

VIJETA CHECKLIST MAINS



CHECKLIST 127

NIMISHA BANSAL

Directions (1-5): Two paragraphs are given based on a certain topic. We need to read the paragraphs first and identify the common theme between them.

Question 1:

Paragraph 1:

The Maharajas of princely states like Patiala and Baroda commissioned extravagant jewels from European houses like Cartier, embedding rare diamonds (e.g., the 234.6-carat "Jacob's Diamond") in ceremonial regalia. While these symbolized royal authority, critics argue such wealth extraction exacerbated colonial-era economic drain, as gems were often purchased with tax revenues from impoverished subjects.

Paragraph 2:

Post-independence, many royal treasures were auctioned abroad (e.g., the Patiala Necklace's dismantling in 1982) to settle debts or fund lifestyles. Historians contend this reflected a broader pattern: India's elite prioritized personal legacies over preserving cultural heritage, leaving museums reliant on repatriation efforts to recover lost artifacts.

- (A) The complicity of colonial-era craftsmanship in facilitating princely wealth extraction.
- (B) The tension between opulent displays of sovereignty and the socioeconomic repercussions on subjects.
- (C) The role of diasporic auctions in revitalizing postcolonial aristocratic fortunes.
- (D) The efficacy of contemporary institutional repatriation in restoring India's royal heritage.
- (E) None of the above.

Question 2:

Paragraph 1:

The use of facial recognition technology in public surveillance systems has significantly enhanced security by allowing law enforcement to identify suspects quickly. Nonetheless, privacy advocates warn that such technology often operates without informed consent, potentially enabling mass surveillance and infringing on civil liberties.

Paragraph 2:

In the healthcare sector, biometric data collected through wearable devices helps in early detection of

diseases and remote monitoring of patients. Still, concerns persist regarding the storage and potential misuse of sensitive health data, especially in the absence of robust regulatory frameworks.

- (A) Prioritizing national security over individual privacy rights
- (B) The inevitability of privacy loss in a data-driven world
- (C) The ethical dilemmas posed by advanced data-gathering technologies
- (D) Encouraging citizens to share personal data for public benefit
- (E) None of the above

Question 3:

Paragraph 1:

Nvidia's advanced AI chips drive breakthroughs in machine learning and data processing, accelerating innovations like self-driving cars and medical diagnostics. However, their production relies heavily on rare-earth minerals (e.g., gallium, tantalum), whose mining causes severe ecological damage, including deforestation and water contamination.

Paragraph 2:

Semiconductor giants like TSMC and Intel are racing to build smaller, more efficient chips to meet AI demand. Yet, chip fabrication consumes vast amounts of freshwater (millions of gallons per plant) and generates toxic waste, straining resources in drought-prone regions like Taiwan and Arizona.

- (A) AI advancement justifies environmental degradation.
- (B) Semiconductor innovation is impossible without exploiting natural resources.
- (C) Tech corporations should relocate production to resource-rich countries.
- (D) The hidden ecological costs of high-performance computing technologies.
- (E) None of the above.

Question 4:

Paragraph 1:

Finland consistently ranks highest in global happiness reports, attributed to strong social welfare systems, work-life balance, and trust in public institutions. Critics, however, argue that such indices overlook cultural biases—individualistic societies may prioritize self-reported well-being differently than collectivist ones, skewing comparisons.

Paragraph 2:

Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) index, which measures holistic prosperity through environmental health and community cohesion, challenges GDP-centric development models. Yet, skeptics note its subjective metrics (e.g., "spiritual fulfillment") lack universal applicability, especially in industrialized nations with diverse values.

- (A) Happiness metrics are flawed but still useful for policy guidance.
- (B) Cultural relativism undermines all attempts to quantify well-being.
- (C) Alternative prosperity indices highlight trade-offs between objectivity and inclusivity.
- (D) Nordic countries have perfected the formula for societal happiness.
- (E) None of the above.

Question 5:

Paragraph 1:

Despite corporate diversity initiatives, women in leadership roles often face the "glass cliff"—being appointed to precarious positions during crises, where failure is likely. Research shows that while these roles offer visibility, women are disproportionately blamed for organizational downturns, unlike male counterparts who are given stability during success periods.

Paragraph 2:

In male-dominated industries (e.g., tech, finance), women report "prove-it-again" bias, where their competence is constantly questioned. A 2023 MIT study revealed that women must provide 2.5x more evidence of expertise than men to receive the same recognition, leading to burnout and attrition.

- (A) The systemic perpetuation of gendered vulnerability in corporate leadership trajectories.
- (B) The efficacy of diversity programs in eradicating workplace bias against women.
- (C) Differential attribution of success and failure along gender lines in organizational settings.
- (D) The impact of industry-specific cultures on women's career progression barriers.
- (E) None of the above.

Direction (6-10): A paragraph is given below with five blanks. Below five different phrases are also given, which will fill these blanks and make a coherent passage. You are required to find the

correct place for these phrases and fill in the blanks.

Justice, if not unduly delayed, _____(m)_____. The recent verdict in the Pollachi sexual assault case, where a Coimbatore Mahila Court convicted all nine accused and sentenced them to life imprisonment for the remainder of their natural lives, is a significant step in this regard. More so, because the entire case originated from a single plea for help from a young victim, which helped expose the _____(n)_____. In February 2019, a 19-year-old college student reported to the Pollachi East police that four men had sexually assaulted her in a car near Pollachi 12 days earlier. The ensuing investigation revealed this _____(o)_____. As in the Prajwal Revanna case in Karnataka, the seizure of digital devices unveiled the full scope of the atrocities. Since 2016, a group of young men had been systematically preying on vulnerable young women, from disadvantaged groups, filming the assaults, and using these videos for further exploitation. The sheer depravity _____(p)_____. Public outrage intensified with the exposure of the accused's political connections. One was identified as the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Pollachi town students' wing secretary (later expelled), while another, involved in an assault on the survivor's brother, held a local secretary position in Amma Peravai, an AIADMK-affiliated youth organisation. _____(q)_____ initially transferred the investigation to the Crime Branch-CID and subsequently to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

1. uncovered shocked the State's collective conscience
2. involvement of multiple tentacles of a body of criminals
3. faced with mounting public pressure, the State government
4. restores public faith in due process and the criminal justice system
5. complaint to be just the tip of the iceberg

Question 6:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place m**?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 1
- D. 2
- E. 5

Question 7:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place n**?

- A. 1
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 2
- E. 5

Question 8:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place o**?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 1
- E. 5

Question 9:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place p**?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 1
- E. 5

Question 10:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place q**?

- A. 2

B. 4

C. 3

D. 1

E. 5

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ANSWER**1. Ans: B****Explanation:**

Paragraph 1 highlights how Maharajas commissioned extravagant jewels symbolizing royal power, but this wealth was partly built by taxing impoverished subjects, causing **economic hardship** during colonial times.

Paragraph 2 discusses the post-independence sale of royal jewels to fund personal needs, reflecting a **conflict between preserving cultural heritage and individual interests**.

Both paragraphs reveal the **ethical dilemma** of luxury as a symbol of pride and authority versus the **negative economic impact and cultural loss**.

The other options are incorrect:

(A) focuses on colonial-era jewelers' exploitation, but the paragraph emphasizes the Maharajas' role and the economic impact on subjects rather than jewelers' intentions.

(C) wrongly suggests auctions helped the economy, but the text says auctions funded personal lifestyles.

(D) is incorrect as museums are still working on repatriation; not all artifacts are reclaimed.

2. Ans: C

Explanation: Both paragraphs discuss **technological advancements** that involve **collecting personal data**:

Paragraph 1: Facial recognition improves **security**, but raises **ethical issues** like **mass surveillance** and **lack of consent**.

Paragraph 2: Biometric data in healthcare helps with **medical care**, but there are concerns about **data misuse** and **regulatory gaps**.

So, the common thread is: These advanced technologies offer **clear benefits**, but they also **raise serious ethical questions** about **privacy, consent, and data protection**.

The other options are incorrect:

(A): The paragraphs **do not advocate** prioritizing security **over** privacy — they simply raise both sides.

(B): The paragraphs show that privacy risks **exist**, not that loss is **inevitable**.

(D): Misrepresents the tone — there is **no encouragement** of data sharing; instead, **concerns** are raised.

3. Ans: D

Explanation: Both paragraphs highlight the dual impact of semiconductor progress—enabling AI advancements while depleting resources (rare minerals, water) and causing pollution. (D) captures this tension best.

Paragraph 1: Nvidia's AI chips power innovation but depend on rare minerals, causing **environmental harm** like deforestation and pollution.

Paragraph 2: Companies like TSMC and Intel create efficient chips but **use huge water volumes** and produce **toxic waste**, stressing fragile ecosystems.

Both highlight the **environmental impact behind cutting-edge tech**, revealing **hidden ecological costs**.

The other options are incorrect:

(A): The paragraphs don't justify damage; they expose it.

(B): It's not about impossibility but about consequences.

(C): No suggestion of relocating production is mentioned.

4. Ans: C

Explanation: Both paragraphs discuss alternative well-being metrics (Finland's happiness index and Bhutan's GNH) and their limitations—cultural bias vs. subjectivity—making (C) the common theme of trade-offs in measurement approaches.

Paragraph 1: Finland's top happiness rankings reflect social trust and welfare, but critics argue **cultural bias** may skew such results, especially across different value systems.

Paragraph 2: Bhutan's GNH focuses on **holistic well-being**, but is criticized for relying on **subjective, non-universal** indicators like spiritual fulfillment.

Both paragraphs deal with **non-traditional metrics** of prosperity and **highlight the challenge of balancing universal standards (objectivity) with local or cultural relevance (inclusivity)**.

The other options are incorrect:

(A) Says happiness metrics are flawed but still useful — the paragraphs focus more on **limitations** rather than usefulness.

(B) Claims cultural relativism **completely undermines** measuring well-being — too extreme, the paragraphs don't say it's impossible.

(D) Says Nordic countries have **perfected happiness** — contradicted by criticisms about cultural bias in Finland's ranking.

5. Ans: A

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 describes the "glass cliff," where women leaders are placed in high-risk, unstable roles, making them vulnerable to failure and blame.

Paragraph 2 highlights the ongoing bias in male-dominated fields, where women must constantly prove their competence, causing exhaustion and higher dropout rates.

Both paragraphs emphasize a systemic pattern that puts women in precarious, challenging positions in leadership, revealing the persistent structural barriers they face.

The other options are incorrect:

(B) Overstates diversity programs' success; the paragraphs illustrate continuing bias despite initiatives.

(C) Only partly correct, since it addresses attribution but not the broader vulnerability or systemic nature.

(D) Focuses on industry culture but doesn't capture the overarching systemic vulnerability discussed in both paragraphs.

6. Ans: B

Explanation: "restores public faith in due process and the criminal justice system" is the correct answer.

The phrase starts with a **conditional clause**: "Justice, if not unduly delayed..."

This means: *If justice happens without much delay, then...*

So, the second part (after the comma) must state **what happens when justice is not delayed** — essentially, a **positive consequence or outcome**.

The phrase "restores public faith in due process and the criminal justice system" fits **perfectly** as it completes the sentence both **logically** and **grammatically**. It logically states that when justice is timely, it **helps people trust** the system again.

7. Ans: D

Explanation: "involvement of multiple tentacles of a body of criminals" is the correct answer.

We are looking for a phrase that fits the **context**: one victim's complaint revealed something *larger or more complex*.

"involvement of multiple tentacles of a body of criminals" is **grammatically correct** and **contextually appropriate**. The phrase suggests that the case was bigger than it seemed. It implies an organized group was involved — *exactly what one complaint helped reveal*.

8. Ans: E

Explanation: "complaint to be just the tip of the iceberg" is the correct answer.

We're looking for a phrase that describes **what the investigation uncovered** — and that should relate to the idea that **what the girl reported was only a small part of something much larger**.

“complaint to be just the tip of the iceberg” fits contextually: One girl’s complaint led to the uncovering of a **larger, organized criminal activity**.

This phrase is commonly used to express that an initial discovery is part of a much bigger, hidden issue.

9. Ans: D

Explanation: **“uncovered shocked the State’s collective conscience” is the correct answer.**

We need to find a phrase that **logically continues the sentence**, showing the **consequence or impact** of that depravity, and **fits grammatically** after the subject **“The sheer depravity”**.

“The sheer depravity uncovered” means: *The extremely cruel and immoral acts that were brought to light.*

Contextually, it reflects the **emotional impact** of the exposed crimes — the horrific acts committed by the group **shocked the public deeply**, which is exactly what the paragraph is describing. It smoothly leads into the next sentence about **public outrage** and **political fallout**, making the paragraph coherent.

10. Ans: C

Explanation: **“faced with mounting public pressure, the State government” is the correct answer.**

The public was **outraged** after the crimes were exposed (as explained in the previous lines). As a result, the **State government took action** under pressure — first transferring the case to the Crime Branch-CID and later to the CBI.

The phrase **“faced with mounting public pressure, the State government”** fits blank (q) because: It **clearly identifies the actor** (the State government) responsible for transferring the case.

The introductory clause **“faced with mounting public pressure”** explains **why** the government acted — aligning with the earlier mention of public outrage.



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