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CHAPTER 1: READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE 1

Meta is recalibrating content on its social media platforms as the political tide has turned in Washington, with Mark Zuckerberg announcing last week that his company plans to fire its US fact-checkers. Fact-checking evolved in response to allegations of misinformation and is being watered down in response to accusations of censorship. Social media does not have solutions to either. Community review - introduced by Elon Musk at X and planned by Zuckerberg for Facebook and Instagram - is not a significant improvement over fact-checking. Having Washington lean on foreign governments over content moderation does not benefit free speech. Yet, that is the nature of the social media beast, designed to amplify bias.

Information and misinformation continue to jostle on social media at the mercy of user discretion. Social media now has enough control over all other forms of media to broaden its reach. It is the connective tissue for mass consumption of entertainment, and alternative platforms are reworking their engagement with social media. Technologies are shaping up to drive this advantage further through synthetic content targeted precisely at its intended audience. Meta's algorithm will now play up politics because it is the flavour of the season.

The Achilles' Heel of social media is informed choice which could turn against misinformation. Its move away from content moderation is driven by the need to be more inclusive, yet unfiltered content can push users away from social media towards legacy forms that have better moderation systems in place. Lawmakers across the world are unlikely to give social media a free run, even if Donald Trump is working on their case. Protections have already been put in place across jurisdictions over misinformation. These may be difficult to dismantle, even if the Republicans pull US-owned social media companies further to the right.

Media consumption is, in essence, evidence-based judgement that mediums must adapt to. Content moderation, not free speech, is the adaptation mechanism. Musk and Zuckerberg are not exempt. [2025]

1. The writer implies that

- a. uncensored content will always have more appeal than controlled content.
- b. social media's innate strength is the user's inability to fact check.
- c. social media can never be discarded by its users.
- d. older forms of media will regain users because of its controls.

2. The writer argues that social media

- a. remains unaffected by global debates amongst lawmakers on misinformation.
 - b. has become the preferred way to access entertainment.
 - c. flourishes because it can publish any material.
 - d. is in a difficult position because it cannot adapt to new policies.
- 3. The writer's conclusion is that information available on social media is linked to**
- a. the need for deregulation.
 - b. the individual's right to free speech.
 - c. the global legal systems' support of free speech.
 - d. the policies of the governments in power.
- 4. Social media has succeeded in**
- a. ignoring technology and artificial content.
 - b. finding alternative means for fact-checking.
 - c. becoming independent of other media.
 - d. controlling other media that depend on it.
- 5. Technologies are enabling social media to**
- a. enlarge its sphere of influence and persuasion.
 - b. understand that algorithms cannot control its content.
 - c. accept the current trends as emphasised by algorithms.
 - d. readjust its interaction with competitors.
- 6. The inherent downside associated with social media is that it**
- a. does not address the problem of the digital divide.
 - b. results in unremitting expansion of freedom of expression.
 - c. creates and spreads much innate and acquired prejudice.
 - d. reinforces existing objectivity among the users.

PASSAGE 2

According to the French philosopher Jean Baudrillard, commodities available for consumption are not inherently negative things. Baudrillard tried to interpret consumption in modern societies by engaging with the 'cargo myth' prevalent among the indigenous Melanesian people living in the South Pacific. The Melanesians did not know what aeroplanes were.

However, they saw that these winged entities descended from the air for white people and appeared to make them happy. They also noted that aeroplanes never descended for the Melanesian people.

The Melanesian natives noted that the white people had placed objects similar to the aeroplane on the ground. They concluded that these objects were attracting the aeroplanes in the air and bringing them to the ground. Through a magical process, the aeroplanes were bringing plenty to the white people and making them happy. The Melanesian people concluded that they would need to place objects that simulated the aeroplane on the ground and attract them from the air. Baudrillard believes that the cargo myth holds an important analogy for the ways in which consumers engage with objects of consumption.

According to Baudrillard, the modern consumer "sets in place a whole array of sham objects, of characteristic signs of happiness, and then waits for happiness to alight". For instance, modern consumers believe that they will get happiness if they buy the latest available version of a mobile phone or automobile. However, consumption does not usually lead to happiness. While consumers should ideally be blaming their heightened expectations for their lack of happiness, they blame the commodity instead.

They feel that they should have waited for the next version of a mobile phone or automobile before buying the one they did. The version they bought is somehow inferior and therefore cannot make them happy. Baudrillard argues that consumers have replaced 'real' happiness with 'signs' of happiness. This results in the endless deferment of the arrival of total happiness.

In Baudrillard's words, "in everyday practice, the blessings of consumption are not experienced as resulting from work or from a production process; they are experienced as a miracle". Modern consumers view consumption in the same magical way as the Melanesian people viewed the aeroplanes in the cargo myth. Television commercials also present objects of consumption as miracles. As a result, commodities appear to be distanced from the social processes which lead to their production. In effect, objects of consumption are divorced from the reality which produces them. [2025]

7. How can consumption be made more satisfying?

- a. By banning television commercials that promise real happiness.
- b. By understanding the connection between production and consumption.
- c. By recognising that commodities produce miraculous change.
- d. By rejecting colonialism and all other forms of economic oppression.

8. Which of the following is an argument made by Baudrillard?

- a. Consumers value signs more than the real.
- b. Television commercials are at the heart of unhappiness experienced by consumers.
- c. Production and consumption are magical processes.
- d. Melanesian people coped with the inequality of colonialism by creating myths.

9. How does Baudrillard engage with the cargo myth?

- a. He uses it to show that consumption is a blessing.
- b. He uses it as a metaphor to critique modern consumption.
- c. He uses it to describe the suffering of Indigenous people.
- d. He uses it to show that consumers should consume more serious objects.

10. Why are consumers unhappy with commodities that they have just bought?

- a. Because they have exaggerated expectations of commodities.
- b. Because television commercials do not create enough hype about commodities.
- c. Because the Law of Diminishing Marginal Commodities comes into play.
- d. Because they focus on improved functionality of commodities.

11. What is Baudrillard's position on total happiness?

- a. It is perpetually delayed.
- b. It comes with patience and waiting.
- c. It prioritises production over consumption.
- d. It results from ethical consumption.

12. What is Baudrillard's position on consumption?

- a. It is a utilitarian process.
- b. It is a positive process.
- c. It is an egalitarian process.
- d. It is an irrational process.

PASSAGE 3

CONVERSATION ANALYSIS: Read the following transcript and choose the answer that is closest to each of the questions that are based on the transcript.

Lucia Rahilly (Global Editorial Director, The McKinsey Podcast): Today we're talking about the next big arenas of competition, about the industries that will matter most in the global business landscape, which you describe as arenas of competition. What do we mean when we use this term?

Chris Bradley (Director, McKinsey Global Institute): If I go back and look at the top ten companies in 2005, they were in traditional industries such as oil and gas, retail, industrials, and pharmaceuticals. The average company was worth about \$250 billion. If I advance

the clock forward to 2020, nine in ten of those companies have been replaced, and by companies that are eight times bigger than the old guards.

And this new batch of companies comes from these new arenas or competitive sectors. In fact, they're so different that we have a nickname for them. If you're a fan of Harry Potter, it's wizards versus muggles.

Arena industries are wizard-ish; we found that there's a set of industries that play by very different set of economic rules and get very different results, while the rest, the muggles (even though they run the world, finance the world, and energize the world), play by a more traditional set of economic rules.

Lucia Rahilly: Could we put a finer point on what is novel or different about the lens that you applied to determine what's a wizard and what's a muggle?

Chris Bradley: Wizards are defined by growth and dynamism. We looked at where value is flowing and the places where value is moving.

And where is the value flowing? What we see is that this set of wizards, which represent about ten percent of industries, hog 45 percent of the growth in market cap. But there's another dimension or axis too, which is dynamism. That is measured by a new metric we've come up with called the "shuffle rate." How much does the bottom move to the top? It turns out that in this set of wizard-ish industries, or arenas, the shuffle rate is much higher than it is in the traditional industry. Lucia Rahilly: So, where are we seeing the most profit? Chris Bradley: The economic profit, which is the profit you make minus the cost for the capital you employ is in the wizard industries. It's where R&D happens; they're two times more R&D intensive. They're big stars, the nebulae, where new business is born. [2025]

13. In the context of the conversation, "dynamism" most closely refers to

- a. the slow, gradual growth and morphing of established companies.

- b. the rapid and frequent changes in leadership and market position within an industry.
- c. the never-changing reliance on established and unchanging business practices.
- d. the stability and predictability of traditional industries.

14. In the context of the conversation, the term "arenas of competition" refers to

- a. specific companies that are considered to be powerful competitors.
- b. government regulations that control business competition.
- c. physical locations where businesses compete.
- d. broad categories of industries where companies engage in competitive activities.

15. "Muggles" refers to industries that

- a. are characterized by rapid and frequent changes.
- b. exhibit high levels of market capitalization growth.
- c. operate under traditional economic principles.
- d. are primarily focused on technological innovation.

16. Which one of the following does "shuffle rate" not measure?

- a. Volatility of market leadership.
- b. Churn within the arena of competition.
- c. Overall profitability of traditional industries.
- d. Relative change within an industry.

17. "Wizard" industries are characterized by

- a. a slower rate of market capitalization growth.
- b. a higher concentration of economic profit and research and development.
- c. a reliance on traditional economic rules and practices.
- d. lower research and development spending.

18. Which of the following best and correctly summarizes the main idea of the conversation?

- a. The global economy is shifting back towards traditional industries, as they offer more stable returns.
- b. Newer, dynamic industries, termed "wizards," are experiencing significantly greater growth and profit compared to traditional industries.
- c. Traditional industries are consistently more profitable than newer, "wizard-ish" industries.
- d. The terms "wizard" and "muggle" are used to describe the magical elements of business success.

PASSAGE 4

Recently, India was in the news again as a world leader - but this time for the wrong reason. According to the Swiss firm IQAir's assessment of the air quality of world cities 2023, New Delhi is back to being the world's most polluted capital. New Delhi's annual air quality rating is 19 times the World Health Organization's annual limit recommended in 2021 for its pollutant level. The picture is no better as far as the larger Union Territory of Delhi is considered – its annual record of pollutant levels makes it the third most polluted region globally.

Delhi may have hogged the headlines on air pollution, but the problem is far from unique to metropolises. IQAir's findings reveal that even lower-tier cities and towns in India are choking because of very poor air quality. Indeed, Begusarai in Bihar is the world's most polluted city. Partly industrialized, housing among others an oil refinery, Begusarai is primarily agrarian. And Begusarai is not an outlier: Mullanpur in Punjab, which is transitioning to an urban settlement, and Siwan in Bihar are among the 42 Indian cities/towns that are among the 50 most polluted globally.

Many judicial pronouncements have upheld "the right to clean air" as a corollary to the fundamental right to life and pushed governments to act. But Delhi's bad air is despite the introduction of CNG in public transport and the building of a metro network in the early years of this decade, and in spite of the presence of a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) that kicks in when the air quality turns bad and becomes more stringent as the air quality worsens.

Improving air quality across Indian cities requires three fundamental changes. One, governments must turn to science to understand, measure, and monitor the problem. Two, they have to understand that the response will have to include behavioural changes and use a combination of incentives and penalties to achieve this. And three, clean air has to be seen as a common public good. To be sure, it is not just the responsibility of the Centre or a battle for courts to wage, but a fight that states and municipal governments have to be a part of. This is the battle for our future. [2024]

19. The first sentence in the passage mentions that India was in the news again as a world leader.

What is the writer's intention in pointing this out?

- a. To be negative.
- b. To be critical.
- c. To create confusion.
- d. To be judgmental.

20. Based on the information in the passage, who has endorsed the right to clean air?

- a. The media.
- b. The government.
- c. The courts.
- d. Parliament.

21. In the last sentence of the passage, 'This is the battle for our future', the writer is

- a. being ambivalent.
- b. being melodramatic.
- c. emphasizing the need to fight for clean air.
- d. projecting a bleak future for India.

22. The phrase 'that kicks in' (para 3) means

- a. comes into force.
- b. causes violence.
- c. gains importance.
- d. gets rejected.

23. Which of the following points is not made by the writer?

- a. Governments at all levels should be involved in tackling the problem of air pollution.
- b. Scientific methods are needed to address the problem of air pollution.
- c. Polluting behaviour should be punished.
- d. Clean air is the right of every consumer.

24. Based on the information in the passage, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a. Delhi's air quality is the poorest in the entire world.
- b. The problem of air pollution is limited to the major cities in India.
- c. The 50 most polluted cities in the world are in India.
- d. Industrialization makes Begusarai the most polluted city in the world.

PASSAGE 5

Anxiety is an emotion that all people experience from time to time, and we do that for good reasons. It has been built into us; we have inherited it from our evolutionary past, because, in general, anxiety has a survival function. It kicks in whenever we sense danger - we freeze, we devote all of our attention to the danger, and our bodies react with a big release of adrenalin, an increase in blood flow to the muscles, getting us ready to run as fast as we can or fight as fiercely as we might.

Anxiety also helps us to focus on things when we have deadlines and, if someone is driving too fast when we cross the road, it helps us to jump out of the way quickly. So, there is nothing wrong with anxiety in general, and in fact, we would have difficulties if we did not experience it to some extent. However, it can get problematic if the danger is imagined rather than real, or is something that is exaggerated. In those cases, particularly if the perceived danger is out of proportion to the real danger, and it is persistent and disabling, then there is a danger of an anxiety disorder.

Scientists are looking at what role genes play in the development of these disorders and are also investigating the effects of environmental factors such as pollution, physical and psychological stress, and diet. Several parts of the brain are key actors in the production of fear and anxiety. Using brain imaging technology and neurochemical techniques, scientists have discovered that the amygdala plays a significant role in most anxiety disorders. By learning more about how the brain creates fear and anxiety, scientists may be able to devise better treatments for these disorders.

The first psychotherapy treatment that was shown to be effective was 'exposure therapy', which essentially encourages people in a graded way to go into their feared situations and stay in them for as long as they can and build their confidence that way. Another is 'group cognitive behaviour therapy', a talking therapy that helps people to understand the link between negative thoughts and mood and how altering their behaviour can enable them to manage anxiety and feel in control. There are, of course, drugs that can help people with anxiety, but medication will not cure an anxiety disorder, it can only help to keep it under control while the person receives psychotherapy.

There is plenty of evidence that exercise can help with anxiety problems. When stress affects the brain, with its many nerve connections, the rest of the body feels the impact as well. Exercise and other physical activity produce endorphins, which are chemicals in the brain that act as natural painkillers. Additionally, getting physically tired can help people fall asleep faster and have deeper, more relaxing sleep. As many people suffering from anxiety often have problems with insomnia, just the ability to get a good night's rest can change their perspectives.

Anxiety is a normal but highly subjective human emotion. While normal anxiety serves a beneficial and adaptive purpose, it can also become the cause of tremendous suffering for millions of people. It is important that people recognize excessive anxiety in themselves at the earliest, as treatment can be very successful. Leaving it untreated can be a misery. [2024]

25. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following statements best describes the potential danger associated with anxiety disorder?

- a. It primarily arises from genetic factors rather than environmental influences.
- b. It is always indicative of an imagined danger rather than a real one.
- c. It occurs when the perceived danger is proportionate to the real danger.
- d. It is characterized by a persistent and exaggerated perception of danger.

26. The passage is chiefly concerned with

- a. evaluating the effectiveness of psychotherapy and medication in treating anxiety.
- b. investigating the physiological benefits of exercise on anxiety management.
- c. understanding the complex interplay between genetic and environmental factors in anxiety disorders.
- d. exploring the multifaceted nature of anxiety and its adaptive functions.

27. In what way might the relationship between exercise or physical activity and anxiety relief suggest a potential solution for individuals with anxiety disorders?

- a. Exercise-induced endorphins facilitate cognitive behavioural therapy's effectiveness.
- b. Physical activity serves as a temporary distraction from anxiety, but its long-term effects remain unclear.
- c. Physical activity could enhance sleep quality, indirectly lessening anxiety symptoms.
- d. Exercise may directly target the amygdala to reduce anxiety symptoms.

28. Which of the following best indicates the relationship between anxiety and survival?

- a. Anxiety is part of our evolutionary past, yet has limited relevance now as it does not significantly impact our chances of survival.
- b. Anxiety, an intrinsic part of human nature, often disrupts our ability to thrive by acting as an impediment to survival.
- c. Despite being inherited from our evolutionary past, anxiety frequently undermines survival as it is not an integral part of human nature.

d. Anxiety is ingrained within us due to our evolutionary heritage and generally serves to promote survival.

29. In the passage, the information about anxiety treatments is organized in which of the following ways?

- a. By discussing various treatment options and their effectiveness.
- b. By comparing different types of anxiety disorders.
- c. By outlining the historical development of anxiety treatments.
- d. By presenting contrasting viewpoints on the subject.

30. Based on the information in the passage, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a. Exposure therapy encourages individuals to face their feared situations gradually.
- b. Regular exercise does little to alleviate anxiety symptoms and improve sleep quality.
- c. Medication is the first-line therapy and primary cure for anxiety disorders.
- d. Cognitive behaviour therapy is the most preferred treatment for anxiety disorders.

PASSAGE 6

The general idea of being fit is usually assumed to be exercising regularly and having a healthy diet. It's true to some extent. But this is not always the case. People don't realise that sleep also plays a crucial part when it comes to physical and mental well-being. It's a restorative process, which shouldn't be negotiable.

Hectic working hours, increasing stress levels, and an unhealthy lifestyle can cause irregular sleep patterns. These not only disturb one's daily routine, but can also hamper one's health, leading to lifestyle conditions like deranged cholesterol and diabetes. It's a preconceived notion that cholesterol and diabetes are usually genetic diseases, and unhealthy eating patterns and lifestyle exacerbate them. It is not generally known that sleep deprivation can put a person at risk of both deranged cholesterol and diabetes.

Sleep helps your body and mind repair and recharge themselves. But things can go awry if one is sleep-deprived. Insomnia can generally make the body work abnormally. It affects the mental and physical abilities to prepare the body for the next day. It leaves the brain exhausted, affecting the natural functioning of the body.

Lack of sleep can lead to higher cholesterol and blood pressure. Sleep deprivation can lower levels of leptin, a hormone that stabilises metabolism and appetite. This can also lead to obesity, if left unchecked. Sleep deprivation has been found to raise levels of ghrelin, the hunger hormone, and decrease levels of leptin, the satiety hormone. That's why people seek relief in foods that raise blood sugar. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends that adults should get a minimum of seven to eight hours of sleep each night. Staying up late can lead to consuming unhealthy snacks and junk food high in carbs and sugar. All this increases the risk of Type 2 diabetes and is equally connected to obesity.

Just like any other routine, having a definite sleeping pattern can help a person maintain a cycle of rest and activity. Sleeping at the same time every day and waking up on time will encourage quality sleep. Proper relaxation of body and mind before sleeping means that one should keep the mobile phone aside for at least half an hour before bed. It helps if the room is dark and quiet. Plus, one can always read a good book or listen to soothing music which can lull one into deep sleep. [2023]

31. As per the passage, which of these sentences is not correct?

- a. One's body and mind should be properly relaxed to ensure good sleep.
- b. Regular exercising and eating healthy food alone ensure fitness.
- c. Irregular sleep patterns can result in health problems.
- d. Insufficient sleep can lead to obesity.

32. In order to remain physically fit one must

- a. maintain a set sleep pattern.
- b. snack frequently.
- c. read a good book every night.
- d. raise levels of ghrelin.

33. The objective of the passage is to

- a. present psychological insights to the reader.
- b. provide medical input to the reader.
- c. expose the reader to disinformation.
- d. advise the reader.

34. Being deprived of sleep can result in

- a. hunger satiation.
- b. terminal illness.
- c. mental exhaustion.
- d. metabolism loss.

35. In what way does sleep contribute to a person's well-being?

- a. By helping the body replenish its resources.
- b. By increasing a person's appetite.
- c. By adding power and strength to the muscles.
- d. By regularising a person's daily routine.

36. The main focus of the passage is on the

- a. stability of leptin and ghrelin in the human body.
- b. dangers of high levels of cholesterol and diabetes.
- c. perils of insomnia and irregular sleep patterns.
- d. ill effects of junk food high in carbs and sugars.

PASSAGE 7

Two Apple stores in Delhi and in Mumbai - opened in April 2023. Until now, Indians could buy Apple products in the country either online or through a vast network of what the company calls 'premium resellers'. Will the new-found ability to sell products directly to customers in India - the world's second largest smartphone market - impact its fortunes here?

Apple has long tried to open physical retail stores in India. In 2019, the Indian government relaxed some investment rules, exempting companies selling 'cutting-edge' items, such as Apple's iPhones and iPads, from restrictions.

Apple first launched an online store in India through a website which allows users to request for customised products. Apple's decision to open physical stores in India could be the next step in its branding strategy. It is not as if this will change Apple's sales in any dramatic way, but it is still a key milestone, one that will allow Apple to deliver to Indian customers the full Apple experience.

The iPhone is still an aspirational product in the price-sensitive Indian market. When you launch an Apple store, you are basically giving a premium experience to your premium consumers. It might not pull up sales, but it pulls more people into the Apple ecosystem.

Setting up an Apple store in India is also a statement that the country is now big enough for Apple to be actually interested in expanding operations here, and comes at a time when India is rising fast as a manufacturing base for the iPhone.

Apple first began making a lower-end model of the iPhone in India in 2017. Last year, it began producing its latest model of iPhone 14 in the country, which now accounts for 5 percent of total iPhone production.

For years, Apple had relied on China's sophisticated manufacturing network to produce the bulk of its products. But analysts predict that by 2025, a quarter of all iPhones the company makes could be produced in India. Apple was already making between 5-7 percent of its products in India, and they are targeting to go up to 25 percent of their manufacturing capacity.

In 2022, Apple had a 60 percent market share in the Indian 'premium smartphone' market - which refers to mobiles that cost INR 40,000 or more, ahead of Samsung's 21 percent share. Apple is doing well across categories. The real issue will be to pull consumers to these flagship centres without alienating the partner sellers.

Apple has finally understood that India's premium market is growing, so why not be serious about it. [2023]

37. India is now the focus of Apple operations because

- a. it offers the benefit of a manufacturing base in addition to a market.
- b. no other country has the same ease of doing business.
- c. it has the world's second largest population.
- d. American technology companies want to reduce their reliance on China.

38. Apple's challenge while opening physical stores is to

- a. provide stimulation that draws customers away from other sellers.
- b. retain links with their partner sellers while drawing customers to their stores.
- c. subtly alienates customers away from competitors.
- d. offer parallel products packaged more attractively.

39. The main point the passage makes is that Apple

- a. needs physical stores to expand sales to more buyers of premium products.
- b. iPhone was already popular in India.
- c. has realised the strategic importance of the Indian market.
- d. needs new branding and marketing strategies to compete with Samsung.

40. Apple's aim is not only to increase sales of its iPhones, but to draw people into Apple's ecosystem. In the context of the passage, this statement means that Apple seeks to

- a. bring customers into a network of related products which it offers.
- b. attract customers to buy its phones through innovative means.
- c. attract customers by displaying a wide range of aesthetically designed products.
- d. be the market leader in the world of premium smartphones.

41. The Apple retail stores in India will

- a. not have any impact on Apple's image.
- b. bring in more customers and increase sales.
- c. not materially impact sales of iPhones.
- d. drive healthy competition in the smartphone market.

42. Based on the passage which one of the following is not true?

- a. Regulatory restrictions were eased in 2023.
- b. iPhone 14 is being manufactured in India.
- c. Currently 5 to 7 percent of all iPhones are manufactured in India.
- d. Manufacturing of iPhones in India commenced in 2017

PASSAGE 8

Bananas, apples, and avocados continue to ripen after they are picked. Cherries, blackberries, and grapes do not. The difference between climacteric fruits (the former) and non-climacteric fruits (the latter) matters to fruit growers and greengrocers, who must make sure their wares are in tip-top condition when they arrive at the marketplace. But how those differences originally came about remains unclear.

Two biologists of the University of Tokyo offer a suggestion. Fruits, they observe, exist to solve a problem faced by all plants-how best to spread their progeny around. Wrapping their seeds in a sugary pulp to provide a tasty meal serves as a way to get animals to do this for them. They do, however, need to make sure that their fruits favour the animals most likely to do the distributing. The biologists propose that climacterism, or its absence, is a way to achieve this. If ground-dwelling animals are the main distributors, then the continuing ripening of fallen fruit (i.e., climacterism) is beneficial. If, by contrast, those distributors are arboreal or aerial, and so can feed on unfallen fruit, then non-climacteric fruits will do well.

To test their idea, the two researchers studied 80 varieties of fruits, and noted which animals each depended on for its propagation. 35 of these fruits, eaten by both ground-dwelling animals and arboreal or aerial animals, were non-climacteric. Further, 15 of the 19 varieties eaten principally by ground-dwellers were climacteric, while 21 of the 26 fed on by arboreal or aerial animals were non-climacteric.

That is a suggestively strong correlation. And the authors' hypothesis is fortified by other evidence. They point out that non-climacteric fruits tend to have vivid colours, especially reds and purples. This may help them to stand out amid the foliage of their parent plants, advertising their presence. Climacteric fruits are generally better camouflaged. That makes them harder to spot until they have fallen to the ground. The main limitation of their work is that they looked at fruits eaten by people. This has probably contaminated the sample, for thousands of years of selective breeding for traits that human beings find appealing may have blurred any signal optimised by natural selection. The next step, therefore, should be the analysis of wild fruits. [2023]

43. The main point the writer makes is that fruit-bearing plants

- a. of all kinds need to be studied, not just those consumed by humans.
- b. and other plant species' propagation cannot be studied accurately.
- c. are better protected than other plant species and can propagate easily.
- d. have the same problems in propagation as other plants.

44. The study has been based on

- a. fruits that are consumed by humans.

- b. fruits available at the University of Tokyo.
- c. wild fruits consumed by animals.
- d. fruits sourced by greengrocers.

45. Which one of the following options means 'arboreal' and 'camouflage'?

- a. tree-dwelling and disguised
- b. ground-dwelling and hidden
- c. protected and fortified
- d. covered and variegated

46. The origins of the distinguishing characteristics between the two types of fruits, climacteric and non-climacteric are

- a. nebulous in spite of research.
- b. clear now as a result of this research.
- c. trivial at this stage.
- d. dependent on researcher observation.

47. According to the passage, the interest in the difference between climacteric and non-climacteric fruits is in the

- a. commercial context.
- b. environmental context.
- c. gastronomical context.
- d. public health context.

48. Consider the following two Findings:

- (i) Non-climacteric fruits tend to have vivid colours.
 - (ii) Thirty-six varieties of climacteric and non-climacteric fruits were eaten predominantly either by ground-dwellers, or by arboreal or aerial animals respectively. According to the passage,
- a. Finding (i) provides main evidence and Finding (ii) provides supplementary evidence confirming the hypothesis of the biologists.
 - b. Both Findings (i) and (ii) provide supplementary evidence confirming the hypothesis of the biologists.
 - c. Both Findings (i) and (ii) provide main evidence confirming the hypothesis of the biologists.
 - d. Finding (i) provides supplementary evidence and Finding (ii) provides main evidence confirming the hypothesis of the biologists.

PASSAGE 9

On the 14th of May 1796, vaccine matter was taken from the hand of a dairy maid, Sarah Nelmes, and inserted by two superficial incisions in the arms of James Phipps, a healthy boy of about eight years of age. The boy went through an attack of cowpox as expected. After this, however, it was necessary to determine whether he was protected from smallpox.

After waiting two months Jenner inoculated him with material from a smallpox patient. He was delighted to note that the boy was not affected by smallpox.

By 1798, Jenner had succeeded in demonstrating the protective quality of the cowpox virus against smallpox, by putting on record details of 23 cases, contracted either casually or by direct inoculation.

Sixteen of these had occurred accidentally among dairy workers in the course of occupations connected with cows and horses; the rest were done under Jenner's direction. Among the persons inoculated was Jenner's own little second son, Robert Harding Jenner, an infant eleven months old. Jenner demonstrated conclusively that the cowpox protects the human constitution from the infection of smallpox.

After Dr. Jenner had made his tests, he prepared a pamphlet for publication. He also went to London, so that he might have the opportunity to introduce the subject personally to friends and demonstrate the truth of his assertion to them. He remained in London for nearly three months without being able to find anyone who would submit to vaccination. Jenner went

back to Gloucestershire, disappointed. It happened, however, that soon after his return home, a distinguished London surgeon named Cline resolved to make a trial of the vaccine material which Jenner had left with his friends.

The patient was a child suffering from a form of chronic hip-joint disease. The vaccine material was inoculated, and the vaccine vehicle ran rather a normal course and healed fully. The little patient was afterward inoculated with smallpox virus and found to be incapable of acquiring that disease. This case attracted considerable attention. The child was in a run-down condition, and the vaccine material might very well have provoked a rather serious local reaction. In a way, the fate of vaccination hung in the balance and good luck was in its favour. Mr. Cline,

however, after this, became a strong advocate of vaccination, and brought it very decidedly before the London physicians.

It was not long before the opposition to the practice of vaccination took definite form. One of the best-known London physicians of the time, Dr. Ingenuoz, became the leader of a strong faction of the medical profession of London, who not only would have nothing to do with vaccination, but proclaimed openly that it

was a dangerous innovation, absolutely unjustifiable, and communicated a disease without protecting against any other. Dr. Watt from Glasgow blamed the vaccine for the increase in severe cases of measles and measles-related deaths among children. Fortunately, only a few colleagues were so illogical, and an excellent idea of how much Jenner's discovery was appreciated by his contemporaries may be obtained from the number of honours, diplomas, addresses and communications from public bodies and distinguished individuals which he received. Most of the prominent medical and scientific societies of Europe elected him a member or sent him some special token of recognition. [2022]

49. Local reaction' refers to

- a. adverse reaction caused by injections.
- b. adverse comments and protests by people from that location.
- c. encouraging reaction from local doctors.
- d. encouraging reaction from the people of the locality.

50. Jenner received a lot of recognition from medical bodies because

- a. fortunately, only a few colleagues were illogical enough to reject him.
- b. most of his colleagues realised the effectiveness of his work.
- c. Dr. Watt could not prove that vaccination caused measles.
- d. medical societies across Europe regularly engaged in tokenism.

51. According to the author, the main idea in the passage is

- a. scientific breakthroughs are more likely to happen in major urban centres.
- b. documentation is key for disseminating science.
- c. to explore the causes for vaccine hesitancy.
- d. chance and risk play a part in the success of scientific experiments.

52. On returning from London, Dr. Jenner was disappointed because

- a. his friends responded negatively to the vaccine.
- b. he was unsuccessful in replicating the experiment due to lack of volunteers.
- c. his friends would not agree with his findings on the vaccine.
- d. the vaccine did not receive any recognition, rewards, or a patent.

53. Twenty-three cases were put on record with the objective to explain very clearly that

- a. the cowpox vaccine protected the patients from another deadly disease.

- b. Dr. Jenner was ready to go to any extent, even testing the vaccine on his own son.
- c. accidental contraction of cowpox happens among dairy workers.
- d. it is beneficial to immunity if we work with cows and horses.

54. By calling the vaccine unjustifiable, Dr. Ingenhouz meant that vaccination

- a. made people sick and failed to provide general immunity.
- b. was an injustice against those on whom it was tested.
- c. was being carried out without any legal basis.
- d. actually spread the disease to a large population hiding documents very craftily

PASSAGE 10

From ancient Rome up to the Victorian era, a training in logic and rhetoric was meant to help privileged young men recognise spurious arguments and facts. Times have changed, but contemporary Italy is determined that its youth are prepared, as their ancient counterparts were, to engage meaningfully with the present-day version of the Forum – social media. At the end of October, 8,000 Italian schools will teach their students how to spot fake news through a programme developed with the help of journalists as well as tech giants Google and Facebook. In Israel, the University of Haifa is launching a course titled "Fake News".

The purpose of these courses is to ensure that public debate, particularly during election campaigns, is not hijacked by vested interests. Since the US presidential election in 2016, the spectre of Russia and its use of online propaganda has loomed large over public discourse in the West. In other parts of the world too, doctored images and blatant lies have been published by "news" websites. Given the speed with which information is shared online, the damage is already done by the time a fake story is exposed. The voters of tomorrow certainly need to be armed with the ability to sift bare facts from motivated fiction. The effects of social media on the formation of opinion, however, go far beyond fake news.

Traditional or legacy media is ordered by a need for balance. A newspaper, for example, has sections that deal with politics, crime, sports, the arts et al. There is, at least in principle, an attempt to tell both sides of a story in each report. On social media, the only editor is the user herself. Algorithms ensure that people see more of what they "like", that biases are reinforced rather than countered. Fake news is certainly a crucial aspect of online propaganda. But for young citizens to form opinions based on multiple viewpoints, they need to consciously seek out more than they are comfortable with. [2021]

55. The writer of the passage suggests that

- a. the purpose of education in early times was very different from what it is now.
- b. there are similarities in the aims of education in early times and those of today.
- c. the purpose of education in early times was to help students attain a position of privilege
- d. as times have changed the basis of education has expanded.

56. The passage points out that an important difference between traditional media and social media is that

- a. social media reaches more people.
- b. traditional media tries to present different points of view.
- c. social media is more balanced in its reports.

d. it is easier to spread fake stories through traditional media.

57. Social media is dangerous in its ability to influence opinion in readers through

- a. its choice of news items which are presented.
- b. its balanced reporting of wide-ranging stories.
- c. its ability to guide the reader to motivated conclusions.
- d. the creation of interest by using dubious facts.

58. Vested interests' (Para 2) means

- a. hidden purposes.
- b. popular interests.
- c. self-serving intentions
- d. profitable motives.

59. The antonym for 'spurious' (Para 1) is

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a. inferior. | b. incisive. |
| c. dubious. | d. Genuine |

60. The writer of the passage calls social media 'the present-day version of the Roman Forum' because it is a space for

- a. carrying out political propaganda.
- b. discussing ideas.
- c. nurturing political ambitions.
- d. spreading spurious arguments.

PASSAGE 11

John Muir, Earth-planet, Universe." - These words are written on the inside cover of the notebook from which the contents of this volume have been taken. They reflect the mood in which the late author and explorer undertook his thousand-mile walk to the Gulf of Mexico a half-century ago. No less does this refreshingly cosmopolitan address, which might have startled any finder of the book, reveal the temper and the comprehensiveness of Mr. Muir's mind. Even at the early age of twenty-nine his eager interest in every aspect of the natural world had made him a citizen of the universe. On these expeditions he had disciplined himself to endure hardship, for his notebooks disclose the fact that he often went hungry and slept in the woods, or on the open prairies, with no cover except the clothes he wore. "Oftentimes," Mr. Muir writes in some unpublished biographical notes, "I had to sleep out without blankets, and also without supper or breakfast. But usually I had no great difficulty in finding a loaf of bread in the widely scattered clearings of the farmers. With one of these big backwoods loaves I was able to wander many a long, wild mile, free as the winds in the glorious forests and bogs, gathering plants and feeding on God's abounding, inexhaustible spiritual beauty bread. Only once in my long Canada wanderings was the deep peace of the wilderness savagely broken. It happened in the maple woods about midnight, when I was cold and my fire was low. I was awakened by the awfully dismal howling of the wolves, and got up in haste to replenish the fire." Had it not been for the accidental injury to his right eye in the month of March, 1867, he probably would have started somewhat earlier than he did. In a letter written to Indianapolis friends on the day after the accident, he refers mournfully to the interruption of a long-cherished plan. "For weeks," he writes, "I have daily consulted maps in locating a route through the Southern States, the West Indies, South America, and Europe - a botanical journey studied for years. But, alas, I am half blind. My right eye, trained to minute analysis, is lost and I have scarce heart to open the other." The injury to his eye proved to be less serious than he had at first supposed. In June he was writing to a friend: "I have been reading and botanizing for some weeks, and find that for such work I am not very much disabled." In an account written after the excursion he says: "I was eager to see Illinois prairies on my way home, so we went to Decatur, near the center of the State, thence. I botanized one week on the prairie about seven miles southwest of Pecatonica ... To me all plants are more precious than before. My poor eye is not better, nor worse. A cloud is over it, but in gazing over the widest landscapes, I am not always sensible of its presence. [2020]

61. "John Muir, Earth-planet, Universe." Muir wrote this in his notebook because

- a. He did not have a permanent address.
- b. He wanted to be a traveller all his life.
- c. His love for botany went beyond borders.
- d. He wanted to live in the open all his life.

62. Which of these did John Muir have no great difficulty in doing?

- a. Finding food among the farmers.
- b. Eating regularly every day.
- c. Sleeping without blankets on certain nights.
- d. Chasing wolves that howled through the nights.

63. How did the experience with nature affect John Muir?

- a. He felt spiritually fulfilled.
- b. He became a better botanist.
- c. He felt successful after collecting rare plants.
- d. He enjoyed the breeze in the glorious forests.

64. According to the passage, in what way was Muir affected by his injury?

- a. His injured eye healed well very slowly.
- b. He could not open his left eye during his exploration.
- c. His eyesight was affected, but he was able to carry on.
- d. He took a long time to consult maps and study them.

65. When Muir said that he 'botanized', he meant that he

- a. studied plants and made notes on them.
- b. studied plants in their natural habitat.
- c. studied plants during his exploration.
- d. studied plants and classified them.

66. Which of these sentences is not true?

- a. John Muir explored several new places even on his way home.
- b. There was a cloud over the landscape he travelled.
- c. He was committed to being a botanist more than ever.
- d. He recorded his adventures in the notebook.

PASSAGE 12

Supposing half a dozen or a dozen men were cast ashore from a wreck on an uninhabited island and left to their own resources, one of course, according to his capacity, would be set to one business and one to another; the strongest to dig and to cut wood, and to build huts for the rest: the most dexterous to make shoes out of bark and coats out of skins; the best educated to look for iron or lead in the rocks, and to plan the channels for the irrigation of the fields. But though their labours were thus naturally severed, that small group of shipwrecked men would understand well enough that the speediest progress was to be made by helping each other-not by opposing each other; and they would know that this help could only be properly given so long as they were frank and open in their relations, and the difficulties which each lay under properly explained to the rest. So that any appearance of secrecy or separateness in the actions of any of them would instantly, and justly, be looked upon with suspicion by the rest, as the sign of some selfish or foolish proceeding on the part of the individual. If, for instance, the scientific man were found to have gone out at night, unknown to the rest, to alter the sluices, the others would think, and in all probability rightly think, that he wanted to get the best supply of water to his own field; and if the shoemaker refused to show them where the bark grew which he made the sandals of, they would naturally think, and in all probability rightly think, that he didn't want them to see how much there was of it, and that he meant to ask from them more corn and potatoes in exchange for his sandals than the trouble of making them deserved. And thus, although each man would have a portion of time to himself in which he was allowed to do what he chose without let or inquiry - so long as he was working in that particular business which he had undertaken for the common benefit, any secrecy on his part would be immediately supposed to mean mischief; and would require to be accounted for, or put an end to: and this all the more because, whatever the work might be, certainly there would be difficulties about it which, when once they were well explained, might be more or less done away with by the help of the rest; so that assuredly every one of them would advance with his labour not only more happily, but more profitably and quickly, by having no secrets, and by frankly bestowing, and frankly receiving, such help as lay in his way to get or to give. [2019]

67. When a dozen men are cast away on an imaginary island, the best educated would look for metals in rocks because

- a. metals can be used to make weapons.
- b. such an island probably has unexploited resources.
- c. he may find it beneath him to dig or cut or make shoes.
- d. he is suited for such work.

- 68. The author states that any appearance of secrecy or separateness would instantly and justly be looked upon with suspicion. From this statement we may infer that**
- a. what is secret is not what is separate
 - b. secrecy is not exactly the same as separateness
 - c. it is natural to be suspicious of secrecy
 - d. it only takes an instant for a relationship to deteriorate
- 69. The instance of the shoemaker who refuses to show his source and asks for more corn and potatoes, is an example of**
- a. a strong bargain.
 - b. unfair practice.
 - c. the system of barter.
 - d. the intent to make trouble.
- 70. According to the author, whatever one's work might be**
- a. hardships are going to be part of it.
 - b. one cannot keep complaining.
 - c. one should expect others to assure of help and advance our labours.
 - d. one must offer help to others in order to receive help.
- 71. The author's belief is that for progress to happen**
- a. a team should consist of people with multiple talents.
 - b. co-operation among team members is essential.
 - c. one must deal with those who are secretive.
 - d. transparency among all concerned is mandatory.
- 72. The writer makes a hypothesis, which can be related to**
- a. communities in general.
 - b. an imaginary island, rich with resources.
 - c. an ideal world of talented people.
 - d. a primitive and unsophisticated world.

PASSAGE 13

The perennial debate over gender differences threatens to remain inconclusive. Stereotypes pertaining to male superiority and female submissiveness could be traced to earlier ages where assigned roles were needed as survival measures. But, can we today see a swing away from these stereotypes, or have they established a stranglehold on our perceptions? In this gendered world, we continue to live with notions that one's gender determines one's skills and preferences, from toys and colours to career choices. So the girl child will be presented with a Barbie doll, while the boy child will receive a Lego set.

Does that mean that our brains are different? This myth has been exploded by a British professor of cognitive neuroimaging. Her research attempts to establish how these stereotypes mould our ideas of ourselves. She examines how science has been misinterpreted or misused to ask the wrong questions, instead of challenging the status quo. She urges us to move beyond a binary view of people's brains and instead to see these as highly individualised, profoundly adaptable, and full of unbounded potential. Her conclusive findings establish that no brain differences can be found that are solely gender related. In other words, modern neuroscientists have identified no decisive category-defining differences between the brains of men and women.

As a result of these findings we owe it to ourselves to dump the myths and look at ourselves afresh. We need to recognise that the male and female brain debate is a distraction, besides being based on inaccuracies. It is possibly harmful too, because it can be used as a hook to justify saying there is no point in girls doing science because they do not have a science brain; or compelling boys to opt for science because their brains are shaped for that subject. It can also condemn boys for being emotional, as this is seen as a feminine trait. And, most dangerous of all, to proclaim that boys, not girls, are meant to lead.

[2019]

73. The research of a British professor of cognitive neuroimaging has succeeded in establishing that

- a. the brains of men and women are alike.
- b. science needs to challenge the status quo.
- c. society must break away from attempts at stereotyping gender issues.
- d. the potential of a human brain is not directly linked to gender.

74. By referring to the world as 'gendered' the writer wants to convey that

- a. gender differences can be detected right from childhood.
- b. society continues to be fixated on gender stereotypes.

- c. one's gender is bound to determine one's abilities.
- d. the debate on gender differences will never be resolved.

75. One of the dangers in adopting a binary view of the human brain is that it can

- a. promote the notion of feminine and masculine traits.
- b. determine as well as limit academic choices.
- c. lead to the distortion and misinterpretation of scientific data.
- d. be used to encourage male dominance and superiority.

76. The writer of this passage wants to emphasise the need to

- a. use new insights provided by scientific research for a better understanding of human abilities.
- b. continuously debate issues of gender differences to achieve human progress.
- c. question the findings of scientific inquiry into the functioning of the human brain.
- d. accept gender differences as essential to the survival of the human species.

77. The synonym for 'stranglehold' (Para 1) is

- a. asphyxiation
- b. containment
- c. prohibiting entry
- d. overwhelming control

78. The antonym for 'unbounded' (Para 2) is

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. imprisoned | b. aggressive |
| c. restricted | d. fearful |

CHAPTER 2: VOCABULARY

1. Art can be _____ because it encourages individuals to express their emotions through a creative outlet, allowing them to process complex feelings, reduce stress, and _____ self-awareness. [2025]

a. pleasing; decrease	b. acceptable; disturb
c. avoidable; mitigate	d. therapeutic; enhance

2. Astronauts who stayed for an _____ period of time at the International Space Station displayed a remarkable level of _____ endurance and mental _____. [2025]

a. extensive; dysfunctional; agility	b. explicit; stoic; integrity
c. expanded; stern; acuity	d. extended; physical; resilience

3. While Curcumin, which is an _____ found in turmeric helps to reduce _____, extremely high doses of it can _____ headache and nausea. [2025]

a. enzyme; abrasion; infuse	b. alkali; infection; promote
c. alchemy; injury; cause	d. ingredient; inflammation; induce

4. The notion of personhood is _____ on something more than a particular type of genetic material within human beings: it arises only with the larger-scale structural _____ of that material, which permits capacities like _____, thought and moral agency. [2025]

a. dependent; disorganisation; deconstruction
b. interdependent; division; differentiation
c. built; distribution; calibration
d. premised; organisation; consciousness

5. Since chronic stress can _____ the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to illness and _____ their overall well-being, healthcare practitioners often recommend mindfulness practices and proper sleep to _____ these negative effects. [2025]

a. undermine; elevate; impede	b. compromise; impair; counter
c. paralyse; improve; diminish	d. endanger; preserve; decrease

6. Psychologists urge users to remember that social media rarely reflects the full complexity of real life. Influencers often _____ a carefully curated online persona, which can_____ unrealistic standards and occasionally _____ negative self-comparisons amongst their followers. [2025]

a. endorse; foster; provoke b. maintain; generate; trigger
c. advocate; perpetuate; stimulate d. profess; inspire; release

7. Conspiracy theorists suggest that if climate change is slowly turning the planet into an oven, then this must have been the outcome of our enemies' intentional _____. If there are no coincidences in the world, then everything, including _____ events, can be controlled. It is only a matter of power and _____. [2024]

a. errors; indescribable; information b. machinations; outstanding; determination
c. plotting; catastrophic; prowess d. inaction; advantageous; performance

8. In today's fast-paced world, individuals are inundated with information, necessitating the cultivation of critical thinking skills in order to navigate the influx of data _____. Additionally, the prevalence of fake news and misinformation presents a _____ challenge, undermining people's trust in media and institutions. Promoting media literacy and cultivating a culture of scepticism are vital for _____ informed citizenship and democratic values. [2024]

a. discerningly; pervasive; fostering b. thoughtfully; holistic; furthering
c. discreetly; global; serving d. judiciously; systematic; inhibiting

9. The outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in a health crisis and a drop in economic activity that were without _____ in history. While containing and _____ the spread of the virus was the first priority of public authorities, reducing the _____ of the disease and limiting the pressure on healthcare systems were also considered equally important. [2024]

a. similarity; combating; prevalence b. precedent; mitigating; incidence
c. equivalent; eradicating; toll d. parallel; controlling; outbreak

10. It is widely argued that social media can benefit aspiring _____. Populists in particular latch on to social media today as a way to connect directly with people, _____ restraints on their behaviour that political parties would have provided in the pre-internet age. They can also profit from echo chambers, which reinforce the sense that a whole people _____ supports a populist leader. [2024]

- a. entrepreneurs; enforcing; presumably
c. autocrats; bypassing; uniformly
- b. democrats; avoiding; surprisingly
d. anarchists; unscrupulous; unanimously
- 11.** An _____ found that one of the marathon runners had _____ slowed down in the last two kilometres and after _____ to the one behind him had let him cross the finish line just one second before he did. [2024]
- a. analysis; systematically; waving
c. overview; purposely; beckoning
- b. appraisal; particularly; speaking
d. investigation; deliberately; signalling
- 12.** In an era of globalization, cultural diversity is celebrated and valued across societies. However, the rise of xenophobia and intolerance poses a _____ challenge to social cohesion and harmony. Building inclusive communities and promoting intercultural dialogue are essential for _____ mutual understanding and respect among diverse populations. Additionally, educating individuals about the benefits of cultural diversity and challenging _____ are crucial steps toward creating inclusive societies and encouraging peaceful coexistence. [2024]
- a. multi-faceted; stimulating; archetypes
c. sophisticated; expediting; propositions
- b. pressing; nurturing; stereotypes
d. complicated; advancing; truisms
- 13.** The culture of the 21st century - on an increasingly _____ scale - is oriented around the practical principles of utility, effectiveness, and impact. Things are good to the extent that they are instrumental, with instrumentality usually defined as the capacity to produce money or things. The worth of anything - an idea, an activity, an artwork, a _____ with another person - is determined _____. [2023]
- a. nominal; dinner; meaningfully
c. conspicuous; dialogue; diligently
- b. global; relationship; pragmatically
d. ordinal; conversation; imaginatively
- 14.** Working from home requires that you may have to put your _____ life on _____. Some people find this very _____ as they like to keep their work and home lives separate. [2023]
- a. entire; camera; complicated
c. actual; video; uncomfortable
- b. private; screen; disconcerting
d. family; microscope; disturbing
- 15.** _____ have to label their _____ posts in order to bring about transparency and _____ the interests of the customers. [2023]
- a. Promoters; social media; incite
b. Influencers; promotional; safeguard

- c. Advertisers; commercials; capture d. Distributors; Facebook; multiply

16. The human resource chief said that the company will not _____ on investing in people and has _____ spending on employee needs in order to _____ them and provide them with a sense of stability and certainty. [2023]

a. prioritise; compromised; include b. compromise; prioritised; reassure
c. delay; assured; empower d. debate; assured; confront

17. In its early stages, dementia is often _____ from normal ageing, in which the older brain may naturally begin to show signs of cognitive impairment. Neither dementia nor cognitive ageing is currently, _____, though they may be slowed through diet, exercise, and keeping the mind agile with social and intellectual activity. [2023]

a. distinguishable; permanent b. irreversible; manageable
c. indistinguishable; reversible d. differentiated; visible

18. In the alleyways of old Cairo, in its cafes, warehouses and barbershops, framed portraits of Egyptian icons are _____ on fading walls. Kings, presidents, religious and political figures are all _____ as symbols of a glorious past. [2023]

a. fashionable; confounded b. ubiquitous; immortalised
c. rare; abundant d. substantial; dispersed

19. The beauty of _____ is that it poses thought-provoking questions and inspires us to think deeply about _____ and life in general. Further, _____ about the ideas and perspectives outlined by different thinkers can help us to gain a better _____ of the world we live in. [2022]

a. philosophy; ourselves; pondering; understanding
b. orthography; writing; speaking; perspective
c. linguistics; language; cogitating; picture
d. history; animals; mulling; acquaintance

20. Everyday more than 1 billion promotional messages are sent that are commercial and_____. Although_____ have used more technology to stop this, _____ find ways around it. [2022]

a. unsolicited; regulators; spammers b. inescapable; governments; advertisers

- c. informative; authorities; promoters d. educational; firewalls; hackers

21. Visually strong, _____ films of the 1920s are _____ preserved and suffer from censorship cuts, leading to the _____ that they were primitive and barely watchable. [2022]
a. classic; dispassionately; conclusion b. action-packed; badly; accusation
c. monochrome; barely; observation d. silent; poorly; misconception

22. Achieving spaceflight enabled humans to begin to explore the solar system and the rest of the _____, to understand the many objects and _____ that are better observed from a space perspective, and to use for human benefit the resources and attributes of the space environment. All of these activities - discovery, scientific understanding, and the _____ of that understanding to serve human purposes - are elements of space _____. [2022]
a. configuration; elements; functioning; vastness b. galaxy; ideologies; enormity; visualisation
c. cosmos; materials; principles; identification d. universe; phenomena; application; exploration

23. The investigators have _____ that he had leaked confidential _____ information about the acquisition, thereby allowing associates to profit _____ from the deal. [2022]
a. discovered; internal; enormously b. alleged; insider; illicitly
c. accused; important; dramatically d. announced; financial; treacherously

24. In an anthropocentric _____, animals are no more than property to human beings. Therefore, the concepts of 'humane' treatment and 'necessary' _____ are economic in nature. The idea that killing animals is not a serious issue as long as animals are not made to suffer rests _____ on the widely accepted idea that animals do not have a right to life. [2022]
a. belief; well-being; partially b. construct; comfort; somewhat
c. universe; gain; entirely d. worldview; suffering; explicitly

25. When we think about listening, we tend to assume that it is basically the same as hearing; this is a _____ because it leads us to believe that effective listening is _____. As a result, we make little effort to learn, or develop listening skills and thereby _____ a vital communication function. [2021]
a. blunder, spontaneous, forget b. fallacy, impulsive, ignore
c. mistake, natural, reject d. misconception, instinctive, neglect

26. As vaccination rates rise and governments relax their pandemic _____, the recovery of the event ecosystem is happening faster than expected. Event management _____ see the number of events and event attendance reaching and potentially. _____ pre-pandemic levels in 2019. [2021]
- a. regulations, professionals, surpassing b. monitoring, experts, confounding
c. resolutions, practitioners, reducing d. systems, masters, exceeding
27. This _____, _____ man was actually the _____ manager the company ever had. [2021]
- a. assiduous, ludicrous, most able b. assiduous, analytical, best
c. well-groomed, assertive, compassionate d. kind-hearted, thoughtful, friendly
28. The best strategy to give an _____ is to deliver it orally as well as in _____. It is also important to _____ the employee's achievements in the same manner. [2021]
- a. approval, awards, promote b. indictment, memos, realise
c. appraisal, writing, recognize d. appreciation, increments, advertise
29. The Aravalli range is the oldest _____ geological feature anywhere in the world. These were once tall mountains, possibly as high as the Himalayas. Over hundreds of millions of years these tall mountains have been _____ to low hills and ridges. Yet, these diminutive hills have been _____ to many important events in Indian history. [2021]
- a. existing, reduced, sentinel b. prevailing, destroyed, testament
c. surviving, eroded, witness d. continuing, broken down, observers
30. Coral reefs are one of the most _____ biologically complex, and diverse marine ecosystems on Earth. This ecosystem is one of the _____ paradoxes of the biosphere: how do clear, and thus nutrient-poor, waters support such _____ and productive communities? [2020]
- a. common, sensitive, fruitful b. fragile, fascinating, prolific
c. deep, strange, exuberant d. frail, unrecognized, wealthy
31. It is a _____ to live in a land without _____. Even with all the technological advancement and economic growth, there are still millions who live in war zones where life every day is filled with _____. [2020]
- a. coincidence, prejudice, adventures b. privilege, bigotry, terror
c. lovely, pride, episodes d. punishment, hate, agony

38. In response to my friend's request, I decided to write her a letter, which I hoped would be honest and practical, while also serving as a _____ of sorts for my own feminist thinking. This book is a _____ of that letter, with some details changed. [2019]

- a. map, version
- b. chart, form
- c. base, fallout
- d. guide, precis

39. Quantum Physics really begins to point to this discovery. It says that you can't have a Universe without mind _____ into it, and that the mind is actually _____ the very thing that is being _____. [2019]

- a. getting, creating, acknowledged
- b. intruding, making, construed
- c. entering, shaping, perceived
- d. penetrating, forming, seen

CHAPTER 3: INCORRECT WORDS

1. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2024]
 - a. The sound of laughter and loud music from the neighbour's house disturbed his train of thought as he was writing his farewell speech.
 - b. My friend has picked up a stray dog from the street and is now looking for somebody to train and domesticate the animal.
 - c. If you really want to see the landscape and the scenic countryside, it is better to take a train or go by road, rather than by plane.
 - d. By following the train of blood on the platform the police located the body of a young woman who had been brutally stabbed.
2. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2024]
 - a. She said, "I always stay awake late into the night till my daughters come home, as I worry a lot about their safety."
 - b. Due to the ban on slaughter of cattle, the neglected ones often stay away, wandering into fields and eating the crops.
 - c. The ownership of the property went to the eldest son of the family, but the other siblings went to court and asked for a stay order.
 - d. During her summer holidays she usually went to the village to stay with her grandparents and her large extended family.
3. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2024]
 - a. The rules of the organization proscribes members from engaging in conflicts of interest.
 - b. The coach proscribes late night parties before an important game.
 - c. The software manual proscribes step-by-step instructions for installing and configuring the program.
 - d. The company's policy proscribes employees from disclosing confidential information to unauthorized individuals.
4. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2024]

- a. Every morning, the aroma of freshly baked bread diffuses throughout the house, enticing everyone to the kitchen.
 - b. The stained glass diffused the light filtering through the windows.
 - c. Realising that the argument between the two groups of students was getting out of control, the teacher diffused the situation by quickly changing the topic.
 - d. He used a fan to diffuse the smoke that had accumulated in the kitchen while cooking.
5. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2024]
- a. A build-up of the callus is one of the most common causes of discomfort.
 - b. The doctor examined the callus but neglected to treat it.
 - c. When it is not too thick, the callus protects the foot from damage.
 - d. He received fifty lashes on his feet delivered with callus indifference.
6. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2024]
- a. The Child Marriage Restraint Act bans the marriage of those who are below 18 years of age.
 - b. The government bans anyone with irregularities in their passports from travelling abroad.
 - c. Bans provide the community a chance to raise objections and ensure transparency.
 - d. Organic farming bans the usage of all pesticides and involves manual weeding.
7. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2023]
- a. They were all soaking wet and their mother told them to ring their clothes first and then put them out to dry.
 - b. She had left home for the first time, so her parents made her promise that she would ring them up every day.
 - c. To catch the terrorist the security forces formed a ring around the house where he was hiding.
 - d. The witch waved her wand, recited a magical verse, pressed the blue stone on her ring and vanished into thin air.
8. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2023]

- a. After many years of knowing one another, they eventually tied the knot.
b. It was a full moon night and the tide was high, but he went boating and, unfortunately, he drowned.
c. The bags placed on the carrier were not securely tied, which led to an unfortunate accident.
d. I have a good chance of a promotion since my firm has recently tied up with a global conglomerate.
- 9.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2023]
a. They found that all the flowers placed on their mother's grave had withered within a week.
b. The pet dog could not come to terms with his master's death and went to grave for him, even refusing to eat for several days.
c. When the witness was summoned by the lawyer, he made grave allegations against the accused.
d. The landlord issued a warning to the tenants that non-payment of rent was a grave matter and would lead to a court case.
- 10.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2023]
a. Our products have to function in extreme weather conditions, which is why we put them through climatic testing.
b. The climatic moment of the match was when the captain got caught behind the wicket.
c. Under certain climatic conditions, hailstorms are formed in the atmosphere, resulting in unexpected accidents.
d. The passengers in the bus were sweating profusely because of the hot climatic conditions.
- 11.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2023]
a. To keep the key safe, she wore it on a cord around her neck.
b. He purchased a cord of wood from the market.
c. Teenagers may feel a need to cut the umbilical cord tying them to their homes.
d. The musician would hear a cord in his head and play each note individually.
- 12.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly or inappropriately. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2023]
a. If you need to farther your career, you should avoid all kinds of distractions.

- b. The politician was so flustered by the animosity of the crowd that he refused to answer further questions.
- c. We need to discuss this problem right away and avoid letting it fester any further.
- d. I live farther away from college than all my classmates.
- 13.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2022]
- a. There was a scenic spot not very far from our cottage where we used to go for picnics.
- b. Such a spot on his career was difficult to ignore when deciding promotions.
- c. He was unsure if he could respond to the question asked; fortunately, his answer was spot on.
- d. She wanted to make a good impression but, at the last moment, she discovered a spot of ink on her collar.
- 14.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2022]
- a. When the women were asked to join the protest, they refused to collaborate.
- b. Some treacherous relatives of Indian rulers collaborated with the British Empire.
- c. She interviewed many teens to collaborate her thesis on their mental health issues.
- d. The policeman collaborated with the film makers who were shooting a crime thriller.
- 15.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2022]
- a. It was a long journey by road, and they had yet to find a boat that would help them to cross the river.
- b. We were told that she had lived through tough times which made her cross and cranky as she grew older.
- c. The mistakes of his youth are the cross that he has to bear for the rest of his life.
- d. Although he thinks he is the life of the party, his remarks are insensitive, and his jokes are vulgar, cross, and crude.
- 16.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2022]
- a. The orchestra decided to flout tradition and played their instruments wearing ordinary clothes.
- b. The problems caused by flouting rules are many, but some people do not care.

- c. She flouted her designer wear and accessories in front of her classmates.
d. Her fault was that she flouted the dress code and refused to wear the uniform.
- 17.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2022]
- a. The cricket match was heading for a draw, when the batsman hit a sixer and our team won.
b. He was lucky enough to win the draw in the lottery, where the prize was a rare painting.
c. He used to keep all his important documents in the draw of his cupboard.
d. As he was very old, he didn't have the strength to draw water from the well near his house.
- 18.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2022]
- a. Her admirers considered her demeanor to be of great state and refinement, and most impressive.
b. Uttar Pradesh, being the most densely populated state in India, has the highest number of representatives in Parliament.
c. The judicial magistrate asked the prosecuting lawyer to state the grounds on which the defendant had been arrested.
d. The state of his grandfather's health was critical, but it was difficult for him to get in touch with all the members of the family.
- 19.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2021]
- a. Naturally, the fauna of the region varies with climatic changes.
b. Some plants adapt themselves to a variety of climatic conditions.
c. When the last tree dies in the climactic scene, the message in the movie becomes clear
d. The climactic changes from summer to winter affected the moods of the hero of the film.
- 20.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2021]
- a. The lives of the little princes in the large castle in the rich city were luxurious
b. The rooms were adorned with luxuriant trimmings of gold, silk and velvet.
c. They were handsome men who were distinguished by their luxuriant, golden tresses

- d. The cruise ship was of medium size, but the suites were very luxurious.
- 21.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2021]
- a. The king was under intensive pressure to protect the borders of his vast empire
 - b. The subject's loathing of the cruel emperor was intense
 - c. Without intensive study, it is difficult for most students to get admitted into any course
 - d. The intense debate between states led to the resolution of issues across the border.
- 22.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2021]
- a. We called a mechanic to appraise the car before we bought it.
 - b. The principal called a meeting to apprise the school's governing board of the progress made by all the students in the past year
 - c. At the end of each practice session, the teacher trainees are expected to appraise their own performance
 - d. The soldiers returned to the camp to appraise the commanding officer of the enemy's location.
- 23.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2021]
- a. The young girl said, "I now request our chief guest to come forward for the lighting of the lamp."
 - b. I just read that two men who took shelter under a tall tree during a thunderstorm were struck by lightning.
 - c. I believe that skin lightning products have a lot of undesirable side effects
 - d. The young girl helped her mother carry some of the groceries home, thereby lightening her heavy load.
- 24.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2020]
- a. The President of the City Chamber of Commerce is an urbane, kind and generous man.
 - b. The writer's next book deals with the life of an urbane intellectual as seen through the eyes of a lawyer.

- c. My uncle who lives in New York turned out to be the exact opposite of the urbane, wealthy gentleman that I was expecting to meet.
- d. Over 70% of the people living in urbane areas said that they wanted better roads and more schools.
- 25.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2020]
- a. The young scientist built a small, low-cost machine to recycle waste water. It was a simple but ingenious solution to the problem of water shortage in the city.
- b. My friend is an ingenious cook - she can make very delicious dishes from the most ordinary ingredients.
- c. The young man lost all his savings because he was rather ingenious to believe the agent's promises of a well-paid job and a comfortable life in a foreign country.
- d. Teachers say that some children are very ingenious when it comes to finding excuses for not completing their work.
- 26.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2020]
- a. After several rounds of meetings, the city council passed an ordinance to limit the number of cafes near the seaside.
- b. As per a royal ordinance, all men under 18 had to join the army and fight the war.
- c. Military aircrafts can be used to carry a wide variety of ordinance.
- d. The people protested a city ordinance that all parks must be closed by 9 pm.
- 27.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2020]
- a. It is a pleasure when we are all together for a meal at home.
- b. Her son is not interested in watching movies, which is not all together a bad thing.
- c. The three hundred guests sat all together in the large dining hall of the hotel.
- d. The facilitator asked the participants to stand up, all together.
- 28.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2020]
- a. The sickness of a family member can affect the lives of everyone at home.

- b. Kerala was affected by severe flood all through the year.
c. Taking this medicine for a prolonged period can have severe after affects.
d. The popular star was not a natural actor: his style was rather affected.
- 29.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2019]
- a. The emperor ordered the arrest of his most vocal critic.
b. There are very few film critics left in our city.
c. Mahatma Gandhi's critic of the West remains relevant to this day.
d. His classmates warned him, 'It is not a good idea to critique our Principal.'
- 30.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2019]
- a. The river teemed with salmon and trout.
b. The wedding was teamed in Bhojpuri style.
c. Which team will win this year's IPL tournament?
d. The film star wore a purple suit teamed with a crimson tie.
- 31.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2019]
- a. Last week we learnt about the right way to greet our customers.
b. "Get it write the first time" is an often-heard management slogan.
c. In India, driving on the Right side of the road is wrong.
d. The rite of afternoon tea is described in many of Enid Blyton's books.
- 32.** One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2019]
- a. The attackers decided to raise the castle to the ground.
b. They raised their children to be freethinking boys and girls.
c. To raise a toast to a newly-wed couple is a common practice.
d. The rays of the sun rose above the mountain.

33. One of the statements below contains a word used incorrectly. Choose the option which has the incorrect or inappropriate usage of the word. [2019]

- a. Shakespeare is sometimes referred to as a bard.
- b. He barred his soul to the preacher.
- c. Because of his age, he was barred from entering the theatre.
- d. The Bar barred all bards.

CHAPTER 4: SENTENCE COMPLETION

In this type of sentence completion question, you have to choose the option that makes the sentence meaningful and grammatically correct.

1. Deepak is an unpleasant person, but we all _____ because his sister is a close friend of ours. [2025]

 - a. put him down
 - b. put him aside
 - c. put up with him
 - d. put along with him

2. We hope that the government's new policies will _____ a period of economic growth. [2025]

 - a. usher in
 - b. set in
 - c. turn up
 - d. set forth

3. When she inherited some jewellery from a distant relative, she had no idea of its worth and decided _____. [2025]

 - a. to get an approval
 - b. to get it appreciated
 - c. to have it appraised
 - d. to have it apprised

4. There are so many instances of one or more deer crossing the road, or just standing in the middle of the road, or else _____; it is like the deer cannot hear the noise of the engines or see the headlights. [2025]

 - a. jumping under the road
 - b. foraging beneath the road
 - c. staggering with the road
 - d. bounding across the road

5. Everyone wondered how the travel vlogger could go around the world all through the year and _____. [2025]

 - a. manage his itinerant life style
 - b. manage his itinerary life style
 - c. manage his iterative life style
 - d. manage his itinerary in his life style

6. Without a doubt, the widespread use of renewable energy is a key solution to climate change. However, it is not a _____, as efforts in conservation are equally crucial. [2025]

 - a. dead ringer
 - b. silver lining
 - c. red herring
 - d. silver bullet

7. The labourers who were fired broke into the office building and destroyed some of the machinery. Rather than finding a solution to their problems, they _____. [2025]
- a. exacerbated the situation b. extended their troubles
c. exaggerated their hardships d. extenuated the circumstance
8. The students' picnic plans _____ when it started raining heavily in the morning. [2024]
- a. dropped out b. dropped off
c. fell behind d. fell through
9. In a circus where performers share dressing rooms, training spaces and work in a fast-paced environment, the success of a show _____ fostering team-work and collaboration. [2024]
- a. comes down to b. comes about
c. come along with d. comes with
10. Sheila keeps interrupting Manohar when he is playing with his friends, but he _____ because she is his younger sister. [2024]
- a. puts up with her b. puts along with her
c. puts her off d. outs her on
11. In his address to the candidates contesting the student council elections the Principal said, "If you want others to take you seriously then you must _____ on issues like gender bias and inclusivity." [2024]
- a. rule the roost b. go around the bend
c. walk the talk d. read the lines
12. Anil could not go to his friend's party, as he had fever and was _____. [2024]
- a. beneath the weather b. under the weather
c. beside the weather d. outside the weather
13. My supervisor seemed to be in a bad mood because he _____ when I asked if I could leave an hour early. [2024]
- a. cut my voice b. ate my head
c. hit my ear off d. bit my head off

28. I still have two more difficult exams left, but I'm trying to _____; after these I won't have any more for a year! [2022]
- a. look on the bright side
 - b. think upon the sunny side
 - c. look forward to the bright side
 - d. think about the sunny side
29. The impatient and intolerant mother made every effort to _____. [2021]
- a. domineer her children
 - b. dominate the child's lives
 - c. denominate her children.
 - d. dominion her children
30. To avoid the ecological issues, scientists and government agencies consider how sustainable development _____. [2021]
- a. affects the citizen.
 - b. affects the citizen.
 - c. is affective to the citizen
 - d. is affectionate to the citizen.
31. I now have more productive time during the day because I keep the office gossips _____. [2021]
- a. a foot away.
 - b. at arm's length
 - c. at bay's length
 - d. out of harm's way.
32. We need to cut down on our expenses, so that we are able to _____. [2021]
- a. make ends meet
 - b. tie up the loose ends
 - c. be more philanthropic.
 - d. be tax compliant.
33. A portion of the house collapsed because the contractor _____. [2021]
- a. short-changed places
 - b. cut corners
 - c. bit the bullet
 - d. made a fortune
34. Our team has won every single match that they have played since January. They seem to be _____. [2021]
- a. rolling in luck.
 - b. rolling in money.
 - c. on a roll.
 - d. on a roller coaster.
35. It came as a shock to me that my friend had lost his _____ in a moment of madness as he lent all of it to his neighbor. [2020]

42. The problems may be difficult, but all you have to do is _____ as long as you can. [2019]

 - a. hang in up there
 - b. hang on there
 - c. hang on to that
 - d. hang in there

43. The standards set by the examination board are so high that it would be difficult for poorly prepared students to _____. [2019]

 - a. pass most errors
 - b. past muster
 - c. get past most errors
 - d. pass muster

44. After all the alliances and arithmetic, the party is likely to _____ a majority in the assembly election. [2019]

 - a. scrape through
 - b. scrape together
 - c. tape together
 - d. shape together

45. I'll have to _____ because I don't know how Sheila's parents are going to react to this offer. [2019]

 - a. count on my fingers
 - b. face the music
 - c. break the ice
 - d. play it by ear

46. If you had been more alert, this golden opportunity would not have _____. [2019]

 - a. escaped your fingers
 - b. slipped off
 - c. escaped away
 - d. slipped through your fingers

CHAPTER 5: PARAGRAPH COMPLETION

1. A report published in Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology has called for an overhaul of our understanding of obesity. An over-reliance on using Body Mass Index [BMI] as a metric has the peculiar effect of leading to both underdiagnoses and over diagnosis of the condition. _____. BMI does not give accurate information about how fat is distributed in an individual's body. It frequently fails to capture the true state of health of an individual. A person's BMI may indicate they are "obese", but their organs and bodily functions may be absolutely normal. Every individual is a unique constellation - not only of genes and other biological variables, but also socio-economic conditions and habits.**[2025]**
- a. Obesity is the end result of multiple factors and BMI can pinpoint the cause of the problem
 - b. Further, much of the information on diabetes, obesity or BMI available on social media is misleading
 - c. BMI reading can help the doctor to accurately prescribe the appropriate dosage to reduce fat
 - d. This is because BMI does not provide a reliable picture of health, nor any direct measure of fat
2. An island in Japan boasts of numerous dairy farms that own nearly one million cows, and supplies 70% of the milk sold in the country. These dairy farms have now begun to use cow manure to produce hydrogen. The methane from cow manure mingles with steam in a high temperature environment to produce hydrogen, which is used to electrify the local zoo. _____. **[2025]**
- a. The Indian government too, should replicate this, and use such technology to produce hydrogen
 - b. It is a case study of a certain animal that is useful in providing energy for several other animals
 - c. This is an exemplary way of creating a sustainable source of energy using innovative technology
 - d. This shows how Japan has always used technology to help animals
3. As globalization held sway over the world, communities, which used to live in relative isolation, sought access to the wider world, and in the process, they parted with their own language and adopted a new lingua franca. The loss of language, however, does not merely mean the loss of a few thousand words. _____. So, when a language dies, a way of thinking dies with it.**[2025]**
- a. A certain school of thought regrets the demise of local languages but in recent times revival movements have emerged across the world, especially in India
 - b. A potentially endangered language can sometimes appear to be thriving, or on the other hand, it can show signs of declining

- c. Languages exist not only for the purposes of practical communication; they convey a linguistic community's entire mindset and its culture
 - d. Since evolution and change in languages is a part of history, most of the languages spoken today would be scarcely recognizable from what they were a few thousand or maybe even a few hundred years ago.
4. On the first day of January 2025, the Indian Meteorological Department [IMD] announced that 2024 was the hottest year on record. A study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water shows that nearly eight out of ten Indians live in districts that are at risk of either a flood, a cyclone, or a drought. Nearly twenty-three States in India are heatwave-prone. _____ In the summer of 2024, India recorded more than 44,000 cases of heatstroke and over 300 heat-related mortalities, as per the bulletin of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Water reservoirs and the energy demand that keeps India powered are impacted too. During a ten-day long heatwave in Delhi, peak power demand was 16% higher than the previous year. **[2025]**
- a. According to the Council, more than 20% of the population is not affected by climate change
 - b. The record-breaking heat of the summer of 2024 resulted in an unpredictable and delayed monsoon
 - c. However, the people of these districts are given sufficient compensation for loss of life and property
 - d. The increasing heat stress remains a major challenge, affecting public health and economic productivity
5. The pursuit of a career in sports offers individuals opportunities for personal fulfilment and professional success. _____. Athletes must therefore undergo rigorous training regimens to maintain peak physical condition and hone their skills. Additionally, competition in the sports industry is fierce, requiring dedication, perseverance, and mental resilience to succeed. Despite the challenges, successful athletes can enjoy lucrative contracts, endorsements, and global recognition for their achievements. **[2024]**
- a. Sports careers are often short-lived due to the physical demands and risks of injury associated with athletic competition
 - b. Many athletes choose to pursue higher education alongside their sports careers to ensure long-term stability and success
 - c. The sports industry encompasses a wide range of career paths, including coaching, sports management, and sports journalism

- d. Athletes often face pressure from coaches, sponsors, and fans to perform at their best, adding to the stress of professional sports
6. _____ This happened after a lorry laden with tomatoes worth 21 lakh rupees went missing. One of the three traders who had sent his tomatoes on the lorry said that they had lost contact with the driver in Nashik and that his GPS had been switched off. The traders were not sure if the truck had been hijacked or if the driver had stolen the tomatoes. This is the third time tomatoes have been stolen following the rise of tomato prices to Rs.150 per kg. [2024]
- a. Panic and confusion reigned among traders in the Kolar agricultural produce market
 - b. A couple took the hijacked vehicle to a nearby market and sold the tomatoes there
 - c. Nashik overtook Kolar as the biggest tomato market in Asia
 - d. Three traders jointly hired a lorry to carry tomatoes
7. Most artificial intelligence (AI) applications in the fields of healthcare, industry, finance, transportation, and writing, rely heavily on deep learning and natural language processing. However, while AI systems can mimic existing styles and patterns, there is an ongoing debate about whether AI can truly possess creativity in the same sense as humans. _____. [2024]
- a. Man has long feared the rise of the machine, his own creation becoming smarter and more intelligent than him
 - b. High-performance computing has already proven a machine's ability to perform advanced calculations far faster and more accurately than the human mind
 - c. AI-generated works may lack the depth, emotional connection, and unique perspectives that come with human experiences and emotions
 - d. AI usage raises a number of ethical concerns such as privacy issues, bias in algorithms, and the potential misuse of AI in many applications
8. In an era where privacy and individualism are often prized above all else, Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto blurs the boundary between public and private. _____. His work is a testament to the power of architecture to break down barriers and to foster a sense of community. Through his innovative designs, he challenges traditional notions of public and private spaces, seamlessly blending the two realms. [2024]
- a. He is deeply committed to building harmonious societies through his architectural practice
 - b. He was recently named the 2024 Laureate of the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize

- c. He successfully integrates traditional Japanese aesthetics and modern design principles in his work
- d. In the world of architecture, he stands out as a visionary voice advocating a return to a more interconnected way of living
9. The concept of the 'Villa' and other European ideas came to Lucknow with foreign soldiers, travellers and adventurers. For the Nawabs of Lucknow, architecture became the physical manifestation of their new status, and a way of proclaiming their alignment to the new power bloc. _____. Villas, hence, provided an ideal substitute. Europeans sold to the Nawabs the idea of villas, based on designs in publications carried by them, and often aided by memory. The building chosen as the prototype for the famous DilkushaKothi was a country house in Northumberland.**[2023]**
- a. The Villa became the backdrop to both the private as well as the court life of the Nawabs
 - b. The Nawabs chose to live in Villas because they were easier to construct than palaces
 - c. The Nawabs of Lucknow fancied building palaces that resembled British ancestral homes
 - d. The Nawabs were attracted to European ideas in architecture because of their 'foreignness'
10. In the late 1960s, architect Charles Correa began his career as an urban planner, creating New Bombay (now Navi Mumbai), an urban area that provided housing and job opportunities for many who lived across the harbour from the original city. In the midst of overpopulated cities, he tried to create quasi-rural housing environments. In all of his urban planning commissions, Correa avoided high-rise housing solutions. _____. **[2023]**
- a. He focused on low-rise dwelling solutions that emphasized the human scale and created a sense of community
 - b. Considerations of the Indian climate drove many of his decisions
 - c. He is particularly noted for his sensitivity to the needs of the urban poor
 - d. His early work combined traditional architectural values with the Modernist use of materials
11. A study of the social and cultural context of Indian poetry in English reveals several important insights into its origin. Indian poetry in English began in Bengal, the province where the British first gained a stronghold. In addition, this poetry was a largely urban phenomenon, centered in Calcutta. _____. Then, gradually, it moved to other urban centres such as Madras and Bombay. Even today, Indian poetry in English remains largely urban.
- Moreover, because English was an elite language, Indian poets writing in English came from the upper classes.**[2023]**

- a. The British had decided that poetry about India could reach a larger audience if written in Calcutta
- b. The rulers encouraged the natives to write poetry about India only if their mother tongue was English
- c. English was seen as an elite language and so the British felt that only they could use it for poetry
- d. In fact, poetry writing for the first fifty years was confined to a few families who were residents of Calcutta

12. _____. Conflicts are now brewing over rivers and river basins shared by many countries around the world. This is not unexpected, given the fact that more than two hundred water bodies are shared by two or more countries. Strife over water, for example, is erupting throughout the Middle East, from the watersheds of the Nile to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. [2023]

- a. With water becoming increasingly scarce and development of new sources of water extremely costly, international water tensions are expected to rise
- b. It might be a cliche, but given how scarce it is, water is the new oil of the 21st century
- c. The world does not consider water to be the scarce resource it is
- d. Fresh water is increasingly in short supply, with nearly two-thirds of the global population living in water-stressed conditions

13. This winter, I wish to go to the beaches for a holiday. I think I will go to Goa, India's most well-known beach holiday destination. It is about 600 km away from Mumbai, so reaching there is not a major problem _____. The major Goan beaches are tourist attractions and have some good beach-view hotels and plenty of shops selling touristy things such as beach robes, hats, jewellery, bags, and more. [2022]

- a. There are buses that ply at night, there are both day and night trains, and one can always hire a car and reach there in comfort in about 10 hours.
- b. A great getaway place, it offers an interesting variety of food, sightseeing options, flea markets, and some wonderful Indo-Portuguese buildings.
- c. One of the great things about a holiday in Goa is that we can be as lazy as we want, relaxing all day, sunbathing, sipping juice, and trying out different Goan tidbits.
- d. Some major beaches are Baga, Bogmalo, Candolim, Calangute, and Dona Paula, where adventure sports activities like water skiing and scuba diving are organized.

14. Nowadays, many teenagers and young adults around the world have to spend most of their time studying in order to get top grades, a university place, and a good job. _____. There are several

causes for this situation, one of the main ones being exams. These are stressful experiences, and most students take a huge number of them during their school career. [2022]

- a. Therefore, studying while you are exhausted is unproductive.
- b. Therefore, it would be better to learn how to apply the knowledge gained.
- c. For this reason, there is often little time left for hobbies or socializing.
- d. For this reason, the education system has to change for the welfare of the students.

15. _____ In Southeast Asia, for example, climate and lifestyle factors mean that people spend much more time in shopping malls than Europeans do, who might go shopping once a fortnight. Then there are gender variations in the way we shop. As descendants of hunter-gatherers, accumulating is in our blood, but how you go about it depends on whether you are male or female. [2022]

- a. By and large, people enjoy shopping and comparing brands and prices.
- b. Retail stores constantly offer promotional discounts to entice shoppers.
- c. When it comes to shopping, men hunt, and women gather.
- d. Culture plays an important role in shaping the shopping experience.

16. The people of the Indus Valley civilization wrote with a script. So far scholars have been unable to decipher that script. Archaeologists who have been excavating newly discovered sites in Mesopotamia hope to find a text that has scripts from both the Indus valley and Mesopotamia, the second of which has already been deciphered _____. [2022]

- a. They will then be able to decode the Indus valley language.
- b. They will then be able to decide which civilization was older.
- c. The nature of relationships between the two will come to light.
- d. They can then prove that there was trade between the two.

17. Captive breeding has helped revive wildlife such as the Eurasian beaver, the cheetah and the Arabian Onyx. Several species have been reintroduced into locations in order that the ecological balance is restored. When herbivorous bandicoots were set free in the wild, they dug the ground and redistributed dry leaves and branches, reducing the chance of bush fires. But some predators may overhunt or threaten other vulnerable species. _____. [2021]

- a. Hence, wildlife conservationists should revive more of herbivorous animals and enrich the ecosystems.

- b. Conservation of carnivorous animals is complex and could be dangerous to so many other vulnerable species.
- c. The revival of the ecosystem therefore, depends on the eating habits of the animals introduced therein.
- d. Therefore, all species must be revived and allowed to live in forests regardless of their being carnivorous.
- 18.** Postponed from last year, the Tokyo Olympics are set to begin this year. The locals are wary, the athletes are anxious, training sessions are truncated, and restrictions are extensive. _____ . Yet Japan, in many ways is seen as a safe choice, because of its past experience of hosting big events. It has an impeccable reputation for discipline and the ability to deliver the goods. **[2021]**
- a. The Japanese are anxious but ready to welcome the athletes.
- b. The shadow of the pandemic looms large over the Tokyo Olympics.
- c. The International Olympic Committee has fully supported the Tokyo games.
- d. Japan is going through an economic recession and could run out of funds.
- 19.** When people move from one city or country to another, the spread of diseases may result. People often bring in germs which may not have been present there before. These new germs can spread quickly and cause previously unknown diseases _____. They become ill more easily and could even die. In turn, newcomers may catch diseases which were not present where they came from. **[2020]**
- a. If they had gone back, they would have started an epidemic.
- b. Pollution also can lead to the spread of disease.
- c. If a germ is completely new to a region, people have no natural protection against it.
- d. Such changes may result in enhancing conditions for people who live in big cities.
- 20.** Samar, a young man from a village in Tripura is a social media star who hopes to make it big as a model and actor. While his minute-long videos are very popular, his series titled, 'Who wore it better?' showcases his creative side. He uses a variety of filters and visual effects to improve his videos. _____. **[2020]**
- a. It is clear that short videos are very popular among the youth than television.
- b. This is one of the ways young men make money on the internet.

- c. It is possible to be popular on the internet, although making money here is difficult.
- d. This shows how it is possible today for people with limited resources to express their creativity.

21. _____ Infrastructure, in the form of paved surfaces, disrupts water absorption and lowers water retention. This leads to disastrous levels of flooding which diminishes the biodiversity and impoverishes the people of the region. Land should be used mindfully to prevent water logging during heavy rains.

[2019]

- a. Climate change is not the only cause for flooding.
- b. Flooding can happen after heavy or low rainfall.
- c. Infrastructure can actually cause a lot of trouble during flooding.
- d. Water retention is less important to prevent flooding.

22. Few look forward to old age and all that it brings in its wake - deteriorating health, loss of vigour, restricted mobility, increasing dependence on others, not to mention a sense of foreboding and anxiety. Yet, one has to learn to cope with the onset of old age. Firstly, it is imperative to prepare to accept old age in spite of the restrictions or limitations it imposes on one's mobility. Equally important is the need to adopt a positive attitude towards life. _____. Above all, peace of mind, is the efficacious balm that brings equanimity to one's life. We must resign ourselves to growing old, and in the process let us try to make life as fulfilling and meaningful as possible.[2019]

- a. The role of humour and fun are indispensable as these are the spice of life and guaranteed to bring cheer and bonhomie, besides keeping one's mind off life's grim realities.
- b. Owing to advances in medical science, we can now expect to live well beyond 90 years.
- c. Physical debility and stiffening body joints 'creaking' in protest may make mobility difficult - something one should learn to take in one's stride stoically.
- d. Turning nostalgic and recalling 'those good old days' when they were young and life was radically different from what it is today, help one accept old age.

23. The Arab Spring is widely believed to have stemmed from dissatisfaction with the rule of local governments, though some have speculated that wide gaps in income levels may have had a hand as well. Issues such as political corruption, human rights violations, unemployment, and educated but dissatisfied youth may have been responsible as well. _____. [2019]

- a. Thus, youth unrest was the main reason for the Arab Spring
- b. Some also cite the 2009-10 Iranian election protests as one of the reasons behind the Arab Spring

- c. The Arab Spring was due to the wide gap between the haves and the have-nots
- d. To sum up, the Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions across the Arab world.



CHAPTER 6: PARAJUMBLES

1. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2025]
- Among its major urban centres, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro stand out as prime examples of this architectural prowess, revealing large public structures, residential areas, and sophisticated water management systems indicative of a complex societal structure.
 - Showing remarkable sophistication for its time, this ancient culture developed meticulously planned cities, complete with advanced sanitation systems and intricate grid layouts that underscore its profound understanding of urban design and engineering.
 - Economically, the civilization thrived on a foundation of extensive trade networks, connecting them with distant lands, alongside a robust agricultural system that sustained its large populations and facilitated surplus production.
 - Despite its impressive achievements and longevity, the reasons behind the eventual decline of this remarkable civilization remain largely enigmatic, prompting ongoing research and speculation among historians and archaeologists.
 - The Indus Valley Civilization, flourishing in the Bronze Age, represents one of humanity's earliest urban societies, evidenced by archaeological discoveries dating back thousands of years.

2. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2025]
- Using the wonders of Artificial Intelligence (AI), they quickly improved upon those skills to become far more dexterous.
 - Inside a robotics laboratory of the Toyota Research Institute, a group of robots is busy cooking. There is nothing special about that; robotic chefs have been around for a while.
 - Despite their extraordinary culinary capabilities, these robots are not destined for a career in catering.
 - But these robots are more proficient than most: flipping pancakes, slicing vegetables, and making pizzas with ease.
 - The difference is that instead of being laboriously programmed to carry out their tasks, the Toyota robots have been taught only a basic set of skills.

3. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2025]

- a. Seven of the ten worst affected countries (including India) are low- and middle-income countries.
- b. Between 1993 and 2022, India was the sixth worst-affected country in terms of fatalities and damage sustained from extreme weather events wrought by the climate crisis.
- c. High income nations, whose economies are founded in industrial era use of fossil fuels, meanwhile, insist that growing economies, especially India and China, shoulder greater responsibility.
- d. This reinforces the developing world's contention that it has had to bear a disproportionate burden of climate afflictions despite having contributed little to the crisis.

4. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2025]

- a. When we take time to notice these moments, we discover hidden beauty that sparks our creative thoughts because creativity isn't just about rare, amazing events—it's also about finding the special in the ordinary.
- b. Creativity is often seen as the ability to look at the world in a new way—to turn everyday sights, sounds, and experiences into art or ideas.
- c. In fact, inspiration can come from small details of daily life: the gentle warmth of morning sunlight on a kitchen counter, the steady sound of traffic outside, or the brief smile of a stranger on a busy street.
- d. Many people wrongly think that true creativity only comes from big ideas or exciting adventures.

5. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2025]

- a. In drought conditions, water often depletes in the topsoil and remains accessible only in the deeper subsoil layers.
- b. A new study gives new insights into how the acid changes root growth angles to enable plants to reach out deeper subsoils in search of water.

- c. Plants rely on their root systems, the primary organs for interacting with soil, to actively seek water.

- d. Abscisic acid plays an important role in helping plants adapt to these challenging conditions.

6. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2024]

- a. Farmers, however, especially during the peak farming season, ignore the warnings of the weather forecast.
- b. People from some states of India have demanded that families of those who have been killed by lightning strikes should receive compensation.
- c. The Minister for Disaster Management announced that over 2800 people have died after being struck by a lightning last year.
- d. The Minister responded that pamphlets on the dangers of lightning and precautions to be taken are being distributed in villages.

7. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2024]

- a. Meanwhile, people are posting less. The share of Americans who say they enjoy documenting their life online has fallen from 40 per cent to 28 per cent since 2020.
- b. The striking feature of the new social media is that they are no longer very social.
- c. Some of the consequences of this are welcome. Political campaigners say they have to tone down their message to win over private groups.
- d. Debate is moving to closed platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram.
- e. Inspired by TikTok, apps like Facebook increasingly serve a diet of clips selected by artificial intelligence according to a user's viewing behaviour, not their social connections

8. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2024]

- a. In this microgravity environment, your blood also tends to move towards the heart and head.
- b. Both effects are only short-lived and, after a brief period of readjustment on arriving back home, the heart and spine return to normal.
- c. The heart interprets this as an increase in the amount of blood in the body and that it needs to pump less, so it shrinks.
- d. In space with less gravitational force than on Earth, there's less pressure on your spine and so it'll get a bit longer, effectively making you as much as two inches taller.

9. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2024]

- a. The muddy concoction - made by grinding the kava plant's roots and mixing it with water to create a dark, earthy liquid - holds a deep cultural significance throughout the region, and the drink is often shared between friends, guests, and colleagues.
- b. Regular kava drinkers often describe this blissful state as a sort of peace, a way for the body and mind to uncoil from itself.
- c. Called yaqona in Fiji, 'ava in Samoa and sakau in Micronesia, kava has occupied a sacred role in Pacific countries for centuries.
- d. A swig (or two) taken from a bowl or shell - sometimes quite literally a coconut shell cut in half - can lead to profound relaxation, a sort of numbness that trickles down from your mouth through your shoulders and spine.

10. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2024]

- a. By contrast, in America, it is estimated that even after post-COVID decline, total giving came to almost USD 500 billion in 2022.

- b. There are no comparable data on different countries. But one report by Dasra, a Mumbai-based NGO, estimates total private giving in India came to about USD 13 billion in 2022.
- c. A strategic sort of giving, involving philanthropy professionals, a long-term lens, and big ambitions of transforming society is gradually emerging. It differs, of course, between countries.
- d. Researchers at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, put total giving in China at USD 21 billion in 2020.
- e. By any measure, however, organised philanthropy across Asia is on a much smaller scale than in the West.

11. Rearrange the following sentences to make a coherent passage:[2023]

- a. This instance highlights how young people from different backgrounds can make important contributions to climate change.
- b. Participation in environmental education programs can motivate children to act responsibly towards the environment.
- c. They were motivated to act in ways that would help the environment, like using a reusable water bottle or refusing to use plastic straws.
- d. Six hundred elementary school children from varied social and linguistic groups participated in an ocean pollution education program.

12. Rearrange the following sentences to make a coherent passage:[2023]

- a. Once they reach a high altitude, they manage to travel all over the world.
- b. An expert from the team explained that the bacteria usually lived on the surface of vegetation, such as leaves.
- c. The wind carries them off the surface and into the atmosphere.
- d. A group of researchers were surprised to find that clouds had carried drug resistant bacteria over a long distance.

13. Rearrange the following sentences to make a coherent passage:[2023]

- a. Yet, even as TikTok delights consumers and advertisers, others believe the sunny app has a dark side.

- b. Since launching just five years ago, the app has brought a warm glow to its 1 billion plus users, as well as an icy dash of competition to the social media incumbents of Silicon Valley.
- c. ByteDance, its owner, has its headquarters in China, whose government is addicted to surveillance and propaganda- making it a worrying place for a media app to be placed.
- d. With its wholesome dancing and lip-syncing videos, TikTok once billed itself as the 'last sunny corner on the Internet.'



14. Rearrange the following sentences to make a coherent passage:[2023]

- a. But the mutiny of Visakhapatnam predates this.
- b. Instead of going against their heroic leader, the sepoy attacked the British soldiers and managed to escape from the town.
- c. The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 in the garrison town of Meerut is regarded as the First War of Independence.
- d. It happened in 1780 when the British officers asked the local sepoy to join the fight against Hyder Ali.



15. Rearrange the following sentences to make a coherent passage:[2023]

- a. What is more shocking to observe is how often such strokes lead to death.
- b. When the body temperature rises, our vital organs swell, and this causes death.
- c. One main reason for this is that people underestimate how badly heat can affect the body.
- d. Heat strokes have become more common in our country than ever before.



16. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph.[2022]

- a. A sub-par monsoon cuts farm yields, output, and farm incomes, increasing the country's dependence on food imports.
- b. A robust monsoon will help put a lid on food inflation by increasing domestic output of a variety of goods and commodities.
- c. This is because half the Indian population depends upon farm-derived income.
- d. The June-to-September rain-bearing system is often called the lifeblood of the country's economy.
- e. Unfortunately, however, nearly 40% of India's net sown area does not have access to irrigation.



17. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. [2022]

- a. The popularity of these creations grew along with that of the tea ceremony in the 16th century.
- b. However, savvy tourists find the best bargains for ceramics in Tokyo's Kitchen Town.
- c. Modern shops in touristy spots display thousands of them, both hand crafted and factory made.
- d. Japanese artisans have been making ceramics, known as Yakimono since prehistoric times.



18. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. [2022]

- a. This means the brain receives less input over the course of a day.
- b. Youthful eyes jiggle regularly to take in new or unfamiliar stimuli.
- c. As the person attached to those eyes ages, the eye muscles grow slower and the pathways between the eye and the brain grow longer, more complex, or, in some cases, get damaged.
- d. Our eyes quickly scan the surroundings and then send the data to the brain.
- e. Human eyes perform jiggles, more formally called saccades, in response to a change in the field of vision.



19. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. [2022]

- a. Located in the foothills of the Sion Fort, the lake is a Grade II-A heritage structure, dating back to the 17th century.
- b. Once home to several marine creatures, the lake is now surrounded by high-rise residential buildings.
- c. The Municipal Corporation is set to breathe life back into the city's Sion Talao (Lake) with the rejuvenation and beautification of the centuries-old lake.
- d. Over the years, the lake has lost its prominence.
- e. Earlier the talao was a known natural water tank with the Sion hillock expanding around it like an enclosing wall.



20. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. [2022]

- a. The Central African Republic has approved Bitcoin as an official currency.
- b. Experts foresee that this will damage the environment as well as the economy.

- c. Others claim that this may make money laundering easy and also use up a lot of electricity.
- d. Economists criticised this move as a potential risk to the financial stability of the nation.

21. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided, for e.g., 1234.**[2021]**

- a. In the past, companies with international aspirations simply familiarised themselves with any differences in the legal system or in the procedures used in the day-to-day business of import and export.
- b. Modern trade, however, demands more from companies.
- c. Today, the company seeking international success must also understand the people who live and work in countries they deal with, how they think, behave and do business.
- d. To succeed in today's global market place, it is essential to learn as much as possible about the conditions in overseas markets.

22. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided, for e.g., 1234.**[2021]**

- a. It mentions a video on TikTok that questioned an influencer's possible views on the Israel-Palestine crisis.
- b. Social media has given us the expectation that every video, every tweet needs to be irreproachable and encompass the lived experiences of the audience.
- c. Should celebs always have a take, asks an article in a magazine.
- d. "Do you guys even care about the issue or do you care about influencers caring about the issue?"

23. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided, for e.g., 1234.**[2021]**

- a. In a recent incident, villagers in a tea estate were shocked to find a leopard cub in a trench.
- b. The cub was then taken to the area where she was discovered and reunited with her mother.

- c. The 12,500 leopards in India stray into villages due to their shrinking habitat.
- d. The wildlife vet examined and declared it to be uninjured but dehydrated.

24. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2020]

- a. However, they stand out because they help the film maker realize his personal artistic vision.
- b. An Indie film refers to independent films made outside a major studio system.
- c. Their release is also limited to a few screens, although there have been films with a wide release.
- d. Most of such films are low budget films produced and distributed by small companies.

25. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2020]

- a. Mental illness continues to struggle for recognition as a significant contributor to poor health in spite of the existence of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017
- b. The data reveals that an estimated one in seven Indians - or 197 million persons suffered from mental disorders, at varying degrees of severity, in 2017.
- c. There is always more to human health than meets the eye.
- d. This is particularly important in the Indian cultural and political context, where the outward appearance of physical well-being is often considered the only visible marker of overall health.

26. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2020]

- a. It was felt that the major polluters had a moral obligation to deliver on the agreements reached some years ago during a similar convention on Climate Change.
- b. The papers presented indicated that the impacts of current warming are much more severe than previously understood.
- c. It appears that the planet's ability to adapt to and cope with how it is being treated is fraying.

- d. For example, the acceleration of sea level rise and ocean warming, and increasing risks of reaching limits to adaptation.
- e. This is what emerged at a recent conference attended by the largest scientific community on climate science.

27. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2019]

- a. He just harvested the wild grains.
- b. The hunter-gatherer went from place to place in search of food.
- c. As the crops began to give better yields, this reduced his need to go in search of animals and wild plants.
- d. This was followed by an attempt to grow food by scattering the spare grains.

28. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2019]

- a. People here are one injury away from starvation, one misspoken word away from detainment or death.
- b. Soon, however, she notices the lack of access to basic medical care or education.
- c. Life in a rural Kashmiri village seems idyllic to Shalini at first, as she's befriending lovely people and admiring majestic natural scenery, especially in contrast to the cacophony of urban Mumbai.
- d. Moreover, the ever-present political disruptions mean that life in Kashmir is far from Shangri-La utopia.

29. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided. [2019]

- a. The study, published in the Lancet recently, revealed that people living in democratic countries live longer than those who don't; they also have less of a chance of dying from heart disease, strokes, and even road accidents.
- b. Incredible as it may sound, we are now told that democracy is not just good for the soul, it is good for the body too.
- c. Without pressure from voters or foreign-aid agencies, dictators have less incentive to finance more expensive prevention and treatment of heart disease, cancers, and other chronic illnesses.
- d. The study suggests that elections and the health of the people are increasingly inseparable.
- e. A study spanning 170 countries found a strong correlation between health and the most form of government.



CHAPTER 7: SENTENCE CORRECTION

1. Among scientists, the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA and the genetic code it incorporates is widely regarded to be one of the most significant scientific discovery of the twentieth century. [2025]
 - a. regarded for being one of the most significant scientific discoveries
 - b. regarded as one of the most significant scientific discoveries
 - c. regarded like one of the most significant scientific discovery
 - d. regarded being one of the most significant scientific discoveries
2. Thank goodness, the damage to the car was neglectful. [2025]
 - a. was negligible
 - b. was neglecting
 - c. was neglectable
 - d. was negligent
3. Although the new policy aims to increase efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing employee satisfaction, some employees feel that the changes are too abrupt and poorly communicated. [2025]
 - a. increase efficiency, reducing the costs and enhanced employee satisfaction
 - b. increasing efficiency, reducing of costs, and enhancing of employee satisfaction
 - c. increase the efficiency, reduce the costs and enhancing employee satisfaction
 - d. increase efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance employee satisfaction
4. If the President knew that his allies would let him down so suddenly, he would have handled them with the greatest care. [2025]
 - a. Had the President knowledge that his allies would let him down
 - b. Had the President known that his allies would let him down
 - c. If the President could know beforehand that his allies would let him down
 - d. If the President knew that his allies can let him down
5. When I had to leave town due to office work, I had my brother to give food to my dog twice a day. [2025]
 - a. had my brother feed my dog
 - b. had my brother giving food to my dog
 - c. had my brother who fed my dog
 - d. had my brother to feed my dog

6. The negotiations are unsuccessful, and the Boards' hopes to continuing talks on a future deal seems to be increasingly improbable. [2024]
- Board's hopes to continue talks on a future deal seem
 - Board's hopes to continuing talks on a future deal seems
 - Boards' hopes on continued talks on a future deal seem
 - Boards' hopes to continued talks on a future deal seems
7. While the bustling city streets were filled with the cacophony of honking horns and chatter of pedestrians, the serene countryside, where time seemed to move at a slower pace, provide a welcome retreat for their seeking solace amidst the chaos of urban living. [2024]
- provided a welcoming retreat for who seek solace
 - provides a welcome retreat for them seeking solace
 - provides a welcoming retreat for those seeking solace
 - provided a welcome retreat for those seeking solace
8. I had been having a headache, so I will not attend the meeting. [2024]
- have headache
 - was having a headache
 - have a headache
 - used to have a headache
9. He is very careless and has loosed his keys all the time. [2024]
- is loosing his keys
 - has loses his keys
 - was losing his keys
 - loses his keys
10. In my opinion, the psychological thrillers of Alfred Hitchcock, who is a master of suspense and horror, have more lasting impact than any other filmmaker in history. [2024]
- had more lasting impact than any filmmaker
 - are having more lasting impact than those of other filmmakers
 - has had a more lasting impact than those of other filmmakers
 - have had a more lasting impact than those of any other filmmaker

- 11.** My aunt Seema was the most generous of all the members of our family. Whenever we went out for dinner, she always insisted to pay for the meal. [2023]
- a. on and paid for the meal
 - b. that she had paid for the meal
 - c. that she will be paying for the meal
 - d. that she pay for the meal
- 12.** Listening to the recording of cricket commentary from the past can be great fun. Especially, the last few overs, when the best players are gone, and the tailenders try their best to run between the wickets without getting out. This is when you realise that nothing much has changed, hasn't it? [2023]
- a. nothing much has changed, has it?
 - b. nothing much has changed, would it?
 - c. nothing much is changed, isn't it?
 - d. nothing much has changed, hasn't it?
- 13.** Justin couldn't understand why his friend had refused to work in a company that offered him a huge salary. If it had been him in his friend's place, he would definitely accepted such an offer. [2023]
- a. have definitely accept such an offer
 - b. have definitely have accepted such an offer
 - c. definitely accepted such an offer
 - d. have definitely accepted such an offer
- 14.** When you play the 'Secret Santa', you are expected to buy a gift for whoever you are assigned, without letting them know that you are the one buying the gift. [2023]
- a. who you are assigned
 - b. whomever you are assigned
 - c. whom you are assigned
 - d. whoever you are assigned
- 15.** The setting of a story effects the story's plot. [2023]
- a. affects the story plots
 - b. affects the story's plot
 - c. effects the stories' plot

junior member of the House of Representatives, has an unparalleled seniority over all of them by virtue of her prowess in social media management. [2021]

- a. as merely being a junior member of the House of Representatives
- b. as being a merely junior member of the House of Representatives
- c. for merely being a junior member of the House of Representatives
- d. as a mere junior member of the House of Representatives

22. Although the coastal city of Kundapur was once home to a flourishing maritime trade, their economy has been dependent in more recent years on the cotton textile and sugar industries. [2021]

- a. it's economy had depended in more recent years
- b. its economy lias in more recent years depended
- c. the economy having in more recent years depended
- d. its economy has depended in more recent years

23. Due to the progress in the field of modern medicine and advances in nutrition and hygiene, less people die every year from infectious diseases than ever before. [2021]

- a. fewer people die every year from infectious diseases than ever before.
- b. less people die every year from infectious diseases than ever before.
- c. fewer people die every year from infectious diseases than ever before.
- d. every year, fewer people die from infectious diseases than have ever before.

24. The pharmaceutical company hired a consultant to supervise a taskforce studying lower salaries as to their effects on employees' morale. [2020]

- a. studying what the effects lower salaries would have on employees' morale
- b. studying the effects of lower salaries on employee morale
- c. for studying what are the effects in employees' morale that lower salaries would cause
- d. studying the effects of employee morale on lower salaries

25. Besides offering physiological rewards such as toned muscles, when regular karate is practiced the body can be turned into a dangerous weapon. [2020]

- a. one can turn the body into a dangerous weapon through karate, if it is practiced regularly
- b. the body can be turned into a dangerous weapon as a result of karate if practiced regularly
- c. when karate is practiced regularly, the body can be turned into a dangerous weapon

- d. karate, if practiced regularly, can turn the body into a dangerous weapon
- 26.** The animal activist has raised awareness not only on the plight of abandoned dogs, but also on overworked bulls and temple elephants. [2020]
- a. on the plight of not only the abandoned dogs, but also on those of overworked bulls
 - b. not only on the plight of the abandoned dogs, but also on that of overworked bulls
 - c. the plight of abandoned dogs, as well as the over worked bulls
 - d. the plight of abandoned dogs, but also on overworked bulls
- 27.** The place where her father disappeared and the reason why he did are unknown to her. [2019]
- a. her father disappeared and the reason why he did
 - b. where her father disappeared and the reason he did
 - c. her father disappeared and the reason he did
 - d. where her father disappeared and the reason why he did
- 28.** Which team has the best record, yours or theirs? [2019]
- a. Which of the teams has the best record
 - b. Which one of the teams has the best record
 - c. Which one team has the better record
 - d. Which team has the better record
- 29.** After sensing a problem with the factory workers, the personnel officer demanded to know who the union leaders had contacted to conduct the petition drive. [2019]
- a. whom the union leaders had contacted
 - b. who had the union leaders had contacted
 - c. whom the union leaders have contacted
 - d. who union leaders contacted
- 30.** His wrongdoing was completely exposed, but not once he apologised for his actions. [2019]
- a. not once did he apologise
 - b. never he made an apology
 - c. not once did he give apology
 - d. not once he made an apology

31. The Municipal Council can no longer wash its hands off its responsibilities. [2019]

- a. wash its hands from its
- b. wash their hands off their
- c. wash their hand of their
- d. wash its hands of its

32. The letter states that one can avail the service offered by the company till June 20, 2019.[2019]

- a. avail the service on offer from
- b. avail the service on offer by
- c. avail of the service offered by
- d. avail of the service offered from

ANSWER KEY

CHAPTER 1: READING COMPREHENSION

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (b) 10. (a) 11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (d) 15. (c)
16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (b) 19. (b) 20. (c) 21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (d) 24. (d) 25. (d) 26. (d) 27. (c) 28. (d) 29. (a)
30. (a) 31. (b) 32. (a) 33. (d) 34. (c) 35. (a) 36. (c) 37. (a) 38. (b) 39. (c) 40. (a) 41. (c) 42. (a) 43. (d)
44. (a) 45. (a) 46. (a) 47. (a) 48. (d) 49. (a) 50. (b) 51. (d) 52. (b) 53. (a) 54. (a) 55. (b) 56. (b) 57. (a)
58. (c) 59. (d) 60. (b) 61. (c) 62. (a) 63. (a) 64. (c) 65. (b) 66. (b) 67. (d) 68. (c) 69. (b) 70. (d) 71. (d)
72. (a) 73. (d) 74. (b) 75. (a) 76. (a) 77. (d) 78. (c)

CHAPTER 2: VOCABULARY

1. (d) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (b) 10. (c) 11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (b)
15. (b) 16. (b) 17. (c) 18. (b) 19. (a) 20. (a) 21. (d) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (d) 26. (a) 27. (b)
28. (c) 29. (c) 30. (b) 31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (b) 34. (d) 35. (b) 36. (d) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (c)

CHAPTER 3: INCORRECT WORDS

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (b) 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (b)
14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (c) 18. (a) 19. (d) 20. (b) 21. (a) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (c) 26. (c)
27. (b) 28. (c) 29. (c) 30. (b) 31. (b) 32. (a) 33. (b)

CHAPTER 4: SENTENCE COMPLETION

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (d) 9. (d) 10. (a) 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (b)
14. (d) 15. (a) 16. (a) 17. (d) 18. (a) 19. (c) 20. (c) 21. (b) 22. (a) 23. (b) 24. (b) 25. (a) 26. (b)
27. (d) 28. (a) 29. (a) 30. (b) 31. (b) 32. (a) 33. (b) 34. (c) 35. (a) 36. (b) 37. (c) 38. (c) 39. (b)
40. (a) 41. (b) 42. (d) 43. (d) 44. (b) 45. (d) 46. (d)

CHAPTER 5: PARAGRAPH COMPLETION

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (a) 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (a)
14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (a) 17. (c) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (d) 21. (a) 22. (a) 23. (b)

CHAPTER 6: PARAJUMBLES

- 1 (ebacd) 2 (bdeac) 3 (badc) 4 (bdca) 5 (cadb) 6 (cbda) 7 (beadc) 8 (dacb) 9 (cadb)
10 (cbdae) 11 (bdca) 12 (dbca) 13 (dbac) 14 (cadb) 15 (dacb) 16 (dceab) 17 (dacb) 18 (edbca)
19 (caedb) 20 (adcb) 21 (dabc) 22 (bcad) 23 (cadb) 24 (bdca) 25 (cdab) 26 (cdeba) 27 (bdac)
28 (cbad) 29 (beadc)

CHAPTER 7: SENTENCE CORRECTION

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (d) 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (d)
14. (b) 15. (b) 16. (b) 17. (a) 18. (d) 19. (a) 20. (a) 21. (d) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (b) 25. (d) 26. (b)
27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (a) 31. (d) 32. (c)

