

STATEMENTS AND ARGUMENTS - 2

Each question given below consists of a statement, followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument. Give answer:

- (A) If only argument I is strong
- (B) If only argument II is strong
- (C) If either I or II is strong
- (D) If neither I nor II is strong and
- (E) If both I and II are strong.

1. **Statement:** Are nuclear families better than joint families?

Arguments:

No. Joint families ensure security and also reduce the burden of work.

Yes. Nuclear families ensure greater freedom.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Clearly, with so many people around in a joint family, there is more security. Also, work is shared. So, argument I holds. In nuclear families, there are lesser number of people and so lesser responsibilities and more freedom. Thus, II also holds.

2. **Statement:** Should government stop spending huge amounts of money on international sports?

Arguments:

Yes. This money can be utilized for upliftment of the poor.

No. Sports persons will be frustrated and will not get international exposure.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, spending money on sports cannot be avoided merely because it can be spent on socio-economic problems. So, argument I does not hold. Also, if the expenses on sports are curtailed, the sports persons would face lack of facilities and training and our country will lag behind in the international sports competitions. So, II holds.

3. **Statement:** Should the railways immediately stop issuing free passes to all its employees?

Arguments:

No. The employees have the right to travel free.

Yes. This will help railways to provide better facility.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

The free passes given to railway employees is a privilege for them, not their right. So, argument I does not hold. Argument II seems to be vague.

4. **Statement:** Should there be compulsory medical examination of both the man and the woman before they marry each other?

Arguments:

No. This is an intrusion to the privacy of an individual and hence cannot be tolerated.

Yes. This will substantially reduce the risk of giving birth to children with serious ailments.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, such a step would help to prevent the growth of diseases like AIDS. So, only argument II is strong.

5. **Statement:** Should there be a ban on product advertising?

Arguments:

No. It is an age of advertising. Unless your advertisement is better than your other competitors, the product will not be sold.

Yes. The money spent on advertising is very huge and it inflates the cost of the product.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Clearly, it is the advertisement which makes the customer aware of the qualities of the product and leads him to buy it. So, argument I is valid. But at the same time, advertising nowadays has become a costly affair and the expenses on it add to the price of the product. So, argument II also holds strong.

6. **Statement:** Should luxury hotels be banned in India?

Arguments:

Yes. They are places from where international criminals operate.

No. Affluent foreign tourists will have no place to stay.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, the luxury hotels are a mark of country's standard and a place for staying for the affluent foreign tourists. So, argument II holds. Argument I is not a strong reason because ban on hotels is not a way to do away with the activities of international criminals.

7. **Statement:** Should shifting agriculture be practised?

Arguments:

No. It is a wasteful practice.

Yes. Modern methods of farming are too expensive.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong

- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, shifting agriculture is a practice in which a certain crop is grown on a land and when it becomes infertile it is left bare and another piece of land is chosen. Clearly, it is a wasteful practice. So, only argument I holds.

8. **Statement:** Should our country extend generous behaviour and goodwill to our erring and nagging neighbours?

Arguments:

Yes. Goodwill always pays dividend.

No. Our generous behaviour and goodwill will be considered as our weakness.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Clearly, a good behaviour may at some point of time lead to mutual discussions and peaceful settlement of issues in the long run. So, argument I holds strong. However, such behaviour may be mistaken for our weakness and it would be difficult to continue with it if the other country doesn't stop its sinister activities. Hence, II also holds.

9. **Statement:** Is pen mightier than a sword?

Arguments:

Yes. Writers influence the thinking of the people.

No. With the help of physical force one can conquer all.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Physical force can accomplish a task by compulsion, while the influential writings can mould the thinking of an individual and change his discretion into accomplishing the task wilfully. So, only argument I holds strong.

10. **Statement:** Should the sex determination test during pregnancy be completely banned?

Arguments:

Yes. This leads to indiscriminate female foeticide and eventually will lead to social imbalance.

No. People have a right to know about their unborn child.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Parents indulging in sex determination of their unborn child generally do so as they want to only a boy child and do away with a girl child. So, argument I holds. Also, people have a right to know only about the health, development and general well-being of the child before its birth, and not the sex. So, argument II does not hold strong.

11. **Statement:** Should persons convicted of criminal offences in the past be allowed to contest elections in India?

Arguments:

No. Such persons cannot serve the cause of the people and country.

Yes. It is democracy - let people decide whom to vote.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, persons with criminal background cannot stand to serve as the representatives of the common people. So, they should not be allowed to contest elections. Thus, only argument I holds, while II does not.

12. **Statement:** Should officers accepting bribe be punished?

Arguments:

No. Certain circumstances may have compelled them to take bribe.

Yes. They should do the job they are entrusted with, honestly.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, officers are paid duly for the jobs they do. So, they must do it honestly. Thus, argument II alone holds.

13. **Statement:** Should there be a complete ban on use of all types of chemical pesticides in India?
Arguments:

No. The pests will destroy all the crops and the farmers will have nothing to harvest.

Yes. The chemical pesticides used in agriculture pollute the water underground and this has become a serious health hazard.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Clearly, pesticides are meant to prevent the crops from harmful pests. But at the same time, they get washed away with water and contaminate the groundwater. Thus, both the arguments hold strong.

14. **Statement:** Should cutting of trees be banned altogether?
Arguments:

Yes. It is very much necessary to do so to restore ecological balance.

No. A total ban would harm timber based industries.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong

- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Clearly, trees play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and so must be preserved. So, argument I holds. Also, trees form the basic source of timber and a complete ban on cutting of trees would harm timber based industries. So, only a controlled cutting of trees should be allowed and the loss replenished by planting more trees. So, argument II is also valid.

15. **Statement:** Should there be a restriction on the migration of people from one state to another state in India?

Arguments:

No. Any Indian citizen has a basic right to stay at any place of his/her choice and hence they cannot be stopped.

Yes. This is the way to effect an equitable distribution of resources across the states in India.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, argument I holds strong, while argument II is vague.

16. **Statement:** Should all refugees, who make unauthorized entry into a country, be forced to go back to their homeland?

Arguments:

Yes. They make their colonies and occupy a lot of land.

No. They leave their homes because of hunger or some terror and on human grounds, should not be forced to go back.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, refugees are people forced out of their homeland by some misery and need shelter desperately. So, argument II holds. Argument I against the statement is vague.

17. **Statement:** Should India create a huge oil reserve like some Western countries to face difficult situations in future?

Arguments:

No. There is no need to block huge amount of foreign exchange and keep the money idle.

Yes. This will help India withstand shocks of sudden rise in oil prices due to unforeseen circumstances.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Oil, being an essential commodity, our country must keep it in reserve. So, argument I is vague, while argument II holds as it provides a substantial reason for the same.

18. **Statement:** Should there be more than one High Court in each state in India?

Arguments:

No. This will be a sheer wastage of taxpayers' money.

Yes. This will help reduce the backlog of cases pending for a very long time.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, an increase in the number of High Courts will surely speed up the work and help to do away with the pending cases. So, argument II holds strong. In light of this, the expenditure incurred would be 'utilization', not 'wastage' of money. So, argument I does not hold.

19. **Statement:** Should judiciary be independent of the executive?

Arguments:

Yes. This would help curb the unlawful activities of the executive.

No. The executive would not be able to take bold measures.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, independent judiciary is necessary for impartial judgement so that the Executive does not take wrong measures. So, only argument I holds.

20. **Statement:** Should all the practising doctors be brought under Government control so that they get salary from the Government and treat patients free of cost?

Arguments:

No. How can any country do such an undemocratic thing?

Yes. Despite many problems, it will certainly help minimize, if not eradicate, unethical medical practices.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

A doctor treating a patient individually can mislead the patient into wrong and unnecessary treatment for his personal gain. So, argument II holds strong. Also, a policy beneficial to common people cannot be termed 'undemocratic'. So, I is vague.

21. **Statement:** Should students take part in politics?

Arguments:

Yes. It inculcates in them qualities of leadership.

No. They should study and build up their career.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong

- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

Clearly, indulgement in politics trains the students for future leadership but It sways them from the studies. So, either of the arguments I or II can hold.

22. **Statement:** Should the opinion polls predicting outcome of elections before the elections be banned in India?

Arguments:

Yes. This may affect the voters mind and may affect the outcome.

No. Such polls are conducted all over the world.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

The opinion polls may influence the thinking of an individual and thus divert his mind from his original choice. So, argument I holds strong. Further, blindly imitating a policy followed by other countries holds no relevance. So, argument II is vague.

23. **Statement:** Should the political parties be banned?

Arguments:

Yes. It is necessary to teach a lesson to the politicians.

No. It will lead to an end of democracy.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Clearly, with the ban on political parties, candidates can independently contest elections. So, it will not end democracy. Thus, argument II does not hold. Argument I does not give a strong reason.

24. **Statement:** Should system of offering jobs only to the wards of government employees be introduced in all government offices in India?

Arguments:

No. It denies opportunity to many deserving individuals and government may stand to lose in the long run.

No. It is against the principle of equality, does not government owe its responsibility to all its citizens?

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Merit, fair selection and equal opportunities for all - these three factors, if taken care of, can help government recruit competent officials and also fulfil the objectives of the Constitution. Thus, both the arguments hold strong.

25. **Statement:** Should the vehicles older than 15 years be rejected in metros in India?

Arguments:

Yes. This is a significant step to lower down the pollution level in metros.

No. It will be very difficult for vehicle owners to shift to other parts in country because they will not get suitable job for their very existence.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, 15 year old vehicles are not Euro-compliant and hence cause much more pollution than the recent ones. So, argument I holds. Argument II is vague since owners of these vehicles need not shift themselves. They might sell off their vehicles and buy new ones - a small price which every citizen can afford for a healthy environment.

26. **Statement:** Should the tuition fees in all post-graduate courses be hiked considerably?

Arguments:

Yes. This will bring in some sense of seriousness among the students and will improve the quality.

No. This will force the meritorious poor students to stay away from post-graduate courses.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

A hike in fees is no means to make the students more serious in studies. So, argument I is vague. However, with the increase in fees, poor meritorious students would not be able to afford post-graduate studies. So, argument II holds.

27. **Statement:** Should the persons below the age of 18 years be allowed to join armed forces?

Arguments:

No. Persons below the age of 18 do not attain both physical and mental maturity to shoulder such burden.

Yes. This will help the country develop its armed forces which will serve the country for a longer time.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

The armed forces must consist of physically strong and mentally mature individuals to take care of defence properly. So, argument I holds strong. Clearly, argument II holds no relevance.

28. **Statement:** Should all the infrastructural development projects in India be handed over to the private sector?

Arguments:

No. The private sector entities are not equipped to handle such projects.

Yes. Such projects are handled by private sector in the developed countries.

- A. Only argument I is strong

- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Clearly, such projects if handed over to the private sector shall be given to a competent authority. So, argument I is vague. Also, imitating a policy on the basis that it worked out successfully in other countries holds no relevance. Thus, argument II also does not hold strong.

29. **Statement:** Should all the colleges in India be allowed to devise their own curriculum and syllabus for the vocational courses promoting self-employment?

Arguments:

Yes. This is an important step to generate employment opportunities.

No. This will affect the quality of education due to lack of uniformity in syllabus.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, colleges, if given a free hand, would through individual efforts come up with fresh, competent courses to draw in more students. This would open up new avenues for employment. So, argument I holds strong. In the light of this, argument II appears to be vague.

30. **Statement:** Should agriculture in rural India be mechanized?

Arguments:

Yes. It would lead to higher production.

No. Many villagers would be left unemployed.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, mechanization would speed up the work and increase the production. So, argument I is strong enough. Argument II is vague because mechanization will only eliminate wasteful employment, not create unemployment.

31. **Statement:** Should there be concentration of foreign investment in only few states?

Arguments:

No. It is against the policy of overall development of the country.

Yes. A large number of states lack infrastructure to attract foreign investment.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

An equitable distribution of foreign investment is a must for uniform development all over the country. So, argument I holds. Also, no backward state ought to be neglected, rather such states should be prepared and shaped up to attract foreign investment as well. So, II does not hold.

32. **Statement:** Should the oil companies be allowed to fix the price of petroleum products depending on market conditions?

Arguments:

Yes. This is the only way to make the oil companies commercially viable.

No. This will put additional burden on the retail prices of essential commodities and will cause a lot of hardships to the masses.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, oil is an essential commodity and its prices govern the prices of other essential commodities. As such, the interest of the common people must be taken care of, rather than the profitability of some oil companies. So, only argument II holds strong.

33. **Statement:** Should the education at all levels be offered only in vernacular medium?

Arguments:

Yes. This is the only way to enhance performance of the students.

No. This will severely affect acquiring knowledge for want of good text books in vernacular medium.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Teaching in vernacular medium would surely make it easy for students to grasp. But the use of 'only' in argument I makes it invalid. Also, teaching in international language would open up more avenues for students - in procuring books and study material, in going abroad for studies as well as taking up jobs which require interaction with people of different nationalities. So, argument II holds strong,

34. **Statement:** Should there be only one rate of interest for term deposits of varying durations in banks?

Arguments:

No. People will refrain from keeping money for longer duration resulting into reduction of liquidity level of banks.

Yes. This will be much simple for the common people and they may be encouraged to keep more money in banks.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, the proposed scheme would discourage people from keeping deposits for longer durations (the rate of interest being the same for short durations) and not draw in more funds. So, only argument I holds.

35. **Statement:** Should all news be controlled by Government in a democracy?

Arguments:

Yes. Variety of news only confuses people.

No. Controlled news loses credibility.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, the variety of news helps people to develop their own views. So, argument I is vague. Also, controlled news shall be a partial produce. So, it loses credibility Thus, argument II holds.

36. **Statement:** Should taxes on colour television be further increased?

Arguments:

Yes, Colour television is a luxury item and only rich people buy them.

No, Televisions are bought by the poor too.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Clearly, taxes on an item cannot be increased or decreased on the basis of the financial position of the people who buy it. So, both arguments I and II do not hold strong.

37. **Statement:** Should the educated unemployed youth be paid "unemployment allowance" by the Government?

Arguments:

Yes. It will provide them some monetary help to either seek employment or to kick-start some 'self-employment' venture.

No. It will dampen their urge to do something to earn their livelihood and thus promote idleness among the unemployed youth.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong

- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

Young people, who do not get employment due to the large number of applicants in all fields, must surely be given allowance so that they can support themselves. So, argument I is valid. However, such allowances would mar the spirit to work, in them and make them idle. So, argument II also holds.

38. **Statement:** Should higher education be restricted to only those who can bear the expenditure?

Arguments:

Yes. Higher education is very costly; hence it should not be given free.

No. There are a large number of brilliant students who cannot afford to pay and they should be given higher education.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

For the all-round progress of the nation, all the students, especially the talented and intelligent ones, must avail of higher education, even if the government has to pay for it. So, only argument II holds.

39. **Statement:** Should those who receive dowry, despite the law prohibiting it, be punished?

Arguments:

Yes. Those who violate the law must be punished.

No. Dowry system is firmly rooted in the society since time immemorial.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, laws are made to ensure that no person pursues the practice. So, persons who violate

the laws need to be punished. Thus, argument I holds. A wrong practice, no matter how firmly rooted, needs to be ended. So, argument II is vague.

40. **Statement:** Is the Government justified in spending so much on defence?

Arguments:

Yes. Safety of the country is of prime importance.

No. During peace, this money could be used for the development of the country.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, defence is necessary for the safety of the country, which is of prime importance. So, argument I holds. Also, a country can concentrate on internal progress and development only when it is safe from external aggressions. So, argument II does not hold.

41. **Statement:** Should girls learn arts like judo and karate?

Arguments:

Yes. It will enable them to defend themselves from rogues and ruffians.

No. They will lose their feminine grace.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Learning martial arts is necessary for girls for self-defence. So, argument I holds. However, argument II is vague since a training in these arts has nothing to do with their feminine grace.

42. **Statement:** Should India develop a national water grid by connecting all the rivers in the country?

Arguments:

No. This is not just possible as we do not have the technical knowhow.

Yes, this will greatly help the entire country by effectively channelizing the excess water to the

areas having shortage.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

A single network of all the rivers in the country would surely enable a good distribution of water to all areas, So, argument II holds strong. Also, a policy beneficial to the nation cannot be hindered owing to lack of knowhow. Ways can be devised to build up such a network. So, argument I is vague.

43. **Statement:** Should individuals/institutes having treasures of national significance like Nobel Prizes, hand them over to the Central Government for their safe custody?

Arguments:

Yes. The individuals or institutions do not have enough resources to protect them.

No. These are the property of the individuals/institutions who win them and should be in their custody.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, the awards are given for individual excellence and perfection. So, only argument II holds strong.

44. **Statement:** Should there be reservation of seats and posts on communal basis?

Arguments:

Yes. It will check most of the inter-communal biases.

No, ours is a secular state.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong

D. Neither I nor II is strong

E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Clearly, reservations on communal basis will increase inter-communal biases. So, argument I is vague. Also it will be against the secular policy, according to which no communal group is given preference over the others. So, only argument II holds.

45. **Statement:** Should octroi be abolished?

Arguments:

Yes. It will eliminate an important source of corruption.

No. It will adversely affect government revenues.

A. Only argument I is strong

B. Only argument II is strong

C. Either I or II is strong

D. Neither I nor II is strong

E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option E

Explanation:

'Octroi' is a custom duty. If octroi is abolished, the practice of bringing in things from foreign countries illegally will be abolished. So, argument I holds strong. Also, if octroi is abolished, the income to the government in the way of the duty paid shall be diminished. So, argument II also holds strong.

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- (B) If only argument II is strong
- (C) If either I or II is strong
- (D) If neither I nor II is strong and
- (E) If both I and II are strong.

46. **Statement:** Should public holidays be declared on demise of important national leaders?

Arguments:

No. Such unscheduled holidays hamper national progress.

Yes. People would like to pay their homage to the departed soul.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, unscheduled and untimely holidays would naturally cause the work to suffer. So, argument I holds strong. Also, a holiday is not necessary to pay homage to someone. So, argument II is vague.

47. **Statement:** Should India support all the international policies of United States of America?
Arguments:

No. Many other powerful countries do not support the same.

Yes. This is the only way to gain access to USA developmental funds.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Our country cannot support USA's policies blindly without analysis, just to gain monetary help. Also, we should not withdraw our support without considering the policies, just because some other nations have done so. So, none of the arguments holds strong.

48. **Statement:** Should words like 'Smoking is injurious to health essentially appear on cigarette packs?

Arguments:

Yes. It is a sort of brainwash to make the smokers realize that they are inhaling poisonous stuff.

No. It hampers the enjoyment of smoking.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong

- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Clearly, such words on cigarette packs would warn the smokers beforehand of its adverse effects. So, argument I holds strong. However, smoking is a bad habit with long-term health hazards and is no means of enjoyment. So, argument II is vague.

49. **Statement:** Should the council of ministers once appointed be kept the same for the entire period intervening two elections?

Arguments:

No. Shuffling of ministers and portfolios is a healthy democratic process.

Yes. The ministers do not get a hold on their portfolio unless they are kept for a longer duration.

- A. Only argument I is strong
- B. Only argument II is strong
- C. Either I or II is strong
- D. Neither I nor II is strong
- E. Both I and II are strong

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Shuffling of Cabinet ministers is just not a regular process, but a step to ensure proper working and implementation of schemes and avoid corruption. So, none of the arguments holds strong.