on ways to test hearing and improve music perception, found that 64% of the hearing loss measured in people of a city could be explained by the region's noise pollution levels. The participants included healthy adults as well as not-so-healthy elders, though the latter are prone to hearing loss due to age-related reasons.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the conclusion above?

- (A) Age irreversibly destroys the tiny hair in one's inner ear, making it harder to hear.
- (B) The older a person is, lesser is the range of frequencies perceived.
- (C) Noise pollution is taking its toll on city-dwellers.
- (D) It is possible that noise levels in cities like Delhi and Mumbai break the national limit on the intensity of sound.

### Exercise – 3

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. Exploitation of sharks has increased dramatically in the past several decades, driven in part by an increased demand for shark fins and meat. In the southeastern United States, abundances of many formerly common sharks have decreased by more than 99% in some species. Cownose rays formed a major component of the diet for many of these sharks, and with the shark population diminished, these rays have virtually no predators in the ocean. As a result, the increased cownose ray population has preyed heavily on bay scallops, one of their preferred prey items. The bay scallop fishery was once profitable along the Eastern seaboard, but huge population declines in bay scallops have rendered the fishery obsolete. The waters of many areas along the coast are now closed to fishing in hopes of a recovery of the bay scallop.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) The future of fishing industry is quite bleak.
  - (B) Over fishing impacts more than just a single species, as their removal can have consequences for the entire ecosystem.
  - (C) Sharks are on the verge of extinction.
  - (D) Sustainable fishing alone can save fishing industry.
2. A research from deCODE, a genetics firm in Reykjavik in Iceland, finds that groups of genes that predispose people to spend more years in education became a little rarer in the country from 1910 to 1975. The research indicates that each generation is becoming more stupid. Hence it can reasonably be concluded that humans are sliding downwards into imbecility.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion above?

- (A) Those who carried more "education genes" tended to have fewer children than others.
  - (B) IQ scores rose by nearly 14 points between 1932 and 1978, as a lot of technological and socioeconomic changes were brought into education during this period.
  - (C) The scientists used a database of more than 100,000 persons from varied racial backgrounds.
  - (D) Many children who struggled at a school in Iceland could not be helped by improved teaching.
3. The US labour department sued software giant Oracle last week, accusing the California-headquartered company of discriminatory hiring practices against White, Hispanic and African-Americans in favour of Asians, particularly Asian Indians. Technology companies like Infosys and TCS will find themselves in the line of fire as anger against outsourcing in America turns bellicose with the new government taking charge in the world's biggest market for information technology services. We can now expect a sharp spike of law suits against these companies.

Which of the following, if true, would provide the strongest additional support to the prediction that there will be a sharp spike of law suits against these companies?

- (A) Infosys and TCS have started hiring locally.
- (B) Skill shortage in America is supplemented by global hiring by Infosys and TCS.
- (C) The President of the US is a seasoned entrepreneur and so his administration is business friendly and innovation friendly.
- (D) Law suits against companies are amplified by the populist press.

4. Astronomer Stephen Kane from San Francisco State University focused on finding "habitable zones" where water could exist in a liquid state on a planet's surface. He studied an exoplanet called Wolf 1061c and found that the celestial body could be habitable. The zone is on a planetary system 14 light years away. Mr. Kane found that unlike Earth, which experiences climatic changes such as an ice age because of slow variations in its orbit around the sun, Wolf 1061c's orbit changes at a faster rate.

Which of the following can properly be inferred on the basis of the above?

- (A) The climate of Wolf 1061c is likely to be quite chaotic.
  - (B) Wolf 1061c is orbiting a star other than the sun.
  - (C) There could be many habitable planets, but we are unlikely to reach them.
  - (D) Earth can expect another ice age in the near future.
5. A group of scientists and academics with the University of Massachusetts and other institutions recently conducted research on a long-ago calamity in New England that was caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia half a world away in 1815. The eruption caused global climate anomalies that included the phenomenon known as "volcanic winter" in New England. They found that there was a surge in the consumption of mackerel in New England during this cold period. They conclude that climate change led to deaths of livestock and changed fish patterns in New England, leaving many people dependent on the mackerel, an edible fish.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) A study of history gives clues about what food security could be like in the modern era of climate change.
  - (B) Tambora eruption influenced human food systems.
  - (C) Mackerel was less affected than many animals by the severe winter.
  - (D) Fish is a critical source of protein.
6. A company has recently designed specific awards for employees who have served tenures of 5, 10, 15 or more years at the organization. The company considers completing these tenures special occasions and gives away special gifts to employees who completed these tenures. The company believes that this strategy will engage, motivate and gratify the employees.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the company's decision?

- (A) The workforce of the company consists of Millennials and Baby Boomers.
  - (B) The company gives away gifts to employees on their birth days.
  - (C) The company has a system of monthly appraisals.
  - (D) Young employees constantly job-hop.
7. Researchers plan to release genetically modified male mosquitoes to suppress wild female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito populations that cause dengue, chikungunya and Zika. The technology uses genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes

that carry a dominant lethal gene. When male GM mosquitoes mate with wild female mosquitoes, the lethal gene is passed on to offspring. The lethal gene in the offspring kills the larvae before they reach adulthood. Large numbers of GM male mosquitoes will be released at regular intervals to compete with wild normal males for mating. By using this technology, the spread of dengue, chikungunya and Zika can be prevented in India.

Which of the following additional information, if true, provides the strongest indication that the proposed plan to check the spread of dengue, chikungunya and Zika is likely to succeed?

- (A) Genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes have almost the same longevity as the wild ones.
  - (B) Genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes mate with locally available wild female mosquitoes.
  - (C) Genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes do not bite humans.
  - (D) Since the larvae die before reaching adulthood, the technology is a "self-limiting approach".
8. Scientists in many government institutions engaged in research in the field of science and technology need their directors' permission before discussing their work with the media. This restriction should be removed. Scientists should be free to communicate the results of a public-funded work to the public.

In evaluating the argument, it would be useful to establish which of the following?

- (A) Whether the layman is able to understand the work
  - (B) Whether these scientists are good communicators
  - (C) Whether the scientists want to talk to the public
  - (D) Whether the work has already been published in some journal
9. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

People in less developed countries have low per capita income. Their rate of savings is also low because they have low income. When savings are small in a country, investment will also be low. Low investment leads to low productivity. With low productivity level, the income is bound to be low. People as such remain poor. In this way, the vicious circle of poverty completes. Summing up, we can say that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) less developed countries are poor because they do not have sufficient capital resources for investment
  - (B) poor countries are trapped in poverty because they don't produce enough to meet their requirements
  - (C) capital formation is all that matters in an economy
  - (D) economic development is a myth in poor countries
10. In the Republic of Utopia, death rate from melanoma, a deadly skin cancer, was twenty deaths per 100,000 of the population in 2010. The treatment available then had limited success as it resulted in a mere 10% reduction in melanoma deaths from

1970. With the recent introduction of new medical technologies and effective treatments, researchers estimate that death rates from melanoma will fall to 0.1 per 100,000 by 2025.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) Cancer causing agents have been identified and eliminated to a great extent.
- (B) There was no treatment available for melanoma so far.
- (C) The population of the Republic of Utopia has remained constant since 2010.
- (D) All patients have access to the new medical technologies and treatments.

11. We live in an era of mass extinction. And, this time, it happens to be largely caused by humans. As climate change, pollution, loss of wild areas and poaching threaten our wildlife, the plight of mega-herbivores such as elephants and rhinos has become particularly poignant and tragic. Strict legislation is needed to put a check on the more intense human factors that contribute to extinction.

Which of the following, if true, best supports the above argument?

- (A) In India, habitat loss and fragmentation are threatening the survival of the mega-herbivores.
- (B) At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Africa had 26 million elephants; today it is less than a million.
- (C) Japan, which was a major consumer of ivory, today uses just a tiny fraction.
- (D) In African countries militarised poaching and criminal trade are driving elephants and rhinos to extermination.

12. Heart failure affects millions of people worldwide, but treatment options are limited. If patients in advanced stages of the disease can't get transplants, doctors can implant devices that help the heart pump blood. But those devices put patients at risk for infection and clotting due to valves and pumps that come into direct contact with blood.

If the above statements are true, which of the following conclusions is best supported by them?

- (A) Around the world, millions of men and women haplessly encounter the danger of heart failure.
- (B) A device that can help struggling hearts keep beating, without the dangers cited, appears unrealized till date.
- (C) It is a sad fact that notwithstanding great advancements in the field of medicine, heart patients don't have enough treatment options.
- (D) Implant devices meant for those in advanced stages of heart disease generally put the persons at risk.

13. Birds were an inspiration for early aviators, but they are a pilot's nightmare. Collisions with birds are reckoned to cost America's airlines almost \$1 billion in repairs and flight delays annually. When a multiple bird strike knocked out both engines of a US Airways Airbus A320 taking off from LaGuardia Airport, New York, in 2009 all 155 passengers and

crew survived only after the pilots carefully glided the aircraft to a splashdown on the Hudson River. Airports have tried all sorts of ways to shoo away birds but few work for prolonged durations of time.

Which one of the following indicates a flaw in the reasoning above?

- (A) Orville and Wilbur Wright were, in all probability, inspired by birds.
- (B) Losses as a result of bird strikes are staggeringly high.
- (C) A bird striking just one of the two engines of an aircraft may not prove disastrous.
- (D) In the absence of sustained efforts, the hazards caused by birds persist.

14. Farmers throughout the ages have gleaned clues about the weather from the natural environment. Animal movements and the colour of the sky have been considered auguries. For one of the world's most important weather events, India's monsoon, forecasting methods are becoming rather more refined. About half of the country's population – 600 million people – depend upon the rain it brings. With the help of underwater robots, scientists hope to gather more information on the processes by which the Indian Ocean interacts with the atmosphere.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) With an unpredictable weather, the Indian farmer's plight is of sitting with his fingers crossed perpetually.
- (B) Information about when and where the monsoon will arrive is important for the Indian farmer.
- (C) Experience shows that in India, monsoon is often at one of the extremes – either weak **or** causing havoc.
- (D) Methods of forecasting India's monsoon are becoming advanced – a boon to the farmers.

15. The mismatch between the number of people who annually reach working age and the availability of jobs has been a matter of constant concern globally during the better part of the period since the global financial crisis of the last decade. The International Labour Organisation's latest forecast that a few more millions are set to join the pool of the jobless during this year and the next, is in line with its own previous estimates. In any case, with the growth in global gross domestic product registering a six-year low during the bygone year, expectations of generation of new jobs were always going to be low.

Which of the following can be inferred on the basis of the above?

- (A) Today's job market is clearly an arena for "survival of the fittest".
- (B) The spectre of unemployment haunts the world as it marches towards poverty reduction targets.
- (C) Confronted by a bleak future, the vagaries of the job market are bound to persist in the years to come.
- (D) Stiff competition and limited avenues are gradually pushing our millennials into despair and dejection.



## Exercise – 4

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. Kanjoos Airlines of the island nation of Motuland is considering charging passengers according to weight, including the weight of their luggage. The airlines would charge 50 units of their currency per kilo, irrespective of the distance they travel. The company expects the move will increase their profit.

The company could have found all the following conducive for taking this decision EXCEPT:

- (A) Motuland is largely an obese nation.
- (B) The airlines flies only domestic routes.
- (C) The airlines uses mostly leased aircraft.
- (D) The diameter of the island nation is hardly 350 km

2. According to the Companies Act, at least one-third of the directors of a listed company must be independent. The person so appointed must not be a promoter of the company or its associate company; nor should he/she be related to the promoters of the company. They should also be persons of integrity and possessing the relevant skills. Independent directors, though they may in the initial stage be invited by the controlling shareholders of a company or its incumbent managing director, are appointed by the shareholders at a General Meeting. Loyalty to the management is not the only requirement for appointment; they have to perform.

Which of the following can be inferred on the basis of the above?

- (A) Independent directors are not answerable to the management.
- (B) Independent directors are likely to safeguard the interests of not only all shareholders but also all stakeholders.
- (C) Share holder activism has already been embedded in corporate culture.
- (D) Two-thirds of the directors are likely to be related to the promoters of the company.

3. Delhi is grappling with its worst smog in recent years, and its citizens are anguished. Despite frequent interventions and the implementation of many schemes over the last many years, the pollution situation has not improved at all.

Which of the following most helps to resolve the apparent paradox?

- (A) Most of the interventions and schemes implemented were short term in nature.
- (B) The rhetoric from elected representatives was not converted into action.
- (C) Many schemes were over-publicized for gaining political mileage.
- (D) Minor reductions in pollution do not reduce health risks significantly.

4. Experts argue that drug misuse should be a health issue, not a matter for the courts and prisons, so they don't want people who have got a drug problem to be treated differently from people who have an alcohol problem or an obesity problem. Therefore, they suggest the lead responsibility for drug policy to be moved from the Home Office to the Department of Health.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the above argument depends?

- (A) The Department of Health will certainly cure drug addiction.
- (B) The Department of Health has strategies for treating drug addicts.
- (C) Drug addicts are different from alcoholics and obese people.
- (D) Courts and prisons are ruthless to drug addicts.

5. In a series of experiments at an air force base, some researchers had men and women engaged in remotely piloted and manned aircraft operations, which require a human operator to monitor and respond to multiple events simultaneously over a long period of time, take a test developed by Nasa. Half of the volunteers had a constant two milliamp current beamed into the brain for the 36-minute-long test. The other half formed a control group and had only 30 seconds of stimulation at the start of the test. The brain stimulation group started to perform better than the control group four minutes into the test.

Which of the following can be concluded from the passage above?

- (A) It is impossible to augment multitasking capability without some kind of brain stimulation.
- (B) Brain requires some time to get stimulated.
- (C) Men and women employed in air force bases find it hard to perform multitasking.
- (D) Electrical brain stimulation has the ability to augment and enhance multitasking capability in human operators.

6. Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence that human activity is driving climate change, a Trust report found that several BBC shows fell victim to an "over-rigid application of editorial guidelines on impartiality." The report concludes that this has resulted in far too much airtime for climate change deniers.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the conclusion depends?

- (A) BBC ignored scientific evidence in respect of climate change.
- (B) That human activity is causing climate change has not yet been proved beyond doubt.
- (C) BBC is biased when it comes to reporting climate change.
- (D) BBC reports both sides as part of its editorial strategy.

7. According to a recent research by a team from the University of Manchester's Business School, people who work for bosses who display psychopathic and narcissist traits not only feel more depressed due to their bosses' bullying behaviour but are also more likely to engage in undesirable behaviour at work. Those who work for such leaders have lower job satisfaction and scored higher on clinical measures of depression.

Which of the following can properly be inferred from the above?

- (A) Bosses are responsible for the prevalence of bad behaviour at workplace.

- (B) Objectionable behaviour and feeling of depression at workplace can be averted if bosses behave well.
- (C) People who work for empathetic and considerate bosses are likely to develop fellow-feeling.
- (D) Companies do little to foster congenial relations at workplace.
8. Nationalized banks in India plan to base interest rates on home loans to credit scores of borrowers. Banks will rely on credit scores of Credit Information Bureau of India. Those with scores above 760 points will be charged at 8.35% while those having credit score in the range of 725 to 759 points will be charged 8.85%. Those having credit score below 724 will be charged 9.35 % on home loans. Hence, in future, the interest that you pay on your home loans taken from banks would depend on your credit score which depends on the discipline you maintain in repaying your existing loans.
- Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument above depends?
- (A) Banks have a number of home loan defaulters.
- (B) Banks provide information about their customers' loan history to Credit Information Bureau of India.
- (C) A bank can make profit only if loans are fully repaid.
- (D) Interest rates on home loans taken from nationalized banks will be lower than those charged by other banks.
9. Over the past few weeks, with viral and flu infections rampant, a number of children have been admitted to the intensive care units in the city hospitals, not for treatment of the primary illness, but for paracetamol poisoning. Mothers with extreme anxiety feed their children excessive dosages of paracetamol in order to bring the fever down. Kids have been brought to hospitals with multi-organ failure, and while most of them could be saved, some have been beyond help as they have come too late. In children, paracetamol overdosing happens more easily than in adults.
- Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest basis for the occurrence of paracetamol overdosing in children?
- (A) In children, the liver is not very mature and therefore an overdose of any medicine can be dangerous.
- (B) Paracetamol is valuable only if it is given in the right dosage.
- (C) Paracetamol doses for children are calibrated with body weight.
- (D) When dengue cases are numerous, the course of the disease itself involves very high fever for several days, and people, in their anxiety to reduce the fever end up giving more than the recommended dosage to patients.
10. In 2016, the total incarceration rate — including state prisons, federal prisons and local jails — fell to 670 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. The incarceration rate was 760 inmates per 100,000 the previous year. The U.S. hasn't seen such a drastic decline in incarceration in recent years.
- Which of the following, if true, is the best basis for the trend referred to above?
- (A) In 2016, some states saw the biggest decreases in violent crimes.
- (B) Many thousands serve long sentences for violent crimes.
- (C) Large scale clemencies were granted to prisoners towards the end of the term of office.
- (D) The government's war on drugs has had its effect on incarceration.
11. During the last year, central excise duty collections soared a huge 31%. The increase suggests that there was a smart increase in output last year.
- Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument above?
- (A) The government modernized the indirect tax structure.
- (B) Additional taxes were levied on certain taxed items.
- (C) Additional cesses were levied on private cars having more than 2500 cc capacity in the national capital.
- (D) Prices of petroleum products doubled last year, albeit from a low base.
12. In the UK, the number of prescriptions for antidepressants has risen quite dramatically since the 1990s in spite of their limited efficacy and reports of side-effects including suicidal thoughts in young people. But the number of people getting depressed in a year has not increased proportionately.
- Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent paradox?
- (A) The present antidepressants are cheap because they are out of patents.
- (B) There have been a few cases of over prescriptions.
- (C) The drugs prescribed now are safer than the previous antidepressants, so they have been prescribed by many doctors.
- (D) People who have been prescribed antidepressants stay longer on the drugs.
13. The Mayor of a city proposes to declare certain crowded shopping areas as pedestrian zones and to levy a stiff congestion charge on personal vehicles entering those designated areas. She wants to provide better walking and public transport infrastructure and availability of food plazas to attract more people to these areas. The step will improve the local economy besides curbing car use and cleaning up the air, she believes.
- Which of the following, if implemented, would give the greatest support to the Mayor's aim?
- (A) All proceeds from imposing fines would go towards funding walking, bicycling and emissions-free public transport infrastructure.
- (B) There would be an increase in the number of taxi cars for long-distance travel alone.
- (C) A poll checking for the popularity of the measures would be conducted.
- (D) Aesthetic features such as water fountains and areas for relaxation would be added to these areas.
14. This is the personality trait that defines Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Sons, who began his career as a nondescript techie in Tata Consultancy Service. In 2007, the then 43-year old Chandrasekaran was advised to walk 15,000 paces by his physician. The next day he stepped out of his

apartment for a jog. Given that his only experience in athletics was limited to tossing gentle off-spinners and opening the batting during his school days, it wasn't surprising that he managed to run just 100 metres that day. Nine months later, Chandrasekaran completed his full marathon, a distance of 42 km. Since then he has trotted the globe running marathons, including Boston, New York, Berlin, Chicago and, of course his home turf Mumbai.

Which of the following can be inferred about Natarajan Chandrasekaran?

- (A) Natarajan Chandrasekaran ran marathons whenever they coincided with his visit to those places.
- (B) It is his tenacity that has marked Natarajan Chandrasekaran's rise to the chairman of Tata Sons.
- (C) Physical fitness is the secret of Natarajan Chandrasekaran's success.
- (D) It was his physician's advice that saved Natarajan Chandrasekaran's career.

15. Many cities and states in the US are raising their minimum wages. California and New York last year approved gradual increases to \$15 per hour. A growing number of economists argue that forcing employers to raise the minimum wages is the most practical way of improving living standards for the working poor and reducing inequality.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the economists' argument above?

- (A) Even after employers were forced to pay more in wages, the employee turnover rate remained unchanged.
- (B) While the unskilled workers saw their wages rise considerably, the skilled ones saw marginal increase.
- (C) In the US there is no parity of wages for the same job in different companies.
- (D) When forced to pay more in wages, employers replaced unskilled workers with somewhat more skilled workers who spent fewer hours on a given job.

### Exercise – 5

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. Bits of wood were recovered from a 1.2-million-year-old tooth found at an excavation site in northern Spain. Dental calculus or tartar, a form of hardened plaque, was found on all but one of the teeth examined. A minute sample of tartar from one of the teeth was removed using an ultrasonic scaler, and then analysed to recover the microfossils trapped in it. These included several types of fibres, including tiny pieces of non-edible wood, plants and animal tissue. The wood fibres came from a groove at the bottom of the tooth.

Which of the following can be inferred on the basis of the above?

- (A) Early ancestors of humans may have eaten whatever they could get.
- (B) Early ancestors of humans may have used strips of wood to clean their teeth.
- (C) Early ancestors of humans may not have taken proper care of their teeth.
- (D) Early ancestors of humans may have been voracious eaters.

2. The UK's market for high-protein products is rocketing, as consumers are buying protein supplements. Many supermarkets have introduced dedicated sections for higher-protein products and, enhanced protein versions of popular health drinks have been launched. The market is expected to hit £413m this year. But experts say that the majority of people are getting adequate protein from our daily diet, and are consuming much more than the recommended daily allowance of protein through their everyday diet. Even an athlete with higher requirement of protein can still have it from eggs, yoghurt and meat.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) People's requirement of protein is very low.

- (B) Protein supplements are misused by consumers.
- (C) Athletes are being misguided in the UK.
- (D) Consumers, particularly athletes, are falling victim to clever marketing.

3. Sales of aerated drinks fizzled out during 2015-16. Sales of all popular brands fell for the first time in more than a decade by 15 per cent on average. Analysts expect further dip in revenues for the all aerated soft drink manufacturing companies next year.

Which of the following, if true, provides the greatest support to the expectation of the analysts?

- (A) Consumers have been cutting down on discretionary spends since the economic meltdown of 2008.
- (B) Last year saw a marked increase in the sale of health based drinks including dairy products.
- (C) Sale of non aerated drinks was not affected during this period.
- (D) The sale targets fixed by soft drink companies were not realistic.

4. Some scientists gathered hundreds of samples of sediments, soil and acacia leaves from Moolart Well gold deposit in Australia. They say that much of the gold in the older sediments came from underlying gold-bearing rock, via chemical and biological processes when the climate was humid. Subsequently, gold was transferred into younger sediments by the action of burrowing creatures, erosion and flooding, during the dry climate phase of the past few million years. Samples from termite mounds and acacia leaves have gold absorbed in them.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage above?

- (A) Digging deep under gold-rich trees and mounds could lead to veins of gold.

- (B) Termite mounds and leaves from acacia trees can be good sources of gold.
- (C) There may be more gold deposits hiding under the earth than scientists had originally thought.
- (D) Gold deposits are hiding under the earth's crust.

5. In the US, an analysis found that 71% of white engineering graduates were in full-time jobs within six months of leaving university, compared with just 52% of Asian students and 46% of black students. When gender, age, class of degree and type of institution were taken into account, more black and Asian graduates were unemployed than their white counterparts. It appears that there is a certain amount of stereotyping of who can be an engineer and what talent looks like.

The conclusion above assumes which of the following?

- (A) Engineering courses have lower proportions of ethnic minority students.
- (B) There is a chronic shortage of engineers in the US.
- (C) There is no incentive in engineering profession to attract black people and Asians.
- (D) Many employers think that a lot of black people and Asians lack talents to become good engineers.

6. When the towers of World Trade Centre in New York City fell on September 11 in 2001, a cloud of hazardous materials enveloped the surrounding neighbourhood and coated everything and everyone exposed to it for several days. A recent study has found that dust pollution produced during the terrorist attack on WTC has caused babies in the area to be born prematurely and with low birth weight.

Which of the following can be inferred on the basis of the above?

- (A) There may be a link between the birth of premature babies and terrorist attacks.
- (B) If air pollution is not checked, there will be more premature births.
- (C) Cities such as New Delhi that grapple with polluted air may witness birth of premature babies.
- (D) Dust pollution is likely to be the foremost cause of the birth of premature babies.

7. Women suffer considerably higher levels of work-related stress, anxiety and depression than men, with workplace pressure and familial responsibilities providing additional career pressures, a study shows. Women face additional workplace pressures, such as having to prove they were as good as men, not being valued or promoted and unequal pay. If companies and organisations are genuinely interested in making their loyal and talented female staff feel less stressed, then allowing employees wherever possible to work from home is an important step forward.

The argument above logically depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Companies and organizations are not interested in retaining their loyal and talented female staff.

- (B) Stressed employees leave their company and organization.
- (C) Men do not generally suffer work related stress.
- (D) Working from home reduces tension.

8. Over the last two decades, consumer prices in real terms have risen more than 50 percent in the U.S., according to government data, but clothing costs less today than it did 20 years ago.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent paradox?

- (A) Garment factories in Los Angeles have kept production in the U.S. to avoid transportation.
- (B) Workers in this sector, mostly immigrants from poor countries, are forced to accept wages below the legal minimum as retailers fight to pass on bargain prices to consumers.
- (C) The garment manufacturers often compete against lower-cost hubs like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Mexico.
- (D) Garments often get sold at discount retailers like Forever 21, TJ Maxx, and Ross Dress for Less.

9. Large public sector banks and major private lenders led the meltdown in financial services sector recently. Interest rates were cut. Investors fret that the rat race among lenders to capture market share in a dull market could erode their profitability in general without much gains in the business front. But some advisors recommend buying the stock of these banks during the selloff.

Which of the following can be a consideration in favour of the recommendation above?

- (A) An investment horizon for more than a year is sure to yield good returns.
- (B) Net interest margins will contract for all banks and housing finance companies.
- (C) The rate reduction is compensated by higher demand for loans as it is accompanied by interest rate subventions by the government for affordable housing.
- (D) Interest rates are likely to go up after a year or two.

10. Statins are one of the most widely prescribed cholesterol-lowering drugs on earth. But regular use of statins can result in muscle aches and fatigue. In some studies of people taking statins, as many as 20 percent reported significant muscle pain, with the incidence rising even higher among people who exercise while taking statins. Yet last November, a group of scientists proposed that any adult past the age of 40 with even a single risk factor for cardiovascular disease start taking a statin in order to lessen his or her risk of eventually developing heart disease.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the proposal made by the group of scientists?

- (A) A study has revealed that Statin-associated muscular problems were no greater among the runners than among the sedentary people taking statins.

- (B) Some studies indicate that aerobic fitness, which depends to a large degree on how much people move, may be a better predictor of life span and even of risks for heart disease than cholesterol levels.
- (C) Whether people who take statins were less muscularly healthy because they had run less than others or because the statins had somehow directly made their muscles less fit is impossible to tell.
- (D) Cholesterol levels vary between males and females.

11. When dealing with a stroke – a loss of blood supply to the brain – time is of the essence. If the cause is a blocked artery, blood flow can often be restored using clot-busting drugs. If those drugs are swallowed too late, however, they can do more harm than good. In one of nature's crueller ironies, the metabolic changes that take place in cells after about three hours without oxygen or glucose mean that restoring blood flow becomes damaging in itself. This is called a "reperfusion" injury.

Which of the following could be an inappropriate step to take?

- (A) Minimise the period during which clot-busting pills work
- (B) Induce hypothermia artificially to help the brain protect itself from the consequences of oxygen and sugar deprivation
- (C) Extend the period during which clot-busting pills help
- (D) Pump oxygen to the body immediately after a stroke

12. Poker, though luck is useful when playing it, is essentially a game of skill. Even betting on the horses means assessing the animals' form and the track's going. But people who put money into slot machines might just as well stand there burning banknotes. Not for nothing were they once known as one-armed bandits. They mindlessly apply the laws of statistics to confiscate a pre-arranged proportion of the money put into them. All these point to the 'risk' peculiarities of human psychology.

The conclusion above assumes which of the following?

- (A) Those addicted to playing slot machines, popularly known as pathological gamblers, generally do not spend meaningful time with their family members.
- (B) Some people are so pepped by 'almost' winning that they are stimulated to carry on playing.
- (C) Quite often, gamblers think of breaking their habit when a little flutter becomes something serious.
- (D) Betting and playing games of chance for money existed right from early man.

13. People are born with up to 4 million sweat glands to provide a natural way to regulate temperature. The evaporation of perspiration cools you down. As sweat is produced, it also picks up a lot of information about how the body is behaving, in the form of "biomarkers": electrolytes, sugars, amino acids, proteins, hormones and many other molecules that are the producers of metabolism. If tiny traces of

these substances can be detected and measured, then it should be possible to monitor a person's health from his sweat. One of the biggest uses could be to monitor blood-sugar levels in people with diabetes.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (A) It is incredible but true that we have around 4 million sweat glands in our body.
- (B) The scientific principle that 'evaporation causes cooling' is quite true with regard to the human body.
- (C) The chemical processes in the human body by which food is used for tissue growth and energy production have been of interest to physicians for long.
- (D) The days are probably numbered for pricking the skin to obtain a blood sample.

14. Elephants in Africa have been dealing with people since people existed, for the first humans evolved in that part of the world 2 million years ago. And they have been dealing with honeybees even longer – for those insects, which also evolved in Africa, have been around for at least 35 million years. People and bees are more or less the only animals a full-grown elephant is scared of. Recent studies show that elephants can recognise the languages of ethnic groups likely to be hostile to them, and of those which are not, and also that the beasts are able to warn each other about bees in a different way from the one they use to warn each other about people.

Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

- (A) Elephants in Africa began interacting with humans 2 million years ago.
- (B) Honeybees evolved in Africa about 35 million years ago.
- (C) Pachyderms are even cannier than zoologists previously realised.
- (D) At the very sight of a full grown elephant, many children get goose bumps.

15. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can sometimes be put to rather whimsical uses. In 2012 Google announced that one of its computers, after watching thousands of hours of YouTube videos, had trained itself to identify cats. Earlier this year a secretive AI firm called DeepMind, bought by Google in 2014, reported in *Nature* that it had managed to train a computer to play a series of classic video games, often better than a human could, using nothing more than the games' on-screen graphics. The point of such diversions is to illustrate that, increasingly, computers possess the pattern-recognition skills – identifying faces, interpreting pictures, listening to speech and the like – \_\_\_\_\_.

Which among the following logically completes the argument given above?

- (A) that are considered intricate as well as intriguing.
- (B) that were long thought to be the preserve of humans.
- (C) which shows that we have traversed a long way from the days of Charles Babbage.
- (D) that were considered to be the prerogative of computer wizards.

## Exercise – 6

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. Chinese insurance companies have started selling a novel 'love insurance policy'. One company stipulates that if a couple ties the knot between three and 13 years after buying a 99 yuan, 297 yuan or 495 yuan policy, there will be a payout of 1,999 yuan, 5,997 yuan, and 9,995 yuan, respectively. A fourth one for 399 yuan offers a 0.5 carat heart shaped diamond with that same time-frame caveat. Another company's payout is 10,000 roses on a couple's wedding day but, once again, if they marry three years after buying the policy. With the declining marriage rates in China for several years, insurance companies plan to make huge profit from these policies.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the insurance companies' plan?

- (A) In three years, the financial condition of most couples stabilizes.
- (B) Chinese have a cynical outlook for romance and marriage.
- (C) Insurance actuaries estimate that 98.39% of Chinese couples either break up or get hitched before three years.
- (D) Chinese couples believe that they require at least three years to understand each other.

2. A group of psychologists had a group of company executives watch a video of a man at a sidewalk café put his feet on another chair, tap cigarette ashes on the ground and rudely order a meal. After watching the video, they rated the man as more likely to "get to make decisions" and able to "get people to listen to what he says" than another group of executives who saw a video of the same man behaving politely.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- (A) People don't despise rudeness.
- (B) Violating norms is viewed by others as a sign of power, even if the observers would otherwise judge those violations as rude or flatly wrong.
- (C) Company executives think that persons who are powerful do not have to respect the same rules the rest of people follow.
- (D) Rule breakers are better liked by people than people who follow rules.

3. Today, people depend on the social media for their psychological sustenance. They check on their 'timeline' several times, and count the number of likes they get. Facebook is often flooded with snap shots of vacations and family outings. Pictures of restaurants and good-looking dishes make their way to the 'wall'. Facebook is being trivialised by people who want to transcribe banalities of everyday existence in frivolous narcissistic detail.

Which of the following can be concluded from the passage above?

- (A) The purity of private moments is getting destroyed.
- (B) People have become physically 'invisible.'

- (C) Social media has made people happier than before.
- (D) Social media today serves as a stage to self-brand.

4. The World Health Organisation (WHO) categorises certain parasitic and bacterial diseases as Neglected Tropical Diseases, or NTDs, that cause substantial illness but affect only the world's poorest populations, affecting over a billion people, primarily poor populations living in tropical and subtropical climates. People affected by these tropical diseases have a low status. Clearly, NTDs are unlikely to be contained as HIV or Ebola have been.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) HIV and Ebola are more dangerous than NTDs.
- (B) Inadequate funding is the major cause for the spread of NTDs.
- (C) Diseases affecting only the poor get less funding for management and research.
- (D) Only scary diseases like HIV and Ebola receive financial support for their management.

5. The immunity of pregnant women can be affected by the gender of the baby, say researchers from The Ohio State University in the U.S. They followed 80 pregnant women through the course of their pregnancy to find out if they exhibited different levels of immune markers called cytokines based on the gender of the foetus and found that women carrying female foetuses showed a heightened inflammatory response. Inflammation is a critical part of the immune response involved in wound healing and responses to viruses, bacteria and chronic illnesses.

If the statements above are true, which of the following can be inferred on the basis of them?

- (A) Women carrying female fetuses are more likely to abort than women carrying male fetuses.
- (B) Mothers-to-be are likely to experience exacerbated symptoms of some medical conditions, including asthma, when carrying a female foetus.
- (C) Excessive inflammation may prove fatal during pregnancy.
- (D) During the advanced stage pregnancy immunity level can drop considerably for women carrying female fetuses.

6. Doctors say that at hospitals located in the city, the numbers and profiles of patients who come in with lifestyle diseases have increased by 30 to 40 per cent over the past ten years. They opine that as people have moved further away from the city as it gets more crowded, most of their day goes in commuting up and down. There is no time for exercise or for relaxation.

From the passage above, it can be properly inferred that future incidence of lifestyle diseases can be brought down by doing which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility?

- (A) Planning urban development properly

- (B) Providing free health care to those above 35
- (C) Spreading the message of exercise as daily routine
- (D) Equipping city hospitals with gyms

7. Some researchers found that mice suffering from Alzheimer's disease (AD) have a different composition of intestinal bacteria compared to mice that are healthy. Such mice had a large amount of beta-amyloid plaque – lumps that form at the nerve fibres in cases of AD – in the brain. The researchers argue the bacteria in your gut may play a major role in the development of AD, the most common form of dementia.

The answer to which of the following questions is most relevant to establishing the validity of the researchers' finding?

- (A) Is the presence of this type of bacteria related to our diet?
  - (B) Does the presence of the bacteria have any impact on our general health?
  - (C) Do mice that do not have this type of bacteria have a significantly smaller amount of beta-amyloid plaque?
  - (D) Can the present antibiotics kill this type of bacteria?
8. Swarming behaviour in honeybees is unique and interesting because it is a flexible and distributed decision-making process. For example, when bees decide to abandon their old hive, a set of scouts goes out and forages for information on viable sites for a new hive. They return and communicate their information on likely places by a waggle dance. The rest of the bees, without apparent social pressures to conform, independently vote by a waggle dance of their own. Once a minimum number of positive votes (a quorum) is reached, the bees make the decision to swarm without waiting for a unanimous endorsement.

Which of the following is similar to the behaviour of the bees above?

- (A) A group of students decide to boycott classes because such a boycott in a neighbouring college secured them better facilities.
  - (B) A swarm of butterflies approach a vast sun flower field full of flowers that sway in the breeze.
  - (C) Vultures never feed on carcasses individually; they always feed in flocks.
  - (D) A person responds to a particular Facebook post not just because of that post but because of the larger set of posts across the entire news feed.
9. C. diff, a bug identified in the 1930s, has become one of the country's prime health concerns, after a particularly virulent and drug-resistant strain called NAP1 emerged in the 2000s. By 2011, an analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated there were 543,000 cases a year and 29,300 deaths from the infection. Two years later, the C.D.C. categorized C. diff as an "urgent threat." Most cases arise after a course of antibiotics, especially a class called fluoroquinolones, wipes out the protective microbes normally found in the colon. That allows C. diff to flourish and produce the toxins that cause illness.

From the passage, it can be inferred that an effective strategy to check C. diff infection would be which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility?

- (A) Reducing antibiotic use
- (B) Replacing antibiotics with placebos
- (C) Isolating patients infected with C. diff bugs
- (D) Avoiding hospitalization for transient illnesses

10. There are headphones that effectively minimize ambient noise and thereby enhancing the sounds that we are listening to. These noises are effectively sound waves. The noise cancellation headphones come with a little device that listens to these sounds and accurately produces the same wavelength of sound waves to cancel ambient noise. The technology that powers noise-cancellation headphones is a big advancement which is really fascinating.

To support the conclusion that the noise cancellation headphone is a fascinating technology, which of the following additional pieces of information must be true?

- (A) Certain wave lengths of sounds are sometimes unbearable to humans.
- (B) The sounds that constitute ambient noise are ones that aren't under our control.
- (C) Technology has advanced to such an extent that what was considered impossible, happens now.
- (D) Any device produces any wavelength of sound waves.

11. Facebook, founded by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004, has more than 1.86 billion members today. People use Facebook to connect with strangers who have the same rare disease, to post politician diatribes, and to share news links. Facebook has also pushed its users to register to vote, to donate to causes, to mark themselves safe after natural calamities, and to "go live."

If the statements above are true, which of the following can be properly inferred on the basis of them?

- (A) Mark Zuckerberg is likely to become richer with more members joining Facebook.
- (B) Facebook is likely to become a utility in future.
- (C) Facebook is connecting families and friends.
- (D) Facebook is likely to be an infallible antidote to rising tide of isolationism.

12. An article in a newspaper argues: India's working age population is increasing; the average age of the country will remain young for a long time. In four years, India will have the world's largest population of working people, about 87 crore in all. This will lead to great advantage for the Indian economy.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) Indian work force is highly skilled compared to the workforce of other countries.
- (B) The economic environment is capable of absorbing Indian labour force.
- (C) New jobs are being created all over the world.
- (D) Indian labour force will contribute to world economic growth.

13. Founders of start-ups need to take care of business, finance, logistics, warehousing and a dozen other things. Say, an X task takes a founder six hours to complete. Also imagine that in those six hours he could be doing something better and making ₹5,000. Wouldn't he be better off paying someone ₹1,000 to do it so that he can focus on building more wealth? Consider he wants to get certain video animations done. If he were to hire an employee to do it, he would demand a computer with higher specifications and would also ask for many tools and software that would add to the costs. Is it not better to invest a much less sum in someone who already has all these tools and a system for this job?

Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage?

- (A) Hiring full-time employees is a waste of money.  
(B) An employee need not sit beside the boss of a start-up to do a specified task.  
(C) For start-ups, outsourcing saves costs and increases productivity.  
(D) Projects outsourced at start-ups work better than those done by regular employees.
14. The woolly mammoth vanished from the earth 4,000 years ago, but now scientists say they are on the brink of resurrecting the ancient beast in a revised form, through an ambitious feat of genetic engineering. Scientists leading this "de-extinction" effort say they are just two years away from creating a hybrid embryo, in which mammoth traits would be programmed into an Asian elephant. The team hopes to grow the hybrid animal in the womb of a female elephant which will serve as a surrogate mother.

The conclusion above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) The Asian elephant is the closest living relative of woolly mammoth.  
(B) The woolly mammoth is believed to resemble an elephant.  
(C) Earlier attempts to develop a woolly mammoth failed.  
(D) An elephant looks exactly like the woolly mammoth.
15. More than 620,000 people in the UK have a faulty gene that puts them at risk of heart disease and sudden death from heart attacks or cardiac arrests, and most of them are unaware of the risk, warns the British Heart Foundation. This condition known as arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) is caused by a change or mutation in one or more genes, it says. The progressive condition causes heart muscle to be replaced by fibrous tissue and fat so the ventricle becomes thin and stretched, meaning the heart does not pump blood around the body properly and there is a risk of sudden cardiac arrest.

Which of the following can be concluded from the passage?

- (A) ARVC cannot be cured.  
(B) ARVC is a new medical condition prevalent in the UK.  
(C) Parents can pass on ARVC to their children.  
(D) Gene editing technology appears to be the only remedy for ARVC.

### Exercise – 7

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. A city that has been put on a "very high" pollution alert proposes to encourage people to use bicycles to reduce pollution and traffic congestion on its roads. The city plans to create bike lanes on either side of the roads by carving out a portion of the existing roads. Since most of the citizens are suffering from pollution-related illnesses, the authorities expect that more and more people will start using bicycles. Such a measure will bring down pollution levels, thereby exposing its citizens to less noxious fumes, the authorities argue.

Each of the following, if true, would seriously weaken the argument above, EXCEPT:

- (A) Too many cycles on the narrow roads make congestion and pollution worse.  
(B) There is no financial help to switch to bicycles.  
(C) Cars remain stationary for longer time on congested roads.  
(D) Cyclists are exposed to more pollution than they would have been if they had used other modes of transport.
2. Under the present rules, it is illegal in Britain to trade in ivory objects made since 1947. This is a totally proper and necessary measure against the modern ivory trade and its incitement of ivory poaching. But now the British government proposes to ban trade in all ivory objects, including antiques, however

old they are. The government believes that this step will prevent illegal ivory traders from forging antiques, an activity that can incite ivory poaching. Some people fear that the ban will lead to destruction of invaluable antique works by traders who fear punishment. But some art lovers opine that this fear is unfounded.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the contention of art lovers who support the ban?

- (A) Countries that have elephant population have banned killing of elephants.  
(B) Imitation ivory has seen an increase in sales.  
(C) Ivory products, being very costly, are not affordable by many.  
(D) Carbon dating allows for determining the precise age of the antique.
3. Air pollution has emerged as the deadliest form of pollution and the fourth leading risk factor for deaths worldwide. An estimated 18,000 people die every day due to air pollution exposure, making it the world's largest single health risk. The World Bank estimates that these deaths cost the global economy USD 225 billion a year in related lost labour income.
- The argument logically depends on which of the following assumptions?
- (A) Those who die due to air pollution exposure are mostly young people.



- (B) Work places are highly polluted.  
 (C) Companies do not provide proper health care to employees.  
 (D) Air pollution is rampant all over the world.
4. Manufacturers of grocery items in the US use labels like "better if used by," "Use By" or "Best if Used By" on their products. The majority of Americans have no clear idea what "sell by" labels are trying to tell them. Methods for setting those dates have been left to manufacturers. This sort of labeling leads to food wastage, when in fact, it is totally fine to eat a product even well after its so-called expiration date.
- Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?
- (A) Groceries tossed after the date printed on the label cost the average American heavily.  
 (B) Americans throw \$218 billion worth of food away each year.  
 (C) Many consumers do not read the label before buying groceries.  
 (D) These labels are subjective guesses of when the manufacturer thinks the product should be consumed for peak flavor.
5. Data shows that emotional intelligence is a key differentiator between star performers and the rest of the pack. Nevertheless, there are many who never embrace the skill for themselves – or who wait until it's too late. In my ten years as an executive coach, I have never had someone raise his hand and declare that he needs to work on his emotional intelligence. Yet, I can't count the number of times I've heard from people that the one thing their colleague needs to work on is emotional intelligence.
- Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage?
- (A) Today's executives lack emotional intelligence.  
 (B) No executive understands the importance of emotional intelligence.  
 (C) Those who need to develop emotional intelligence the most are the ones who least realize it.  
 (D) Self-awareness is the hallmark of emotional intelligence.
6. For the first time, biologists have succeeded in growing human stem cells in pig embryos, shifting from science fiction to the realm of the possible, the idea of developing human organs in animals for later transplant. One team of biologists has shown for the first time that human stem cells can contribute to forming the tissues of a pig, despite the 90 million years of evolution between the two species. The approach involves generating stem cells from a patient's skin, growing the desired new organ in a large animal like a pig, and then harvesting it for transplant into the patient's body.
- Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest indication that the approach cited above will succeed?
- (A) There is a huge demand for organs all over the world.  
 (B) Adopting this technique endows animals with human qualities.  
 (C) There would be little risk of immune rejection in case of organs made of a patient's own cells.  
 (D) National Institutes of Health, which instituted a moratorium on using public funds to insert human cells into animal embryos ten years ago, is planning to lift the ban.
7. Based on its dispatches from factories to dealerships, an automaker claims that its market share has hit its all time high of 52 per cent of all cars sold in the country in January this year. The company claims that it has achieved this feat against stiff competition from other automakers.
- Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the automaker's claim?
- (A) January being the first month of the year, carmakers conventionally take to replenishing their stocks with the dealers.  
 (B) Many dealers executed orders placed in December only in January.  
 (C) Many people put off purchase of cars to January in anticipation of pay revision arrears following the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission.  
 (D) In January, inventory holding of dealers of this particular automaker went up considerably compared to that of other automakers.
8. All prime ministers run the risk of hubris, remarks a political analyst. X's fall is the most recent illustration of that. X thought he could win a referendum on the European Union and marginalize the UK Independence Party (UKIP). He failed, with disastrous consequences for Britain. Y is the beneficiary. But Y is now running the same risk, of thinking that she can hold on to power and popularity by tacking to the right and trying to squeeze the air out of UKIP.
- From the passage above, which of the following can be properly inferred?
- (A) Y's attempt to outmaneuver UKIP is unlikely to succeed.  
 (B) The UKIP is being isolated.  
 (C) Y is unlikely to remain in power for another term.  
 (D) The UK's departure from the European Union is certain.
9. Globalisation of information means biases can quickly travel across geographies. So, some pre-held, pre-fixed notions in sections of the US mainstream media on Donald Trump's order of temporarily banning US travel by citizens from seven countries are finding strong echoes in Indian media writings on him. But getting infected by such informational bias is not smart journalism. Trump appears to be a break from the usual mould of leaders. We won't understand what Trump is doing if we start every analysis with a deep bias. Calling Trump a narcissist or a liar cheapens any analysis of the US president's policies. The best antidote is a strongly held position of neutrality. Once neutrality is strictly observed, the quality of analysis will also improve in other ways.
- On Donald Trump's order temporarily banning US travel by citizens from seven countries, a neutral perspective for an Indian commentator would lead to all the following questions EXCEPT:
- (A) Is Trump the very first American president to restrict travel to the US in any form?

- (B) Is India all milk and honey about everyone coming into this country?
- (C) Would it have served India's purpose had Trump extended the ban to passport holders from countries that try to destabilize India?
- (D) Is this an opportunity for India to impose similar travel restrictions?
10. A group of researchers studied two preschool classes for an entire school year, analysing personality traits and social networks for one class of three-year-olds and one class of four-year-olds. Children whose play partners were extroverted or hard-working became similar to these peers after a few months. Similarly, children whose play partners were overanxious and easily frustrated took on these particular traits.
- Which of the following can be logically concluded from the above?
- (A) Genes do not play any role in shaping a child's personality.
- (B) Personality is not ingrained in children.
- (C) Over time a child's personality traits can change.
- (D) Kids have a bigger effect on each other than people think.
11. A woman claimed she was married to a man who had put sindoor on her forehead and tied a mangalsutra around her neck at a temple. But a court ruled that these acts did not make them a married couple because nobody in the community accepted them as married. The relatives or friends of both had not known that they were in a married relationship, as they were not taken into confidence when the couple allegedly tied the nuptial knot.
- Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?
- (A) According to law, a secret marriage is not considered a marriage.
- (B) According to law, a marriage is not considered a marriage unless society approves of the relationship.
- (C) According to law, sindoor and mangalsutra are not proof of a marriage.
- (D) According to law, the nuptial knot should be tied in the presence of relatives and friends.
12. For far too long, IT services companies have been shipping skilled labour to countries such as the US. Approximately 57 per cent of the revenue of these companies is generated from on-site projects executed mostly through import of skilled labour from India. IT companies argue that shortage of STEM skills (science, technology, engineering and math) in the US is the main reason for sending people on work visas.
- Which of the following, if true, can most weaken the claim made by IT companies?
- (A) In the US these IT companies make profit on wage arbitrage.
- (B) Indian IT companies find it easier to export labour to the US than to switch over to new transformational platforms such as robotics, artificial intelligence and automation.
- (C) With liberal visa rules in force, Indian IT companies have so far had no problem exporting labour.
- (D) Indian IT companies have not fully explored the domestic market, so they have to generate revenue from on-site projects
13. Crooked Minds is the title for a book on innovation by author Kiran Karnik. He writes about two clever entrepreneurs, one in Mumbai and the other in Stockholm, who collected small insurance premia from train travellers, who could then travel ticketless on the suburban or metro trains. In Mumbai's crowded trains and stations, the chances of getting caught are slim, but in case one did, the entrepreneur would reimburse the fine paid by his customers who were nabbed, on their producing a receipt of the fine paid. Now Karnik poses the question: Are crooked minds more innovative? In this case, it was a crooked act, as the Mumbai operator was encouraging his clientele to indulge in the illegal. But Karnik prefers to look at crooked in the geometric sense — thought processes that deviate from the straight and conventionally defined mode.
- Which of the following can be logically concluded from the passage above?
- (A) Kiran Karnik believes that innovation is the product of crooked minds.
- (B) Kiran Karnik believes that innovation means something different from what exists — doing something differently.
- (C) According to Kiran Karnik, innovation can take any form.
- (D) Kiran Karnik believes that innovation means providing out-of box solutions to problems.
14. One major reason for the crippling of the Indian power sector has been the loss of power during transmission and distribution. A power project that has seen a considerable decline in its profits plans to invest in modernizing its transmission and distribution network to bring down the loss suffered on this account. It envisages a turnaround in its profit by taking this measure.
- All the following, if true, would be favourable to the success of the plan EXCEPT:
- (A) The reduction in loss offsets the expenditure incurred on modernizing the transmission and distribution network.
- (B) Power generation does not go down.
- (C) The government grants huge subventions to wind power projects.
- (D) People pay for the power they consume.
15. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?
- Scientists have come to understand that factors like overpopulation and a lack of alternative forms of nutrition lead to cannibalism among animals, and it is clear that even modern humans have been driven to the behavior on many occasions. What, then, of the future? Populations are growing. Resources are dwindling. Deserts are spreading. And the societal rules that bind us together are proving more fragile than we ever imagined they could be. Maybe it is wise to remember that human cannibalism, so unthinkable now, \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) may come back
- (B) was not uncommon not so long ago
- (C) is the product of circumstances
- (D) is rooted in hunger

## Exercise – 8

**Directions for questions 1 to 15:** Select the correct alternative from the given choices.

1. According to a recent research, subtle changes in speech style occur in an Alzheimer's patient years before the more serious mental decline takes hold. Scientists behind the research opine that it is possible to predict whether someone is at risk more than a decade before meeting the threshold for an Alzheimer's diagnosis, with the help of family members who can notice these differences.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the scientists' opinion depends?

- (A) Alzheimer's has a long incubation period.
  - (B) Early prediction of Alzheimer's can prevent it or at least delay it.
  - (C) Alzheimer's patients are not aware of the changes taking place in their behaviour.
  - (D) Family members usually notice Alzheimer's only after it has reached a severe level.
2. A Japanese brand has designed a washing machine with a "curry" button to be sold in India. This has been inspired by the pernicious pervasiveness of stains caused by oil, chilly-powder and turmeric-laden Indian gravies. Since these stains are more resistant than their counterparts in Europe or even in Japan, the washing machines would be quite muscular. Indians are known for putting washing machines for quite unconventional uses such as lassi and butter making.

If the statements above are all true, which of the following can properly be inferred on the basis of them?

- (A) These washing machines are likely to be a boon to all harried Indian home makers.
  - (B) The presence of a "curry" button is likely to inspire some innovative uses for these washing machines.
  - (C) These washing machines are unlikely to remove tough stains.
  - (D) Washing machines with "curry" buttons are sold in other countries.
3. Researchers analysed ancient DNA – from microbes and food debris – preserved in the dental tartar, or calculus, of three Neanderthals dating from 42,000 to 50,000 years ago. Two of the individuals were from the El Sidrón cave in Spain while one was from the Spy Cave in Belgium. The results reveal that northern Neanderthals had a wide-ranging diet, with evidence of a mushroom known as grey shag in their tartar, together with traces of woolly rhinoceros and wild sheep. By contrast Neanderthals from El Sidrón showed no evidence of meat eating – instead they appear to have survived on a mixture of forest moss, pine nuts and a mushroom known as split gill. Based on the study, researchers conclude that Neanderthals in Spain were vegetarian.

Which of the following issues would be most important in establishing the truth of the conclusion?

- (A) Whether the study has covered all Neanderthals from El Sidrón
- (B) Whether the dental tartar preserved all components of a Neanderthal's diet

- (C) Whether the plant material found in meat-eating Neanderthals has come from the hominids eating the stomach contents of their prey
- (D) Whether the findings of the study have been corroborated by any other study

4. A surgical treatment known as "liberation therapy" was pioneered in Europe to widen veins from the brain and spinal cord of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). A group of doctors believed that the neurological disease could be triggered by a build-up of iron where the blood did not flow freely, and recommended an invasive treatment, a technique carrying risk of complications as well as significant financial cost to reduce the disease progression. This was sought out by thousands of desperate people with multiple sclerosis. But many in the medical community were skeptical about this treatment.

Which of the following, if true, could opponents of "liberation therapy" cite as a piece of evidence to prove that the hypothesis of the proponents of this therapy was flawed?

- (A) A range of drug treatments, which have been proven to be safe and effective at slowing the disease progression, is available for Multiple Sclerosis.
  - (B) The number of patients with multiple sclerosis has not registered any increase in the last two years.
  - (C) Most of the patients are not financially sound to afford "liberation therapy".
  - (D) A recent research has shown that narrowing of the veins that run from the brain to the heart is as common in people without MS as in those with the condition
5. First minister Nicola Sturgeon of Scotland says she intends to ask voters in late 2018 or early 2019 whether they want to leave the United Kingdom. She has warned British Prime Minister Theresa May not to block the referendum on Scottish independence. May has condemned the referendum call, accusing Sturgeon of sowing uncertainty and division. But Sturgeon says that she was elected on a clear manifesto commitment to hold the referendum.

Which of the following pieces of information would be most important in evaluating the dispute regarding Sturgeon's right to hold the referendum and May's right to block it?

- (A) Whether both Britain and Scotland share similar views on issues concerning them
- (B) Whether Britain will hold a referendum on whether Scotland should leave Britain
- (C) Whether both the leaders are elected by the people
- (D) Whether Scotland conducted any referendum on the same issue in the past

6. A newspaper column says: If you are born in Kolkata, you are either an East Bengal or a Mohaun Bagan fan. You would go to their football matches, shout your lungs out and pray for your team's victory.

Which of the following can be concluded from the above?

- (A) All natives of Kolkata are football enthusiasts.
  - (B) Both East Bengal and Mohaun Bagan football teams have equal number of fans in Kolkata.
  - (C) Football runs in the blood of Kolkata citizens who traditionally support either Mohaun Bagan or East Bengal.
  - (D) In football, East Bengal and Mohaun Bagan have been traditional enemies.
7. Many countries, including India and China, are interested in lunar mining for Helium-3. Helium-3 can be used in reactors to generate power, and it is a safe and clean fuel. Just 160 tonnes of Helium-3 would be enough to meet the annual global energy needs, and a single space shuttle can carry around 20 tonnes. It is estimated that the moon has enough Helium-3 to power the earth for thousands of years. Hence, commercial exploitation of lunar resources can happen in the near future.

The answer to which of the following questions would be LEAST relevant for a country while considering undertaking of commercial exploitation of Helium-3?

- (A) Can the countries overcome the formidable challenges to pulling off mining operations on the moon?
  - (B) Will mining on the moon be economically viable?
  - (C) Will the United Nations Outer Space Treaty impose any restrictions on mining on the moon?
  - (D) Is a new space race likely to spark when many countries undertake mining on the moon?
8. A spokesman of the ministry of petroleum and natural gas has said that the ministry intends to bring down the import of crude oil. The ministry plans to achieve this by encouraging the use of biofuels as a substitute to fossil fuels. The government has already set a target of bringing down the share of imports in India's crude oil requirements by 10 percentage points to 67 percent by 2022. Currently the country has an installed capacity of just 1.2 million tons of bioethanol whereas the demand would be around 6.7 million tons by 2022. The bioethanol industry is all set to see huge investments in the next few years.

Which of the following, if true, would be LEAST favorable for investing in a bioethanol industry?

- (A) The government's plan for viability gap funding to private sector bioethanol industries
- (B) The government's provision for 20 years of offtake guarantees to companies setting up biofuel plants
- (C) The ministry of petroleum's proposal to raise the biofuel outlets from the current 3,700 to 10,000 by the end of the current financial year
- (D) Agriculture scientists' prediction of an attack of locust in parts of the country where sugarcane and corn are grown by farmers

9. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Journalists try to explain political dynamics during elections through electoral arithmetic and electoral chemistry. While they rely on a range of statistics for the former, they try to gauge the popular mood of the people through field reporting to discern the latter. However, over the last two decades, opinion polls seem to have replaced conventional journalistic wisdom. Media houses, especially television channels, began giving primacy to surveys – both pre-poll and post-poll – \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) to capture the political trend
  - (B) to get their numbers correct
  - (C) to predict the future of a political party
  - (D) to explain this conundrum
10. The nose is one of humanity's most distinctive features. It has the important job of conditioning the air that we breathe, to ensure that it is warm and moist when it reaches the lungs, thus helping to prevent infections. Now a research by Pennsylvania State University suggests that people whose ancestors lived in hot, humid places tend to have wider nostrils than those whose ancestors came from cold and dry environments.

Which of the following can be concluded from the passage?

- (A) The nose can adjust to different climatic conditions.
  - (B) The functions of the nose are manifold.
  - (C) A person's nose can change its size and shape depending on the climatic conditions of the place he lives in.
  - (D) The size and shape of the nose is evolved in response to local climatic conditions.
11. Businesses are missing a trick if they fail to respect and accommodate the family responsibilities of their employed women. Employer hostility towards working women during their pregnancy and motherhood phase is a disgrace to say the least. An increasing number of research studies show that tapping into the full potential of women and benefitting from the innovation and creativity of gender diversity is an investment with returns that build strong and viable economies and enhance business outcomes.

Each of the following, if true, provides some support for the observation that women do not get respect or support EXCEPT:

- (A) Globally, working mothers have been treated prejudicially owing to the stereotypical way of perceiving women as primary caretakers of the family.
- (B) The male-dominated corporate culture sees working mothers as liabilities.
- (C) Disfranchising skilled, hard-working women because of fears about their maternity period is in the interests of the nation.
- (D) Too often, new mothers are let down as they try to balance work and family life.

12. For years we have been trying to defuse various kinds of militant fundamentalism by offering alternative messages: Islam is a religion of peace, America is a nation of immigrants, etc. Such messages have had very little effect on the fundamentalists concerned. As a consequence, liberals and decent conservatives – all those millions of well-meaning people at the centre and a bit to its right or left – often exclaim in rare unison: “Nothing seems to make a difference!” Meanwhile, it’s common knowledge that no religion or ethnic group professes evil.

All the following, if true, support the premises for the conclusion EXCEPT:

- (A) Nothing seems to make a difference because the solution does not lie in the message of any religious text – imbibing it is what is important.
  - (B) Nothing seems to make a difference because that is what is destined to be.
  - (C) Nothing seems to make a difference because the solution does not lie in the message of any cultural or political text – imbibing it is what is important.
  - (D) In imbibing the values of the doctrine that one believes in lies the antidote to fundamentalism.
13. It’s chaos on Indian roads, which is getting worse with each passing day. One big reason for this is the inability of the public transport system to cope with the challenges of a burgeoning population and ever-increasing demand for ferrying passengers both in urban and rural areas. Despite the recent advancements in transport network, an increasing number of people have to depend on their own means of transport. This creates gridlocks in most urban centres, long commutes, enormous pollution and traffic jams during peak hours, besides poor traffic management and road conditions, and insufficient parking lots.  
The paragraph is inadequate primarily because the author
- (A) does not explain the recent advancements in transportation network.
  - (B) makes no mention of self-driving vehicles – the futuristic mode of commuting.
  - (C) does not suggest a solution to the problem.
  - (D) fails to talk about whether the number of vehicles on Indian roads compared to those in some others is the primary reason for the chaos.

14. An understanding of the role of biodiversity in the hydrological cycle enables better policy-making. The term biodiversity refers to the variety of plants, animals, micro organisms, and the ecosystems in which they occur. Water and biodiversity are interdependent. In reality, the hydrological cycle decides how biodiversity functions. In turn, vegetation and soil drive the movement of water. Every glass of water we drink has, at least in part, passed through fish, trees, bacteria, soil and other organisms. Passing through these ecosystems, it is cleansed and made fit for consumption. The supply of water is a critical service that the environment provides.

Which of the following inferences is best supported by the above passage?

- (A) Biodiversity sustains the ability of nature to recycle water.
  - (B) In the absence of the hydrological cycle, living organisms could not have come into existence on this planet.
  - (C) In the absence of living organisms it is impossible for us to obtain potable water.
  - (D) Plants, animals and micro organisms keep interacting among themselves.
15. Climate adaptation may be rendered ineffective if policies are not designed in the context of other development concerns. For instance, a comprehensive strategy that seeks to improve food security in the context of climate change may include a set of coordinated measures related to agricultural extension, crop diversification, integrated water and pest management and agricultural information services. Some of these measures may have to do with climate changes, and others with economic development.

Which of the following can properly be inferred from the above paragraph?

- (A) Improving food security is a complex issue vis-à-vis climate adaptation.
- (B) Pursuing climate adaptation in a country like India poses scores of problems.
- (C) Climate adaptation should be examined in tandem with other economic development options.
- (D) A nexus exists between every developmental activity and climate adaptation.