



Verbal Ability for the **CAT**

Sujit Kumar

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PEARSON

Chandigarh • Delhi • Chennai

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Preface

It took me quite long to finish this book. Anyone who is familiar with the CAT will admit that the questions in the CAT, especially in the verbal section and from the year 2000 onwards, demand much more than a casual comprehension of the given information. They test the candidates' analytical and reasoning skills. The questions are beautifully crafted and generally follow clearly defined lines of reasoning. It was, hence, difficult for me to match each question in this book to the difficulty level of the CAT. However, at the end of it all, I am completely satisfied with the quality of the questions in this book.

This book contains all the question types that have been asked in the CAT over the years. The purpose of this book is to make a candidate completely familiar with the different question types and discusses methods to solve these questions. This will benefit students preparing for the CAT on their own, as well as those who are going to coaching institutes by giving them additional guidelines as well as practice material.

It is my earnest hope that the years of experience that I have as a verbal faculty and the learning that has happened by being with thousands of highly focused students is reflected in this book. I am sure students will find this book most useful. I will be happy to receive feedback and queries at englishusage@gmail.com.

SUJIT KUMAR

Introduction

One of the most frequently asked questions about Verbal Ability in competitive examinations is, *'how do I prepare for the Verbal section?'*

It is possible to answer this question.

While students have adequate clarity about how to prepare for the Quantitative, Data Interpretation, Logical Reasoning, and General Awareness sections of competitive examinations; and even the preparation for Group discussions and Personal Interviews is better structured, preparing for the Verbal section more often than not is without clarity, structure, or direction. Most students merely satisfy themselves by solving as many questions in verbal as possible and then hope for the best in the test itself! While there is no magic bullet that will transform one's verbal aptitude overnight, the unstructured ways of working only adds to the uncertainty about verbal. And precisely for this reason the decisive part of the test becomes the verbal section. A simple truth about the students taking the CAT and similar examinations is that the number of students good in mathematics is more than the number of students good in verbal. The CAT then essentially becomes a competition among those who are good in mathematics vying for the best verbal scores.

While the range of scores obtained by the candidates in mathematics and DI and LR is within a narrow band of 55 to 65% of the total marks, the overall scores and percentiles of successful candidates are significantly influenced by their verbal scores!

Rather than analysing such statistics further to reinforce the importance of the verbal section, one should get down to systematically tackling this aspect and not let one's preparation in mathematics and DI go waste because of verbal. If you are good in mathematics and DI, you must spend a lot of time preparing for verbal rather than become better and better in your strong areas. If you are good at verbal, make sure that you spend much more time in quant and DI in order to save the exam and your chances rather than strengthen your strengths and perpetually blame the weak area for your failure.

The first difficulty that a student faces about the Verbal section is that unlike quant and DI, there seems to be no clearly defined topics or concepts/principles to study (except, perhaps, grammar), but there are only different question types. And the student plunges headlong into solving as many questions as possible of all these different types, without realizing that some of these question types may need no practice at all. They may only

demand time or an intense application of the mind to solve them. I would cite Paragraph Jumbles as an example of such types. These questions need sufficient time and several readings of the sentences rather than the experience of having solved innumerable jumbled paragraphs during practice. Anyone who applies his/her mind to the given sentences and spends sufficient time arranging the sentences can get the sequence right—practice may enhance the confidence one has in dealing with these questions rather than accuracy. This is not to discount the importance of practice of solving verbal questions but only to emphasize that the preparation for verbal ability must be done with absolute clarity about what skill exactly is being tested by the particular question type.

THE BROAD AREAS TESTED

The broad areas tested in the verbal section are familiar to everyone. They are:

- Reading comprehension
- Verbal Logic/Reasoning
- Grammar, and
- Vocabulary

All the questions in any competitive test fall under one of these areas. Sometimes, equal importance is attached to each area, though some examinations lay greater emphasis on a particular area. For example, almost 50 per cent of the questions in the verbal section in the CAT are reading comprehension questions. The remaining 50% of the questions give equal importance to the other areas. XAT is reasoning and vocabulary intensive. Thus, you may have to fine tune your preparation according to the specific emphasis of an exam; however, the general approach to verbal preparation is the same for all exams. This chapter throws light on this aspect of the preparation.

Though it is essential to solve sufficient number of questions in each of these areas during your practice, it is far more important to realize that these areas are not watertight compartments or different topics like Geometry and Algebra.

UNIFIED NATURE OF VERBAL

Verbal is essentially one area, and a unified area. Reading skill (comprehension), reasoning, vocabulary, and grammar are all indicators of one's proficiency in a language rather than different areas one can or should master separately. Hence it is futile to try to improve your verbal aptitude by concentrating on one of these areas and ignoring or underplaying the others. There are students who believe (I do not know how far it can be true) that they are good in reasoning but not in vocabulary, or grammar, or reading comprehension. Doesn't one come across vocabulary items in a reasoning question? Does not one have to understand the grammatical structure (though not technically) in order to comprehend correctly? This unified nature of verbal (language) needs to be borne in mind when one begins one's preparation for verbal. Hence, even when your study material or training schedules treat vocabulary, grammar etc., as separate units or types or topics, you have to understand that it is done only for convenience and for imparting a superficial structure to your efforts rather than treat them as separate areas.

What it implies is, while you spend enough time to solve questions in each of these areas in order to improve your underlying aptitude to solve these questions, verbal needs to be approached in totality as well. Hence, it is necessary to pay attention to the vocabulary items that you encounter in a reading comprehension passage at that very moment, pay attention to the complex grammatical structures in a reasoning passage, work out the line of reasoning that helps you arrive at a particular answer in a comprehension passage etc., as you solve questions of these different types. At least part of the preparation must be undertaken this way.

VERBAL IS NEVER LOST

Another point to bear in mind about verbal is that the efforts you spend in this area and the improvement in skill/proficiency that you may acquire in verbal are never wasted. To an extent, geometry stops being useful to you in life at some point or the other unless you are engaged in jobs that require geometry. This can be said about most things that you learn either in your academic pursuits or during the preparation for competitive examinations. You can ponder over whether verbal skills (vocabulary, reading skills etc.) stop being useful at any point in your life. Aren't impressive communication skills (effective vocabulary and clarity of thought and expression) relevant and significant wherever you are, whatever career you are in, or even in your social life?

The language skills that you acquire or improve through your study and practice for a competitive examination will not stop being useful to you even if you do not get into a b-school. Such an attitude and approach to verbal will take the stress off your preparation for verbal. You will learn to like words (vocabulary) or passages (abstract reading comprehension passages) because they are useful instruments for a larger goal. A youngster with passion and communication skills is a delight for everyone else. A youngster with great passion and poor communication skills is confusing to everyone else. When you look at verbal ability from this perspective, difficult words (ideas) and abstract passages become challenges worth mastering! In short, verbal preparation ought not to be merely from the exam point of view.

HOW TO IMPROVE READING SKILLS AND COMPREHENSION

We have been told *ad nauseam* about the importance of the reading habit. Yet, we are unable to develop the reading habit. More than a lack of desire to read, lack of time constrains youngsters from developing the reading habit. If it is true about you, and you have realized it, half the battle is already won. Earmark fifteen minutes or so every day before going to sleep to read a few pages from a good book, and watch how the habit develops! It is very important, in the beginning, to read what you like for the habit to set in. If you like thrillers, read thrillers. If you like romantic fiction, read it. If you like physics, read physics. Unless you read what you like, the habit will never set in. Once you get the reading habit, it is easier to get into the preparatory mode for competitive examinations by moving on to difficult, unfamiliar, abstract and varied stuff little by little.

Some of you may be worried about the lack of speed in reading, especially in the passages that you solve. Practice speed reading (in this context, merely reading fast—not worrying about speed-reading techniques etc.) for at least fifteen minutes with the newspaper

(essentially easy stuff). To begin with, when you are trying to read the newspaper very fast, ignore the loss of comprehension and concentrate on just improving your speed. You will be surprised to find, in a very short while, that improving the speed has not affected your comprehension adversely at all. On the contrary, you are able to gain better comprehension and able to process greater amounts of text by merely reading fast. That will be the first step towards improving your speed. All experiments with speed reading must be done with easy text—in which vocabulary and grammar (sentence structure) do not pose challenges.

The greater speed that you have acquired in reading easy text will automatically improve your speed with more difficult text. If you have improved your speed with easy text from, say, 250 to 500 words per minute, your speed with difficult text may improve from, say, 150 words per minute to 200 words per minute. With more and more practice the speed at which you can process text will improve phenomenally.

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension of the text one reads is not so much related to speed as to one's concentration and proficiency in the language (mastery of vocabulary and grammatical structures); hence, it is necessary to consciously work towards improving your vocabulary and your comfort with complex sentence structures. Work slowly but steadily. Do not overwhelm yourself with Plato or Jean Paul Sartre to begin with. Pick up a 400–500 word long essay (even half the length is all right) on abstract and difficult topics. Spend an hour on it—reading, analysing (using the dictionary to understand unfamiliar words), and assimilating the information. Break long and complex sentences into constituent idea units and comprehend such sentences in parts first; the whole will automatically make sense. Make verbal an experience rather than merely an exercise in solving questions.

The writer should suggest, until at least three months before the exam spend half the time you devote to, verbal working in the above manner—making a difference to your language as a whole, and half the time solving all kinds of questions. About two/three months before the exam you can start spending most of your time solving questions, but not forgetting to work intensely on your reading and comprehension skills whenever possible.

HOW TO IMPROVE VOCABULARY

Improving your vocabulary should ideally take a two-prong approach. The first is to ignore the exam and to treat improving your vocabulary as an end in itself. The second is to learn vocabulary purely from the point of view of the exam.

The first approach is not a time-bound exercise. It is undertaken not with the exam in mind, but with the honest purpose of improving one's vocabulary, and thereby one's reading skills, proficiency in the language, and most importantly one's communication skills. One must realize that one's communication skills are, as a matter of fact, equal to the number of words one has mastered. Your ability to express your thoughts clearly and precisely, and even your ability to think clearly and precisely depends on the number of words that you know. As Wittgenstein remarked, "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world." Realizing this truly in oneself motivates one to earnestly work towards mastering new words and new ideas. That is the non-exam-specific approach. Towards this end, you must read widely, and use the dictionary extensively to learn new words. Any unfamiliar word that you come across is a candidate for learning—for the simple reason that it is unfamiliar.

Students find learning new words rather cumbersome. Memory is a huge problem. They are not able to retain the words they learn; they forget the words themselves; they forget the meanings more easily. Altogether, it looks like a futile exercise, and boring too. There are solutions to all these problems.

MAKING STUDY OF VOCABULARY EFFECTIVE

If we slightly change the way we learn new words all the above problems can be addressed very easily, giving us tangible results in quick time. We generally note down the new words and their meanings and learn them by rote. This method gives rise to the above problems: inadequate retention of the words themselves and their meanings and the inability to use the new word in speech or writing.

Remember, the functions of a word as an instrument of communication are: 1. to speak, 2. to write, 3. to think.

The change suggested here in the way you learn new words takes account of these functions:

To speak: You must know how the word is pronounced. Hence whenever you come across a new word and look it up in a dictionary and before anything else learn its pronunciation. Most dictionaries give the pronunciation of the word immediately after it. Some dictionaries (good ones) use symbols or the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) to show its pronunciation. Web based dictionaries may even have pronunciation audio. Use all this effectively to master the correct pronunciation of the word. If the symbols are unfamiliar look at the first few pages of the dictionary—the symbols are always explained as ‘guide to pronunciation.’

Remember, unless you know the correct pronunciation, your confidence in relation to that word will always be low, leading to a hesitation to speak the word, and thus it slips out of your memory more easily. You will feel confident about the word if you pronounce it correctly (say loudly a few times). In turn, it enhances your memory and retention. You will get the feeling that you now own that word.

- Try it with this new word: **chatoyant**—pronunciation is \ **shuh-TOI-uhnt** \. Read this loudly to yourself a few times. In IPA, the symbols for ‘chatoyant’ will look like this: /a.twa.ɔ̃/

To write: To be confident to write a word, you must know its spelling. Pay attention to the spelling of the word as you learn its pronunciation. Learning the spelling is easy—but do pay attention to the combination of alphabets and notice any peculiarity (e.g., *weird* is spelt “ei” rather than “ie” etc.)

When you have done the above two things well before rushing to find its meaning, you will experience that you have learnt the word and it is now part of your vocabulary. The chances of forgetting it later are reduced, because the new word is now yours. Your vocabulary has now improved.

To think: The next is meaning. In order to retain the meaning of the word well and to be able to think with it later and to be able to use it in your writing or speech, you need to slightly change the way you learn its meaning. The meaning of ‘chatoyant’ is *having changeable lustre; twinkling*. When you have learnt the meaning this way it hardly helps in understanding the word well. Hence look at the context in which the word occurs. And learn the word along with a bit of the context in which it occurs and remember it as a phrase (at least two words). For example, do not remember ‘chatoyant’, remember “**chatoyant silk**”. When you

remember it as “chatoyant silk” the meaning of the word becomes much clearer and remains in memory for long time (perhaps, forever!) and you will be able to use the word at least in one context with confidence. Memory does not fail you. The word *silk* will trigger the word back into your memory.

The above method, if diligently adhered to, will give quick and great results.

Also, try to read as much as possible about the word itself – its root meaning, etymology, history etc. A casual reading of such details about the word itself will go a long way in improving retention.

For example, read this information related to “chatoyant”-

Origin:

- *Chatoyant*’s poetic origin lies in the French *chatoyer*, “to gleam like a cat’s eyes,” from the French *chat* meaning “cat.”

Quotes:

- *Chatoyant* is that kind of white which the eye of a cat assumes in the dark: The translator observes, truly, that there is no English word for it; the idea is that of a semi-transparent whiteness.—M. de Foucroy.
- Its *chatoyant*, iridescent colours suggest the fancy that it might have had its birth in the crystallization of some magnificent aurora.—R.G. Taber.

Now you know the word much better. A few words learnt this way regularly will go a long way in improving your vocabulary over time.

If you are making a note of this word (building your own wordlist) the entry in your notebook may look like this:

chatoyant - \ shuh-TOI-uhnt \ - “chatoyant silk” - having a changeable color or luster / twinkling

EXAM-SPECIFIC LEARNING OF VOCABULARY

Root lists, Wordlists, flashcards, books (there are innumerable books in the market) are hugely useful in learning vocabulary for an exam. You must memorize as many words as possible from such sources. It is better to do such mechanical work as close to the exam as possible for a few hours at a stretch. This way your memory remains fresh at the time of the examination, and if those words are not there in the examination, you can at least be satisfied that you haven’t invested too much time in learning useless words, which you will anyhow soon forget.

The general study of vocabulary must go on always, complemented by the exam-specific method during your preparation for competitive examinations. You must also solve as many vocabulary related questions as possible.

STUDY OF GRAMMAR

The study of grammar for a competitive examination is far easier than the study of vocabulary and far less intimidating than most students feel about it.

If you are a good reader (the reading habit), the grammatical structures of a language are instinctively mastered without actually being able to distinguish between the subject and the object case of a pronoun (rules). Hence continue your general reading of everything possible and as much as possible.

Most coaching institutes have excellent material available for grammar. Principles tested in competitive exams generally follow a pattern and are based on the common errors in English.

The best way to prepare for grammar is to first learn the principles generally tested in the examination—mentioned in the chapter on grammar—and then solve as many questions as possible. During practice do not worry too much about your accuracy to begin with. Learn backwards, i.e., solve questions, make mistakes, and learn all the principles from the explanations to these answers.

The point is: do not try to become grammarians while preparing for competitive examinations. Learn the common areas of errors. Learn largely by solving questions. Also, refer to the introduction to the chapter on grammar questions in this book.

VERBAL LOGIC AND VERBAL REASONING

Verbal Logic: These questions test your comprehension and analytical skills specific to the given information/situation. The difference between Verbal Logic and Verbal Reasoning is that Verbal Logic tests your ability to reason as per the rules of reasoning in an objective way (in a formulaic way) and requires ignoring all prior knowledge. Verbal Reasoning on the other hand requires comprehension of the data as the data is generally understood in daily life and the ability to apply principles of reasoning to make certain decisions. Reading Comprehension questions as they appear in competitive examinations, especially the CAT and XAT, are more Verbal Reasoning questions than reading comprehension *per se*.

Logical set theory questions symbolise Verbal Logic questions. The data “All cats are dogs” is analysed as *All C's are D's* ignoring whatever one may know about cats and dogs.

You can prepare for Verbal Logic questions by first learning the few principles related to Verbal Logic and then by solving questions regularly. Once you have got the knack of solving these questions it is better not to go on practicing and waste time. Keep solving a few questions so that you remain in touch with these questions and then spend your valuable time in other question types or in generally improving your verbal skills.

Verbal Reasoning: A large variety of question types exists in Verbal Reasoning. The most structured ones are called Critical Reasoning questions. The methods to solve these questions are discussed in some detail at the beginning of each chapter in this book. Reading comprehension, Paragraph Completion, Jumbled Paragraphs etc. are examples of Verbal Reasoning questions. Verbal Reasoning questions, whichever type they may be, test your comprehension, analytical, reasoning, and decision-making skills. What that means immediately is that generally they are time consuming. They require active reading of the given data and good comprehension of it. Though the familiar types are discussed in this book, new and unfamiliar types can always appear in an exam. In all reasoning questions, make sure that you have understood the instructions well before attempting the questions. In fact, the verbal reasoning questions keep you on your toes in the exam. In most of these questions, practice is of utmost importance. And a few like paragraph jumbles are left to the careful application of the elementary reasoning skills that all of us already possess. But, some other question types, say, Critical Reasoning questions may be high-analysis, high-I.Q. questions. Devise your strategy accordingly about practice and application of the mind.

1

Paragraph Completion Questions

(Completing the paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted)

Directions: Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

I am sometimes attacked for imposing 'rules' nothing could be further from the truth. I hate rules. All I do is report on how consumers react to different stimuli. I may say to a copywriter, "Research shows that commercials with celebrities are below average in persuading people to buy products. Are you sure you want to use a celebrity?" Call that a rule? Or I may say to an art director, "Research suggests that if you set the copy in black type on a white background, more people will read it than if you set it in white type on a black background." _____.

1. Guidance based on applied research can hardly qualify as 'rules'.
2. Thus, all my so called 'rules' are rooted in applied research.
3. A suggestion perhaps, but scarcely a rule.
4. Such principles are unavoidable if one wants to be systematic about consumer behaviour.
5. Fundamentally, it is about consumer behaviour—not about celebrities or type settings.

HOW TO SOLVE

Paragraph completion questions follow a clear line of reasoning. These questions in the CAT are based on paragraphs excerpted from material available in the public domain. They are rarely original paragraphs written specially for the CAT. Hence the reasoning that good writers use to complete their paragraphs holds true for the answer choice; your duty, then, is to understand the line of reasoning used by the writer; scoring, then, becomes easy.

A paragraph is a short composition or note on an idea that is complete in itself. Hence the last sentence of a paragraph will have the following characteristics:

- It fulfils the purpose of the paragraph.
- It brings the paragraph to a smooth closure.
- It will not introduce (contain) any new ideas.

- It will not require any further clarification.
- It is not an inference.
- It is the writer's last sentence and not what the reader provides.

You need to not only read the paragraph actively and carefully, but also *identify its purpose* as you read. The last sentence will merely fulfil this purpose and bring the paragraph to a smooth closure. The last sentence, hence, arises from the paragraph itself and not from outside it. If required, you must read the paragraph several times or until you have identified the purpose for which it is written. The operative idea in the directions to the questions is “... choose the one that completes the paragraph”. A sentence that completes the paragraph hence cannot logically introduce any new ideas. That is why the last sentence will contain nothing that requires further clarification. The paragraph needs to be closed with the last sentence; it should not leave loose ends to be closed or explained further.

The last sentence concludes the paragraph; the word ‘conclude,’ in this context, merely means *to bring to an end*. It does not mean that the reader has to reason out on the basis of the given facts and reach a judgment or decision or an inference. The reader is not actively involved in closing the paragraph by reasoning and making a decision. The reader—the test taker—has to merely notice the direction in which the paragraph is moving and choose the best sentence that brings it to an end. The reader hence is not actively involved in the paragraph, except in identifying the writer's purpose in writing the paragraph. If you are able to unravel, by looking at the details given in the paragraph, the direction and purpose of the writer, the scoring option stands out from the other options very clearly and conspicuously.

You must spend sufficient time with the paragraph before going to the options to evaluate them for the answer. Some of these questions can be, at times, prove themselves to be extremely tricky if you haven't understood the purpose of the paragraph. Then, all options can appear right.

Another point to bear in mind is that the task in these questions is to complete the paragraph and not merely continue it. The difference between an option that completes the paragraph and an option that continues the paragraph is that the former fulfils the purpose of the paragraph whereas the latter merely continues one or the other of the ideas mentioned in the paragraph. However, in certain questions an option that continues the paragraph may be accommodated as the last sentence (answer) if a sentence (option) that brings the paragraph to a logical closure is not available.

I am sometimes attacked for imposing ‘rules’. Nothing could be further from the truth. I hate rules. All I do is report on how consumers react to different stimuli. I may say to a copywriter, “Research shows that commercials with celebrities are below average in persuading people to buy products. Are you sure you want to use a celebrity?” Call that a rule? Or I may say to an art director, “Research suggests that if you set the copy in black type on a white background, more people will read it than if you set it in white type on a black background.” _____.

What is the purpose of the above paragraph? The writer is at pains to explain to us that he does not want to be seen as framing rules for anyone. He hates rules. He tells us the different situations which had led to this (erroneous) belief, among others, that he is laying down rules; but he was merely ‘reporting’ consumer behaviour. He tells us those examples

are not rules. *So, the purpose of the paragraph is to tell us that whatever he says to others are not rules. They are merely reports, in order that the other may reconsider his or her stand in relation to consumer behaviour.* Now we need to close this paragraph without leaving any loose ends.

1. Guidance based on applied research can hardly qualify as ‘rules’.
2. Thus, all my so called ‘rules’ are rooted in applied research.
3. A suggestion perhaps, but scarcely a rule.
4. Such principles are unavoidable if one wants to be systematic about consumer behaviour.
5. Fundamentally, it is about consumer behaviour—not about celebrities or type settings.

Options 1 and 2, “Guidance based on applied research can hardly qualify as ‘rules’” and, “Thus, all my so called ‘rules’ are rooted in applied research.” ring completely untrue because ‘guidance based on applied research’ only reinforces the claim of others that those are strict and rigid principles that no one can refute—by implication stricter than rules. Option 4, “Such principles are unavoidable if one wants to be systematic about consumer behaviour,” is in not related to the purpose of the paragraph which is not about how to be systematic about consumer behaviour. In the same vein, option 5 is also far away from the purpose of the writer. Option 3, “A suggestion perhaps but scarcely a rule,” fulfils the writer’s purpose that they are not rules but merely suggestions. This sentence, read in conjunction with the following “I am sometimes attacked for imposing ‘rules’. Nothing could be further from the truth. I hate rules. Call that a rule? Or I may say to an art director ...” makes the paragraph a logically complete unit. Hence, Option 3 is the answer.

What is the writer’s purpose in the following paragraph?

We can usefully think of theoretical models as maps, which help us navigate unfamiliar territory. The most accurate map that it is possible to construct would be of no practical use whatsoever, for it would be an exact replica, on exactly the same scale, of the place where we were. Good maps pull out the most important features and throw away a huge amount of much less valuable information. Of course, maps can be bad as well as good—witness the attempts by medieval Europe to produce a map of the world. In the same way, a bad theory, no matter how impressive it may seem in principle, does little or nothing to help us understand a problem. _____.

It is very important to identify the purpose of the paragraph before going to the options to evaluate which one would score. The tendency to work backwards (from the options to the paragraph) should be curbed when you deal with these questions. Once you are fairly clear about the purpose of the paragraph, you can work back and forth as you like.

In the above paragraph, the writer compares theoretical models and maps. Maps are inadequate in various ways, because they are highly basic—omitting all the details; however they help you navigate an unfamiliar territory. There are good and bad maps. Bad theories (like bad maps however impressive) are of hardly any use since they do not help us understand a problem. The purpose of the paragraph seems to be to state that *good theoretical models are important*. The comparison with maps merely drives this point home.

From this point of view, look at the following options and choose the sentence that most appropriately completes the paragraph.

1. But good theories, just like good maps, are invaluable, even if they are simplified.
2. But good theories, just like good maps, will never represent unfamiliar concepts in details.
3. But good theories, just like good maps, need to balance details and feasibility of representation.
4. But good theories, just like good maps, are accurate only at a certain level of abstraction.
5. But good theories, just like good maps, are useful in the hands of a user who knows their limitations.

Option 5 is very easily eliminated as it does not connect to the purpose of the paragraph because the ‘user’ is unimportant in that purpose. Option 4 can also be easily eliminated because ‘certain level of abstraction’ needs further clarification, interpretation, or explanation. Option 3 is also irrelevant from the point of view of the paragraph’s purpose because the paragraph does not even imply “need to balance” whatever! Option 2 is also not the purpose of the paragraph; ‘never represent’ is not the scheme of things in the paragraph. Option 1 is the answer. It reinforces the purpose that ‘theoretical models are useful’. Notice also that the second last sentence talks about bad theories. ‘But good theories’ which is a constant in the options directly connects to the second last sentence and closes the paragraph. Option 1, on analysis, can be seen to completely fulfil the purpose of the paragraph.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Directions: Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

Question 1

Yes, nobody wants to be Japan, the fallen angel that went from one of the fastest growing economies in the world for more than three decades to one that has slowed to a crawl for the past 18 years. No one wants to live with the trauma of the deflation (falling prices) that Japan has repeatedly experienced. No one wants to navigate the precarious government-debt dynamic that Japan faces, with debt levels far above 100% of GDP—even if one factors in the Japanese government’s vast holdings of foreign-exchange reserves. _____.

1. No one wants to go from being a world-beater to a poster child for economic stagnation.
2. And yet, visitors to Tokyo today see prosperity everywhere.
3. Although hardly in crisis yet, Japan’s fiscal situation grows more alarming by the day.
4. Until now, the government has been able to finance its vast debts locally, despite paying paltry interest rates even on longer-term borrowings.
5. Remarkably, Japanese savers soak up some 95% of their government’s debt.

Question 2

On 1 March, Philip Morris, a tobacco giant, sued eight American retailers for selling counterfeit versions of its Marlboro cigarettes. Governments are also boosting their efforts to

crack down on counterfeiting which deprives them of tax revenue in addition to harming legitimate businesses. Thanks to the rise of the internet and of extended international supply chains, and more recently, to the global economic downturn, counterfeit goods are everywhere. Fake Porsches and Ferraris zoom along the streets of Bangkok. A German bank has discovered an ersatz gold ingot made of tungsten in its reserves, according to a German television channel investigating persistent reports that many of the world's financial institutions have been similarly hoodwinked. _____.

1. Counterfeiting used to be a luxury goods problem, but now people are trying to traffic counterfeit items that have a wider effect on the economy.
2. NASA, America's space agency, has even bought suspect materials.
3. Several factors have contributed to the growth of counterfeiting in recent years.
4. Fake goods are proliferating, to the dismay of companies and governments.
5. The recession in the rich world may also have given a boost to counterfeit goods.

Question 3

The rate of conviction in SC and ST atrocity cases in the State has reached 22 per cent from 10 per cent last year due to the proper investigations done by the departments concerned and the increased awareness that enabled the aggrieved persons to get justice. The government has been appointing special public prosecutors in 'most sensational' and long-pending cases and has issued guidelines to increase people's understanding of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. _____.

1. The people's representatives should now acquaint people with the legal remedies available for them.
2. The Act has been implemented in letter and spirit.
3. The Police Department act swiftly on complaints of atrocities.
4. These measures facilitated speedy disposal of SC and ST atrocity cases.
5. Investigations have paved the way for speedy delivery of justice.

Question 4

Make no mistake: the setting matters. There are many ways to listen to classical Indian music—in the private, somewhat sterile perfection of the CDs and DVDs we play at home; in the concert sabhas of Mylapore and T. Nagar; on the music channels on TV or on YouTube, which now carries a little or a lot of almost everything, often in choppy, byte-size pieces. But I happen to think that this music sounds best outside, on a hot spring or summer night, with the taste of pollen and dust on your tongue and mosquitoes circling around your feet. _____.

1. We tend to forget that much of the classical music of India, both Hindustani and Carnatic, was meant for intimate settings like the royal court.
2. Taking classical music out of 'sabhas' into vibrant cultural spaces brings out its ethereal dimensions.
3. Music is a tangible thing, to be felt in the pores of your skin no less than in the ear; you just can't do that very well in the concert halls.
4. In the course of its transition to the modern concert stage, Carnatic music in particular has sacrificed something of its delicacy.

5. One of the important things about the settings is the recreation of a context for listening in which subtlety and intimacy can assume their natural role.

Question 5

In 2009, China overtook Germany to become the world's largest exporter. Exactly half the trade disputes that were filed at the World Trade Organization (WTO) last year involved China. These facts are not unrelated. As Pascal Lamy, the WTO's chief, pointed out in January, the scope for trade friction increases as countries trade more. _____.

1. Hence, China will test the WTO's dispute-settlement system.
2. Hence, disputes between China and other countries are only to be expected.
3. Hence, China's increasing propensity to bring disputes to the WTO is part of a broader shift.
4. Hence, China has moved from learning-by-watching, to being an active participant in formal dispute settlement.
5. Hence, more disputes may be inevitable; resolving them successfully is not.

Question 6

Hundreds of farmers in long, faded cotton sarongs swarmed outside an auditorium at Bangalore University last February. They were waiting for India's Environment Minister. This was the last of his public consultations on the commercial release of Bt Brinjal, a genetically modified (GM) aubergine, created by Mahyco, an Indian hybrid-seed company, and Monsanto, an American biotech giant. Waving placards and appetising images of aubergines, known in India as brinjal, they shouted themselves hoarse praising the transgenic vegetable. But most of these men, registered at the consultation as farmers, were in fact landless labourers with no aubergine experience. The Minister was the first to call their bluff. The companies, he said, without naming any, had bussed farmers from rural districts, to play the pro-GM crowd at the hearing that day. _____.

1. The tactic failed miserably.
2. The minister's roadshow to canvas public views was unusual.
3. Many were surprised at the Minister's decision to snub the seed companies and powerful domestic and American biotech lobbies.
4. The Minister felt obliged to be responsible to science and responsive to society.
5. It was a setback for GM in India.

Question 7

India's industry is going from strength to strength. Manufacturing grew by 14.3% in the fourth quarter, compared with the same period last year. Politicians celebrate the achievements of "India Inc", applauding its acquisitions abroad and welcoming the foreign investment it attracts. They do not show anything like the same confidence in "Bharat Inc", which is how India's rural economy is sometimes described. Bharat, which means India in Hindi, is a different country. The rural heartland is courted for votes, smothered with regulations, and shielded from the global economy that corporate India is busy conquering. _____.

1. Indian agriculture has performed poorly because governments have treated it as a source of votes rather than as an engine of growth.

2. But its policymakers should treat farms as a potential source of growth, not just of votes.
3. Yet the government cannot achieve the growth it aspires to without robust progress in agriculture, which still employs about half of India's workforce.
4. This year, for the first time in the country's history, India's factories may contribute more to GDP than its farms, forests and fisheries.
5. Indian agriculture can comfortably feed the country, but that remains the sum of its achievement.

Question 8

Thirty years ago the bosses of America's car industry were shocked to learn that Japan had overtaken America to become the world's leading car producer. They were even more shocked when they visited Japan to find out what was going on. They found that the secret of Japan's success did not lie in cheap labour or government subsidies—their preferred explanations—but in what was rapidly dubbed "lean manufacturing". While Detroit slept, Japan had transformed itself from a low-wage economy into a hotbed of business innovation.

_____.

1. Soon every factory around the world was lean—or a ruin.
2. Management gurus are always glibly proclaiming revolutions.
3. Now something comparable is taking place in the developing world.
4. The rich world is losing its leadership in the sort of breakthrough ideas that transform industries.
5. Western carmakers learned the techniques of lean production from their Japanese rivals.

Question 9

When Parliament decided, in 1709, to create a law that would protect books from piracy, the London-based publishers and booksellers who had been pushing for such protection were overjoyed. When Queen Anne gave her assent on 10th April the following year—300 years ago—to "An act for the encouragement of learning" they were less enthused. Parliament had given them rights, but it had set a time limit on them: 21 years for books already in print and 14 years for new ones, with an additional 14 years if the author was still alive when the first term ran out. After that, the material would enter the public domain so that anyone could reproduce it. _____.

1. The lawmakers helped channel the spate of inventiveness that writers had in the past.
2. The lawmakers knew that authors do not generally consult the statute books before deciding whether or not to pick up pen.
3. The lawmakers did not bother about how such a deal can be made equitably.
4. The lawmakers intended to balance the incentive to create with the interest that people have in free access to knowledge.
5. However, none of this should get in the way of the enforcement of copyright, which remains a vital tool in the encouragement of learning.

Question 10

Organ transplantation is one of the most impressive achievements of modern medicine. It has brought hope to millions of patients suffering from previously fatal organ failure. For many, it has made life longer and better. It has benefited many professionals and industries, too, by becoming a new source of pride, funding, and profit. Struggling to contain costs, health-care payers are also among its beneficiaries. _____.

1. Kidney transplantation, for example, has proved to be less costly than dialysis.
2. Transplant medicine has been grappling with a rapidly increasing gap between the supply of organs and demand for them.
3. If we are short of organs, then let us get more of them.
4. Indeed, transplant ethics has been on a slippery slope almost since transplants began.
5. Organ transplantation, like mosquito repellent, should be used sparingly, and only when there is no other choice.

Question 11

How do you do it? Your colleagues, neighbours, family and friends, how do they all do it? "I follow my nose," says Dan Rhodes, author of *Gold*, "I am always on the hunt for the next book that's going to rock my world ... my favourite thing is still going into a shop and coming out with something I'd never heard of." But if you stand in any bookstore, you're unlikely to see many people using their noses, they just head straight for the "new" Salman Rushdie or the "latest" Chetan Bhagat or the "most recent" Shobhaa De or the "new bestseller" from Paulo Coelho: _____.

1. because they believe that books can change life.
2. maybe that is the *Catcher effect*—most of us had read *Catcher in the Rye* and Salinger's other books in our late teens.
3. it doesn't seem to work that way now.
4. it's a matter of judging every book by its author.
5. if it's always been around you, you develop an instinct about it, else you are never sure.

Question 12

Marie Antoinette told her people to eat cake when they needed bread. Our government encourages people to buy cars—from Rolls Royce to the Nano—when they need affordable public transport. And when people, especially women, want simple, basic health care—and clean water and sanitation—they are being urged to inject their daughters with a Rs 9,000 vaccine against cervical cancer. _____.

1. If some of us do these things, we should not be blamed.
2. It has brought into focus several ethical and gender-related issues in the arena of public health.
3. The priorities of our decision makers are more than slightly skewed.
4. What women need is basic healthcare, not costly medical experiments.
5. The vaccine is supposed to protect them from cervical cancer.

Question 13

A ride to Alappuzha, visiting the coir industries and boating in the backwaters was next on the agenda. As the boats sliced the green water of the *Vembanad Kayal*, we watched life on the backwaters of Kerala: women selling foodstuff wrapped in banana leaves from the canoes, the transport service, the boat stops as schools kids hopped from one boat to another to get home, the different National waterways that the signs indicated and the homes that had their families bathing, washing utensils and clothes. _____.

1. We were awestruck by the vast expanse of the lake.
2. The backwaters were indeed the artery of this area.
3. It was then we realized that this was India's longest and largest lake.
4. Life moves at a serene pace in the backwaters of Alappuzha.
5. The *Vembanad Kayal* Wetlands is in the list of wetlands of international importance.

Question 14

The tragedy about data collection in India is that by the time primary data is converted into useable information, it may be too late to aid policy intervention. This is true of data collected by not just government agencies such as the National Sample Survey Organization but also think tanks such as National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). One of the criticisms of Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition—a report put together by NCAER and Institute of Maryland, US—is that it is based on data collected at least six years back. _____.

1. It brings out various dimensions of human development to understand social inequalities, based on survey of 41,554 households.
2. Many of its findings are an eye-opener, while some others a reaffirmation of conclusion of other independent studies.
3. Indicators used to measure development were household incomes and poverty rates, land ownership and agriculture incomes, health and education.
4. It does not capture the impact of the changes of the following years when the economy grew at more than 8% on an average every year.
5. Policymakers could draw inference from the findings to improve targeting of programs aimed at inclusive growth.

Question 15

Almost a decade after the launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the achievement on universalizing elementary education is best described as mixed. Massive spending by the Centre and states on setting up new schools and hiring an army of teachers across the country has ensured enrolment of children in schools has risen across rural India. Just about 4% of children in the age group 6-14 are now estimated not to be attending school. _____.

1. However, on any given day, the average attendance rate seems to be around 74% at the all-India level.
2. However, that is the only happier part of the story.
3. However, nearly 50% of children in class V cannot read the text for class II without making a mistake.

4. However, the poor quality of learning has ensured that the crores spent with the objective of creating an educated, employable workforce are fruitless.
5. These children would possibly grow up to be the educated employable workforce in India.

Question 16

For everyone who expected Budget 2010 to lay out the roadmap for goods and services tax (GST) rollout, there was much disappointment. Not only did the Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee sound cautiously optimistic about April 2011 rollout, there was very little in the form of explicit steps in that direction other than alignment of rates for goods and services as well as expansion of the ambit of service tax. _____.

1. It can be argued that the government has added a few more services to the list like the previous years.
2. A comprehensive list of services is critical for the implementation of GST.
3. It can be argued that when GST is at the threshold, government should not have tinkered with the rates.
4. But everything is not as simple as it appears.
5. So where does the plan to migrate to GST stand?

Question 17

It remains to be seen whether the economy-wide innovative trend would be sufficient to shore up growth in the secular period. For, as researchers like Solow have shown since the 1950s, the bulk of growth over the long term is not so much due to increase in factor inputs like capital and labour as technological change, efficiency improvements and productivity gains. And given our weak science, technology and innovation indicators, to assume world-leading growth for decades would verily belie the empirical evidence of umpteen studies _____.

1. that growth is essentially about technological progress.
2. that the Solow thesis is not the heart of modern growth theory.
3. that economic growth in India would surpass those of the other major economies soon.
4. that technology is not really an exogenous, standalone factor.
5. that figures can be rather deceptive.

Question 18

The Economic Survey went to the extent of expunging details of distribution losses of power utilities, preferring to drop an entire table of figures on rates of return, commercial losses and other attendant annual projections. The Economic Advisory Council is concerned about unacceptably-large revenue leakages in distributing power—and rightly so. But without up-to-date data and comprehensive figures about happenings and goings-on in the vexed power sector, the policy process would surely be left plodding along in the dark.

1. The survey clearly needs to have wide-ranging data on distribution.
2. When it comes to power distribution, large unaccounted-for losses continue pan-India.

3. The fact is that there's a huge gap when it comes to electricity generation and supply.
4. Yet, we seem more focused on ritualizing reforms and opening up.
5. Yet, aggregate technical and commercial losses amount to almost 35%.

Question 19

Finding ways to improve humanity's living standards is the point of economics. Having a good measure of living standards, you may think, is therefore pretty fundamental to the discipline. For decades, economists have turned to gross domestic product (GDP) when they want an estimate of how well off people are. By how much are Americans better off than Indians, or than their parents' generation? Chances are the answer will start with GDP. GDP is really a measure of an economy's output, valued at market prices. As societies produce more, and therefore earn more, their material well-being rises. _____.

1. That said, economists and statisticians have been debating for years whether GDP measures true well-being.
2. But GDP was not intended to be a comprehensive measure of society's well-being.
3. But GDP is not a true measure of improving living standards as GDP is an aggregate measure.
4. But GDP isn't the only measure.
5. So when economists want to measure the living standards of whole societies, GDP is where they usually start.

Question 20

The American novelist John Gardner famously defined the crafting of fiction as the creation of a vivid and continuous dream—first in the mind of the writer and then, if the novelist does his or her job properly, in the mind of the reader. The British novelist Rupert Thomson too talks about the roots of his inspiration in a similar way: whenever I start a new book I have nightmares. Night after night. For a long time I didn't understand why. Recently, I came up with a theory. To write fiction of any power and authenticity you have to draw on the deepest, most secret parts of yourself. _____.

1. You might say that I want my fiction to have that relationship to reality.
2. The paradox at the heart of Thomson's work is that it remains as strange as a dream.
3. That's where fiction comes from, but it's also where dreams are made.
4. I seem to be attracted to ideas that allow me to do this.
5. Thomson works hard to help the reader imagine himself deeply into the story.

Question 21

Marriage, in America at least, is an institution in decline. There is a significant drop in the number of married couples between the ages of 30 and 44: 60% in 2007, down from 84% in 1970. This erosion in legally bound partners has been steady: 77% of this demographic was married in 1980, down to 65% in 2000. During this same period, another dramatic change was taking place: the expansion of economic and educational opportunities for women. You might be tempted to conclude that the new economic caste of well-employed, highly educated women is responsible for marriage's decline; it's not. _____.

1. They want to experience something of youth, work and life before committing to a life-long contractual bond.
2. For many women in the West, the matter of marriage is deeply vexed.
3. Given the decline in the popularity of marriage, the institution itself must be becoming less significant.
4. Examining the necessity of marriage, for oneself and for women in general, is actually not self-indulgent or frivolous.
5. Perhaps, there is never going to be any tidy ultimate conclusion here.

Question 22

People who pursue happiness through material possessions are liked less by their peers than people who pursue happiness through life experiences. The mistake we can sometimes make is believing that pursuing material possessions will gain us status and admiration while also improving our social relationships. In fact, it seems to have exactly the opposite effect.

- _____.
1. This is really problematic because we know that having quality social relationships is one of the best predictors of happiness, health, and well-being.
 2. Not only will investing in material possessions make us less happy than investing in life experiences, but that it often makes us less popular among our peers as well.
 3. Material possessions don't provide as much enduring happiness as the pursuit of life experiences.
 4. So there's a real social cost to being associated with material possessions rather than life experiences.

Question 23

Three centuries have passed since the polymath Sir Christopher Wren predicted that "a time will come when men will stretch out their eyes—they should see planets like our Earth." By most astronomers' accounts, that time is just about nigh. Indeed, detecting big planets orbiting other stars is no longer tricky—nearly 450 such exoplanets have been catalogued. Smaller, rocky planets orbiting at a comfortable distance from their stars—as the Earth does—remain more elusive. Most exoplanets have been discovered by inferring their presence from the rhythmic wobble their gravity imparts on their home star—like a waltz between two dancers of markedly different weights. The problem is that this method favours the discovery of large planets close to their stars. _____.

1. As a result, the catalogue of planets is filled with huge bodies basking brightly in the light of their sun.
2. As a result, mankind's ability to look for extraterrestrial life remains defeated.
3. As result, planets a little farther away from their stars cannot support life.
4. As a result, astronomers have solved the problem of looking at objects near to a star's bright glare.

Question 24

The basic principle in magic is that if you believe in the magic you do, the audience will too. Secondly, magic does not happen on stage, but in the minds of the audience.

_____.

1. Magic is like a tree that you water and nurture.
2. There is psychology to magic.
3. A successful magician just triggers off the magic.
4. A little alteration to a card, a coin, or napkin can create magic.

Question 25

Iceland has a lot of volcanoes, and it's a rare decade when one of them doesn't erupt. So why is the eruption of *Eyjafjallajökull* causing such chaos, and what does that mean for the future? The answer to the first question is that the *Eyjafjallajökull* eruption is peculiarly well attuned to messing with international air travel; most eruptions of a similar size would do a lot less long-distance harm. _____.

1. The answer to the second is that very little is known about the effects of erupting volcanoes on air travel.
2. The answer to the second is that many of Europe's busiest airports will remain out of action for some time.
3. The answer to the second is that the future of air travel at least in Europe is bleak.
4. The answer to the second is that less well attuned but considerably larger eruptions are all but certain in decades to come.

Question 26

Lower winter temperatures were common in Europe during the second half of the 17th century, famously allowing frost fairs to be held on the frozen Thames in London before riverine developments increased the flow rate. These cold winters coincided with the Maunder minimum in solar activity when the Sun remained virtually free of sunspots for almost 50 years. However, establishing that this was not just a chance occurrence requires that the relationship continue to hold over a long interval, such that cold European winters become less frequent when solar activity is high and then more common again when solar activity falls. Various indicators show that during the recent minimum of the 11 year sunspot cycle, the Sun has been quieter than at any time in the previous 90 years. _____.

1. This means that solar activity during the current sunspot minimum has fallen to levels unknown since the start of the 20th century.
2. This yields an opportunity for a better test of the relationship between solar activity and cold European winters.
3. This proves that cold winters occur more commonly in the UK during low solar activity.
4. This regional and seasonal effect relating to European winters may have a global effect.

Question 27

Debt is more common in families with disabled children: the parents were unable to keep up with any local property taxes, water and telephone bills, and were not likely to be able to afford basic items such as a family holiday once a year, a bicycle, or even two pairs of shoes. A disabled baby needs more nappies. Families' ability to work grows difficult, and finding childcare is a real burden. Households with disabled children will depend more on social

security benefits and are faced with the additional financial costs associated with caring for a disabled child. _____.

1. There is a strong link between child disability and poverty.
2. The highest prevalence of childhood disability is found in the poorest families.
3. It is an adverse and serious social gradient that families with disabled face.
4. But thanks to science, these children live longer and medicines keep them alive.

Question 28

What a super film experience *Green Zone* is! From the firecracker opening to the sucker-punch climax, the film is a non-stop adrenalin rush. The hand-held camera and natural light make you feel as if you are seeing the action from the front, as if you have access to footage shot from a sniper's sights. Whether it is a *Bourne-in-Baghdad* kind of relentless action thriller or a strong statement against the US war in Iraq, (incidentally, it is both) *Green Zone* succeeds as a pure cinema, delivering thrills, spills and chills in breathless succession hardly giving anyone time to breathe. _____.

1. This is a movie that takes you on a thrilling, provocative, exhilarating ride.
2. There is really nothing more you could ask for from a movie.
3. *Green Zone* effectively knits several strands together to make a cohesive whole.
4. The plot is taut and truthful.

Question 29

Talented youth can ill-afford to resign to their fate just because they can't properly communicate in English. They should confront the challenges which should, in fact, bring out their best. A little confidence and hard work are all that is needed for them to climb up the career ladder. For that they need to develop communication skills in English, shape up their personalities and acquire the much-needed knowledge. _____.

1. Knowledge and communication skills are the key ingredients that make up the recipe for success.
2. Students have to act as leaders in the college itself.
3. Success will automatically follow.
4. Speaking and writing in English are important, thinking in English is twice as important.

Question 30

Philosophy of music has been dominated by the view that the best music is autonomous and formally complex. As recently as 1990, philosophy of popular music consisted of variations on a single theme. Philosophers defended the twin assumptions that popular music is essentially different from "serious" or art music, and that the former is aesthetically inferior to the latter. _____.

1. As a result, music could not be regarded as art if it lacked genius and autonomy.
2. As a result, popular music competes with and replaces local and regional folk traditions.
3. As a result, most philosophers concentrated on identifying the aesthetic deficiencies inherent in popular music.
4. As a result, philosophers have investigated popular music by identifying and critiquing key concepts that shape our response to this music.

Question 31

The life of a drug addict is tough. And an addict in India is usually from a poor and broken home. It is, therefore, pointless to victimise him or her by jailing, as is done in India. Had incarceration reduced addiction, this penal system could have been tolerated. But, year after year, drug addiction has only increased, and so has drug trafficking. _____.

1. Drug addiction has to be treated as an illness and not punished as a crime.
2. It is time for India to revise its policy of heaping indignity on an already defeated person.
3. Drug addiction, when treated as an illness and not as a crime, can be controlled effectively.
4. Rehabilitation centres ought to create an atmosphere of friendliness without condescension.

Question 32

Free software is often perceived as the hippie or counterculture movement of the technological world. Worse still, in India it has for long remained an obscure concept confined to the world of academics and specialists. But advocates of free software believe that software freedom is most relevant—if not critical—today, particularly at a time when we stand on the threshold of large-scale information and communication technology (ICT) deployment and innovation. The freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software used in public services is imperative. _____.

1. Otherwise, the costs of ICT deployment and innovation will be huge.
2. Otherwise, the free software movement will be rendered useless.
3. Otherwise, proprietary firms will continue monopolising this space.
4. Otherwise, the move towards breaking free of existing proprietary chains will be defeated.

Question 33

The statesman's duty is precisely the reverse of that of the press. The statesman cautiously guards from the public eye the information by which his actions and opinions are regulated; he reserves his judgment of passing events till the latest moment, and then he records it in obscure or conventional language; he strictly confines himself, if he be wise, to the practical interests of his own country, or to those turning immediately upon it; he hazards no rash surmises as to the future; and he concentrates in his own transactions all that power which the Press seeks to diffuse over the world. The duty of the one is to speak; of the other to be silent. The one explains itself in discussion; the other tends to action. The one deals mainly with rights and interests; the other with opinions and sentiments; _____.

1. the former is necessarily reserved, the latter essentially free.
2. the responsibilities of the two powers are as much at variance as their duties.
3. the purposes and duties of the two powers are constantly separate, generally independent, and sometimes diametrically opposite.
4. the responsibilities we acknowledge have therefore little in common.

Question 34

There is a lot of debate within the discipline of public administration whether the bureaucracy should be heavy or thin. According to the neoliberal school of thought, the state should

withdraw itself from the responsibility of development and leave it to private forces. Welfare state advocates feel that the state should be actively involved in developing the country. However, both schools cannot deny the importance of the bureaucracy in executing legislative decisions. _____.

1. Civil servants are selected through an exhaustive system of examinations so that the best brains are chosen to run the country efficiently.
2. There has also been a lot of debate on the process of selecting the administrators of the country, with many commissions having recommended various methods.
3. There have been many complaints against the scaling system of evaluation of civil servants.
4. Civil servants, being the most important policymakers of the country, are given many privileges and accorded a high status in the Constitution.

Question 35

Ubiquitous and clamorous media are transforming foreign policy into a subdivision of public entertainment. The intense competition for ratings produces an obsession with the crisis of the moment, generally presented as a morality play between good and evil having a specific outcome and rarely in terms of the long-range challenge of history. As soon as the flurry of excitement has subsided, the media move on to new sensations. At their peak, the political crises or the scams are covered twenty-four hours a day by print and television media. _____.

1. Then, they receive very little attention, even though the underlying trends continue, and become more unmanageable with time.
2. The situation in India is no different; it is far worse.
3. Then they run amok as they are unaccountable because there is no audit of the media in the media itself.
4. And their loud expression of opinion as fact which purports to express public opinion brings in volatility in perceptions.

Question 36

Asigh of relief settles over the United States news media as the Marjah campaign winds down to a temporary close. The plan was simple—make it clear that the US-led force would enter the town in strength and force the Taliban insurgents to quit the field. Indeed the Taliban, as they did in 2001, hastened out of Marjah. But in 2001, they slowly reorganised and began guerrilla strikes against the US-led forces. One reason for the Taliban returning with such ease was that the US-backed government of Afghanistan failed to earn the people's trust. Its failure to provide basic services despite the vast amount of donor aid, and the corruption scandals fattened by that very aid, turned ordinary people towards the Taliban once more. The latest strategy was designed to prevent such a lapse. _____.

1. Under the US military cover, India can build Marjah's civilian projects and China can improve its economic relations
2. More than half the US population now supports military operations in Afghanistan.
3. It seeks to avoid a direct confrontation with the Taliban and is geared toward breaking the Taliban's logistics, namely its control over the opium trade.

4. Once the US-led forces chased the Taliban out of town, the US-backed government would quickly set to work earning the people's trust.
5. The US' counter-insurgency in Marjah will soon spread to other opium towns nearby.

Question 37

The passage of the Constitution—108th Amendment Bill, 2008, popularly known as the Women's Reservation Bill, in the Rajya Sabha on 9 March came as a belated spring-breaker. The events of the previous day, which marked 100 years of the decision to celebrate 8 March as women's day, in fact, had served as a crude reminder of the long struggle that lay ahead for women on the road to equality. The irony of how much more brutal and intense the opposition and intolerance is to assertion by women in the public sphere as well as within the precincts of individual homes, would have escaped only those who wished not to see it.

-
1. Why does policymaking on behalf of women meet with such severe resistance?
 2. Why is the passing of the Bill in The Rajya Sabha even referred to as "bulldozing"?
 3. Do we not need to stop and wonder why this is the case?
 4. Have these leaders opposed to the bill intervened to check the skewed growth paradigm?
 5. Has this led to a serious questioning of their right to be there?

Question 38

One can quite understand that the cow was a sacred animal for the ancient ones: it worked in the fields, gave milk, and even its excreta had the enormous importance of replacing natural fuel, which does not exist here; this explains why their religious precepts prohibited the farmer from killing this precious animal and, for that, the only way out was to consider it sacred;

1. to have the force of religion impose respect for the most efficient element of production.
2. to venerate it with the same fervor even in the age of mechanical plough and liquid fuels
3. to allow it to multiply freely with hardly anyone committing the sacrilege of eating its meat.
4. to have it ensconced in temples of the land and to have it worshipped.

Question 39

Given the widespread opposition from State governments, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, the moratorium on the environmental release of Bt brinjal would seem justified. Bt brinjal is a genetically modified form of brinjal where a foreign gene *Cry 1 Ac* from a soil bacterium has been inserted to confer on the brinjal plant resistance against insects. But the decision is being seen in scientific quarters as one aimed at appeasing the hardened stands of activist groups and NGOs _____.

1. In fact, the decision appears to be setting a new trend of overruling scientific studies and rational scientific arguments.

2. Unfortunately, however, the decision seem have sent a signal to the scientific community, especially the members of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee.
3. The decision, according to them, overruled scientific studies and rational scientific arguments and undermined the credibility of the scientific community.
4. In fact, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee had conducted large-scale field trials before the environmental release of Bt brinjal.
5. The decision seems to devalue the credibility and authority of the scientists of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee.

Question 40

Once more a WTO ministerial has gone by in New Delhi and, if media reports are anything to go by, there is now a 'consensus'. All the members agree that WTO negotiations must continue particularly in the context of the current world recession which has been on for about two years. And rightly so. The memories of the last recession of the 1930's informs us that unilateral actions on tariffs led to a decline of world trade by as much as 30% in those days. From all reports, the decline today is no longer of that magnitude _____.

1. While developed countries are bound to have some protectionism, the mere existence of the WTO has put some limits to obvious methods.
2. It is now clear that ministerials are no longer going to take talks forward.
3. The fact that a multilateral organization for trade negotiations exists today is surely a contributing factor.
4. Ministerials are mainly meant to clear the political air about forward movement in negotiations.
5. So, 'waiting for someone who will never arrive' is a correct description of the current ministerials.

Question 41

The rise in carbon dioxide emissions is driving fundamental and dangerous changes in the chemistry and ecosystems of the world's oceans. More than 30% of the carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels, cement production, deforestation and other human activities goes straight into the oceans, turning them gradually more acidic. Ocean conditions are already more extreme than those experienced by marine organisms and ecosystems for millions of years. _____.

1. Ocean acidification is caused when the CO₂ emitted by human activity, mainly burning fossil fuels, dissolves into the oceans.
2. Ocean acidification could represent a greater threat to the biology of our planet than global warming.
3. There is now persuasive evidence that mass extinctions in past Earth history were accompanied by ocean acidification.
4. This emphasizes the urgent need to adopt policies that drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
5. Ocean acidification can create conditions not seen on Earth for at least 40 million years.

Question 42

When people talk about the digital divide, they usually mean the gap between people who are benefiting from the information revolution, and those who through lack of education or money are missing out. But if there is one thing on which almost everybody agrees, it is that criminals are mastering computer technology much faster than most governments are learning to foil them. Rich countries say they are beset by fraudsters, pornographers and hackers operating from poor places where they will never be caught—because their “host” governments can’t or won’t stop them. _____.

1. Consequently, international efforts to police the net remain deadlocked.
2. Consequently, the only winners are the criminals.
3. An accord launched at the Council of Europe aims to let authorities in one country give chase, at least electronically, to criminals in another.
4. Many countries like the idea of policing the net but not enough to push it through.
5. Policing the net, however, seems contrary to the essential philosophy of the internet.

Question 43

The book focuses on people that came from a place called “Chonglin”, N.Korea’s third-largest city and one of the places that were hardest hit by the terrible famine of the mid-1990s. It is also almost entirely closed to foreigners. Funnily enough, North Korea hasn’t always been this hopeless. In its early history, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was actually considered a success case in economic development. In the 1960s, the “Korean economic miracle” referred to the steel plants and electrified transport networks of the DPRK, but as South Korea embraced market reforms the chasm between North Korea and its neighbor grew wider. _____.

1. For the most part North Korea remained a dark, inscrutable place.
2. South Korea grew richer while its neighbour to the North kept getting poorer.
3. By 1996, North Korea was in the grip of one of the deadliest famines in modern times.
4. South Korea became one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world while people in North Korea didn’t even have access to the internet.
5. One can only hope that one day North Korea will be open and we will be able to judge for ourselves what really happened there.

Question 44

She had had one of those boots. Ones that were so ugly they made you stand out. She had always hated her boots, but was one of those people who didn’t do much about things they hated. He on the other hand had found those boots unique, strange as they were. They suited her somehow, because just like her boots, she was ugly...

1. ... yes, definitely the boots; they were an ugly color actually.
2. ... he remembered exactly how she looked like.
3. ... that’s how she usually was—weird and emotionally unavailable.
4. ... in a more endearing way though.
5. ... she appeared so intriguing, and of course, she was intriguing.

Question 45

In reality, scientists do not deal in certainty but in probabilities, and the way they calculate these probabilities is complex. For example, when testifying in court, a fingerprint expert may say that there is a 90% chance of obtaining a match if the defendant left the mark and a one in several billion chance of a match if someone else left it. In general, DNA provides information of a higher quality or “individualising potential” than other kinds of evidence, so that experts may be more confident of linking it to a specific individual _____.

1. However, jurors hold unrealistic expectations of forensic evidence and investigation techniques.
2. However, jurors today expect more categorical proof than forensic science is capable of delivering.
3. However, DNA experts still deal in probabilities and not certainties.
4. However, an unequivocal match of DNA is indeed generally just fiction.
5. However, jurors think they have a thorough understanding of science.

Question 46

‘Brain training’, or the goal of improved cognitive function through the regular use of computerized tests, is a multimillion-pound industry, yet in our view scientific evidence to support its efficacy is lacking. Modest effects have been reported in some studies of older individuals and preschool children, and video-game players outperform non-players on some tests of visual attention. It is a widely held belief that commercially available computerized brain-training programs improve general cognitive function in the wider population. _____.

1. However, whether those benefits transfer to other untrained tasks or lead to any general improvement in the level of cognitive functioning is not known.
2. However, results provide no evidence for any generalized improvements in cognitive function following brain training in a large sample of healthy adults.
3. However, the industry has established itself credibly in the market.
4. However, improving cognitive function through brain training may have its results.
5. However, the belief lacks concrete empirical support.

Question 47

It would be more accurate to say not that Mark Twain hated art, but that he never let it—or anything else—stand in the way of a good joke. He often complained that he was dismissed by the literati as merely a “phunny phellow”, but like all good humorists his work was fundamentally serious, poking fun as it did at a universe in which, as his biographer writes, “the relationship of God to man is no more than that of a town drunk to one of his microbes.” And his reputation was hardly as slight as he liked to pretend. _____.

1. “All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called ‘Huckleberry Finn,’” wrote Ernest Hemingway about him.
2. He wrote when American letters were dominated by the starchy, pious and insipid group known as the Schoolroom Poets.
3. He was everything his contemporaries were not: vital, irreverent, meandering and funny.

4. In London, he and Charles Darwin were both embarrassed when introduced to each other as “great men”.
5. He was a man who never let anything stand in the way of a joke.

Question 48

In January 2010, the IMF estimated that the world economy would grow by 3.9% this year. Now it has revised that estimate up to 4.2%, saying that the recovery from the deepest post-war recession has “evolved better than expected”. The fund expects the marked difference between economic performance in the rich and emerging world to persist. In 2011, it expects GDP in industrialized countries to grow by 2.4%, compared with 6.5% growth in emerging countries led by booming China and India. Within the rich world, however, the divergence between America and Europe is striking. The IMF reckons that the American economy will expand by 3.1% this year, whereas the economies of the euro area will grow by an anaemic 1%. _____.

1. In short, IMF is not very optimistic about the rich world economies.
2. In short, the recession is set to continue for another decade or so.
3. In short, the IMF is more optimistic about GDP growth this year and next.
4. In short, Europe will still have a difficult time ahead.
5. In short, China and India will drive the growth graphs across the world.

Question 49

Gendercide is often seen as an unintended consequence of China’s one-child policy, or as a product of poverty or ignorance. But that cannot be the whole story. The surplus of bachelors seems to have accelerated between 1990 and 2005, in ways not obviously linked to the one-child policy, which was introduced in 1979. And, as is becoming clear, the war against baby girls is not confined to China. Parts of India have sex ratios as skewed as anything in its northern neighbor. South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan have peculiarly high numbers of male births. So, have former communist countries in the Caucasus and the western Balkans. Even subsets of America’s population are following suit, though not the population as a whole. _____.

1. The real cause is not any country’s particular policy but the overweening son preference.
2. The real cause is the use of rapidly spreading prenatal sex-determination technology and declining fertility.
3. These are global trends; and the selective destruction of baby girls is global, too.
4. The ratio has been so stable over time that it appears to be the natural order of things.
5. Only one region, Tibet, has a sex ratio within the bounds of nature.

Question 50

The government of India allows corruption. How else could it have become the scourge that it has today? The Prime Minister may be thinking of removing a happy clause in the law, happy for the thieves that is. A clause supposedly put there to protect public servants from wrongful harassment which blatantly helps crooks. Government departments and ministries have been misusing a constitutional provision (Article 311) in which the CVC—

Central Vigilance Commission—has to seek prosecution sanction from the government before beginning a formal probe against allegedly corrupt officials. _____.

1. The clause has opened a floodgate for the corrupt with scores of officials escaping prosecution because of it.
2. No one wants seems to have the will to get rid of it, at least not our elected representatives.
3. The clause is a seed planted by our law makers during the drafting of the anti-corruption act.
4. In other words, the government has laid out a red carpet for the thieves.
5. All in all, our corrupt government officials are looting the country or the public, and the government is giving them its blessings.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 1. The purpose of the paragraph is quite clear: no one wants to be an economy like Japan. The first sentence almost states it succinctly. Answer option 1 not only summarizes the paragraph also fulfils the purpose of the paragraph without deviating from this purpose. Option 2 and 3 may help continue the paragraph but bring it to a closure. The purpose of the paragraph is not the contrasting details of these options. Options 4 and 5 may also be related to the paragraph by stating how Japan is coping with the decline but are not related to the purpose. Hence they too may help continue the paragraph but not close it.

Question 2. Answer Option 4. The purpose of the paragraph is to point out how widespread counterfeiting has become. The example of Marlboro cigarettes and German bank are cited as examples. Government also has become aware (trying to crack down) of the menace. Without bringing in any new ideas and by summing up the ideas in the paragraph option 4 smoothly closes the paragraph. Option 1, though on the same topic of counterfeiting, is not related to the purpose of the paragraph—especially about ‘people trying to counterfeit items of wider economic impact.’ Option 2 merely helps to continue the paragraph with one more example. Option 3 brings in ‘several factors’ which will now need to be explained. Option 4 also is relevant but one more possible cause does not help close the paragraph.

Question 3. Answer Option 4. The paragraph states the increased conviction rates and the factors that led to this increase. Option 1 takes off from this and states what peoples’ representatives should be doing. The writer’s purpose is not to communicate this—what people’s representatives should be doing. Option 2 goes beyond the scope of the details available in the paragraph—‘in letter and spirit’—the paragraph only states the increase in conviction and not anything else. Options 3 and 5 are merely details explaining the increase—do not help to close the paragraph. Option 4 closes the paragraph by stating that the measures adopted have contributed to achieving what is stated in the beginning of the paragraph—closing it without any loose ends.

Question 4. Answer Option 5. The key to finding the answer choice here is the first sentence, “the setting matters” and the second last sentence, “... But I happen to think that this music sounds best outside.” If this is understood as the purpose of the paragraph, the options

that can be shortlisted are options 3 and 5. Option 3 is good only as long as one emphasises the 'outside'—then, 'outside' vs. 'concert hall' may make sense. The major purpose of the paragraph is the 'settings'—and option 5 continues this idea and closes it in the paragraph. Option 5 includes whatever is contained in option 3 and adds to the 'settings' aspect of the paragraph.

Question 5. Answer Option 2. If the volume of trade (exports) and disputes "are not unrelated," what can be expected is that China's disputes will increase as it has become the no. 1 exporter. The word 'hence' (a constant in the options) is important. Hence or therefore signals an effect. The effect of the data presented in the paragraph is that china will have conflicts. The mildest way of stating this to say 'conflicts are expected.' Option 2 hence closes the paragraph smoothly. Option has irrelevant detail of settlement system. In option 3, 'broader shift' will require further explanation. Option 4 talks about China's involvement in dispute settlement, which is not related to the purpose. Option 5 is almost right, but 'resolving them successfully' makes it unrelated.

Question 6. Answer Option 1. The paragraph narrates an incident. The purpose of the paragraph is nothing more than that, if you read it carefully. People shouting themselves hoarse supporting the issue were 'planted'. The Minister merely called their bluff. The most neutral sentence that can close this paragraph is that "their tactic failed"—'the tactic' is enough as there is no other tactic in the paragraph. Option 2 goes beyond the paragraph—we cannot decide that the show was unusual. Option 3 has unsustainable implications. Many were surprised would mean—the Minister might have supported the companies earlier; the option gets eliminated straightaway. Option 5 may be considered. However, what was a setback for GM in India will need further explanation.

Question 7. Answer Option 3. The answer is a direct take off from: "...the global economy that corporate India is busy conquering." Yet it cannot do that without agriculture. The first sentence and the sentence, "they do not show anything like the same confidence in "Bharat Inc...", set the purpose of the paragraph. These ideas need to be closed. Option 3 closes both. Options 1, 2 and 5 continue the paragraph. Option 5 closes the first part of the paragraph leaving a loose end about agriculture.

Question 8. Answer option 5. Options 1 through 4 are generalising or inferring from the given paragraph. The paragraph is just about car manufacturers in Japan and the Americans. The paragraph needs to be closed in relation to these aspects. Option 5 does just that.

Question 9. Answer option 4. The lawmakers give copyright for 14 or 28 years and then the book goes into the public domain. This balances the creative urge to writer as well as the interest people have in getting free access. Option 4 thus well closes the paragraph. Option 1 is partial—does not conclude the public domain part. Option 2 seems to suggest that the lawmakers were against the writer—which is not the case in the paragraph. Option 3 too has the same shortcoming. Option 5 is contrary to the intent of the paragraph.

Question 10. Answer Option 1. The answer is immediately linked to the second last sentence. "Organ transplantation is one of the most impressive achievements ... it has made life longer and better. ... benefited many professionals and industries. *Struggling to contain costs, health-care payers are also among its beneficiaries.*" How they are beneficiaries needs to be

stated to logically close the paragraph. Once this is understood, all the other options can be seen to be far cries.

Question 11. Answer Option 4. The sentence to complete this paragraph is a continuation of “But if you stand in any bookstore, you’re unlikely to see many people using their noses, they just head straight for the “new” Salman Rushdie or the “latest” Chetan Bhagat or the “most recent” Shobhaa De or the “new bestseller” from Paulo Coelho... though the writer uses his nose to choose the book to read, other people do not do this; they choose by the name of the author.

Question 12. Answer Option 3. The beginning of the paragraph tells us the purpose of the paragraph through an example—lopsided priorities; trying to substitute for basic necessities. Then, examples of the misplaced priorities of our government are given. The paragraph is best concluded by stating the purpose, which otherwise might go unnoticed. Option 1 is quite vague. Option 2 changes the basic purpose of the paragraph. Option 4 and 5 merely state more about the last example, but do not help to complete the paragraph.

Question 13. Answer Option 2. Since the writer describes the life centered on the Vembanad Lake (backwaters of Kerala), the best sentence to complete the paragraph is the one that fulfils this purpose of the paragraph. Options 1, 3, and 4 say almost the same thing (the lake’s size and its importance) and is not purpose of the paragraph. Option 5 too is not purpose of the paragraph, though it is connected—but the serenity of the life is not the purpose of the description of the scene.

Question 14. Answer option 4. This is a fairly straightforward choice. The paragraph states the problem with data collection in India. The reports are delayed and become almost irrelevant. The report on human development in India is based on data collected six years back—the natural outcome is stated in option 4. Options 1 and 2 cannot be criticisms, hence are not consistent with the paragraph. Option 3 tells more about the methodology and does not conclude the paragraph. Option 5 also does not justify the criticism mentioned in the paragraph.

Question 15. Answer Option 4. The purpose of the paragraph is defined by the first sentence itself, that the achievement is mixed. However, no example or idea exists in the paragraph to make it mixed. What is stated is positive. The last sentence, hence, needs to state something to the contrary to complete the paragraph. Options 2, 3, and 4 qualify for the answer options from this point of view. Option 2 does not help to complete the paragraph. Option 3 is correct- can even be the answer in the absence of option 4. Option 4 puts the whole scheme in perspective. Option 3 draws attention to a specific deficiency of the scheme. Hence option 4 scores.

Question 16. Answer Option 2. If the purpose of the paragraph is clear to you—the disappointment in relation to the expectation of a roadmap for GST—options 2 and 4 help to conclude the paragraph. The reason for the disappointment is that “there was very little in the form of explicit steps”—alignment of rates and expansion of the ambit (addition to the list). Option 5 leaves the whole issue uncertain with a question. Option 2 closes it emphatically by stating what is necessary to be done. Option 2 closes with a definitive ending.

Question 17. Answer Option 1. “bulk of growth over the long term is *not so much due to*

increase in factor inputs like capital and labour as technological change etc.," is the gist of the paragraph. Our weak science etc... 'belie the empirical evidence..' the empirical evidence is already stated in the above italicized part. Option 1 reinforces this and completes the paragraph. Option 4 requires further clarifications.

Question 18. Answer Option 1. The purpose of the paragraph is to state that there should be sufficient data to formulate policies—in the context of power sector (Economic survey and Economic Advisory Council). Option 1 concludes the paragraph by stating this purpose explicitly without bringing in any new ideas that may require further clarification. Once the purpose is established (not inferred) option 4 can make sense.

Question 19. Answer Option 5. Perhaps, the options are close. The purpose of the paragraph is almost stated in 'Chances are the answer will start with GDP.' Nothing of the contrary is even suggested by the paragraph. Hence the 'debate' (option 1) and the counter arguments with 'but' (options 2, 3 and 4) are irrelevant. The paragraph takes a particular view and concludes it in option 5.

Question 20. Answer Option 3. Thomson talks about his inspiration in a similar way—which is creating a continuous dream. Option 1 is, hence, eliminated. Option 2 requires further explanation about 'paradox'. Option 4 appears fine; the idea of dream is still incomplete. Option 5 suddenly brings in the reader. Option 4 closes the paragraph and idea of the seamless dream.

Question 21. Answer Option 3. "Marriage, in America at least, is an institution in decline" is how the paragraph and proving this is the writer's purpose. The statistics quoted is for this purpose. The writer also cautions making any conclusions against this. Hence option 3 reinforces the first conclusion of the writer.

Question 22. Answer Option 3. "this is really problematic" eliminates option 1. The paragraph needs to be concluded without contradicting the writer's purpose of stating that material possessions (nor the pursuit) makes us happy- but life experiences (the pursuit) does. This is indicated by "the mistake we make in believing..." etc., the writer does not seem to tell us what we have to do—he simply expresses in opinion. Hence option 2 may be not necessary. Option 4 is eliminated because his purpose is not to point out only the social cost. Option 3 is most neutral statement and merely summarizes his point of view.

Question 23. Answer option 1. "As a result..." helps you reach the correct option. The direct consequence of "inferring their presence from the rhythmic wobble their gravity imparts on their home star" is that discovery of large 'exoplanets' is no longer tricky, but the discovery of smaller/distant planets is difficult, hence the catalogue is largely made up of large planets.

Question 24. Answer option 3. The paragraph is about the magician's strong belief creating it in the minds of the audience. Hence the magician merely triggers it off in the minds of others.

Question 25. Answer Option 4. The last sentence has to answer the second question 'what does it mean for the future?' Option 4 best answers this in the light of the information in the paragraph.

Question 26. Answer option 2. "... establishing that this was not just a chance occurrence requires that the relationship continue to hold over a long interval..." is the crux of the

paragraph. Hence the sun being 'quiet' is an opportunity to find this correlation. Options 3 and 4 can be very easily eliminated as not related to the purpose of the paragraph. Option 1 is true, is an inference not related to the purpose of the paragraph.

Question 27. Answer Option 3. This statement is a very low level inference that logically closes the paragraph. The paragraph is not sufficient to establish the link as in option 1. Option 2 goes farther away from the paragraph. Option 4 is unrelated to the purpose of the paragraph.

Question 28. Answer Option 2. All options may appear correct. The scoring option, however, has to close the paragraph, and not merely continue it. Option 1 will be repetitive. Option 3 and 4 will continue the paragraph.

Question 29. Answer Option 3. The purpose of the paragraph is in the first sentence—'can ill-afford to resign to their fate'. Option 1 is already clearly stated—it just states the same thing in different words. Option 2 takes off on a tangent and brings in leadership; option 4 also does not close the paragraph. Option 3 just does that—the paragraph has no loose ends.

Question 30. Answer Option 3. The purpose of the paragraph is: Philosophers consider popular and serious music different. The former lacks complexity and autonomy, the later is variations on a single them—and that popular music is inferior. 'As a result' will discuss its direct consequences and close the paragraph. Hence option 3 scores. Option 1 is stated. Option 2 is irrelevant in 'replace' and 'folk music'. Option 4 is irrelevant in 'our response'.

Question 31. Answer Option 2. The paragraph is about how an individual drug addict is dealt with in India. The closing sentence ought to relate it to drug addict, in the background of the system. Option 2 does this. All the other options discuss the broad issue of drug addiction—not suitable to close this limited scope of the paragraph.

Question 32. Answer Option 3. "The freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software used in public services is imperative. 'Otherwise'—or the consequence—the proprietary software will monopolize the field. Option 1 is correct, but the purpose of the passage is not the cost. Options 2 and 4 are extreme and are not warranted by the paragraph.

Question 33. Answer Option 3. Option 1 continues the para and merely closes the sentence and not the ideas. Option 2 is similar to option 1 but also has the problem of 'at variance' which could be interpreted in many ways. Option 4 also merely continues the paragraph; besides saying 'little in common' is not the purpose of the paragraph. Option 3 includes all the other options.

Question 34. Answer Option 4. The paragraph talks about the two points of view regarding public administration, with the second last sentence stating that both cannot deny their importance in exciting legislative decisions. The sentence that completes the paragraph should again reinforce this importance. Option does that by stating they are given importance even in the constitution.

Question 35. Answer option 1. The purpose of the passage is to state that media obsessed with sensationalism highlights things for the moment and misses out on the "long-range challenge of history". At their peak, they cover events 24 hours and then they remain silent. Option 1 thus best completes the paragraph.

Question 36. Answer Option 4. Option 4 closes the paragraph as it connects directly to the second last sentence and closes the paragraph by fulfilling its purpose, which is, the US strategy failed in 2001 because the local government failed in capitalizing on the situation. This time around, earning people's good will is also a part of the strategy.

Question 37. Answer Option 3. The events of the previous day are not favorable to women—can be easily inferred. 'crude reminder of the long struggle' and 'brutal and intense opposition and intolerance', suppression 'even in homes'—if all this is put together, the best question to ask would be option 3. only 5 can considered against option 3. Bu option 5 is too vague. 'right to be there' requires further explanation.

Question 38. Answer Option 1. The writer starts by saying that 'one can quite understand why the cow was venerated in the past—as it was to begin with a part of production. The best way to preserve it was to use religion in order to stop the cow being misused. Hence option 1 completes the paragraph. Option 4 may be considered, but it misses out on the production part.

Question 39. Answer Option 3. "... decision is being seen in scientific quarters as one aimed at appeasing..." need to be logically explained as closed with the paragraph. Option 3 by quoting the opinion of the scientific committee closes the paragraph.

Question 40. Answer Option 3. Read the paragraph carefully. It states unilateral actions on tariffs during the earlier recession brought about a decline in world trade by 30%, and today it is not so much. The ministerial of WTO agreed that there should eb negotiations. And rightly so. That means, WTO is contributing to the recession being not severe. Hence option 3 best completes the paragraph.

Question 41. Answer Option 4. The paragraph introduced by "the rise in carbon dioxide emissions is driving fundamental and dangerous changes..." is closed smoothly when it is said that 'reduce emissions'

Question 42. Answer Option 1. The purpose of the paragraph is to state the problems that governments face in cyber crime—this has further led to criminals being the winners. From the point of the main purpose of the paragraph, option 1 scores over option 2 i.e., the one thing that everyone agrees is that criminals are faster *because international efforts are deadlocked*. Though option 2 comes very close, the point is that criminals are faster and not winners.

Question 43. Answer Option 2. The paragraph leads us towards the difference between North and South Koreas. At least in the mid 1990s N. Koreas was 'closed to 'foreigners' and 'hopeless'. The chasm grew wider—we now need to close the paragraph with a definitive difference between the two. Option 2 does this. Moreover, the last sentence should talk about S. Korea about which very little is said in the paragraph. Option 4 gets eliminated because of the emphasis of 'internet'—a general sentence is much better. Hence option 2 scores.

Question 44. Answer Option 4. "He on the other hand had found those boots unique, strange as they were. They suited her somehow ..." so, though she was ugly he finds her unique and strange. Paragraph is complete if his feelings are now stated explicitly. 'ugliness' (option1), 'weird' (option 2) 'intrigue' (option 5) are already implied and dealt with—his feelings of acceptance is not yet stated. Option 4 clearly states this and completes the paragraph.

Question 45. Answer Option 3. The direction of the paragraph is set by the first sentence. The experts however, have confidence in overriding the probabilities and link evidence (DNA) to a specific individual. However, science behind it is still based on probability. This is why the third option best closes the paragraph the purpose of which is set by the first sentence itself.

Question 46. Answer Option 5. “brain training evidence ... for its efficacy is lacking” is the purpose of the paragraph. Hence option 5 closes the paragraph most logically. Other untrained tasks in option 1 will require further clarification. Option 2 also talks about ‘generalized improvement’ which may again require further explanation. Option 4 may be true, but that is not the purpose of the paragraph.

Question 47. Answer Option 4. Two strains of thought in the paragraph: one, Mark Twain thought he was dismissed by the literati as merely a “phunny phellow”, but he was actually a serious writer; two, he thought his reputation was slight. Now this is the strain of thought that needs to be closed if the paragraph has to be a logical whole. Option 4 does this—his reputation in London.

Question 48. Answer Option 3. The gist of the paragraph is that the IMF is optimistic about the outlook on GDP growth across the world, since it has revised its earlier figures and expects performance to persist in 2011. Hence option 3 best summarizes the paragraph as required by ‘in short..’ in the options.

Question 49. Answer Option 3. The meaning of *gendercide* can be made out from the surrounding information (killing of girl babies). The paragraph merely establishes that the phenomenon is not limited to China or India. Hence option 3 best summarizes and closes this paragraph. Options 1 and 2 go into the causes which may be relevant but not necessary here to close this paragraph. Option 4 seems to contradict the paragraph. Option 5 continues the paragraph and does not help to complete it.

Question 50. Answer Option 1. If you have selected options 3, 4, or 5, you are not entirely wrong. However, the paragraph merely states “allows corruption”, not encourage it—‘seed planted’ appears to direct and intentional (option 3); ‘red carpet’ may imply an invitation (option 4); “its blessings” may again be an active encouragement; all these may not be warranted. ‘Supposedly put there’ is not sufficient to warrant such strong inferences. Anyhow, Option 1 is neutral and factually describes the situation. It is the best choice.

2

Summary Questions

(Paragraph Summary)

Directions: *Four/Five alternative summaries are given below each text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.*

Physically, inertia is a feeling that you just can't move; mentally, it is a sluggish mind. Even if you try to be sensitive, if your mind is sluggish, you just don't feel anything intensely. You may even see a tragedy enacted in front of your eyes and not be able to respond meaningfully. You may see one person exploiting another, one group persecuting another, and not be able to get angry. Your energy is frozen. You are not deliberately refusing to act; you just don't have the capacity.

- A. Inertia makes your body and mind sluggish. They become insensitive to tragedies, exploitation, and persecution because it freezes your energy and decapacitates it.
- B. When you have inertia you don't act although you see one person exploiting another or one group persecuting another. You don't get angry because you are incapable.
- C. Inertia is of two types—physical and mental. Physical inertia restricts bodily movements. Mental inertia prevents mental response to events enacted in front of your eyes.
- D. Physical inertia stops your body from moving; mental inertia freezes your energy, and stops your mind from responding meaningfully to events, even tragedies, in front of you.

HOW TO SOLVE

Writing the summary of a paragraph is not a very difficult task if one remembers the methodology discussed during high school composition. In the CAT, the task is made easier in the multiple choice format. Yet, some students make needless errors in choosing the scoring option. The instructions to summary questions are clear—*choose the option that best captures the essence of the text*. Thankfully, the text is hardly ever longer than a few sentences or five or six lines.

The essence of the text implies that a person who has no access to the paragraph but only to the summary (précis) must understand the same thing that another person has understood by reading the entire text. Miscommunication occurs when the other person

has not clearly understood what exactly is being communicated by the paragraph. Hence it becomes necessary to have a very clear understanding of the paragraph (given text) before one tries to evaluate the answer choices. And, this is exactly where most students who find summary questions difficult or tricky make their mistake.

Also, you must bear in mind that this question type is rather time consuming, however good a reader you might be. This implies that when you are attempting summary questions you should be ready to spend sufficient time on them in order to score. Spending sufficient time does not mean that you have to work slowly or spend a lot of time. It simply means that a reasonable amount of time has to be spent on these questions. Reckless attempts will surprise you, when you look at the answer key. Work fast, but spend reasonably enough time to identify the scoring choice.

I would recommend reading the paragraph **at least three times** before going to the options. Do not work backwards from the options to the paragraph. The purpose of the three readings is for the following:

- The first reading is to **be familiar with the given text**. Hence read the paragraph carefully and without stress to be familiar with the unfamiliar text. You cannot work with a paragraph that is unfamiliar.
- The second reading is to **identify the key elements** in the text—the main points in the paragraph—which must be present in the précis if the précis has to entirely capture the essence of the text. During the paper pencil practice you could underline these key elements. In an online test you need to mentally register these key elements.
- The third reading is to **consolidate the earlier two readings**. You make sure that the points you have identified are actually the key elements and that you have not missed anything.

Go to the options only after this. Remember all the four/five options need to be evaluated. The ideal précis may not be present in the options. Hence it becomes a game of comparison. Read each option and notice the communication of each option—how one option may be deficient in comparison to another. The deficiency may be: a distortion of the idea presented in the passage—saying much less or more than what is stated; completely missing out on an important idea (key element); or an overstatement of what is stated in the text. By comparing all the options carefully for the strengths and flaws of each option, choose the one that captures the essence of the text.

Though the high school précis insists on retaining the hierarchy of the points in the text and even stipulates the maximum number of words, the hierarchy of the points and the number of words can be ignored in the multiple choice format. Hence, do not look at the length of the option to shortlist the likely answers. Compare all the options—one against the other and eliminate the deficient ones, establish the difference between the likely answers, and choose the best option for your answer.

Physically, inertia is a feeling that you just can't move; mentally, it is a sluggish mind. Even if you try to be sensitive, if your mind is sluggish, you just don't feel anything intensely. You may even see a tragedy enacted in front of your eyes and not be able to respond meaningfully. You may see one person exploiting another, one group persecuting another, and not be able to get angry. Your energy is frozen. You are not deliberately refusing to act; you just don't have the capacity.

Without looking at the options, first become familiar with the paragraph. It explains what happens when one has 'inertia'. The key elements are: *in inertia, physically you can't move; mentally you can't respond meaningfully*. The *example* is given of one person exploiting another—you can't act (physical) you can't get angry (mental). You are rendered *incapable*.

Options:

- A. Inertia makes your body and mind sluggish. They become insensitive to tragedies, exploitation, and persecution because it freezes your energy and decapacitates it.
- B. When you have inertia you don't act although you see one person exploiting another or one group persecuting another. You don't get angry because you are incapable.
- C. Inertia is of two types—physical and mental. Physical inertia restricts bodily movements. Mental inertia prevents mental response to events enacted in front of your eyes.
- D. Physical inertia stops your body from moving; mental inertia freezes your energy, and stops your mind from responding meaningfully to events, even tragedies, in front of you.

Option A does capture all these key elements; however, does inertia '*decapacitate*' you? Is this a distortion of *becoming incapable*? You may retain this option at this moment, but notice also that *decapacitate* is different from *incapacitate*. Option B almost states the same thing—without mentioning body and mind specifically it captures what happens to both—you *don't act, you don't get angry, you are incapable*. Retain this option too. C states inertia is of two types—the paragraph does not state two type of inertia—notice this and eliminate it (in comparison to A and B). Option D too mentions physical and mental inertia whereas 'inertia' is one. Eliminate this option too in comparison to A and B. Now compare A and B and reject the overstatement in A stated as *decapacitate*—which is gross distortion of the idea. Hence the scoring option is Option B.

Directions: Four/five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Local communities have often come into conflict with agents trying to exploit resources, at a faster pace, for an expanding commercial-industrial economy. More often than not, such agents of resource-intensification are given preferential treatment by the state, through the grant of generous long leases over mineral or fish stocks, for example, or the provision of raw material at an enormously subsidized price. With the injustice so compounded, local communities at the receiving end of this process have no recourse except direct action, resisting both the state and outside exploiters through a variety of protest techniques. These struggles might perhaps be seen as a manifestation of a new kind of class conflict.

Curb your tendency to look at the options. Read the paragraph several times building familiarity first, identifying the key elements next, and making sure that the key elements in the paragraph are well assimilated. Do this as fast as possible but carefully and spending sufficient time.

The key elements in the above paragraph are: the **conflict** of local communities with **agents of resource intensification** in the economy owing to **preferential treatment** (state to

agents and examples). This is seen as **injustice** by the local communities they have no option but to protest; **a new kind of class conflict** arises.

- A. A new kind of class conflict arises from preferential treatment given to agents of resource-intensification by the state which the local community sees as unfair.
- B. The grant of long leases to agents of resource-intensification for an expanding commercial-industry economy leads to direct protests from local community, which sees it as unfair.
- C. Preferential treatment given by the state to agents of resource-intensification for an expanding commercial-industrial economy exacerbates injustice to local communities and leads to direct protests from them, resulting in a new type of class conflict.
- D. Local communities have no option but to protest against agents of resource-intensification and create a new type of class conflict when they are given raw material at subsidized prices for an expanding commercial-industry economy.
- E. The grant of generous long leases and the enormous subsidies have aggravated the conflict between the local populace and the agents of resource intensification giving rise to a new kind of class conflict.

Option A mentions most of the highlighted elements but misses out on class conflict. Retain this option and see if a better option exists. But notice the deficiency. B is woefully flawed in comparison to A, hence eliminate. C captures all the points, even better than A does. Retain and evaluate D. D is also good except that it misses out on injustice but quotes examples—C is so far the best. E also misses out on the injustice part and quotes example. Hence C is the scoring option.

Directions: Four/Five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

The human race is spread all over the world, from the polar regions to the tropics. The people, of whom it is made up, **eat different kinds of food**, partly according to the **climate** in which they live, and partly according to the kind of food which their country **produces**. In hot climates, meat and fat are not much needed; but in the Arctic regions they seem to be very necessary for keeping up the heat of the body. Thus, in **India**, people live chiefly on different kinds of **grains, eggs, milk**, or sometimes fish and meat. In **Europe**, people eat more **meat** and less grain. In the **Arctic** regions, where no grains and fruits are produced, the Eskimo and other races live almost entirely on **meat and fish**.

As you read the paragraph, definitely at least three times, it is necessary to capture the key elements either by underlining (paper) or by making a note of them in your mind (on-screen). In this paragraph you can see that the highlighted points understood in the context of the paragraph will capture the gist of the paragraph, that the food that people consume is determined by the climate they live in and the produce available. Examples are cited about the difference between India, Europe and the Arctic—they consume grains, eggs, fish, and meat. When you look at the options, you need to see that if not in the same way, the scoring option captures this without overstatement, distortion, or understatement.

- A. Food eaten by people in different regions of the world depends on the climate and produce of the region, and varies from meat and fish in the Arctic to predominantly grains in the tropics.

- B. Hot climates require people to eat grains while cold regions require people to eat meat and fish.
- C. In hot countries, people eat mainly grains while in the Arctic, they eat meat and fish because they cannot grow grains.
- D. While people in Arctic regions like meat and fish and those in hot regions like India prefer mainly grains, they have to change what they eat depending on the local climate and the local produce.

Option A captures the essence of the paragraph you are looking for; yet, it is necessary to look at the other options either to find a better option or to make sure that option A is indeed the scoring option. You also have to notice that option A completely misses out on Europe, mentioning only the extremes of Arctic and India. Options B and C miss out completely on the main purpose of the paragraph which is *climate and availability determine food habits*—these options are, then, eliminated in comparison with option A. Statement D seems to capture everything important just the way statement A does. However, the phrasing “they have to change what they eat” distorts the intent of the paragraph—the intent of the paragraph is to convey climate and produce ‘determine’ the food habits rather than imply intention or force. However, we notice these strengths and weaknesses of each option. The decision, hence, has to be made in favour of Option A as the scoring option.

Directions: Five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

The scientific eminence, social status, hard work, and political astuteness of the X Club’s members were all essential to the group’s success. By electing one another to office and through effective networking, these men were influential in scientific societies and became leading advisers to the government. As popular lecturers, contributors to elite journals, and textbook writers, they were among the prime interpreters of science for the industrializing and secularizing society of Victorian England.

- A. The X club’s members were intellectuals of Victorian England who achieved significance in society through hard work and efficient networking among themselves.
- B. The aristocratic members of the X Club of the Victorian England succeeded by networking among themselves and by interpreting science for a society on the threshold of change.
- C. The X club’s members who popularized science in the Victorian England acquired eminence and power through their intellectual prowess and efficient networking.
- D. The members of the X club of Victorian England were men of science who interpreted science and wielded influence on the government and society through interpreting science.
- E. The X club’s members who popularized science in the Victorian England acquired eminence and power through their intellectual prowess and efficient networking among themselves.

The **scientific eminence, social status, hard work, and political astuteness** of the **X Club’s members** were all essential to the group’s **success**. By electing one another to office and through **effective networking**, these men were **influential** in scientific societies and

became **leading advisers** to the government. As popular lecturers, contributors to elite journals, and textbook writers, they were among the prime **interpreters of science** for the industrializing and secularizing society of **Victorian England**.

Look at the above highlighted parts and make a comparison of the options again. Change your answer if you see any distortion of the idea in the option that you might have already chosen for your answer. You are required to choose the most neutral gist—without any distortion of the ideas in the paragraph. The ideal précis may not be present in the options. In such cases, choose the one that ‘best captures’ the essence of the text. Option A completely misses out on the scientific work of the X club’s members. The paragraph introduces them to us as men of science. Option A is seriously lacking. Option B distorts the ideas in “networking among themselves” and calls them Aristocratic—Though Aristocratic could be accommodated, we do not yet want to accommodate the distortion of ‘networking among themselves.’ C is brief, general, and the problem with it seems to be ‘popularising science’; however, the work they did in science did in fact popularize science. Hence, Option C can be retained in comparison to A and B. Option D misses out on the hard work etc., and attributes everything to science—which is incorrect. Statement E also states “networking among themselves”. Option A, B, and E have this problem of “networking among themselves.” In the final analysis, option C is the best choice that one can make. Answer is option C.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Directions: Four/five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Question 1

When the next full-scale global financial crisis hits, let it not be said that the International Monetary Fund never took a stab at forestalling it. Recently, the IMF proposed a new global tax on financial institutions loosely in proportion to their size, as well as a tax on banks’ profits and bonuses.

1. The IMF has proposed a new global tax on financial institutions and banks in an attempt to forestall future financial crises.
2. The IMF’s new global tax on financial institutions and banks will prevent future financial crises.
3. The IMF has proposed a new global tax on financial institutions and banks which will forestall financial crises.
4. The IMF has proposed a tax on financial institutions’ and banks’ profits’ and bonuses that will prevent financial crises.
5. The proposed tax on profits and bonuses of financial institutions and banks is an attempt to forestall future financial crises.

Question 2

Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty. Officially, the treaty cuts their weapons by one-third; in fact, each party will decommission only several dozen. Nevertheless, the treaty is a considerable achievement. It normalizes

political relations between the two countries, thereby facilitating their further cooperation and rapprochement.

1. The new strategic arms reduction treaty signed between Russia and the United States may facilitate further cooperation between them.
2. The new strategic arms reduction treaty signed between Russia and the United States may lead to cordial relations between them.
3. Russia and the United States have signed a strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty to reduce weapons by one-third.
4. Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty which normalizes political relations between the two countries.
5. Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty is a considerable achievement.

Question 3

A severe food crisis currently threatens southern Sudan. In East Africa, where millions of people already are dependent on food aid, a sharp rise in the cost of staple crops looms. These are just the latest sources of concern in a turbulent period that began two years ago when food shortages hit many countries in Africa and Asia due to a worldwide spike in prices. Higher food prices meant that poor people, already struggling to meet basic human needs, were pushed deeper into poverty.

1. An impending food crisis looms over southern Sudan where higher food prices have pushed people deeper into poverty.
2. The food crisis in Africa and Asia, especially in southern Sudan already struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.
3. As many countries in Africa and Asia are experiencing prolonged food shortages, an impending food crisis threatens Sudan due to a rise in the cost of staple crops.
4. The food crisis in Africa and Asia already struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.
5. The food crisis in southern Sudan struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.

Question 4

For millennia, remembering information was costly and time-consuming, and to forget was a natural part of being human. In the digital age, the opposite is true: cheap computer storage, powerful processors, and ubiquitous Internet access have made remembering the norm. Consider this: we tend to retain our rough drafts, years of e-mail traffic, and thousands of ghastly digital snapshots on our hard drives, not because we have decided that they are worth remembering, but because keeping them is now the default way of doing things. By contrast, deciding what to delete is costly. It actually requires much more time and effort to shed data than to keep it.

1. Since the digital age has made retaining information cheap and effortless, we have left behind our natural habit of forgetting.
2. Since the digital age has made storage of data cheap and easy, we now store large amounts of information even it is worthless.

3. Remembering is no more costly and time consuming in the digital age; hence, we store large amounts of worthless information.
4. The digital age has made it possible to retain large amounts of data cheaply and easily; hence we remember more unlike in the past.
5. As deciding what to delete is costly and time consuming we now tend to store everything from rough drafts to ghastly images.

Question 5

In recent decades, economists have been struggling to make use of the concept of human capital, often defined as the abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success. Yet those who use the term often assume that to conceptualize a phenomenon is a first step to manipulating it. And, indeed, “human-capital policy” is now much in fashion. But what if many of the abilities and dispositions in question are a product of history, capable of being understood and explained but not readily replicated?

1. Economists trying to conceptualize human capital must know that the abilities and dispositions are a product of history incapable of being replicated.
2. Economists trying to conceptualize human-capital policy for economic success must know history and that success cannot be replicated.
3. The abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success are a product of history and may not be replicable.
4. Economists attempting a policy based on human capital for economic success must know that the abilities referred to as human capital may not be readily replicable.
5. Economists struggling to replicate economic success through a human-capital policy must know that human capital is a product of history and may only be understood.

Question 6

An individual is free and autonomous only because of the collective decisions taken after democratic debate, notably those decisions that guarantee each person access to public goods such as education, health care, etc. Some sense of social solidarity may remain, but it is so abstract that those for whom the wheel of fortune has spun so favorably feel little debt. They believe that they owe their status purely to merit, not to the collective efforts—state-funded schools, universities, etc.—that enabled them to realize their potential.

1. Individual success and autonomy are a result of the ability to exploit the system put together through collective efforts with a sense of social solidarity.
2. The decisions that guarantee each person access to public goods are collective in nature, and individual merit is a myth.
3. Individuals owe their success and autonomy to collective decisions and efforts that guarantee access to public goods like schools and universities.
4. Individual success and autonomy are a result of the systems made through collective efforts that guarantee each person access to these systems.
5. Individuals are free and autonomous only as far as they realize that they owe their success to collective decisions made with a sense of social solidarity.

Question 7

Throughout history, political leaders have supported existing communication technologies

in order to defend the system in which they rule. Today, too, governments may be tempted to protect newspapers and public TV on the pretext of “saving democracy as we know it.” But efforts to block technological change have been futile in the past, and they would be unwise today. Instead, the political system and the media must adapt to the new reality—the internet.

1. Instead of trying to protect newspapers and public TV by blocking the internet, political leaders and governments must adapt to the new reality.
2. As they have failed in the past, political leaders and government would fail to block the internet by promoting the newspapers and public TV.
3. Political leaders and governments have consistently failed in their efforts to block new technologies by supporting the existing ones.
4. By supporting the newspapers and the public TV politicians and governments are trying to protect the existing media under the pretext of saving democracy.
5. The efforts by governments and politicians to save the existing communication technologies have always proved futile; instead they must adapt to the new reality , today, the internet

Question 8

The financial and economic crisis that erupted in 2008 will, in retrospect, be regarded as a transformative moment, because it raised fundamental questions about the future shape of our economic systems. These questions are not so much about the end of capitalism—as some perceive or even desire—but rather about the different ways in which capitalism is understood in different countries.

1. In retrospect, the economic crisis of 2008 raised fundamental questions about the future of capitalism working in different countries.
2. In retrospect, the crisis that erupted in 2008 was not about the failure of capitalism as some see it, but about the differences between countries.
3. In retrospect, the economic crisis of 2008 was not about the end of capitalism, but about how capitalism is understood in different countries.
4. In retrospect, the crisis that erupted in 2008 was not fundamentally about the end of capitalism but about the future of capitalism in different countries.
5. The economic crisis of 2008 did not signal the end of capitalism or its future but how it is understood in different countries.

Question 9

Newspapers are dying; the music industry is still yelping about iTunes; book publishers think they are next. Yet one bit of old media seems to be doing rather well. In the final quarter of 2009 the average American spent almost 37 hours a week watching television. Earlier this year 116m of them saw the Super Bowl—a record for a single programme. Far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonizing it. Shows like “American Idol” and “Britain’s Got Talent” draw huge audiences partly because people are constantly messaging and tweeting about them, and discussing them on Facebook.

1. Though newspapers, the music and publishing industries are dying, American TV has been able to draw large audiences and being discussed on the internet.

2. Though newspapers, the music and publishing industries are dying, American TV is colonizing the media with the average American spending 37 hours per week watching television.
3. Though newspapers, the music and publishing industries are dying, TV is colonizing the media and has huge audiences.
4. Newspapers, music industry, and book publishers have been cowed by the new media whereas TV has coped well and still draws large audiences, as American TV proves.
5. Newspapers, music and book publishers have not been able to cope with the emergence of new media but American TV has coped well and still draws large audiences.

Question 10

The tragedy about data collection in India is that by the time primary data is converted into useable information, it may be too late to aid policy intervention. This is true of data collected by not just government agencies such as the National Sample Survey Organization but also think-tanks such as National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). One of the criticisms of Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition—a report put together by NCAER and Institute of Maryland, US—is that it is based on data collected in 2004-05, and it does not capture the impact of the changes of the past four years when the economy grew at more than 8% on an average every year.

1. Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally useless as no reports based on the primary data is available for years—NCAER report on human development report is an example.
2. The problem with data collection in India is that reports based on the data are not available in time for use—an NCAER report based on 2004-05 data was released four years later.
3. The data collection in India is generally useless because reports to guide policy decisions are not made in time—an NCAER report based on 2004-05 data was released four years later.
4. Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally useless; an NCAER report on human development report was released four years after the data was gathered.
5. Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally delayed and do not guide policy decisions—NCAER is an example.

Question 11

Equating war with individual evil has become ubiquitous—if not universal—in contemporary international politics. Wars are fights against evil tyrants and the illegitimate governments they control. Such rhetoric makes wars easier to justify, easier to wage, and easier to support, especially for elected leaders who must respond directly to swings in public opinion. Such language works equally well for any society in today's media-obsessed age.

1. In international politics, wars are equated with individuals and not governments because it is easier for elected governments to justify war and publicize it.

2. In international politics, wars are now directed at a personification of evil rather than against tyrants or regimes and are justified by governments in response to public opinion.
3. In international politics, wars are equated with individual evil and not illegitimate governments because it is easier for elected governments to justify war and propagate it.
4. In international politics, wars are now justified, waged and supported by elected governments to swing public opinion in a media-obsessed world.
5. In the media obsessed current age, wars are fought in order swing public opinion rather than against evil tyrants or illegitimate governments.

Question 12

The CEOs owe at least some of their success to others, given that the society provides public goods like universities and health care. This calls for more modesty and restraint in determining the highest salaries, not for moral reasons but for the sustainability of the system. Also, the most privileged classes which have benefited the most from the solidarity of others, notably the poor, can no longer deny the latter's contributions.

1. As both the CEOs and the poor are products of the same system, these two classes need to acknowledge the system for its sustainability.
2. The CEOs have a moral responsibility to exercise restraint in their highest salaries and the poor must acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs.
3. For the sustainability of the system the CEOs need to be modest in their highest salaries, and the poor need to acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs towards their welfare.
4. The CEOs must reduce their highest salaries and the poor must acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs for the sustainability of the system.
5. The CEOs must acknowledge the role of public goods in their success and the poor must recognize the contribution of the CEOs for their welfare.

Question 13

After reading literature by some of the world's leading experts on innovation—Clayton Christensen, Henry Chesbrough, John Kao, James Andrew, and Harold Sirkin—I was fascinated, but, alas, also frustrated. Innovation is the production of new knowledge that generates value. It is about fresh ideas that give rise to novel products, services, and processes, new management methods, and original designs and inventions that generate greater profits for firms, regions and countries. These are great ideas, but as I went through these texts I found them to be rather familiar sounding—I had the feeling that somehow and somewhere I had already studied them.

1. The writer after reading several experts on innovation felt disappointed as the experts themselves were merely repeating what the writer already knew.
2. Though the writer was fascinated by what several experts in the field had to say on innovation, he felt disappointed that the experts had nothing new to say.
3. Reading the experts on innovation, the writer was fascinated by their great ideas but felt discouraged that those experts were repeating what he already knew.

4. After reading the world's best writers on innovation, though I felt fascinated by their great ideas but found nothing new in them.
5. Innovation is about fresh ideas. I found the world's leading experts on innovation lacking in innovation in their works.

Question 14

Once a plausible hypothesis is formulated, it must be tested against all existing theories and against all available experience and information. It has to be subject to open criticism from all directions, and only if it survives these tests and criticisms may it be adopted as tentative and conjectural new knowledge. Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors of continuous and systematic efforts to refute. Theories are never certain and must always be prepared for an uncertain future.

1. Science and knowledge have an uncertain future as these are hypotheses that have survived the systematic efforts to refute them.
2. Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors that must be prepared for an uncertain future.
3. Conjectural new knowledge is that which is subject to criticism from all directions, but have survived the efforts to refute.
4. Science and knowledge are not made up of definitive truths but of hypotheses that have survived the systematic efforts to disprove them.
5. Science formulates plausible hypotheses, tests them against existing theories and they are adopted as conjectural new knowledge later.

Question 15

Laljipada's residents are largely entrepreneurs running cottage industries from their homes that are as small as 100 square feet. Primarily migrants from North India, they contradict the popular perception that migrants take away jobs from the local population. The 20,000 families here are self-employed; they make products that feed into larger businesses such as imitation jewellery, recycled plastic and paper waste, or operate small tailoring or bakery units. With each family contributing in some way or the other to the final finished product, all the families here are dependent on each other for their livelihood.

1. Laljipada's residents run cottage industries from their homes contributing to other finished products and are interdependent on each other for livelihood.
2. The 20,000 families of Laljipada depend on each other for their livelihood as each family runs some cottage industry producing parts for some other products.
3. Laljipada's 20,000 families have a well knit system of cottage industries each one dependent on the other for its livelihood.
4. Laljipada's 20,000 families are a well knit system of north Indian entrepreneurs dependent on each other without taking away the jobs from the locals.
5. Laljipada's 20,000 families are a well knit system of entrepreneurs making products that feed into larger businesses and each dependent on the other for its livelihood.

Question 16

The pursuit of a sustainable global society of low CO₂ emitters requires a tremendous effort. Precisely for this reason, it also requires a broadly shared ethical basis. This would guide the

negotiating parties in such a way that they look not only for solutions to a part of the problem, but first and foremost at a comprehensive solution to the entire problem. The climate change issue is too important to be left in the care of politicians. It is therefore imperative that not only nation states, but the business community and citizens combine their efforts to save our planet's climate. That is not only a scientific necessity; it is an ethical imperative.

1. Since a global society of low CO₂ emitters requires tremendous effort, it requires a shared ethical basis on which a comprehensive solution can emerge. It is imperative that not only politicians but business and citizens are involved to save the planet's climate.
2. Tremendous efforts and a shared ethical basis are required for a sustainable global society of low CO₂ emitters that can negotiate a comprehensive solution to climate change. It is imperative that nations and citizens work together to save the planet's climate.
3. The scientific and ethical imperative to find a comprehensive solution to climate change is that there are combined efforts from politicians, business and citizens to constitute a sustainable society of low CO₂ emitters.
4. A global society of low CO₂ emitters requires tremendous effort, and a shared ethical basis. It is a scientific and ethical imperative that not only politicians but business and citizens are involved to save the planet's climate.
5. Since a global society of low CO₂ emitters requires tremendous effort, it requires a shared ethical basis so that a comprehensive solution can emerge. Since politicians cannot be trusted, business and citizens must get involved in the efforts to save the planet's climate.

Question 17

If foreign institutions are to be allowed at all, it is better that they operate within an appropriate framework of regulation. If not, unscrupulous operators can use the "foreign" tag to exploit poorly informed students who do not have the scores to enter a good national institution or the finances to travel abroad to acquire a good education. In an environment where good higher educational facilities are in short supply, such operators could get away with charging high fees for courses backed by inadequately qualified faculty, inferior infrastructure and substandard equipment.

1. If foreign universities are to be allowed, there should be regulated so that the unsuspecting poor and the low scorers are not exploited by unscrupulous operators.
2. The operation of foreign universities must be regulated to prevent the exploitation of students by using their foreign tag to charge high fees for poor facilities.
3. If the operation of foreign universities is not regulated they are likely to charge the students high fees using their 'foreign tag' and offer poor facilities in return.
4. If foreign universities are to be allowed, their operations must be regulated; otherwise, unscrupulous elements will use the foreign tag to charge high fees even for poor facilities.
5. Students who have low scores and those who cannot afford to study abroad are likely to be exploited by foreign universities if these universities are allowed to operate without regulations.

Question 18

Nutrition is important to ensure proper brain formation and development, which starts in the womb: development of the brain goes on during early childhood. Iodine deficiency is known to affect a child's Intelligence Quotient (IQ) adversely. It has also been established that children with deficient growth before age two are at an increased risk of chronic disease as adults, especially if they gain weight rapidly in the later stages of childhood. A low birthweight baby, who is stunted and underweight in its infancy and gains weight rapidly in childhood and adult life, is much more prone to chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

1. Nutrition is important not only for the formation and development of the brain in the womb, and for the intelligent quotient as a child, but also for the physical well being in adult life.
2. Nutrition affects brain formation and development; iodine is related to IQ. Low weight at birth and rapid weight-gain in childhood increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes in adult life.
3. Nutrition affects a child's brain formation and development. Lack of iodine causes low IQ, whereas low weight babies develop heart disease and diabetes in later life.
4. Starting in the womb, nutrition affects the child's brain formation and development. A low baby is more prone to develop cardiovascular disease and diabetes if it gains weight during childhood.
5. Nutrition is important for brain formation and development as well as for the overall health. Iodine can affect the child's IQ, and low weight at birth can lead to chronic conditions in adult life.

Question 19

When a species evolves traits that seem to have little to do with individual survival—bright colours, say, or oversize horns, it is typically the male alone who sports these excesses. Observing this, Charles Darwin proposed the idea of "selection in relation to sex" as a follow-up to his theory of natural selection. He defined it as the struggle between members of one sex, "generally male", to possess the other. The plumage of peacocks attracts peahens. The stag's antlers are there to fight off other stags. And so on.

1. The plumage of peacocks and the stag's antlers, according to Charles Darwin, have little to do with survival but are evolutionary male excesses to possess the female.
2. Bright colours or oversize horns, according to Charles Darwin, are evolutionary excesses unrelated to individual survival but help the male in the struggle to possess the female.
3. Charles Darwin defined the plumage of peacocks and the stag's antlers as excesses in the struggle between members of one sex to possess the other.
4. According to Charles Darwin, when a species evolves excesses that have nothing to do with survival they are generally male and useful to fight off the other male.
5. In his follow up to natural selection, Charles Darwin defined evolutionary excesses as having little to do with survival and more to do with male domination of the female.

Question 20

Some people think sports cars are threatened with extinction by tightening restrictions on carbon-dioxide emissions and unacceptable fuel-guzzling. They fear the roar of the V8 will be replaced by the whirr of the electric armature—and that motoring will never be the same again. Well, it ought to be quieter, that is true. But they need not fear that electric cars will be slower. The secret is that electric motors are better than combustion engines. They have more oomph, and no need of a gearbox to deliver it.

1. Contrary to what some people think sports cars will go even faster with electric power.
2. The belief that sports cars will become extinct is a misplaced one, as cars with electric motors will go faster than combustion engines.
3. The restrictions on carbon emissions need not make the sports cars extinct as faster electric cars will easily replace them.
4. Contrary to popular belief that electric cars are slower, they are in fact better and faster than combustion engines.
5. Though more noisy than the combustion engines cars with electric motors deliver more power even without a gearbox; they will replace the combustion engines.

Question 21

From the beginning, the cloud hanging over the whole hydrogen enterprise has not been the power source as such, but the intractable difficulty of distributing and storing the stuff. It is not hard to see why. Hydrogen atoms are the smallest and lightest in the universe. The next heaviest element in the periodic table, the inert gas helium, is used for detecting cracks in pressure vessels and the like. Even though helium atoms are four times chunkier than hydrogen atoms, they are still small enough to find all the weak spots as they worm their way through the crystalline structure of solid steel several centimeters thick. If hydrogen were used as a crack detector, it would escape four times faster.

1. Hydrogen enterprise is doomed to ultimate failure because hydrogen like helium can be used as a crack detector.
2. Storing and distributing hydrogen is difficult as it is made up of the smallest and lightest atoms will leak through the weak spots even through walls several centimeters thick.
3. Hydrogen enterprise cannot succeed as storing and distributing it is a formidable challenge because it can leak through even steel four times faster than helium.
4. As a power source the difficulty of hydrogen enterprise is the difficulty in storing and distributing it because of its lightness.
5. The difficulty that hydrogen enterprise faces is storing and distribution, as hydrogen atoms are the smallest and the lightest and can escape through the structure of even solid steel.

Question 22

Criminals watch television too, and there is evidence they are also changing their behaviour. Most of the techniques used in crime shows are, after all, at least grounded in truth. Bleach, which destroys DNA, is now more likely to be used by murderers to cover their tracks.

The wearing of gloves is more common, as is the taping shut—rather than the DNA-laden licking—of envelopes. Investigators comb crime scenes ever more finely now for new kinds of evidence, which is creating problems with the tracking and storage of evidence.

1. Since criminals are also influenced by television shows, they change their behavior to leave fewer traces, forcing investigators to search for new kinds of evidence.
2. Criminals learn from television shows that bleach can destroy DNA and have learnt to cover their tracks giving rise to the need for new kinds of evidence.
3. The problem of having to search for new kinds of evidence arises from criminals who watch television learning to cover their tracks better.
4. Since criminals learn from television that bleach destroys DNA, wearing gloves, and taping envelopes etc., cover their tracks, investigators now look for new evidence.
5. Since criminals are also influenced by the television shows they watch, they have learnt to cover their tracks effectively posing a problem for investigators.

Question 23

Storing energy is one of the biggest obstacles to the widespread adoption of alternative sources of power. Batteries can be bulky and slow to charge. Hydrogen, which can be made electrolytically from water and used to power fuel cells, is difficult to handle. But there may be an alternative: magnesium. As school chemistry lessons show, metallic magnesium is highly reactive and stores a lot of energy. Even a small amount of magnesium ribbon burns in a flame with a satisfying white heat. Researchers are now devising ways to extract energy from magnesium in a more controlled fashion.

1. Problems with the storage and handling of conventional energy sources have forced the researchers to turn their attention to magnesium which stores a lot of energy naturally.
2. As hydrogen and dry cells pose great obstacles to storing energy, researchers are looking at extracting energy from magnesium which stores a lot of energy.
3. As storing energy is a big obstacle to the adoption of alternative sources of power, researchers are looking at extracting energy from magnesium which stores a lot of energy.
4. Researchers are devising ways to extract energy from magnesium, as magnesium stores a lot of energy compared to the bulky dry cells and hydrogen.
5. Alternative energy researchers are now turning their attention towards magnesium which stores a lot of energy and because dry cells and hydrogen are difficult to handle.

Question 24

Many preventive measures for cognitive decline and for preventing Alzheimer's disease—mental stimulation, exercise, and a variety of dietary supplements—have been studied over the years. However, an independent panel convened this week by the National Institutes of Health determined that the value of these strategies for delaying the onset and/or reducing the severity of decline or disease hasn't been demonstrated in rigorous studies. Alzheimer's disease is a feared and heart-breaking disease, we wish we could tell people that taking a pill or doing a puzzle every day would prevent this terrible disease, but current evidence doesn't support this.

1. The National Institutes of Health has determined that the strategies for delaying, reducing the severity of Alzheimer's disease hasn't been demonstrated in rigorous studies.
2. Alzheimer's disease cannot be prevented, delayed or its severity reduced by medication or through mental exercises.
3. There is no evidence whether Alzheimer's disease can be prevented, delayed or its severity reduced by pills or by doing puzzles.
4. An independent panel convened by the National Institutes of Health has determined that medication or solving puzzle does not affect Alzheimer's disease.
5. An independent panel convened by the National Institutes of Health has reported that it has found insufficient evidence to support preventive measures for Alzheimer's disease.

Question 25

The mass production of optical mice has made the highly sophisticated sensors on which they rely very inexpensive. Additionally, advances in electronics and optics have yielded sensors that are both small and extremely precise. A generic optical mouse, costing only a few dollars, is capable of capturing and comparing surface images several thousand times per second. Often, this high resolution enables their use on a variety of surfaces—both traditional and ad hoc (e.g., palms, pants, bed covers).

1. Advances in electronic and optics have facilitated the use of highly sophisticated sensors for high precision, low cost, multi-surface optical tracking in generic optical mice.
2. The mass production of optical mice has made the optical sensors inexpensive; sensors are now cheap, precise and can be used on any surface.
3. Mass production and advances in electronics and optics have yielded sensors that are cheap, high resolution, and capable of being used on any surface.
4. Advances in technology and mass production have made the generic optical mice capable of high precision, low cost, multi-surface optical tracking.
5. Advances in technology and mass production have made the generic optical mice sophisticated devices capable of being used on different surfaces.

Question 26

Heating and squishing microalgae in a pressure-cooker can fast-forward the crude-oil-making process from millennia to minutes. University of Michigan professors are working to understand and improve this procedure in an effort to speed up development of affordable bio-fuels that could replace fossil fuels and power today's engines. They are also examining the possibility of other new fuel sources such as E. coli bacteria that would feed on waste products from previous bio-oil batches.

1. Professors at Michigan University are working to understand and improve the making of affordable bio-fuels to replace fossil fuels and then convert the waste further into fuel.
2. University of Michigan professors are working towards pressure-cooking algae into bio-fuel and seeking to use E.coli to further convert the waste into bio-fuel.

3. University of Michigan professors are working towards pressure-cooking algae into bio-fuel and seeking to recycle the waste into new source material for future fuel batches.
4. University of Michigan professors are working towards converting microalgae into bio-fuel and seeking to recycle the waste into new source material for future fuel batches.

Question 27

Whales seem to stir up strong feelings. For conservationists, the majestic mammals have been in urgent need of protection ever since factory ships began slaughtering them in the middle of the last century. But advocates of whaling present themselves as protectors of traditional culture, diets and the rights of indigenous people. It is difficult to find any common ground, even when an honest attempt is made.

1. Advocates present traditional culture, diets, and people's rights, and conservationists cite the need for protection for and against whaling.
2. It is difficult to find any common ground in the arguments of conservationists and advocates of whaling—except that both are emotional.
3. Whales stir up strong feelings in conservationists as well as advocates of whaling—with valid and irreconcilable reasoning on both sides.
4. Other than strong feelings the arguments of people who are for and against whaling are irreconcilable.

Question 28

Although new battery technologies are emerging, their weight and size is likely to remain a drag on the development of electric and hybrid cars, forcing manufacturers to come up with new and inventive ways to shed weight and free up space. One solution which researchers are exploring is to build cars using a hybrid material: a carbon composite that is also capable of storing electrical energy. That way, car designers could combine structural form with electrical function.

1. The manufacturers and designers of electric and hybrid cars are constrained by the weight and size of the batteries; hybrid material seems to be the only solution.
2. Since manufacturers and designers are constrained by the bulkiness of the batteries, researchers are exploring hybrid material capable of storing electrical energy.
3. By building cars with multifunction material, researchers are exploring a solution to the weight and size of batteries which are a drag on the development of electric and hybrid cars.
4. The structural form and function of electric and hybrid cars can be the solution to the bulkiness of the batteries that constrain both the manufacturers and the designers.

Question 29

The earth's volcanoes appear for the most part in three types of setting. The most familiar, and most of the most dangerous, are found where one tectonic plate overrides another, as happens in the ring of fire around the Pacific. Then there are those which sit over isolated "hotspots" of upwelling magma from deep in the earth, like the volcanoes of Hawaii. Finally, there are those—a great many, but normally deep under the ocean—formed at the spreading

ridges where tectonic plates pull away from each other and new crust is formed. Iceland is peculiarly volcanic because it is formed by the intersection of a hotspot and a mid-ocean ridge.

1. The earth's volcanoes exist in three settings: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of upwelling magma, and under the oceans where plates are moving apart.
2. There are three types of volcanoes: the most dangerous ones over the tectonic plates, over the isolated hotspots of upwelling, and on ocean beds at the ridges of tectonic plates.
3. Volcanoes are of three types: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of magma upwelling from within the earth, and ones at the spreading ridges where tectonic plates pull away from each other.
4. The earth's volcanoes appear in three types: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of upwelling magma, and where plates are moving apart.

Question 30

It sounds implausible. Roboticians have struggled for decades to understand bipedal locomotion, and even today's most sophisticated robots require huge amounts of energy and computer power to walk on two legs. But Dr Herr's credentials are sound. He is a leading authority on the biomechanics of legs, and in the past decade he has made several advances in the development of artificial legs and assistive walking devices, or "orthoses", enabling amputees to walk with a more natural gait than was previously possible.

1. It is an unbelievable task that Dr Herr has achieved in developing assistive walking devices, or 'orthoses'; roboticians are still far away from understanding bipedal locomotion.
2. Even when robots consume huge computing power and energy to walk, Dr Herr's 'orthoses,' enable amputees to walk with a more natural gait.
3. Dr Herr's 'orthoses' or assistive devices for amputees challenge the roboticians who have failed to simulate bipedal motion without consuming huge computer power and energy.
4. Dr Herr has been successful in developing 'orthoses' enabling amputees to walk with a natural gait; even sophisticated robots haven't come close to natural bipedal locomotion.

Question 31

Men are generally better than women on tests of spatial ability, such as mentally rotating an object through three dimensions or finding their way around in a new environment. But under some circumstances a woman's way of navigating is probably more efficient. Previous work has shown that men tend to navigate by creating mental maps of a territory and then imagining their position on the maps. Women are more likely to remember their routes using landmarks. Modern-day hunter-gatherers divide labour, so that men tend to do more hunting and women more gathering. It seems likely that early humans did much the same thing.

1. Male and female navigational skills are honed differently by evolution for different tasks.

2. Modern-day division of labour reflects the evolutionary difference in the navigational skills of male as hunters and female as gatherer.
3. Male and female navigational skills are honed differently by evolution to favour men's role as hunter and women as gatherers.
4. As modern day division of labor is based on the navigational skills favouring men to do hunting and women to do gathering.

Question 32

Ultraviolet light has long been used in water-treatment plants to help with disinfection. As long as the water is clear enough not to absorb the rays, exposing it to a discharge lamp will destroy the DNA of viruses, bacteria and protozoa that could otherwise cause illness when swallowed. The ultraviolet that exists in sunshine can also be used this way. A rough and ready method for sanitizing water, for example, is to pour some into a clear plastic bottle, aerate it by shaking and then place it in the sun for six hours.

1. A ready method for sanitising water is to pour some into a clear plastic bottle, aerate it by shaking and then place it in the sun for six hours.
2. Water kept in a clear plastic bottle and exposed to sunlight for six hours is completely sanitized because the exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun destroys the harmful organisms.
3. Since ultraviolet rays destroy the DNA of malignant microbes, a prompt method to sanitize clear water is to expose it to sun's ultraviolet rays for six hours.
4. Since ultraviolet rays destroy the DNA of malignant microbes, filling water into a clear bottle, aerating it by shaking and exposing it to sun's ultraviolet rays for six hours sanitizes it completely.

Question 33

Identifying factors that accelerate the aging process can provide important therapeutic targets for slowing down this process. Misregulation of phosphate homeostasis has been noted in various skeletal, cardiac, and renal diseases, but the exact role of phosphate toxicity in mammalian aging is not clearly defined. Phosphate is widely distributed in the body and is involved in cell signaling, energy metabolism, nucleic acid synthesis, and the maintenance of acid-base balance by urinary buffering.

1. Phosphate is widely distributed in the body and phosphate toxicity is known to cause age related diseases; better clarity on this will help slow down mammalian aging.
2. Whether phosphate toxicity is related to mammalian aging needs to be determined before therapeutic solution to aging is explored.
3. Since phosphate is widely present in the body and phosphate toxicity is known to cause aging related diseases, therapeutic targets to slow down aging can be defined.
4. Mammalian aging can be therapeutically slowed down if the roles of phosphate toxicity which causes aging related diseases and other factors are clearly defined.

Question 34

Dr Jones and Dr DeBruine looked to see if there is an inverse relationship between women's

preference for masculine features and national health. Sure enough, they found one. In environments where disease is rampant and the child-mortality rate is high, women prefer masculine men. In places like America and Britain, where knowing how to analyse health-care plans is more important than fighting off infection, effeminate men are just as competitive.

1. Dr Jones and Dr DeBruine found that women in developed nations preferred effeminate men over masculine ones.
2. Women in disease free societies showed equal affinity towards effeminate men as they did for masculine men in societies with rampant diseases.
3. Dr Jones and Dr DeBruine's study found that women's preference for masculine over effeminate men and national health had an inverse relationship.
4. Dr Jones and Dr DeBruine's study found that in disease free societies effeminate men attracted women, as men with masculine features did in disease-ridden societies.

Question 35

It is a small, winged insect that might easily pass unnoticed except as a buzzing annoyance around ripe fruit. Yet *Drosophila melanogaster*, the humble fruit fly, is so quick and easy to breed that for over 100 years it has been a model organism in a field of research now known as genetics. The fly helped scientists discover that chromosomes contain small units of heredity called genes, and it helped unify research into heredity, evolution and development. Today it is thought to be the most widely studied animal after humans.

1. The easy breeding has made the fruit fly the model of genetic research, and it helped discover genes, unify research into heredity, evolution, and development.
2. Since the easily breeding fruit fly helped scientists to discover genes, it became a model of genetic research and had helped unify research into heredity, evolution and development.
3. The fruit fly is the most studied after humans for its importance in genetics, and as a model organism, helped unify research into heredity, evolution and development.
4. *Drosophila melanogaster*, the fruit fly is a model organism in genetics and is the most studied animal after humans for its importance in genetics.

Question 36

India is a young nation. Over 65% of its population is below 35 years of age, yet the number of senior citizens is growing exponentially because we are a nation of 1.2 billion people. Steadily growing longevity of life is also adding to the surge. Indian society until a few decades ago had the inherent protection against old age under the shadow of the institution of joint/extended family. Urbanization, growing standards of living, and changing social system have led to disintegration of country's age-old social system into nuclear families—double income no kids and single income no kids.

1. Though 65% of India is below 35 years in age, it also has a growing number of old; the protection of the joint family no longer exists for the old as urbanization and improved standard of living have created nuclear families with no kids.
2. Over 65% of India is below 35 years of age; yet, India has a growing population of senior citizens owing to the size of its overall population, improved longevity, and the rise in families without kids owing to urbanization.

3. Though majority of Indians are young, the number of senior citizens is also increasing because of over population and improved longevity. They have lost the protection of the joint family as urbanization has changed the social system.
4. Though India is a young nation, the number of old is also growing. The old no longer have the protection of a joint family system. Urbanization and growing standard of living have led to the disintegration of the social system.

Question 37

This story has its origin in a time well before the age of the SMS and emails, a simpler time, when words wouldn't go away with a press of a button. It is a tale of two scientists/inventors, one who created glue that didn't stick very well and the other had trouble with a bookmark that didn't quite do its job. Together with a band of determined scientists and marketers they created a product that redefined informal communication—the Post-it Note.

1. The Post-it Note was an accidental invention that happened when two scientists separately created a bookmark that didn't work well, and glue that didn't stick well.
2. The Post-it Note was a result of two failed inventions put together by determined scientists and marketers who redefined informal communication.
3. The story of the Post-it Note is that two scientists separately created a bookmark and glue that didn't work; however, scientists and marketers created a product from these.
4. The Post-it Note which redefined informal communication was a combination of two substandard products—a bookmark and glue that didn't quite do their work.

Question 38

Commoditization occurs when you have to constantly improve quality or other product benefits while decreasing prices to keep up with competitors. It also occurs if you have to lower your quality or other product benefits to keep pace with falling prices. The problem is exacerbated when you are caught between rising input costs, such as energy, metals and raw materials, and a loss of pricing power for your products. Your costs increase but you simply cannot pass them onto your customers without killing your business.

1. Commoditization triggers round after round of price competition owing to improved product quality or benefits, or increased costs and falling prices.
2. Improving product benefits at decreased prices, lowering quality because of falling prices, being unable to pass on the increased input costs to the customers is commoditization.
3. Commoditization occurs when products are improved at decreased prices to compete with competitors, or quality and price are reduced, or increased input costs are absorbed.
4. Commoditization of products is triggered by competition in the market and happens when quality or price or product benefit is lowered or input cost is increased.

Question 39

Scientists utilize laboratory animals in research in an ongoing quest for knowledge that benefits society. This research has enhanced our understanding of how the human body

functions and led to the development of lifesaving procedures and medicines—among them radiation therapy and other cancer treatments, open-heart surgery, fetal circulatory health treatments, organ transplantation, mental health treatments and vaccines. There is overwhelming agreement among physicians and scientists worldwide that laboratory animals provide irreplaceable and invaluable models for human systems.

1. The utilization of laboratory animals has provided models for human systems that have helped scientists and physicians develop several life saving procedures and medicines.
2. Scientists and physicians agree that animals in research has provided models for human systems and helped enhance our knowledge that benefits society in several ways.
3. Scientists agree that utilizing animals in research has helped gain knowledge about human body functions and led to the development of several life saving procedures and medicines.
4. Scientists and physicians agree that laboratory animals have helped develop life saving procedures and medicines for fatal illnesses, mental health treatments and vaccines.

Question 40

Trees and other plants help keep the planet cool, but rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are turning down this global air conditioner. In some regions more than a quarter of the warming from increased carbon dioxide is due to its direct impact on vegetation. This warming is in addition to carbon dioxide's better-known effect as a heat-trapping greenhouse gas. Climate models for the coming century must take into account the importance of plants.

1. Apart from being a greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide has a direct impact on vegetation; since plants cool the earth, climate models for the future must include the importance of plants.
2. A quarter of the global warming is due to the direct impact of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide on vegetation; hence, future climate models must include the importance of plants.
3. The heat trapping carbon dioxide has a direct impact on trees and plants which have caused a quarter of the warming; hence, climate models must include the importance of plants.
4. Plants cool the earth, and have caused a quarter of the warming because of carbon dioxide. Future, climate models must study the importance of plants in global warming.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 1. The key elements are: *IMF's proposal of new global tax on the profits and bonuses of financial institutions and banks—intend to prevent future global financial crises*. Options 2, 3 and 4 say 'will prevent'; Option 5 leaves out IMF. Hence option 1 is the best without distortion though some elements are left out; there is no distortion.

Question 2. Answer Option 4. Option 1 and 2 mention ‘arms treaty’ instead of ‘nuclear arms treaty’. Option 3 misses out on the normalizing of relationship and rapprochement. Option 5 misses out on the significant ‘normalizing of relations.’ Option 4 is the best concise description.

Question 3. Answer Option 3. The gist of the passage is: *Asia and Africa are already experiencing food shortages for two years. the cost of crops is expected to rise in Sudan—this may trigger a severe food crisis in Sudan.* In option 1, Asia and Africa are left out. Option 2 and 4 extend the crisis to Asia and Africa, especially the rise in the cost of crops. Option 5 leaves out Asia and Africa. Option 3 gives the gist without distortion of idea.

Question 4. Answer Option 2. The highlight of the paragraph is that *the facilities available in the digital age have facilitated storage of data on a large scale. Earlier retaining information was difficult; now deleting is more time-consuming and costly; hence we save almost everything.* Option 2, among the options, captures this best. Option 1 is eliminated because it states ‘natural habit of forgetting’—remembering and forgetting are used more figuratively than literally. Option 3 states ‘worthless information’. Option 4 is similar to option 2. Option 5 misses the digital age.

Question 5. Answer Option 4. Gist of the paragraph: *Human capital is the abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success—economists are trying to conceptualize and formulate a human-capital policy for success. Human capital is a product of history and may not be readily replicable.* Option 1 talks only about conceptualizing and not about using it for success. Option 2 distorts the idea in ‘must know history’. Option 3 does not use the terms ‘economists’ or ‘human capital’ or policy. Option 5 is almost correct but is a distortion in ‘struggling to replicate economic success’ and misses the most important point about replication. Option 4, though not the ideal précis, is the best.

Question 6. Answer Option 3. The gist of the paragraph is: *The principle social solidarity through democratic debates establishes education, healthcare etc., accessible to individuals. Individuals exploit this system (schools, universities) and become successful. But they feel that their success is due to individual merit.* Option 4 summarizes this best within the constraints of a précis. Option 1 is a distortion in ‘exploit.’ Option 2 is a distortion in ‘myth.’ Option 4 is correct but option 3 is better as it specifies ‘owe their success’ rather than ‘a result of.’ Option 5 is not structured well and is vague.

Question 7. Answer Option 5. Option 1 and 4 do not mention the failure in the past. Option 2 and 4 leave out the ‘adapt’ idea. Option 5, on the other hand leave out the specifics, and captures the essential attitude of politicians and governments towards new technologies and mentions the ‘adapt’ factor too. Option 5, hence, is the best available précis.

Question 8. Answer Option 3. Option 1 is contrary to the passage. Option 2 and 4 fail to mention ‘economic crisis.’ Option 5 distorts the idea in “did not signal the end of capitalism or its future.” Option 3—though it does not include the perception or desire of some people to see the crisis as the end of capitalism captures the essence without distortion.

Question 9. Answer Option 4. The paragraph is not about American TV in particular—American TV is cited as example of what TV has achieved. The gist of the paragraph is: *newspapers etc., are dying but far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonising it; American*

TV is an example. Options 1, 2 and 5 stress the American TV which is not the essence of the paragraph. Between 3 and 4, option 4 more accommodative and precise.

Question 10. Answer Option 3. In addition to the other details in the passage, option 3 also mentions 'guide policy decisions' which makes it the preferred option. Option 5 is erroneous because it states data collection is delayed. The other options are not incorrect; they are similar but highlight different aspects of the paragraph but leaves out why reports become useless. Hence option 3 scores above them.

Question 11. Answer Option 2. Option 1 is largely correct but the paragraph states *individual evil*—option makes it *individuals*—which is a distortion. All options miss the media part—hence it is of no consequence in the comparison of options. Option 3 is correct but misses the public opinion part. Option 4 misses on the individual evil part. Option 5 is total distortion of the ideas.

Question 12. Answer Option 3. The gist of the paragraph is: *The CEOs owe ... their success to ...public goods ... this calls for more modesty in ... highest salaries, ... for the sustainability of the system. Also, the the poor, can no longer deny the latter's contributions.* This gist is best captured in option 3. Option 1—product of the system; option 2—moral responsibility; option 4—must reduce; option 5—emphasis on public goods (no mention of salaries); all these make option 3 the best choice.

Question 13. Answer Option 3. The first person is not repeated in a précis. Hence option 4 and 5 are eliminated, however good they may appear. Between options 1, 2 and 3, option 3 captures the essence of the paragraph the best. Option 1 misses the 'great ideas' part. Option 2 is clearly unclear because the contrast is not clear.

Question 14. Answer Option 4. The gist of the paragraph is available in the paragraph itself: *Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors of continuous and systematic efforts to refute.* In fact, all the options also in one way or the other say the same thing, but the phrasing and the emphasis changes. Option 4 phrases it the best, hence the answer.

Question 15. Answer Option 5. The paragraph is very easy to understand. You need to choose the option that best communicates in fewer words the intended communication of the paragraph without any distortion or incorrect emphasis. Option 5 expresses the gist in the best way. The other options have something or the other which either not necessary or is emphasized unnecessarily.

Question 16. Answer Option 2. The following are the highlights of the paragraph: *... sustainable global society of low CO2 emitters requires a tremendous effort. shared ethical basis.a comprehensive solution politicians. Nation states ... business community and citizensscientific necessity; it is an ethical imperative.* Except for not specifying the politicians, business etc. option 2 captures everything (it states nations and citizens—which can accommodate all). The other options on careful examination can be seen to distort something or the other.

Question 17. Answer Option 4. Option 1 has the vague 'poor' in it. Option 2 misses out the 'if they are to be allowed part' which is significant to the précis. Option 3 states 'they are likely to charge'—the paragraph mentions only the unscrupulous elements may do this. Option 5 assumes only students with low scores etc. will go to these universities. Option 4 is the best choice, with the least problems.

Question 18. Answer Option 1. The paragraph I about how nutrition is important for child's mental and physical well being—this begins in the womb, and continues into adult life. This essence is captured by option 1. The other options highlight the specifics of the paragraph. Though not incorrect, they struggle to include the details and miss the 'essence' of the paragraph.

Question 19. Answer Option 2. Options 1 and 3 specifically explain the plumage of peacocks and the stag's antlers—these are examples for bright colors or oversize horns and such other traits. Hence, though correct the purpose of the paragraph is general. Option 4 is also alright except that it does not specify why the males fight. Option 5 is incorrect in 'male domination of the female.'

Question 20. Answer Option 3. Only option 3 mentions 'restrictions on carbon emissions' and includes what other options elaborate on.

Question 21. Answer Option 5. 'ultimate failure' eliminates option 1. No mention of 'hydrogen enterprise' eliminates option 2. 'cannot succeed' eliminates option 3. Option 4 (in comparison to 5) does not explain 'lightness'. Option 5 is brief and to the point.

Question 22. Answer Option 1. The main points are *Criminals watch television ... changing their behavior ... (examples) cover their tracks ... for new kinds of evidence ... problems with the tracking and storage of evidence*. The last point is not mentioned in any of the options. Option 1 has these points and does not distort any of the points. Option 2 emphasizes bleach etc., rather than the gist. Option 3 is correct but loses out to option 1 because of phrasing—option 1 is better phrased. Option 4 is similar to option 2. Option 5 does not specify the problem. In comparison option 1 is the best.

Question 23. Answer Option 3. Option 1 completely misses the point in 'conventional sources'—the paragraph is about 'alternative sources.' Option 2 is correct but emphasizes the problem with hydrogen and dry cells whereas the first sentence states the problem explicitly as storing—hydrogen and dry cells are examples. Option 4 misses the 'alternative energy' part. Option 5 'difficult to handle' is vague; and the emphasis has shifted as in option 2.

Question 24. Answer Option 5. Option 1, 2 and 3 are either erroneous or incomplete as they omit the independent panel. Between options 4 and 5, it is an easy choice in favor of option 5 as option 4 is too general and vague.

Question 25. Answer Option 4. Option 1 misses mass production. Option 2 misses 'advances in technology.' Option 3 confuses sensors with mice. Option 4 misses the 'sensors' but does not distort the message. Option 5 misses high resolution, inexpensive etc.

Question 26. Answer Option 3. Option 1 does not mention the microalgae part. Option 2 is unnecessarily specific about *E. coli*—the paragraph states 'such as *E. coli* bacteria.' Option 4 is correct but does not tell us how the algae can be converted into bio fuel which option 3 does. Option 3 best captures the essence.

Question 27. Answer Option 3. Option 3 is closest to the given paragraph. Option 1 leaves out the feelings part which is central to the paragraph. Option 2 is a miscommunication. The paragraph talks about strong feelings forestalling a compromise—the purpose is not to suggest that they are merely emotional. Option 4 is meaningless—one cannot make sense of it, especially in the light of the paragraph.

Question 28. Answer Option 3. Option 2 would have been the best option if it had mentioned ‘hybrid material to build cars.’ As it stands the summary states they are exploring hybrid material which is incomplete. ‘...only solution’ eliminates option 1. Option 4 is a sadly inadequate précis and unclear.

Question 29. Answer Option 1. According to the paragraph, volcanoes exist in three settings; there is no need to interpret this as three types of volcanoes—there may even be many types within these settings. Though the other options are not as concise as option 1, they also have other deficiencies missing out on important part like *under the ocean* etc. Option 1 captures the essence of the paragraph.

Question 30. Answer Option 4. Option 1 states “far away from understanding bipedal locomotion”—it is the computing power and energy that are the issues, hence this is a distortion. Option 3 is eliminated because of “challenge the roboticists..” which is incorrect. Between option 2 and 4, option 4 scores over 2 only for the reason that “even sophisticated robots haven’t come close to natural bipedal locomotion” is better than “robots consume huge computing power and energy to walk” in the light of the purpose of the paragraph—the energy factor only reinforces the difficulty of mastering ‘natural bipedal locomotion.’

Question 31. Answer Option 2. Option 1 is too brief and misses out on hunter-gatherer part. Option 3 misses the division of labor part. Option 4 misses the evolution part. Hence option 2 is the best choice.

Question 32. Answer Option 3. The method of sanitizing water by exposing it to sun’s ultraviolet rays is important part of the paragraph—not necessarily how it is done (plastic bottle etc.) Hence option 3 captures this essence without frills. Though aeration too is important, in the light of the first few sentences its lack can be accommodated in option 3. In option 4, the larger picture is lost. Option 1 and 2 are very inadequate.

Question 33. Answer Option 4. The gist of the paragraph is: *identifying factors related to aging can help us control (medically) aging. Phosphate toxicity is known to cause illnesses related aging—but its role is in aging not clearly defined. Phosphate is widely distributed in the body.* Option 4 captures this essence, though not completely. But the other options are lacking in far greater degrees.

Question 34. Answer Option 4. Option 4 comes closest to the gist of the paragraph: Dr Jones and Dr DeBruine’s study found that women in disease free societies showed equal affinity towards effeminate men. In societies with rampant diseases women preferred masculine features in men. Option 1 states preferred, hence incorrect. Option 2 does not mention the specific study. Option 3 makes nothing clear, besides, it also says ‘preferred.’

Question 35. Answer Option 3. The paragraph is about the importance of the fruit fly. *It breeds easily and quickly. It helped scientists discover genes—important in genetics. It is a model organism in genetics. It helped scientists unify research into heredity etc.,—most studied after humans.* This is captured best in option 3. Option 1 misses the most studied part. Option 2 unnecessarily stresses the easy breeding part. Option 4 does not make anything clear—it is a very general statement based on the paragraph.

Question 36. Answer Option 2. All options are similar, highlighting some points and omitting certain points. However, on careful examination, option 2 can be seen to contain the most number of points; hence, can be chosen as the best option.

Question 37. Answer Option 4. Option 1 is incorrect because of ‘accidental invention.’ Option 2 is incorrect because scientists and marketers did not ‘redefine informal communication,’ but Post-it Note did. In comparison, 4 is better phrased and expressed and than 3. Option 3 also misses th every important aspect that Post-it Note redefined informal communication.

Question 38. Answer Option 3. All the necessary elements of commoditisation are captured by option 3. Though option 4 comes close it looks as if ‘input cost is increased’ intentionally. Option 2 does not mention competition.

Question 39. Answer Option 3. In comparison, option 1 does not mention the agreement among physicians and scientists; option 2 is generic in ‘benefits society’—option 3 specifies the benefits; option 4 misses out on the ‘models for human systems.’ Within the constraints of fewer words, option 3 summarizes the paragraph the best way among the four options.

Question 40. Answer Option 1. Option 2 misses the important part about plants acting as air conditioners. Option 3 is phrased as if the ‘trees and plants *have* caused the warming.’ Option 4 is very vague in ‘Plants ... have caused the warming because of carbon dioxide’—also it misses the greenhouse part. The best option is, hence, option 1.

3

Critical Reasoning

Critical Reasoning questions are short paragraphs—4 or 5 lines long—called an Argument followed by a single question to be answered on the basis of the reasoning contained in that paragraph.

The question asks you to choose from the options,

- the best conclusion/inference that follows,
- or the assumption that makes the argument true,
- or the statement that will strengthen the argument,
- or the statement that will weaken the argument.

A majority of the questions in critical reasoning can be classified into the above four categories. The other types which are not very commonly seen include: resolve the paradox questions, and analogy questions. Resolve the paradox questions ask you to reconcile two apparently irreconcilable situations. Analogy questions ask you to either compare the structure of the argument with another or to choose an argument that has structurally the same flaw or error as the given argument.

EXAMPLE

Directions: Read the short passage given below and answer the question that follows.

Three airlines—IA, JA and SA—operate on the Delhi-Mumbai route. To increase the number of seats sold, SA reduced its fares and this was emulated by IA and JA immediately. The general belief was that the volume of air travel between Delhi and Mumbai would increase as a result.

Which of the following, if true, would add credence to the general belief?

1. Increase in profitability of the three airlines.
2. Extension of the discount scheme to other routes.
3. A study that shows that air travellers in India are price-conscious.
4. A study that shows that as much as 80% of air travel in India is company-sponsored.

The above is an assumption question—an assumption that makes the argument true. The argument works like this: the airlines reduced their rates because they believed that this would increase the number of seats sold and the volume of traffic. To find the reason for the

belief, we need to find the relation between reduction in price and the volume of traffic. This relation is shown by option 3, that the reduction would encourage price conscious travelers to buy seats. Hence the answer is option 3.

HOW TO SOLVE

Understand the structure of Arguments

All arguments have a very simple structure. There are a few facts based on which a conclusion is arrived at. Facts need not be universally acceptable facts, but merely statements the speaker bases his conclusion on. For example, “SA reduced its fares and this was emulated by IA and JA immediately” is a fact in the above argument—in reality it may not be so; but in this argument this the fact on which the argument (conclusion) is based. The conclusion in the above argument is, “the volume of air travel between Delhi and Mumbai would increase as a result.” This is the simple and basic structure of all arguments—in other words, the given paragraph.

The third element in the structure of arguments is an assumption; however, the assumption is never stated. If it is, it can appear to be another fact in the argument, or it can appear to be a conclusion drawn from the argument. Seen from the structure of the argument, an assumption has the characteristics both a *fact* and a *conclusion*. The assumption in the above argument was, “air travelers in India are price-conscious.” Hence the above argument completes itself this way:

SA reduced its fares and this was emulated by IA and JA immediately—FACTS

Air travellers in India are price-conscious—ASSUMPTION

(Hence) The volume of air travel between Delhi and Mumbai would increase as a result—CONCLUSION

Words like, *hence, therefore, as a result* etc... in the argument will always signal a conclusion. Words like *because* will signal facts.

Also, notice that the assumption is what makes the conclusion true. If the assumption is not true the conclusion cannot be true.

An awareness of the structure will help you in solving difficult questions and in avoiding confusion while analyzing complex arguments.

The word *argument* is used with two meanings in critical reasoning questions. Depending on the way it is used, the word argument can refer to the whole paragraph or only to the *conclusion*. For example, if the question is phrased as, *the above argument displays which of the following flaws?*—It refers to the whole paragraph. If the question asks, what is the underlying assumption in the above argument?—it can mean both, the paragraph as well as the *conclusion*. But if the question is phrased, *which of the following is the best way to weaken the argument?*—it means the conclusion.

CONCLUSION AND INFERENCE

The words *conclusion* and *inference* are used interchangeably in most situations. You, too, do not have to make the distinction always. However, there is a technical difference between the two words, and there are questions that may require you to distinguish between them. Hence, it is better to know the difference.

A conclusion is something that follows from the data as a (logical) necessity. A conclusion cannot be proved false if the data is true. For example, if all X are Y, then some Y are X is a conclusion. This cannot be proved false if the data is true, or *if someone stood first in her school in academics, she stood first in her class in academics* is a conclusion which cannot be proved false; or *if only graduates can be MBAs, an MBA is a graduate* is a conclusion.

Inferences, on the other hand, are possibilities arising out of the data. However, a mere possibility is not an inference. The available data make the possibility (inference) appear almost as certain as a conclusion. To understand better, take the example of a candidate appearing for the CAT. The mere fact she is appearing for the CAT throws up the possibility that *she may make it to IIMA*. This is not an inference. However, if I have her background—she scored above 90% in all her academic exams; she was AIR 1 in IITJEE; she is the national swimming champion; she has got the Best Performer award in her workplace. With her CAT score in combination, if one examines the possibility of her making it to IIMA '*she is likely to make it to IIMA*' is an inference (in the light of the given data) though not a conclusion. The available data strongly support inferences. Scientific truths are inferences (Carbon atoms have six electrons) because the available data prove it right, but remain still susceptible to be disproved.

We will now look at the different types of questions and how to solve each type.

CONCLUSION/INFERENCE QUESTION

Directions: Read the short passage given below and answer the question that follows.

According to McNeill, a Brahmin priest was expected to be able to recite at least one of the Vedas. The practice was essential for several centuries when the Vedas had not yet been written down. It must have had a selective effect, since priests would have been recruited from those able or willing to memorise long passages. It must have helped in the dissemination of the work, since a memorised passage can be duplicated many times.

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

1. Reciting the Vedas was a Brahmin's obligation.
2. The Vedic priest was like a recorded audio cassette.
3. McNeill studied the behaviour of Brahmin priests.
4. Vedic Hymns had not been scripted.

Note: It is always a good idea to read the question-stem before reading the paragraph in all critical reasoning questions. The advantage is that you can then understand what exactly you have to look for in the paragraph, because the question-stem will clearly define the task that you have to undertake. You should never be in a hurry in critical reasoning question. Work fast, but never be reckless.

The above question asks you to choose an inference. An inference is a reasoned judgment based on the data available. So bear in mind that you are given only facts in the paragraph and no conclusion/inference. The conclusion is given in the options. We also know that a conclusion/inference is completely supported by the facts. Hence, whenever it is an inference/conclusion question read the paragraph in order to clearly identify and understand the given facts. The better aware you are of the facts, the easier it becomes to identify the option that is supported by all the facts.

The facts in the above argument are:

- ... a Brahmin priest was expected to recite at least one of the Vedas.
- ... the Vedas had not yet been written down
- ... selective effect—willing to memorise long passages
- ... helped the dissemination of the work
- ... memorized passage can be duplicated many times

The possible inferences are:

1. Reciting the Vedas was a Brahmin's obligation.
2. The Vedic priest was like a recorded audio cassette.
3. McNeill studied the behaviour of Brahmin priests.
4. Vedic Hymns had not been scripted.

Once you are clear that the above facts need to *completely support* the inference/conclusion that is given in the options, you can evaluate the options one by one. Option 1 states 'obligation' which is contrary to the passage as the passage says the priests were recruited from those willing to memorize the passages. Option 2 *compares* the priests to 'recorded audio cassettes.' The aspects about dissemination of work and duplication completely support this comparison, at the same time it does not contradict the other facts. You can retain this option. Option 3 has no support for the word 'behaviour' from the passage. McNeill studied the aspect of the dissemination of Vedas can be understood, but not whether he studied their 'behavior.' Option 3 can be eliminated. Option 4 is quite clearly stated in the passage. What is clearly stated is not an inference. It is a restatement. In some questions, a conclusion can look like a restatement. An inference has to be derived from the facts and not merely repeat the facts. Hence option 4 is eliminated. The scoring option is option 2.

ASSUMPTION QUESTION

Directions: Read the short passage given below and answer the question that follows.

Three airlines—IA, JA and SA—operate on the Delhi-Mumbai route. To increase the number of seats sold, SA reduced its fares and this was emulated by IA and JA immediately. The general belief was that the volume of air travel between Delhi and Mumbai would increase as a result.

Which of the following, if true, would add credence to the general belief?

1. Increase in profitability of the three airlines.
2. Extension of the discount scheme to other routes.
3. A study that shows that air travelers in India are price-conscious.
4. A study that shows that as much as 80% of air travel in India is company-sponsored.

After reading the question-stem, we can understand that our task is to discover an additional premise. That means the given paragraph will have the following: certain facts and a conclusion derived from those facts. This recognition is very important in critical reasoning questions.

Since the question-stem reads, *which of the following, if true, would add credence to the general belief?* the task is to find from the options an additional premise that will make the conclusion true.

If the given premises (facts) are not sufficient to arrive at the conclusion the additional

premise that we are seeking will be an assumption. If the given premises (facts) already provide sufficient conditions to arrive at the given conclusion, the additional premise will merely help strengthen the conclusion. This is the difference between a pure assumption question, and questions in which assumptions are used to strengthen the conclusion. Bear this in mind, because later we will be looking at the strengthen/weaken the argument questions. An assumption can make the conclusion true (when conditions are not sufficient) or strengthen the conclusion when the conditions are already sufficient.

Hence, once you are clear that the task is to find the assumption, the paragraph will have facts and a conclusion, we understand that the given facts may not necessarily lead to the given conclusion. The accuracy of your response will depend on whether you have clearly identified this lacuna (gap) in the argument or not. Try to first mentally bridge the gap logically, and then evaluate the options to fix the gap.

In the above argument:

SA reduced its fares and this was emulated by IA and JA immediately—FACT

The volume of air travel between Delhi and Mumbai would increase as a result—CONCLUSION

Is the fact that *the airlines reduced the rates* sufficient condition to lead to the conclusion that *the volume of travel would increase*? Not quite, unless something bridges the gap in this logic. That something is the assumption. Try to think of what would bridge this gap: *that lower rates would attract fliers to these airlines, or reduced rates will increase the number of fliers in the country, that somehow more people would choose to fly by air* etc. Understand that in assumptions questions you need to make the conclusion true and not challenge it.

1. Increase in profitability of the three airlines.
2. Extension of the discount scheme to other routes.
3. A study that shows that air travelers in India are price-conscious.
4. A study that shows that as much as 80% of air travel in India is company-sponsored.

Since the issue is not at all related to profitability, option 1 is eliminated. Option 2 does not bridge the gap—is even irrelevant from the point of view of this argument (other routes). ‘company sponsored travel’ is also irrelevant to this question and for our task of bridging the gap. Option 3 bridges the gap. Option 3 is the answer.

Question:

Bajaj Auto today said it is aiming for a fuel economy of 30 km per litre for the \$2,500 ultra low cost car that it is developing with Renault-Nissan as it looks to woo two-wheeler customers. The ultra low cost car (ULC), which will be competing with Nano, aims to better the mileage of 23.6 km/l, given by the world’s cheapest car from the stable of Tata Motors. On an average the existing small cars in the Indian market give fuel economy of 15-18 km/l. “Our aim is to deliver a mileage of 30 km per litre,” Bajaj Auto Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj told reporters.

Which of the following most accurately conveys the assumption in Rajiv’s Bajaj’s statement to the reporters?

1. A low continued cost of ownership will motivate the two-wheeler customers to own a car.

2. Its motorcycle experience has helped Bajaj to design a product that would impress the customers.
3. If there is a remarkable increase in mileage, it is not considered good by customers.
4. The company aims to deliver an eco-friendly product.

FACTS: *Bajaj auto is aiming for fuel economy of 30km/l for its \$2,500 ultra low cost car.*
Nano, the cheapest car has a mileage of 23.6 km/l.
Existing small cars have a mileage of 15-18 km/l.

CONCLUSION: *(Our aim is to deliver a mileage of 30 km per litre) to woo two-wheeler customers.*

The facts are all related to mileage which Bajaj aims to increase in its new car. The conclusion is it will woo the two-wheeler customers to buy a car. The assumption has to bridge the gap between increase in mileage and two-wheeler owners wanting to buy the car, so that increase in mileage acts as sufficient condition for two-wheeler owners to buy the car. Option 1 states exactly this, though in an indirect way. With higher mileage the continued cost of ownership will be low. Option 2 is unrelated to the bridge we are looking for. Option 3 states the opposite of what is required. Option 4 and eco-friendliness have nothing to do with the passage. Hence, the answer Option is 1.

SRENGHTEN/WEAKEN THE ARGUMENT

Directions: *Read the short passage given below and answer the question that follows.*

Developed countries have made adequate provisions for social security for senior citizens. State insurers (as well as private ones) offer medicare and pension benefits to people who can no longer earn. In India, with the collapse of the joint family system, the traditional shelter of the elderly has disappeared. And the State faced with a financial crunch is not in a position to provide a social security. So, it is advisable that the working population give serious thought to building a financial base for itself.

Which one of the following, if it were to happen, weakens the conclusions drawn in the above passage the most?

1. The investible income of the working population, as a proportion of its total income, will grow in the future.
2. The insurance sector is underdeveloped and trends indicate that it will be extensively privatised in the future.
3. India is on a path of development that will take it to a developed country status, with all its positive and negative implications.
4. If the working population builds a stronger financial base, there will be a revival of the joint family system.

In order to weaken or strengthen a conclusion, the first thing to do is: identify what you have to weaken or strengthen. In these (weaken/strengthen) questions, you must understand, the conclusion that you have to weaken is already stated explicitly in the passage. Hence, do not try to derive a conclusion to weaken it. You need to only identify it. Once it is identified, the work is easy—analyse its implications and think of some ways to prove it false (to weaken the argument), or to further support it (to strengthen the argument). After formulating in your mind how one can do this, look at the options to see which option does it the best.

In the above argument, the conclusion that you have to weaken is: *... it is advisable that the working population give serious thought to building a financial base for itself.*

In order to weaken this, we have to say (in effect) that working people DO NOT have to think seriously about building a financial base.

Now, you can evaluate the options to see which option accomplishes this task the best.

Option 1. *The investible income of the working population, as a proportion of its total income, will grow in the future*—does not mean that working population does not have to build a financial base.

Option 2. *The insurance sector is underdeveloped and trends indicate that it will be extensively privatised in the future*—does not mean that working population does not have to build a financial base.

Option 3. *India is on a path of development that will take it to a developed country status, with all its positive and negative implications*—working population may not have to build a financial base.

Option 4. *If the working population builds a stronger financial base, there will be a revival of the joint family system*—they have to build a financial base anyhow.

Similarly, in order to strengthen the argument, after identifying the argument to strengthen, look for the option that reinforces it.

Directions: Read the short passage given below and answer the question that follows.

Various studies have shown that our forested and hilly regions and, in general, areas where biodiversity—as reflected in the variety of flora—is high, are the places where poverty appears to be high. And these same areas are also the ones where educational performance seems to be poor. Therefore, it may be surmised that, even disregarding poverty status, richness in biodiversity goes hand in hand with educational backwardness.

Which one of the following statements, if true, can be said to best provide supporting evidence for the surmise mentioned in the passage?

1. In regions where there is little variety in flora, educational performance is seen to be as good as in regions with high variety in flora, when poverty levels are high.
2. Regions which show high biodiversity also exhibit poor education performance, at low levels of poverty.
3. Regions which show high biodiversity reveal high levels of poverty and poor educational performance.
4. In regions where there is low biodiversity, at all levels of poverty, educational performance is seen to be good.

The conclusion that we have to strengthen is: *even disregarding poverty status (i.e., poverty is not a factor that determines educational performance) richness in biodiversity goes hand in hand with educational backwardness.*

Whatever reinforces this conclusion should show that biodiversity and education are always related—and show the relationship (biodiversity and education have an inverse relationship—poverty levels do not influence this relationship) that the passage states.

Options 1, 2, and 3 take poverty into consideration, whereas the inverse relationship should be established without poverty coming into consideration. Only option 4 does this it says at all levels of poverty the biodiversity influences (inversely) educational performance; hence option 4 is the scoring choice.

RECAPITULATION

Directions: Read the short passages given below and answer the question that follow.

Question 1

Cigarettes constitute a mere 20% of tobacco consumption in India, and fewer than 15% of the 200 million tobacco users consume cigarettes. Yet these 15% contribute nearly 90% of the tax revenues to the Exchequer from the tobacco sector. The punitive cigarette taxation regime has kept the tax base narrow, and reducing taxes will expand this base.

Which of the following best bolsters the conclusion that reducing duties will expand the tax base?

1. The cigarette manufacturers' association has decided to indulge in aggressive promotion.
2. There is a likelihood that tobacco consumers will shift to cigarette smoking if cigarette prices were to reduce.
3. The cigarette manufacturers are lobbying for a reduction on duties.
4. An increase in duties on non-cigarette tobacco may lead to a shift in favour of cigarette smoking.

This is a strengthen-the-argument question. Make it a habit to read the question-stem first in critical reasoning questions.

FACTS: Cigarettes constitute a mere 20% of tobacco consumption; fewer than 15% of the 200 million tobacco users consume cigarettes; these 15% contribute nearly 90% of the tax revenues to the Exchequer from the tobacco sector; cigarette taxation regime has kept the tax base narrow

CONCLUSION: Reducing taxes (on cigarettes) will expand this (tax) base.

To strengthen the argument we need to say that if taxes are reduced the tax base will increase from the current 15%, or a part of the remaining 85% of tobacco users will switch to cigarettes.

Option 1 talks about promotion (not tax) and does not influence the conclusion. Option 2 states almost in the same words what we are looking for. Option 3 is about lobbying and not taxation. Option 4 talks about non-cigarette tobacco (this is not sufficient to make cigarettes cheaper). Hence Option 2 is the scoring option.

Question 2

Thomas Malthus, the British clergyman turned economist, predicted that the planet would not be able to support the human population for long. His explanation was that human population grows at a geometric rate, while the food supply grows only at an arithmetic rate.

Which one of the following statements, if true, would not undermine the thesis offered by Malthus?

1. Population growth can be slowed down by the voluntary choices of individuals and not just by natural disasters.
2. The capacity of the planet to feed a growing human population can be enhanced through biotechnological means.
3. Human systems, and natural systems like food supply, follow natural laws of growth which have remained constant, and will remain unchanged.

4. Human beings can colonize other planetary systems on a regular and on-going basis to accommodate a growing population.

We need to find an option that will not weaken Malthus's argument. What this means is that 3 options will weaken Malthus's argument and one option will not. The option that will not weaken the argument does not necessarily have to strengthen the argument. It may just be irrelevant.

FACTS: Human population grows at a geometric rate, while the food supply grows only at an arithmetic rate.

CONCLUSION: The planet would not be able to support the human population for long.

Option 1 states that Population growth can be controlled, which implies that planet would be able to support—this weakens the argument. Option 2 states that biotechnology can increase food production—this implies that the planet can support the human population. Option 3—the laws will remain (which is, the food production is less than population growth)—by implication this will support the argument. Option 4 states people will move to other planets—the earth can sustain its population- by implication it weakens the conclusion. Hence the answer choice is option 4.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Directions: The following questions are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage.

Question 1

Three-quarters of children vaccinated against meningitis C lose their protection against the disease by their early teens, research suggests. UK experts agreed a booster may be needed in the future. Some physicians, however, disagree by saying that British children are still protected against the potentially fatal bacteria, through the existence of herd immunity. That means that vaccination has significantly reduced the level of meningitis in the population, and so even people who are not vaccinated are also protected.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the view of the physicians?

1. Only 25% of the teenagers had levels of the antibodies to give them protection against the disease.
2. Herd immunity against meningitis C in UK should last until around 2015.
3. Cases of meningitis C in UK are at an all time low.
4. Falling immunity levels against meningitis C vaccination have been reported in many countries.
5. Several countries have responded to the experts' view by introducing teenage boosters.

Question 2

Blood pressure can be measured either in a clinical setting, or by the patients wearing a cuff as they go about their daily lives—known as ambulatory blood pressure checks. When

ambulatory blood pressure measurements were compared with those taken by doctors and nurses, it was found that there was a rise of as much as 29 units if a doctor checked it, and of 17 units if a nurse took the measurement. The closer the patient's blood pressure was to normal levels, the less was the difference between measurements taken by ambulatory monitoring and those taken by a nurse or doctor.

Which of the following can be inferred from the paragraph?

1. Blood pressure is made worse by doctors and nurses in someone whose level is already high.
2. Doctors and nurses cause the blood pressure of patients to rise.
3. Doctors and nurses are not beneficial to patients who are suffering from blood pressure.
4. People are stressed when they are in a doctor's surgery or a hospital.
5. Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring accurately diagnoses high blood pressure.

Question 3

Deep down, the Greek economic crisis is yet another manifestation of what I call "the political *trilemma* of the world economy": economic globalization, political democracy, and the nation-state are mutually irreconcilable. We can have at most two at one time. Democracy is compatible with national sovereignty only if we restrict globalization. If we push for globalization while retaining the nation-state, we must jettison democracy.

Which of the following most logically concludes the above?

1. Only democracies can accommodate globalization and the concept of nation state.
2. If we want democracy along with nation state globalization will have to be encouraged.
3. If we want globalization along with democracy the feeling of nationalism must be strong.
4. If we want nation state along with globalization democracy is mandatory.
5. If we want democracy along with globalization the nation state must take a back seat.

Question 4

People who regularly put in overtime and work 10 or 11-hour days increase their heart disease risk by nearly two-thirds, research suggests. The findings come from a study of 6,000 British civil servants, published online in the *European Heart Journal*. After accounting for known heart risk factors such as smoking, doctors found those who worked three to four hours of overtime a day ran a 60% higher risk. In many ways, it confirms what occupational health doctors already know—that work/life balance plays a vital role in well-being.

All the following can be advanced for supporting the above argument EXCEPT?

1. People who spend more time at work have less time to exercise, relax and unwind.
2. People who spend more time at work are more likely to be stressed, anxious, or have depression.
3. People are likely to spend more time at work when they are not happy in their personal lives.
4. A career-minded person tends to be highly driven, aggressive or irritable
5. Employees who work overtime are likely to be reluctant to be absent from work despite illness.

Question 5

The working mother who cannot be at home to cuddle a distraught child can relax—her voice on the phone soothes as much as a hug, a study suggests. US researchers put more than 60 girls in a stressful situation and monitored their hormonal responses when they were either phoned or hugged afterwards. Their mother's voice produced virtually the same amount of the stress-quelling hormone oxytocin as physical comfort—a hug, or an arm around the shoulder.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

1. Physical contact is necessary to produce oxytocin in stressful circumstances.
2. Oxytocin release in the context of social bonding requires physical contact.
3. Oxytocin is a hormone strongly associated with social bonding.
4. Oxytocin is a hormone unique to girls.
5. None of these.

Question 6

Based on 1.5 m people and 16 studies looking at the relationship between sleep and mortality, researchers have concluded that one must ideally have a six to eight hour sleep in a day and regularly getting less than six hours sleep a night can lead to an early grave. They also found an association between sleeping for more than nine hours and early death.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the conclusion of the study?

1. Lack of sufficient sleep makes one person drowsy and more susceptible to accidents and death.
2. Modern society has seen a gradual reduction in the average amount of sleep people take.
3. Lack of sleep is sometimes the direct cause of some illness due to which there is premature death.
4. Too little or too much sleep is sometimes the result of fatal illnesses leading to premature death.
5. The deterioration of our health status is often accompanied by an extension of our sleeping time.

Question 7

Drug addiction has to be treated as an illness and not punished as a crime. The reasons for addiction are many. In Nagaland and Kashmir, it could be the continuous harassment by security forces. Or even the lack of recreation facilities. In Punjab and in cities like Mumbai and Delhi, it could be unfulfilled ambitions, unemployment or peer pressure. In Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, drug use is also a tradition. For overworked truck drivers, it has become a necessity. And all over India, one common reason is terrorized childhood.

Which of the following most accurately expresses the assumption underlying the argument?

1. Drug addiction is not a crime.
2. The reasons leading to drug addiction and crime are not the same.
3. Drug addiction is a crime directed at oneself.

4. The different effects of the same causes need to be differentiated in law.
5. Traditions are not crimes.

Question 8

The Nazis did not kill the Jews because they wanted their territory—the Jews had none; or because the Jews were followers of a rival religious faith—the Nazis and their henchmen were atheists and enemies of all religion. Even less did the Nazis kill Jews because of their ideological differences—Jews had no peculiarly “Jewish” ideology. Nor did the Nazis exterminate the Jews in order to take their property—most Jews were poor, and those who owned anything probably would have given it up gladly in order to save themselves.

Which of the following conclusions follows from the above?

1. Nazis’ extermination of Jews had one motive—hatred.
2. No known motives can be attributed to the Nazis’ extermination of Jews.
3. The Nazis’ extermination of Jews had no motive at all.
4. The Nazis exterminated the Jews because of the Nazis perceived Jews as a threat.
5. The Nazis’ extermination of Jews lacks the usual motives found in other massacres.

Question 9

“Be careful what you post on Facebook,” US President Barack Obama warned American high school students this past September. “Whatever you do, it will be pulled up again later somewhere in your life.” In fact, we all are coming to learn that lesson the hard way: digital information almost never goes away, even if we wish that it would. The result is the permanency of the past in the present. This fact is one of the biggest challenges that society will face as computers and the Internet become more a part of everyday life.

Which of the following best strengthens the above argument?

1. We tend to retain our rough drafts, years of e-mail traffic, and thousands of digital snapshots in our computers.
2. We have much to gain individually and as a society from sharing information with each other.
3. We are increasingly confronted with outdated information taken out of context, from stories we had long ago forgotten.
4. We tend to take actually much more time and effort to shed data than to keep it.
5. Stories from the past rarely provide accurate information about the present.

Question 10

A class of drugs commonly used to treat heart problems has been linked with a “modestly” increased risk of cancer. Analysis of published data from all trials of angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) found one extra case of cancer for every 105 patients treated. The US researchers said the evidence from nine trials should prompt drug regulators to investigate. But they advised people not to stop taking the drugs, but to see their doctors if concerned. ARBs are mainly prescribed for conditions such as high blood pressure and heart failure.

The researchers who advised people not to stop taking ARBs assume which of the following?

1. The risk of cancer owing to ARBs is negligible.
2. ARBs beneficial effects are far greater than the risk of cancer.

3. People on ARBs are very few and cannot significantly increase the number of cancer patients.
4. Alternative compositions available for ARBs are also known to have side effects.
5. None of these.

Question 11

West Africa has become an attractive trade route for Latin America's cocaine smugglers in recent years. On 8 June, two tonnes of the stuff—with an estimated street value of over \$1 billion—were seized in the Gambia. While cocaine use in America has fallen by 50% over the last two decades, some European countries have seen consumption rates double or triple. Aided by its corruptible police and flimsy money-laundering laws, up to 150 tonnes of cocaine are estimated to pass through the region a year. In 2006, 36% of the cocaine carriers caught in one network of European airports had come from West Africa. In 2008 this had dropped to 17%.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above?

1. Cocaine trade in Europe had reduced in the period from 2006 to 2008.
2. There is a focus on the Gambian drug gangs after the cocaine raid.
3. Europe's cocaine habit has harmed West Africa.
4. American cocaine trade reduced owing to the efficiency of its police.
5. None of the above.

Question 12

Fears of a "jobless recovery" in the West have abounded ever since the world economy returned from the abyss last year. For some, the latest quarterly survey from Manpower, a global employment-services company, brings timely good news. Of the 36 countries included in Manpower's survey, employers in 30 of them are increasingly bullish about their hiring plans for the next three months compared with the third quarter of 2009. The survey suggests that the BICs (Brazil, India and China) bounce will continue. The three countries, along with Taiwan, report the most positive hiring plans in the survey, with China reporting its strongest hiring plans since the survey began there in 2005.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above?

1. Post recession, employers globally are optimistic about hiring new workers.
2. Unemployment rates in the BICs are lower than those in the West.
3. 6 countries in the survey are expecting a decrease in employment.
4. In the West, it was expected that plenty of jobs would be available post recession.
5. None of the above.

Question 13

The European Union climate commissioner says that the slowdown in economic activity will make it easier for the EU to achieve its 2020 goal of ensuring that greenhouse-gas emissions are 20% below their 1990 level. In fact, Hedegaard believes that cutting emissions has become so easy that European leaders should be more ambitious and unilaterally aim for a 30% reduction below the 1990 level. This may seem like good news, but it is not, because there is a strong correlation between economic growth and carbon emissions. For almost all countries, higher emissions come from higher growth rates. Restrict carbon emissions and GDP will

falter. In other words, by advocating even deeper cuts in emissions, Hedegaard is, in effect, calling for an even deeper recession.

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

1. Trying to cut back on emissions in the absence of practical alternatives has proved to be a recipe for economic stagnation.
2. Climate models uniformly show that for all the economic havoc that such carbon cuts would likely wreak, they would have significant impact on global temperatures.
3. The investments that EU has made in R&D in green energy technologies in the last decade have made it possible to reduce fossil-fuel consumption without crippling the economy.
4. Despite the huge reduction on the part of the European Union, climate models show that the difference in climate by the end of the century would be practically indiscernible.
5. The approach of European Union has failed spectacularly in the past; it seems likely to consign itself to an ever-dwindling economic position in the world.

Question 14

When it comes to global warming, extreme scare stories abound. Al Gore, for example, famously claimed that a whopping six meters (20 feet) of sea-level rise would flood major cities around the world. It is hard to keep up the climate panic as reality diverges from the alarmist predictions more than ever before: the global temperature has not risen over the past ten years, it has declined precipitously in the last year and a half, and studies show that it might not rise again in the immediate future.

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

1. With global recession and high oil and food prices undermining the living standards of the Western middle class emissions have reduced drastically.
2. Satellites orbiting the planet have measured the global sea level every 10 days with an amazing degree of accuracy that in the last two years, sea levels have declined.
3. The United Nations climate panel tells us that the best models indicate a sea-level rise over this century of 18 to 59 centimeters
4. In the last 150 years, the sea rose by only 30 centimeters.
5. Gore's scientific advisor, Jim Hansen from NASA, has suggested that there will eventually be sea-level rises of 24 metres (80 feet), with a six-metre rise happening just this century.

Question 15

One of the most significant steps taken to respond to climate change is bio-fuels. Adopted because of the climate panic, bio-fuels are supposed to reduce CO₂ emissions. Bio fuels are described as part of a "brighter future for the planet." But using bio-fuels to combat climate change must rate as one of the poorest global "solutions" to any great challenge in recent times. Bio-fuels essentially take food from mouths and puts it into cars. The grain required to fill the tank of an SUV with ethanol is enough to feed one African for a year. Thirty percent of this year's corn production in the United States will be burned up on America's highways.

Which of the following serves to strengthen the above argument?

1. The rush towards bio-fuels has also contributed to rising food prices.

2. Because of climate panic, the attempts to mitigate climate change have resulted in spending hundreds of billions of dollars in research on bio fuels.
3. Because increased demand for bio-fuels leads to cutting down carbon-rich forests, the net effect of using them has doubled CO₂ emissions.
4. Because of alarmist panic, we have blocked out sensible solutions leading to bad policies on climate change.
5. Technologies are available to produce bio fuels from non-food crops, crop residue, and waste.

Question 16

It has taken almost two years since the collapse of Lehman Brothers, and more than three years since the beginning of the global recession brought on by the financial sector's misdeeds for the United States and Europe finally to reform financial regulation. Perhaps we should celebrate the regulatory victories in both Europe and the United States. After all, there is almost universal agreement that the crisis the world is facing today—and is likely to continue to face for years—is a result of the excesses of the deregulation movement begun under Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan 30 years ago. Unfettered markets are neither efficient nor stable.

Which of the following follows logically from the argument?

1. Reason triumphs over ideology and interests.
2. There is an important role for government to play in the economy.
3. In a severe downturn, monetary policy is likely to be ineffective.
4. Deregulation is necessary for the market forces to correct themselves.
5. Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan were failures.

Question 17

Stem cell therapy, the most promising treatment is autologous—where patients' own cells are harvested and re-introduced into their body. Animal studies have indicated that injecting stem cells directly into organs is safe. Positive effects have been shown for the treatment of conditions including heart attacks and urinary incontinence. Many scientists hope stem cell therapy can be used to treat a wide range of diseases.

Which of the following, if true, belies the hope of the scientists?

1. There is a wide gap between scientific knowledge and clinical translation for safe and effective stem cell-based therapies.
2. The only patient who had received autologous treatment suffered tissue damage and died from an infection.
3. Autologous treatment was found to have led to the development of blood vessel and bone marrow masses at the place of injection.
4. The scientists hope is based on premature enthusiasm and protocols that are not fully vetted.*
5. None of the above.

*vet (v)—to appraise, verify, or check for accuracy, authenticity, validity, etc.: *An expert vetted the manuscript before publication.*

Question 18

Professor Capecchi, Nobel Prize-winning scientist says it could be tougher than first thought

to harness the healing power of stem cells in medicine. It had been hoped a single “master” cell could potentially be used to repair all damage in a single organ. Professor Mario Capecchi, from the University of Utah, said that stem cell biology could be “more complicated” than previously thought, which could be bad news for patients hoping for the swift arrival of new stem cell therapies.

Which of the following, if true, helps best to strengthen the claim of the scientist?

1. Unlike the majority of cells in the body, stem cells have special qualities.
2. Stem cells not only reproduce themselves, but can produce a wide variety of the cells.
3. It was believed that a uniform stem cell population was contained in each organ.
4. Different stem cells are thought to be working together in the same organ.
5. Embryonic stem cell research is mired in controversy.

Question 19

The brain naturally distorts body image—a finding which could explain eating disorders like anorexia, say experts. People tend to think that their hands are wider and their fingers are shorter than they truly are. The confusion may lie in the way the brain receives information from different parts of the body. Distorted perception may dominate in some people, leading to body image problems. This may be relevant to psychiatric conditions involving body image such as anorexia nervosa, as there may be a general bias towards perceiving the body to be wider than it is.

Which if the following most seriously weakens the above argument?

1. Dangerously underweight people generally desire to put on more weight.
2. People tend to judge their hands leaner and legs fatter than they actually are.
3. People have an accurate knowledge of where all parts of the body are in space even when the eyes are closed.
4. People generally have a conscious and clear visual image of their body parts.
5. Dangerously overweight people sometimes desire to put on more weight.

Question 20

Euro MPs have backed plans for more uniform food labelling in the EU, but they rejected “traffic light” color coding of foods. MEPs opted for Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs), instead of red warning labels for foods seen as unhealthy because they are high in fat, sugar or salt. Some food producers lobbied intensively against color coding, fearing it would demonize their products. The MEPs’ vote could lead to new food labels in three to five years’ time. “Traffic light” coding is already used by some supermarkets and the idea is backed by the European Consumers’ Organization BEUC.

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

1. Shoppers find the system of labeling of foods called “traffic light” colour coding useful.
2. MEPs rejection of the ‘traffic light’ colour coding of foods was to favour the food producers lobby.
3. The rejection of “traffic lights” colour coding of foods makes it clear that MEPs won’t stand for people being misled by food packaging.

4. The new food labels will have key nutritional information about salt, fat and sugar content and GDAs.
5. More amendments are likely to the legislation on food labelling.

Question 21

People with plenty of a B-vitamin in their blood appear to be at a reduced risk of lung cancer, even if they smoke, a European study suggests. High levels of Vitamin B6 and the amino acid methionine cut the risk by half, a study of 400,000 people suggested. These occur naturally in nuts, fish and meat or can be taken as supplements.

Findings of the above study may still be premature if which of the following possibilities is true?

1. Many of the 400,000 people studied might have quit smoking and used vitamin supplements in order to avoid cancer.
2. A healthy diet in itself might reduce the risk of cancer, and lead to higher Vitamin B and methionine levels.
3. The study might not have ascertained how many of the 400,000 people smoked, and how many did not.
4. Higher vitamin levels could simply reflect healthier lifestyles.
5. None of the above.

Question 22

The genetics underpinning a smoker's risk of developing lung cancer have been further unpicked by UK scientists. In one area of DNA, on chromosome 15, they pinpointed two independent sites that have a role in whether or not a smoker develops lung cancer. Current or former smokers who carry one copy of each of these genetic variants increase their risk of lung cancer by 28%. That increases to 80% in smokers who carry two copies.

Which of the following has to be true if the risks cited above are to be true?

1. Apart from chromosome 15, chromosomes 5 and 6 were also linked to lung cancer.
2. Those who had the genetic variants in chromosome 15, and were smokers developed different type of cancer.
3. Those who had the genetic changes but did not smoke had no increased risk of lung cancer.
4. Those who had quit smoking did not show an increased risk of lung cancer.
5. Those who did not carry the genetic variants in chromosome 15 did not develop cancer.

Question 23

Drinking several cups of tea or coffee a day appears to protect against heart disease, a 13-year-long study from the Netherlands has found. It adds to a growing body of evidence suggesting health benefits from the most popular hot drinks. Those who drank more than six cups of tea a day cut their risk of heart disease by a third, the study of 40,000 people found. Consuming between two to four coffees a day was also linked to a reduced risk.

Which of the following, if true, best strengthens the argument that tea and coffee protect against heart disease?

1. Tea and coffee were found to decrease the risk of heart disease in smokers.

2. Majority of the deaths attributed to heart disease were found to be of coffee and tea drinkers.
3. Abstainers, who had a healthy life style, were found to have far lower risk of heart disease than tea and coffee drinkers.
4. Abstainers were more likely to die of heart disease than those who drank more than six cups of tea and two to four coffees a day.
5. Those who drank more than six cups of tea and two to four coffees a day ran the same risk of heart disease as were abstainers.

Question 24

A green tea extract may help patients with a form of leukemia, a study says. The tea, discovered in China nearly 5,000 years ago, has long been thought to have health benefits. But the team from the Mayo Clinic in the US found it appeared to improve the condition of four patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Experts said the Leukemia Research journal study was interesting but more research was needed. CLL is a blood and bone marrow cancer which affects white blood cells and is the commonest type of leukemia with over 3,000 new cases—mainly in the over 60s—diagnosed each year in the UK. There is no known cure for CLL.

The experts' further research should be in the direction of

1. Whether chemotherapy that is the only treatment administered for CLL can be replaced with green tea extract.
2. To prove the findings on a larger scale and whether there were any side effects.
3. Carrying out a large scale, controlled trial to see if the findings hold true.
4. Whether green tea extract can be beneficial in treating other diseases like heart disease, HIV, cancer, and arthritis.
5. To ascertain why Chinese had used green tea for 5000 years.

Question 25

British Petroleum is going to great lengths to salvage its image — buying every possible term in the vicinity of 'oil spill' from search engine providers and spending millions on advertising to bolster its image after the crisis of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But the green consumer is not buying. As environmental concerns mount, the green consumer wants companies to be more responsible. According to The Green Brands study, conducted by WPP companies, Cohn & Wolfe, Landor Associates and Penn, Schoen & Berland, although economic concerns strongly prevail in most countries, consumer worry for the environment is intensifying.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above?

1. There is a fundamental shift in consumer behaviour towards green products.
2. A company that associates with an environment protection organization is likely to succeed.
3. A company that introduces a green product in the market place is likely to succeed.
4. Consumers are becoming more concerned about the environment than the economy.
5. Not only must companies have their green credentials straight but the way ahead is through innovation.

Question 26

President Barack Obama remains popular in most parts of the world, although his job approval rating in the US has declined sharply since he first took office.

Which of the following helps explain the above seeming paradox?

1. Barack Obama's performance as a president has made him unpopular in the US.
2. Barack Obama's foreign policy has been widely criticized in the US.
3. Barack Obama's domestic policies in dealing with the internal recession has been widely acclaimed by people in most parts of the world.
4. Barack Obama's popularity outside the US is largely affected by his negative image in the Muslim countries.
5. Barack Obama's foreign policy is perceived to be far better than his domestic policy.

Question 27

The year 2010 is turning out to be the warmest ever in recorded history, with the first four months reporting an average temperature of 13.3 degrees Celsius which is 0.69 degrees above the 20th century average. The combined global land and ocean surface temperatures for the period between January and April were the warmest on record, and April was the warmest individual month ever with 14.5 degrees Celsius, America's climate agency has said in its latest report.

Which of the following must be true if the above has to be true?

1. The 20th century average for ocean surface temperature is 16.4 and the average for global land temperature is 8.82 degrees Celsius.
2. The combined April global land and ocean average surface temperature was 13.5 degrees Celsius.
3. The 20th century average for ocean surface temperature is 16 and the average for global land temperature is 8 degrees Celsius.
4. The combined April global land and ocean average surface temperature was 1.2 degrees above the 20th century average for April.
5. The global land temperature for January–April at 13.3 C is 1.80 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average.

Question 28

Fertility clinics in India are booming. The services on offer have been referred to as the country's 'rent-a-womb' industry. The number of foreigners going to India for fertility treatments, especially surrogacy, has dramatically increased in recent years. At present there are no laws governing industry practices and while a new bill has been presented to the government, there are growing fears about the commercialization of surrogacy in India.

Which of the following is the most likely fallout of the above?

1. Laws governing the 'surrogacy industry' in India will be made stricter.
2. 'Surrogacy industry' in India is likely to be greatly commercialized.
3. India's 'surrogacy industry' faces regulation.
4. The Indian government is likely to close down the 'rent-a-womb' industry.
5. Foreigners are likely to visit other developing nations for fertility treatments and surrogacy.

Question 29

With more than a billion mouths to feed, there is a fierce debate in India about whether to introduce genetically modified food crops. Scientists say they are crucial to tackling food shortages, but farmers and others are divided over the benefits. Doubts have been raised by the experience of growing genetically modified cotton in India, which has been blamed by activists for the suicides of thousands of farmers in the poorest parts of the country.

The details above raise which of the following questions?

1. Will the Indian government be able to feed the more than one billion mouths?
2. Can the uneducated Indian farmer understand the genetically modified food crops?
3. Will genetically modified food crops go follow the fate of genetically modified cotton?
4. Can genetically modified food crops be the answer to farmer suicides in India?
5. Are genetically modified food crops the answer to India's food shortages?

Question 30

A new research looking back to the Miocene period, which began a little over 20 million years ago found that at the start of the period, carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere stood at about 400 parts per million (ppm) with sea levels 25-40 m (80-130 ft) higher than today, before beginning to decline about 14 million years ago—a trend that eventually led to formation of the Antarctic icecap and perennial sea ice cover in the Arctic. In the intervening millennia, CO₂ concentrations have been much lower; in the last few million years they cycled between 180ppm and 280ppm in rhythm with the sequence of ice ages and warmer interglacial periods. Therefore, the current political targets on climate may be “playing with fire”.

Which of the following makes the current political targets on climate “playing with fire”?

1. Humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases are pushing towards the 400ppm, which will very likely be reached within a decade.
2. The CO₂ level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system currently receiving a lot of political support is 450 ppm.
3. Humanity does not know where the critical CO₂ or temperature threshold is beyond which ice sheet of the poles collapse becomes inevitable.
4. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) work on ancient climates for the organization's report in 2007, provides an accurate look at how past CO₂ values relate to climate.
5. Efforts to stabilize at 450ppm should avoid going up above that level. Any 'overshoot' above 450ppm could be playing with fire.

Question 31

In a bad mood? Don't worry—according to research, it's good for you. An Australian psychology expert who has been studying emotions has found being grumpy makes us think more clearly. In contrast to those annoying happy types, miserable people are better at decision-making and less gullible, his experiments showed. While cheerfulness fosters

creativity, gloominess breeds attentiveness and careful thinking, Professor Joe Forgas told Australian Science Magazine.

Which of the following, if true, strengthens the argument of Joe Forgas?

1. Being grumpy raises the blood pressure of people and they usually have to relax before making decisions.
2. Anybody who wanders through life in a continuous state of bonhomie either has no idea what's going on around them or simply doesn't care.
3. A person who is cheerful and happy is generally not easily taken advantage of by others.
4. Schopenhauer, the Great Grump, has had a profound influence in the realm of all those cheerful, creative artists, beyond philosophy.

Question 32

Will military power become less important in the coming decades? It is true that the number of large-scale inter-state wars continues to decline, and fighting is unlikely among advanced democracies and on many issues. But, as Barack Obama said in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009, "we must begin by acknowledging the hard truth that we will not eradicate violent conflict in our lifetimes. There will be times when nations—acting individually or in concert—will find the use of force not only necessary but morally justified."

Which of the following provides best supporting evidence for Barack Obama's view that "nations will find the use of force not only necessary but morally justified"?

1. Napoleon famously said that "God is on the side of the big battalions," and Mao Zedong argued that power comes from the barrel of a gun.
2. In today's world, military power is also used to provide protection for allies and assistance to friends.
3. Of 226 significant armed conflicts between 1945 and 2002, less than half in the 1950's were fought between states and armed groups.
4. In the twenty-first century, most "wars" occur within, rather than between states, and many combatants do not wear uniforms.

Question 33

On 20 April 2010, an explosion on Deepwater Horizon, a British Petroleum (BP)-operated oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, led to the most publicized oil spill in decades. Another blowout in the same waters 31 years ago, farther south on the Mexican side of the Gulf, turned into the largest peacetime oil spill ever. The platform where that accident happened, called Ixtoc 1, was operated by Pemex, the state-owned Mexican oil company. In both cases, efforts were made to burn off the oil from the ocean's surface.

Which of the following, if true, must have led to the failure of the efforts to burn off the oil?

1. The properties of the oil emulsion spilling over from an oil rig differ from normal crude oil.
2. Some part of the spilled oil will float on the surface, but parts will also form plumes at different depths in the water mass.
3. Oil on water doesn't burn well, and the emulsified oil from a blowout hardly burns at all.

4. Standard aerial or satellite imaging techniques to measure the quantity of oil spilled do not work well.

Question 34

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is fascinating. So is the 19-page annual letter that describes the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest philanthropy. But for someone as smart as Gates, who can afford to hire experts on any subject under the sun, some of his foundation's strategies are baffling. Consider his foundation's approach to malaria, which focuses on bed nets, a low-tech, only modestly effective intervention, and on the development of a vaccine, a high-tech solution that has eluded intensive efforts for decades.

The writer's argument is based on which of the following assumptions?

1. In combination with other anti-malarials, artemisinins have been used effectively for several years to treat multiple-drug-resistant malaria.
2. Elimination of the mosquitoes that spread the disease is the key to preventing malaria.
3. DDT is an inexpensive and effective pesticide once widely deployed to kill disease-carrying insects.
4. There are cheaper, low tech and effective solutions to control the vector carrying malaria.

Question 35

In June 2009, the United Nations' World Health Organization, responding to an outbreak of the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, boosted the pandemic alert to the highest level, Phase 6, meaning that a pandemic was under way—the first time in 41 years that the organization had taken that declared step. But the outbreak appears to have ended less like the rogue wild boar that WHO bureaucrats predicted and more like roasted pork tenderloin with apples and sage, in other words the appearance of the H1N1 flu during the past nine months might be thought of as a net public-health benefit.

Which of the following can advanced in support of the argument?

1. The official death toll worldwide from H1N1 is under 14,000, while seasonal flu killed about 36,000 on in the United States and hundreds of thousands elsewhere.
2. H1N1 appears to have suppressed, or at least supplanted, the far more virulent and lethal seasonal flu strains.
3. During this period only 3.7% of Americans tested positive for the seasonal flu, compared to 11.5% during the same period in 2008.
4. The publicity and resulting panic surrounding the WHO's announcement brought out fraudsters peddling all sorts of ineffective and possibly dangerous protective gear and nostrums.

Question 36

Imagine a race of intelligent fish that start to think deeply about the world. For millennia, their ancestors took their watery environment for granted; to them, it was "emptiness" as empty as they could conceive. But, after studying some mechanics and using their imaginations, the physicist-fish realize that they could deduce much simpler laws of motion by supposing that they are surrounded by a medium (water!) that complicates the appearance of things.

Which of the following is the writer's assumption in the above?

1. What we ordinarily perceive as empty space is actually a medium.
2. The universe contains a form of matter, the so-called dark matter.
3. The medium influences phenomena.
4. Statements 1 and 3.

Question 37

The scientists whose research has revealed the extent of global climate change are now getting the tabloid treatment. First came the scandal of leaked (actually hacked) e-mails at the climate institute of Britain's East Anglia University. Now comes the supposed news that the Himalayan glaciers are not, in fact, retreating, and will therefore not disappear by 2035. Coming one after the other, these inflated scandals have, at least for now, dealt a massive blow to the credibility of the evidence that underpins the battle against global warming.

Which of the following most supports the argument above?

1. Syed Iqbal Hasnain, who is currently conducting a study of the accumulation of black carbon on snow at high altitudes in the Himalayas and the retreat of glaciers, has tremendous experience in Himalayan Glaciology.
2. The reliability of the research of Nobel laureate R.K. Pachauri, an icon of the anti global-warming movement, has become suspect after financial motives were attributed to his research.
3. The retreat of the biggest and best-known glaciers, such as Gangotri and Siachen in the Himalayas practically come to a standstill during the period 2007-2009.
4. More research focused on the subject of the retreat of Himalayan glaciers is needed in order to answer the question definitively.

Question 38

"Free trade may increase economic prosperity, but it is bad for the working class."

Which of the following most seriously weakens this argument?

1. Trade with poor countries creates paupers in rich countries.
2. The costs for labor in poor countries are raised by imposing the same labor standards that exist in rich countries.
3. Free trade is a form of protectionism that seeks to reduce import competition.
4. Workers profit from lower prices for imported goods like clothing and electronics.

Question 39

US automakers were convinced during the years of Japan-bashing in the 1980s that Japan was closed and the US was open. But it was the US that had a quota of 2.2 million units for Japanese cars, while the Japanese market was open but difficult to penetrate. Even if other economies are closed, open economies still profit from their own free trade. There was skepticism about this long-standing wisdom when it was argued that, if Japan was closed and the US was open, Japanese firms would have two markets and American firms would have one. The former, it was claimed, would have lower unit costs than the latter.

Which of the following is the assumption underlying the skeptics' claim that Japanese firms "would have lower unit costs" than the American firms?

1. American firms would need protection to compete with the Japanese firms.
2. American products would not be accepted in Japanese markets.

3. Japanese firms would be efficient to cater to two markets.
4. Japanese firms would need protection to compete in two markets.

Question 40

US scientists have developed a way of predicting how likely a person is to live beyond the age of 100. The breakthrough is based on 150 genetic “signposts” found in exceptionally long-lived people. The Boston team created a mathematical model, which takes information from these signposts to work out a person’s chance of reaching 100. It is based on the largest study of centenarians in the world. This is a rare trait—only one in 6,000 people in industrialized countries reaches such a ripe old age. The researchers now think they have cracked the genetic secret of this longevity. The team originally embarked on their study in 1995. Since then, they have scanned the genomes of 1,000 centenarians.

The credibility of the research would be most strengthened if which of the following is also told to the reader?

1. Genetics are playing an increasingly important role for people to live the additional 10-15 years beyond the age of 88,
2. The 150 genetic “signposts” were also linked to a lack of genetic predisposition to disease.
3. The 150 genetic “signposts” were found in very few randomly selected young individuals.
4. The research also included a number of randomly selected non-centenarians.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 2. The view that you have to weaken is: British children are protected through the existence of herd immunity ... so even people who are not vaccinated are also protected. To weaken this argument, we need to say that they are not protected—or bring in some fact that will show that they are not protected. Option 1—if the disease is non-existent because of herd immunity option 1 does not weaken the argument. Option 2 weakens because it implies that herd immunity is not going to last—then the threat is serious. Option 3 may by implication strengthen their argument. Options 4 and 5 are not applicable to UK physicians’ argument.

Question 2. Answer Option 1. Options 2 is incorrect as even normal people’s blood pressure rises when doctors check it—the last sentence of the paragraph. Option 3 is incorrect in ‘not beneficial’—too broad a generalization. Option 4 is not correct because the setting (hospital/surgery) is not supported by the data. Option 5 is not as well supported as option 1 is—the last sentence states even in people with close to normal blood pressure, there was a difference, though less. Hence ‘accurately’ cannot be inferred. Option 1 is well supported by the passage.

Question 3. Answer Option 5. Think of the trilemma as x, y and z. (globalization—x, democracy—y, and the nation-state—z)—what in effect the paragraph states is that the intersection of all three (xyz) is not possible. Only two can be together at one time—With variable x, y, and z; xyz is not possible. The possible are xy, xz, and yz. If yz, and xz are given in the paragraph (Democracy is compatible with national sovereignty only if we restrict

globalization. If we push for globalization while retaining the nation-state, we must jettison democracy), xy is option 5.

Question 4. Answer Option 3 The argument that needs to be supported here is ‘work/life balance plays a vital role in well-being—overtimes increase the risk of heart disease.’ Well-being is to be understood as being not susceptible to heart disease. All the options except 3 can be advanced to support this argument that they induce stress. Option 3 reverses the relationship, hence cannot be advanced in support of this argument.

Question 5. Answer Option 2. It is not possible to infer ‘necessary’ as stated in option 1—besides if voice can trigger oxytocin inference 1 is false. Option 2 can be inferred from the last sentence read in conjunction with the other ideas in the passage, “produced virtually the same amount of the stress-quelling hormone oxytocin as physical comfort—a hug.” Option 3 is eliminated because of ‘strongly’—that inference is not possible. Option 4 is also data inadequate.

Question 6. Answer Option 4. The conclusion that we have to weaken is ‘either too much or too little sleep (6-8 hours being ideal) leads to early death. We can weaken this by saying the cause of death was something else not related to sleep. Option 4 establishes that lack of or too much sleep and death were due to illnesses and not due to sleep itself.

Question 7. Answer Option 4. The writer does not assume drug addiction is not a crime—he may agree that it is a crime committed under illness (option 1). The writer does not assume that the reasons are different—he cites certain reasons. Option 3 may be factually correct but is not the assumption required to make this argument true. Option 4 has to be true if the argument has to be true since the writer is asking to differentiate between crime and drug addiction.

Question 8. Answer Option 5. Option 2 comes very close, but ‘no known motives’ cannot be concluded only because the writer eliminates certain ‘known motives.’ Though option 5 seems to have the problem of ‘other massacres’, on closer examination it can be seen that when the writer states “the Nazis did not kill the Jews because they wanted their territory...etc.” it becomes implicit that massacres had taken place for this reason—hence ‘other massacres’ can be accommodated in the conclusion. Hence option 5 is the best conclusion.

Question 9. Answer Option 3. The argument we need to strengthen here is: digital information almost never goes away This fact is one of the biggest challenges that society will face... From this point of view, analyse the options to identify which option strengthens this. If we are confronted by outdated data (even today) and taken out of context (implying it is more of a nuisance than necessary or useful), it completely supports the conclusion it is going to be a challenge in the future. None of the other options addresses this argument.

Question 10. Answer Option 2. If in spite of the risk of cancer, researchers are asking people not to discontinue the medicine they realize the benefits of ARBs. Even though the other options may be assumptions but do not act as sufficient condition to conclude ARBs should not be discontinued.

Question 11. Answer Option 3. The doubling or tripling of the cocaine consumption in some European countries, the smuggling of cocaine through West Africa—150 tonnes a year, the raid equal to 1 billion USD, 36% of the cocaine carriers ... from West Africa—are enough

to conclude that Europe's habit is creating a problem of West Africa. There is not enough data to infer any other option.

Question 12. Answer Option 1. Since Man-power is "a global employment-services company," and 30 out of 36 countries are "bullish" about hiring—option 1 can be safely inferred from the passage. The other options are either data inadequate (option 2 and 3) or contrary to the paragraph (option 4)

Question 13. Answer Option 3. The argument that we have to weaken is deeper cuts in emissions will bring deeper recessions because energy consumption/emissions are directly related to growth rates. If we break this link between growth and emissions the argument falls. Option 3 does this by stating that green technologies have been made viable instead of fossil fuels—or the cause of emissions. All the other options support the argument that reducing emissions will reduce growth. Option 4 does not address the economic part of the argument hence cannot weaken it.

Question 14. Answer Option 1. The argument that we have to strengthen is "studies show that it (temperature) might not rise again in the immediate future." Option 1 states that owing to recession emissions have reduced and the living standards (causes of emissions) have reduced, hence it is likely that temperature will not rise at least until living standards improve. "Might" in the conclusion of the argument accommodates option 1 as a factor that "might" strengthen the conclusion. The other options refer to merely sea level rise (though relevant to the paragraph) and are not relevant to the conclusion that we have to strengthen.

Question 15. Answer Option 3. The argument to be strengthened is: ... but using bio-fuels to combat climate change must rate as one of the poorest global "solutions" to any great challenge in recent times. The challenge in this argument is reducing CO₂ emissions. The option that relates to both these aspects of the argument will strengthen it best. Option 3 does just that. Option 1 may also strengthen the argument, but it does not address the CO₂ emission aspect. Option 2 and 4 do not address the issue. Option 5 may weaken the argument.

Question 16. Answer Option 2. "crisis the world is facing today—and is likely to continue to face for years—is a result of the excesses of the deregulation." The background to this is the introduction of financial regulations in the America and Europe. Hence it can be concluded that the writer believes that government interference is necessary—as free markets are neither efficient nor stable. Option 2 states just this as the conclusion.

Question 17. Answer Option 2. We need to find an instance where the hope of the scientists needs to be weakened. The proof of the only patient who received the treatment suffering tissue damage (the injection of stem cells is for the purpose of tissue building) must necessarily dampen the confidence/hope of the scientists—simply, the treatment has produced opposite results—evidence against. In fact, all the options help to belie the hope. Since only one option scores we are required to rank them. Option 1 is general. Option 3 needs explanation about blood vessel and bone marrow—we cannot make sense of it. Option 4 is also general. Hence option 1 scores.

Question 18. Answer Option 4. The argument that we have to strengthen is the contrary

view held by the Nobel Prize winner to the earlier view that ‘It had been hoped a single “master” cell could potentially be used to repair all damage in a single organ. Professor Mario Capecchi, from the University of Utah, said that stem cell biology could be “more complicated.”’ Reinforcing Mario Capecchi’s view, option 4 attacks the ‘single master’ hypothesis. Option 3 strengthens the ‘single master’ theory. Other options are irrelevant to this argument.

Question 19. Answer Option 1. The only option where people seems to have an accurate body image is when people who are thin want to put on weight. Hence option 1 weakens the argument. Option 2 and option 5 prove that they have distorted image. Options 3 and 4 are not related to space and visual image (shape) and not related to size. Hence option 1 is the answer.

Question 20. Answer Option 1. Option 2 is a possibility and not a valid conclusion. Option 3, in effect, is the opposite of option 2, also not a valid conclusion. Similarly, options 4 and 5 also cannot be concluded. The part about supermarkets already using the ‘traffic lights’ system and the backing it enjoys from the consumers point to the fact that consumers find the system useful, hence option 1.

Question 21. Answer Option 2. Option 4 is incorrect as it does not link the healthier lifestyles to reduced risk. Option 1 would strengthen the findings. Option 3 is relevant only to smoking and its relation to cancer. Option 2 points to another reason for the reduced risk as well as relates it to higher vitamin levels. Hence the finding of the study becomes suspect.

Question 22. Answer Option 3. First, understand the argument: In one area of chromosome 15, two sites were linked to increased risk of cancer among smokers. Presence of 1 copy increased the risk by 28% and presence of two copies increased the risk by 80%. That is, a smoker runs increased risk with the presence of these sites in the DNA (chromosome 15). To clearly link the increased risk to smoking, it must be true that non-smokers, though they carried the variants, did not have an increased risk. Option 3 states this and hence is the answer. Analyse the other options from the above point of view. They will not serve as additional premise to prove establish the link between smoking and the increased risk in people who had these variants.

Question 23. Answer Option 4. The answer is almost stated in the paragraph, but the comparison between the abstainers and tea-coffee drinkers as the option does—the paragraph does not mention abstainers. This makes option 4 not a repetition. Since smokers already run a higher risk, option 1 only reduces that risk, hence not the answer. Option 2 may weaken the argument. Option 3 does not strengthen the benefits of coffee, tea. Option 5 implies that coffee and tea have no effect on the risk.

Question 24. Answer Option 2. This is a very easy question. The research has to be in the same direction as the preliminary findings, unless it throws up possibilities of far greater importance than were expected. Option 3 refers to the preliminary findings themselves; also option 3 is a part of option 2 as well. Option 2 is better.

Question 25. Answer Option 4. “although economic concerns strongly prevail in most countries, consumer worry for the environment is intensifying,” justifies ‘concerned about the environment.’ One may object to ‘more ... than the economy.’ However, the first part

states that all efforts by British Petroleum to save its image have failed. “But the green consumer is not buying”—or not convinced about their intentions—justifies that they are concerned about the environment ‘more than the economy’.

Question 26. Answer Option 5. Barack Obama is less popular in the US and more popular outside the US will be explained by the reason in option 4 that his foreign policy is better than the domestic policy. Option 1 is eliminated because the argument is not about ‘unpopularity.’ Option 3 does not account for the decline in US popularity.

Question 27. Answer Option 1. Simple arithmetic $16.4 + 8.82/2$ works out to be 0.69. None of the other options are consistent with what is stated in the paragraph.

Question 28. Answer Option 3. “a new bill has been presented to the government,” clearly leads to option 3 in the light of the other details in the paragraph. Since there are no laws in India option 1 is incorrect. Option 2 is likely to be prevented by the government. Option 4 is unlikely. Option 5 is data inadequate.

Question 29. Answer Option 5. ‘fierce debate,’ ‘farmers vs scientists,’ and ‘activist resistance’ etc., mentioned in the passage undermines the hope of ‘with more than a billion mouths to feed, ... whether to introduce genetically modified food crops,’ becomes a big question mark in India. Hence option 5 sums up this question. Other options deal with specific areas of the passage.

Question 30. Answer Option 2. At 400 ppm of CO₂, the sea levels were 25-40 m higher than today. There was no ice in the poles. Hence the current political target of 450 ppm is unwise as the ice in the poles may melt and sea levels may rise 25-40 m higher at this target. Hence option 2. The other options are merely distracters without substance. Option 1 does not mention the political targets.

Question 31. Answer Option 2. Option 1 would weaken the argument. Option 3 also would weaken the argument. Option 4, since it refers to creativity and not clarity can be used to contradict the argument and not to strengthen it.

Question 32. Answer option 4. The argument is that though armed conflict between nations are highly unlikely the army and the use of force will still be relevant and even morally justified—the last part being Obama’s views. We need to find evidence for this. Option 4 provides that evidence—in option 4 there is no war between nations, but the enemy is within, even without a uniform (example: terrorists). Option 3 will weaken the argument—as more than half were between nations. Options 1 and 2 may support the argument in a philosophical way, but do not provide the evidence we are looking for.

Question 33. Answer Option 3. Option 1 may be considered, but it does not establish why the efforts to burn will fail, e.g., if the properties were highly flammable then the efforts may succeed.

Question 34. Answer Option 4. The writer finds two things baffling: the less effective mosquito nets (assumption is that there are more effective solutions); next, the high tech solutions—assumption is that there are low tech solutions. Option 4 states both these assumptions. Options 1 and 3 are similar. Option 2 is not the assumption.

Question 35. Answer Option 2. The argument that has to be strengthened/supported is: the appearance of the H1N1 flu during the past nine months might be thought of as a net public-

health benefit. Option 2 does this by stating that it suppressed the more deadly seasonal flu. Option 1 may weaken the UN's position but does not help strengthen the writer's position that it was beneficial. Option 3 does not relate the statistics to H1N1.

Question 36. Answer Option 4. The very comparison with fish in water is to suggest that space is not empty as we imagine. '... that complicates the appearance of things' indicate that the medium influences the phenomena. Hence 1 and 3 are assumptions.

Question 37. Answer Option 2. There are two aspects to the argument. 1. "The scientists whose research has revealed the extent of global climate change are now getting the tabloid treatment." 2. "... these inflated scandals have, at least for now, dealt a massive blow to the credibility of the evidence that underpins the battle against global warming." Option 2 is an example for both. 'Financial motives are attributed to his research' supports the tabloid treatment. "Massive blow to credibility" is supported by "reliability has become suspect". Option 2 fully answers the question. Other options do not do this.

Question 38. Answer Option 4. In order to weaken the argument, one needs to attack the argument that "Free trade ... is bad for the working class," in spite of the economic prosperity. Option 4 attacks this argument by stating that workers gain because of imported goods (implicitly free trade). On analysis, the other options will strengthen the argument.

Question 39. Answer Option 3. A very simple assumption: If everything else is assumed to be constant Japan will have to produce more to meet the demands of two markets—only then will the unit costs be lower.

Question 40. Answer Option 3. If the reader is told that the 'signposts' were found in very few randomly selected young people, it means only these few are likely to live beyond hundred, since only the centenarians had these signposts. Option 4 does not give us how the non centenarians are different or similar to the centenarians with 150 signposts—hence less effective. Option 1 is already told to the reader, hence does not strengthen the research. Option 2 does strengthen the research—but not to the extent option 3 does. Option 3 scores over 2.

4

Fact, Inference, Judgment

Directions: Each question has a set of four/five sequentially ordered statements. Each statement can be classified as one of the following:

- Facts, which deal with pieces of information that one has heard, seen or read, and which are open to discovery or verification (the answer option indicates such a statement with an 'F')
- Inferences, which are conclusions drawn about the unknown, on the basis of the known (the answer option indicates such a statement with an 'I').
- Judgments, which are opinions that imply approval or disapproval or persons, objects, situations and occurrences in the past, the present or the future (the answer option indicates such a statement with a 'J').

Select the answer option that best describes the set of four statements.

1. We should not be hopelessly addicted to an erroneous belief that corruption in India is caused by the crookedness of Indians.
2. The truth is that we have more red tape—we take eighty-nine days to start a small business, Australians take two.
3. Red tape leads to corruption and distorts a people's character,
4. Every red tape procedure is a point of contact with an official, and such contacts have the potential to become opportunities for money to change hands.

(1) JFIF (2) JFJJ (3) JIJF (4) IFJF (5) JFJI

Answer option 5.

HOW TO SOLVE

These questions are easy if you are clear about what *facts, inferences and judgments* are. Second, any confusion that may arise can be, more often than not, resolved by using the options. In the above question, the options tell you that the first statement is either a judgment or an inference. For the same reason the answer choices may also create confusion at times. Hence, it is necessary to be very clear about the characteristics of each type of statement.

FACTS—as the instructions state these are direct experiences of someone. In that case, they are open to discovery or verification—in the sense a fact does not have to be your own direct experience, but can be someone else's; and if you were there at that time you would

experience the same—in that sense a fact is “*experience-able*.” For example: the statement that “my house has four rooms” is a fact for me because I experience it every day, and it is a fact for all else too because they can ‘discover or verify’ or experience it at any time they come to my house. Universal truths are to be considered facts; existing reality and something known to be true are also facts: e.g., ‘the earth is round’ or ‘water is necessary for life’ is a fact rather than an inference.

INFERENCES—as the instructions state these are conclusions (unknown) based on the known (facts). Logical deduction based on facts is an inference. Simply, inferences are observations made on the basis of direct experience. For example, your past academic record (mark sheets), your achievements in extracurricular activities (certificates) are facts; based on these facts if I conclude that “you are clever”, it is an inference. In other words, the inferences are based on direct experiences and will be accepted by a majority of people—if the facts are shown to them. Hence, to identify an inference, ask if facts *can be made available* to prove “clever” or such ideas. If facts can be made available, it is an inference—inference is not subjective or personal; most people will agree with it.

JUDGMENTS—as the instructions state they are opinions that imply approval or disapproval. In other words, judgments are also based on direct experience but the reaction to that experience is quite personal or subjective. It is not necessary that others (most people) have to agree to it. For example, after looking at your academic and other records (facts) if my observation is ‘you are wonderful’, it becomes my personal evaluation rather than objective. Such subjectivity in the observation makes it a judgment.

When long sentences are given to you, make sure that you have identified the part of the sentence that controls its label (F, I, or J). For example, ‘he is six feet tall, dark and handsome’ is controlled by the idea ‘handsome’ and the sentence gets that label. Next, work around the answer choices (options) in which at least one statement that you are completely sure of.

Evaluate each statement independently and not in relation to the preceding or following ones (even though they form a paragraph)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question 1

- A. Most of us watching the news are probably up-to-date on the Swine Flu outbreak.
 - B. The Media, bloggers and others are generating awareness . . . and a lot of buzz.
 - C. I was reflecting on what this means to us in the Business of Globalization.
 - D. Such epidemics are certainly a cause for concern.
1. JFFJ 2. JIIF 3. IJFF 4. FIJJ 5. JIJI

Question 2

- A. The book is self-centred and occasionally overly precious, but I loved it anyway.
- B. The American and Russian sections are wonderful.
- C. Batuman can be an incredibly funny writer as well as a very moving one, and when she writes about things she knows and loves she’s a joy to read.

- D. The Samarkand sections though, despite being set in Samarkand, do not work for me.

1. FJJI 2. IFFJ 3. JIFF 4. JJFF 5. JJJJ

Question 3

- A. Our primary energy sources in nature are all exhaustible and they profit only a few people.
 B. The current mass production-ready alternatives promoted are wind and solar which are not efficient and again profit only a few people.
 C. If we continue this way there will come a point in the not too distant future where it'll all be over.
 D. The planet will degenerate and because of our greed, humans, along with many other species, will be over..

1. FJJI 2. IFFJ 3. IIJJ 4. JIFF 5. JJJJ

Question 4

- A. *Jack of All, Master of None*—this is a concept we have heard throughout our childhood.
 B. We have been brought up in a system that teaches us to harness a skill, as they put it, to make a career, or in other words to contribute once more to this system.
 C. The *Jack of all Master of none*, does not exist just in your hometown or country.
 D. According to the wiki page on this quote, the Chinese have it as “All trades known, all trades dull,” the Argentineans, “Who embraces too much, has a weak grasp,” the Spanish, “An ocean of knowledge of an inch deep.”

1. FIJJ 2. IIJJ 3. IJFF 4. JIFF 5. FFIF

Question 5

- A. The Orissa government is not alone in this criminal negligence to ensure that rules and regulations are followed.
 B. A number of government agencies have estimated that there are about 15,000 illegal mines spread across the country as against 8,700 legal mines.
 C. In several parts of the country, the boundaries between legal and illegal mining merge seamlessly.
 D. In such situations, an individual or a corporate entity engages both in legal mining with approvals and licences, and in illegal mining, more often than not with political and bureaucratic patronage.

1. JIFJ 2. IFJI 3. IFJJ 4. JFJI 5. FIJF

Question 6

- A. There are certain cognitive and emotional disorders that are caused by inherited defects.
 B. A class of such disorders is known as fragile X syndrome (FXS), which includes a range of physical and cognitive disabilities as well as emotional and behavioural features many of which have an overlap with autism or have autism-like characteristics.
 C. FXS is said to be the most common cause of inherited mental retardation.

- D. This is an X chromosome-linked disorder and hence affects males more severely than females because the second normal X chromosome present in females lessens the effect of the chromosome with the disorder.

1. FFFF 2. FFII 3. IIFF 4. FIFI 5. IFIF

Question 7

- A. After being off the radar of public attention for long, the mining industry in India is now in focus.
- B. For example, the controversies surrounding the Posco and Vedanta projects in Orissa, involving the acquisition of large tracts of land for mining purposes, have drawn attention to the damage that could result to livelihoods and the ecology from mining.
- C. More recently, in distant Karnataka allegations of collusion between mining interests and politicians in power, leading to large and not always legitimate profits garnered at the expense of the local people and the state exchequer, have led to the resignation of the State's ombudsman.
- D. The mining sector is increasingly seen as one in which the worst features of capitalism as a profit machine combine with illegality and corruption to provide a site for primitive accumulation based on plunder and unequal exchange.

1. IFFJ 2. JIFJ 3. IJFF 4. FIFJ 5. FFIJ

Question 8

- A. Once known as Vikrama Simhapuri, the Nellore district got its name from the Tamil word 'nell' meaning rice since paddy cultivation is the main occupation in the district.
- B. In 2008, it honoured its most famous son, the freedom fighter Potti Sriramulu by giving his name to the district and calling it Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore.
- C. Right from the 6th century, the region had a prominent place in history with the Satavahanas, the Pallavas, the Cholas, the Kakatiyas, the Chodas, and the Vijayanagara kings ruling over it.
- D. Apart from agriculture, Nellore is now making rapid strides in the fields of industry, education, tourism, employment and science and technology.

1. FFJI 2. JJJJ 3. FFFI 4. IFFJ 5. JFFJ

Question 9

- A. Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organised conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe...
- B. These words of Frederick Douglass, a leading light of the Abolitionist movement, who fought to end slavery long before the American Civil War, are very relevant in today's global context.
- C. First, there are strong similarities between the world today and that of Douglass' time, when blacks were slaves in the US, and again, the era of apartheid in South Africa.
- D. Secondly, Douglass' statement about "neither persons nor property will be safe"

Question 14

- A. In 1987, Anthony Sattin published Florence Nightingale's letters from Egypt, written in her late 20s during the winter of 1849-50, before the Crimean war turned her into the Lady with the Lamp.
- B. Florence was simply a troublesome daughter who took an unseemly interest in hospitals and refused to marry.
- C. When old family friends, the Bracebridges, offered to take the girl to Egypt with them, her parents hoped a change would break the impasse.
- D. They misjudged.
1. FIFI 2. FJFJ 3. JIJI 4. FIJI 5. FIIF

Question 15

- A. The mobile phone is a medium that stays with one through the day.
- B. It's everything from an alarm clock and personal assistant to a communication tool and a gateway to the World Wide Web.
- C. The mobile phone has become an integral part of student life and its absence, even for a moment, is "weird".
- D. In fact, a large number of students consider mobile phones their bestfriend, particularly at times devoid of human company.
1. FFFF 2. FIJF 3. IIFJ 4. JFJF 5. IJFJ

Question 16

- A. Even for the world's largest advertiser, with an estimated \$9 bn in spends in 2009, acquiring some new lessons is critical.
- B. According to Pritchard, the world is heading towards Marketing 3.0 and that means marketing as a function needs to overhaul itself.
- C. We are not there yet, but we are moving towards an inflection point.
- D. We are shifting to purpose inspired brand building, a shift from marketing to serving, Pritchard states.
1. FJFJ 2. JFJF 3. IFJF 4. JIJF 5. IFJF

Question 17

- A. A global ad spend of over \$7 bn in 2009 makes Unilever the second largest advertiser in the world, after P&G.
- B. One of the immediate mandates for Weed is to bring a larger marketing focus at Unilever.
- C. And so far, Weed is pleased with the progress.
- D. We have good momentum now, says Weed.
1. IJIF 2. FJIF 3. JFIJ 4. JFJF 5. IFIF

Question 18

- A. Delays and endless deliberations in decision-making have actually helped the country buy latest telecom technology, and India is now leading the world in pursuing 4G and 5G networks.

- B. We debated for 10 years after mobile telephony was introduced across the world whether it was appropriate for the poor Indian.
 - C. When it came in, it could not grow for another 10 years owing to high tariffs and inappropriate regulation and could not reach the bottom of the pyramid.
 - D. We debated 3G also for 10 years, and now when it is coming in, it is challenged by a totally new technology.
1. JJJJ 2. JFJF 3. IJJJ 4. IIII 5. IFIF

Question 19

- A. Much has been written and spoken following the recent court judgment in the case related to the Bhopal gas tragedy.
 - B. For over a week, it was the flavour of the day on TV channels and in the print media.
 - C. Now that the media frenzy is over, the time may be appropriate to look at some of the more basic issues
 - D. These include corporate responsibility; the role of the business community; the governance system, at local, state and central level; and, finally, the judicial system.
1. IFJF 2. JFIJ 3. FIJF 4. FIJJ 5. JIJF

Question 20

- A. Leading B-schools are looking to overhaul the MBA syllabus.
 - B. Nitin Nohria, the newly-appointed dean of Harvard Business School (HBS), is said to believe that the way management is taught in B-schools contributed to the recent financial crisis.
 - C. Srikant Datar, another HBS professor, and two of his colleagues have authored a book, *Rethinking the MBA: Business education at a crossroads*, that echoes this theme.
 - D. It also laments the fact that MBA students are taking less and less interest in their classes and spending more time on networking and attending recruiting events.
1. JFFI 2. IFFI 3. IFFJ 4. IJJJ 5. JJJJ

Question 21

- A. Every year we go through the tough task of compiling various documents required for preparing and filing our tax returns.
 - B. Timely and meticulous planning on your part, however, can make this task easier for you.
 - C. After all, filing of tax return is compulsory for everyone whose gross total income exceeds the basic exemption limit.
 - D. For women below 65 years of age, the limit is Rs 1.90 lakh, for senior citizens it is Rs 2.40 and for any other individual it is Rs 1.60 lakh.
1. FJFF 2. IJFF 3. FFFF 4. IFIF 5. FFIJ

Question 22

- A. State-owned oil firms may opt to revise petrol prices every fortnight to reflect changes in the global oil market in the free pricing regime that kicks in from next week.

- B. Petrol prices were freed from government control last month resulting in a Rs 3.50 per litre hike in rates in Delhi.
 - C. Sources said Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum today began consultations on modalities like the frequency or interval at which prices will be revised.
 - D. Private firms Reliance Industries, Essar Oil and Royal Dutch/Shell too are being consulted in the exercise.
 - E. Sources said most retailers favour fortnightly revisions in retail rates to reflect changes in cost of raw material.
1. IFJFF 2. JFFFF 3. IFFJJ 4. IFFFF

Question 23

- A. It's a rather strange world.
 - B. Things are invented based on the principle that swathes of people want to reveal details about everything from their love life to what they are reading at the moment.
 - C. Or that they want to, virtually every hour, tell people what they are doing.
 - D. And it is assumed large amounts of people want to know all this.
 - E. Hence, the success of what a few oldies might consider odd things like Facebook or Twitter.
1. FIIFI 2. JIFFI 3. JIIFI 4. JFIFI

Question 24

- A. An amazing lack of socio-cultural sensitivity is provoking endless controversy and delaying much-needed investment in Kalahandi, one of our most backward—albeit mineral-rich—districts.
 - B. The proposal of Vedanta Aluminium to source bauxite ore for its alumina refinery at Lanjigarh, Kalahandi, cannot be faulted on technical grounds; the region has some of the world's best deposits.
 - C. But to insist that the mining site be on top of the Niyamgiri hills, considered sacred by the local Dongria Kondhs, seems to be the height of insensate policy.
 - D. After all, there are proven deposits of bauxite along large tracks in Orissa: including in Rayagada and Sundergarh districts; the Panchapatmali deposit in Koraput district is said to be the largest single deposit globally.
 - E. Neighbouring Kalahandi also has significant bauxite; however, to undertake intensive mining activity in Niyamgiri in the first place would alienate and deprive the tribals of a sacred space and cannot but harmfully affect the larger regional population.
1. JIJFI 2. FIJFI 3. JIJFI 4. IJJFI

Question 25

- A. Controversy is the middle name of Indian advertising.
- B. While the hoopla around rigging results at Goafest got buried in the sun n' sand at Cannes, another controversy has reared its head.
- C. Reckitt Benckiser asking media agencies to pay for participating in the pitch for their business has been a hot topic for discussion around water coolers, the internet and everywhere Indian ad folk converge.

- D. Reckitt Benckiser is allegedly demanding Rs 4 lakh from agencies who want to participate in the pitch besides a cut of 2.5% of the money made by agencies on buying media for their business.
- E. What has caught the attention of people at large though, is the credentials of the marketer behind the move.
1. IFJFI 2. JFIJF 3. JFIFI 4. IJIFI

Question 26

- A. India has been ranked second, ahead of the US and South Korea, in terms of manufacturing competence globally, a report by Deloitte has said.
- B. China, followed by India and South Korea has been ranked first, second and third respectively in the 2010 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index; a result of the collaboration between Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and the US Council on Competitiveness.
- C. In less than a decade, a new world order for manufacturing competitiveness has emerged along with a tectonic shift in regional manufacturing competence, the report said.
- D. The rise in the manufacturing competitiveness of three countries in particular, China, India, and the Republic of Korea (Korea), appears to parallel the rapidly growing and important Asian market, said the 56-page report.
- E. The report notes that China's ascent to the top of the list is not surprising, given its rising eminence in the manufacturing sector over the past ten years, particularly as a regional hub for foreign outsourced production, foreign direct investments, and joint ventures.
1. FFFFF 2. IFIFF 3. FFJIF 4. IFJFF

Question 27

- A. Inhaled anaesthetics widely used for surgery—particularly the anaesthetic desflurane—are a major contributor to global warming.
- B. Dr Susan M. Ryan of University of California and computer scientist Claus J. Nielsen of University of Oslo said that sevoflurane, isoflurane, and desflurane are recognized greenhouse gases.
- C. Using desflurane for one hour is equivalent to 235 to 470 miles of driving.
- D. The anaesthetics usually are vented out of the building as medical waste gases and remain in the atmosphere for a long time.
- E. Ryan and Nielsen suggest some simple, knowledge-based decisions that anaesthesiologists can follow to minimize their environmental impact.
1. IFJJF 2. FFFIF 3. IFFFI 4. IFIIF

Question 28

- A. Even as India hopes to improve its big cat tally from the present 1,411, their number has now declined drastically in tiger range countries such as Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia due to poaching and other reasons.
- B. At a two-day meeting of the Global Tiger Forum (GTF), the representatives from these nations discussed thread-bare the issues confronting tiger conservation and underlined the need for trans-boundary cooperation to check poaching.

Question 32

- A. After making inroads into south-east Asia, foreign low-cost airlines are now eyeing the growing Indian market.
- B. Air Asia, a dominant player with one of the largest fleets, entered the Indian skies in 2009.
- C. The airline is now expanding its operations here and, starting 4 August, it plans to connect Delhi to its 132-route network.
- D. The idea is to grab a slice of the market, dominated by full-service airlines.
- E. More rate wars could be in the offing as Air Asia plans to start offering a few hundred free seats.

1. FFIJJ 2. JFIJI 3. IFIJJ 4. FIJFI

Question 33

- A. In the accounts we give of one another, claims about our abilities appear to be indispensable.
- B. Some abilities are so widespread that many who have them take them for granted, such as the ability to walk, or to write one's name, or to tell a hawk from a handsaw.
- C. Others are comparatively rare and notable, such as the ability to hit a Major League fastball, or to compose a symphony, or to tell an elm from a beech.
- D. In either case, however, when we ascribe such abilities to one another we have the impression that we are making claims that, whether they are worth saying or not, are at least sometimes true.
- E. The impression of truth exerts a pressure towards giving a philosophical theory of ability.

1. JFIJI 2. IFJIJ 3. JIIFJ 4. FIJJJ

Question 34

- A. Following a barrage of criticism, World of Warcraft publisher Blizzard has backed down on the need for gamers to use their real names on its forums.
- B. The firm's about-face comes three days after saying it would introduce the feature as part of its Real ID product.
- C. Blizzard said the intention was to cut down on "flame wars" and heated online arguments started to cause trouble.
- D. Within 24 hours of announcing the plan, Blizzard received more than 1,000 comments, mostly critical.
- E. Hours before the change of heart, there were around 50,000 comments stretching over some 2,500 pages.

1. FFFFI 2. FIFIF 3. FIJFI 4. FFIFI

Question 35

- A. The Chinese government has renewed Google's licence to operate in China, the internet giant has said, ending a long-running stand-off between the two.
- B. Google gave no details of the licence renewal.
- C. There had been speculation China would revoke the licence after Google began redirecting Chinese users to its unfiltered search site in Hong Kong.

Question 39

- A. The New Direct Tax Code is proposed to be implemented from the year 2011.
 - B. For its smooth implementation, changes in the present system have to be made on an ongoing basis.
 - C. The forth coming budget may thus be expected to bring about some of the changes for a smoother transition.
 - D. The New Direct Tax Code talks of substantial increase in the tax slabs for an individual tax assessee.
 - E. A part of this may be implemented in forthcoming budget.
1. FJJFI 2. FIIFI 3. IJJJ 4. FJJFJ 5. IIFJ

Question 40

- A. London and New York are about to lose their spots as the world's leading financial centres.
 - B. With developed economies struggling and emerging markets thriving, more and more financial deals are being cut well away from the traditional centers.
 - C. Rising trade between emerging economies spur growth of financial centers in the fastest growing economies.
 - D. For the bankers, clustering in cities like Sao Paulo and Mumbai, the intra-emerging markets movement of funds represents an alluring chance to make money.
 - E. We see flows between Africa and India, India and China, India and Korea being much bigger.
1. JIJF 2. IFIIF 3. JFIJF 4. JFIJ 5. IFIJF

Question 41

- A. Throughout history new technologies have revolutionized warfare, sometimes abruptly, sometimes only gradually.
 - B. Computers and the internet have transformed economies and given Western armies great advantages.
 - C. But the spread of digital technology comes at a cost: it exposes armies and societies to digital attack.
 - D. The threat is complex, multifaceted and potentially very dangerous.
1. JJJJ 2. IIJ 3. FIFJ 4. JIFJ 5. JIJ

Question 42

- A. The federal class action in New York is still proceeding.
 - B. This case concerns environmental remediation of the pollution spreading from the Bhopal plant into the drinking water supply of 20 residential communities nearby.
 - C. The pollution has spread farther since 1999, so it is now 20 communities affected whereas before it was 16.
 - D. It does seek remediation, medical monitoring and compensation.
1. IJJ 2. IIF 3. IFIF 4. FFIJ 5. FFII

Question 43

- A. The first sight that greets a visitor to Thanjavur is the majestic vimana (the tower above a temple's sanctum sanctorum) of the Rajarajesvaram temple.

Question 48

- A. When you came into this world, you came with no investment.
 - B. So whatever happens in your life, anyway you are in profit.
 - C. But the reason people are in various levels of distress is because there is no life-sense, only ego-sense.
 - D. If you are miserable, it is because life is not happening the way you think it should happen.
1. JJI 2. IJII 3. JJIJ 4. JFIF 5. JJJJ

Question 49

- A. Indeed, we are increasingly confronted with outdated information taken out of context, from anachronistic news stories to emotional e-mails that we had long ago forgotten.
 - B. There are already many cases of people being denied jobs or promotions because of what is unearthed.
 - C. But these are reflections of a person's past; they rarely provide accurate information about the present.
 - D. We have much to gain individually and as a society from sharing information with each other.
1. FIIJ 2. FFJJ 3. IFJJ 4. IFIJ 5. IFII

Question 50

- A. Molecular biology has provided excellent tools to address health, environmental, and food problems such as those seen in Kenya.
 - B. The question is whether decision-makers are prepared to use them.
 - C. Obviously, most EU countries' governments are not willing to promote GM foods.
 - D. GM foods have now been on the market in the US for more than 12 years.
1. IJJF 2. IJJF 3. IJIF 4. FIJF 5. FJIF

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 1.JFFJ. A—'Probably up-to-date' is neither a fact nor an inference. B—'generating awareness' is a fact (visible on the media blogs etc.) C—I was reflecting ...' is a fact. D—'certainly' is a personal opinion.

Question 2. Answer Option 4.JJJF. A—"I loved it" is a fact however, 'self-centred' 'overly precious' etc. control the sentence which are judgments. Hence the label J. B—'wonderful' is a judgment. C—'incredibly funny' 'moving one' 'she's a joy to read' are all personal opinions. D—'do not work for me' is a direct experience of the speaker—hence a fact.

Question 3. Answer Option 3.IIJJ. A—'exhaustible' and 'benefit only a few people' are not very subjective concepts nor are they as concrete as facts, but they are based on observation of certain facts. B—'not efficient' borders on the subjective however, since it is used to describe solar and wind power in relation to potential mass production—it is not a very subjective assessment, hence inference. C and D are clearly personal assessments of a situation—alarmist and emotional.

Question 4. Answer Option 5. FFIF. A—‘we have heard’ is fact B—‘we have been brought up’ is fact. C—‘does not exist just in your hometown’ is an inference based on the observation (fact) of it existing elsewhere. D—“According to wiki” is a fact.

Question 5. Answer Option 2. IFJI. A—‘is not alone’ is based on observation or facts and is not a personal opinion hence inference. B—‘estimated that’ makes the statement a fact. C—the ‘seamless’ merging of boundaries’ though based on observation is not universally true but more on the side of a personal opinion. Hence judgment. D—‘engages in legal and illegal mining’ at the same time is not a fact—nor is it so intensely personal, hence an inference.

Question 6. Answer Option 1. FFFF. All the sentences are facts from medical science. The only doubt one may have is that can’t all these be inferences? Yes, all scientific facts are always inferences. But something like ‘a carbon atom has six electrons’ is better considered a fact in this context rather than an inference.

Question 7. Answer Option 5. FFIJ. A—‘is now in focus’ is like saying ‘is now in news’ which makes it a fact. B—‘drawn attention to’ is more of fact than an inference like ‘paid attention to’ will be. C—‘allegations ... have led to the resignation’ is an inference based on the link between allegations and resignation. D—‘increasingly seen as’ is more of a judgment than an inference.

Question 8. Answer Option 3. FFFI. The first three statements are historical facts. D—‘is now making rapid strides’ though idiomatic expression is based on statistics and is not a subjective assessment, hence inference.

Question 9. Answer Option 2. JJJJ. A—“neither persons nor property will be safe...” makes it a judgment. B—“are very relevant” makes this statement a judgment. C—“strong similarities” is more towards a personal opinion than a balanced and reasoned inference. D—“could very well relate to the earth...” is conditional and hence can only be a judgment.

Question 10. Answer Option 5. IFFJ. A—‘is still to be completed’ is based on facts. B—there is stretch of some 10 miles’ is a direct observation. C—‘explanations are given’ is a fact. D—‘the disturbing fact’ is personal opinion.

Question 11. Answer Option 2. IFJJ. A—‘common sight’ is an inference. B—‘had to wage incessant efforts’ is same as saying ‘waged incessant efforts’ hence is a fact. C—‘bound to be effective’ is a judgment. D—‘gave us the right’ slogan is a personal opinion; hence judgment.

Question 12. Answer Option 4. FFIF. A—‘world famous’ is advanced not as a personal opinion nor as something based on concrete data—it is a known truth—hence a fact. B—‘found time’ is a fact. C—‘Gandhi’s most favourite’ is not a personal opinion but something based on data—since ‘most favourite’ is a comparison we cannot say it is a fact, hence the label inference fits better. D—‘was composed by’ is a fact.

Question 13. Answer Option 1. FFJF. A—historical fact. B—historical fact (known truth). C—‘one is tempted’ is neither an inference nor a fact, a personal observation is a judgment. D—‘is still known as’ is a fact.

Question 14. Answer option 2. FJFJ. A—the year, ‘published’ etc., are facts. B—‘simply a troublesome daughter’ is someone’s opinion. C—historical fact. D—they misjudged is someone’s personal assessment of the situation.

Question 15. Answer Option 5. IJFF. A—‘a medium’ is an inference. ‘an instrument’ or something like that would be a fact. B—‘It’s everything’ is an inference based on the facts mentioned in the sentence. C—‘weird’ etc is a personal opinion. D—‘students consider’ is a fact.

Question 16. Answer Option 2. JFJF. A—‘acquiring new lessons is critical’ is an opinion. B—‘according to ..’ make B a fact. C—‘not there yet’ ‘inflection point’ etc. are judgments. D—‘Pritchard states’ makes it a fact.

Question 17. Answer Option 1. IJIF. A—‘second largest’ is a comparison, hence an inference. B—‘one of immediate mandates for Weed..’ is a personal assessment, hence a judgment. C—‘is pleased’ is an inference made on the basis of someone’s behavior. D—‘says Weed’ makes it a fact.

Question 18. Answer Option 5. IFIF. A—‘have actually helped the country to buy telecom technology’ is an inference based on the fact ‘delays and deliberations’. B—We debated for 10 years is a historical fact. C—‘it could not grow’ and ‘it could not reach’ are inferences based on certain observed phenomena. D—We debated of 10 years is again a historical fact.

Question 19. Answer Option 3. FIJF. A—‘much has been written and spoken’ is a fact. B—‘it was the favour of the day’ is an inference based on the coverage observed. C—‘the time may be appropriate’ is a personal opinion, hence judgment. D—‘these include’ is a fact.

Question 20. Answer Option 2. IFFI. A—‘are looking to overhaul’ is an inference based on certain observed behaviour/facts. B—‘is said to believe’ is a fact. C—‘have authored a book’ is a fact. D—‘it laments the fact’ is an inference based on what is written and the tone in which things are written.

Question 21. Answer Option 1. FJFF. A—‘we go through the tough task of compiling’—is fact. B—‘can make this task easier’ can be either an inference or a judgment—however, options do not state inference—J vs. F; J is a better choice. C—‘is compulsory’ is a known fact. D—all limits are known facts in IT.

Question 22. Answer Option 4. IFFFF. A—‘may opt to revise’ is based on the observation of certain facts—it is not entirely a personal opinion. B—‘prices were freed’ is a fact. C—‘sources said’ is a fact. D—‘are being consulted’ is fact. E—sources said—fact.

Question 23. Answer Option 3. JIIFI. A—personal opinion, hence J. “things are invented based on the principle” is inferred after observing the principle (fact) and the invention (fact)—and the statement is not so intensely subjective, Hence inference. C—‘they want to (fact) *virtually every hour* is inferred generalized) after observing the behaviour, hence inference. D—‘It is assumed’ is fact. D—‘hence the success of’ is based on certain facts—otherwise one cannot say ‘hence’, making it an inference. ‘oldies might consider’ etc., are judgments, but they don’t control the sentence.

Question 24. Answer Option 1. JIJFJ. A—‘an amazing lack of socio cultural sensitivity’ is a judgment. B—‘cannot be faulted’ is an inference (not so subjective to make it J) arrived at after analysing the facts about the technological aspects. C—‘seems to be the height of ..’ is Judgment. D—there are (proven) deposits is a fact; this overrides the inference in the last part ‘largest’—the sentence gets the label of the controlling part. E—“would alienate and deprive the tribals of a sacred space” based on the given facts is a personal opinion.

Question 25. Answer Option 3. JFIFI. A—‘controversy is the middle name ..’ is a personal

opinion. B—‘another controversy has reared its head’ is a fact. C—‘has been a hot topic for discussion’ is an inference based on what was heard and seen. D—‘allegedly demanding’ is a fact. E—“what has caught the attention of people ... is the credentials” is an inference, as it is not an intensely personal evaluation.

Question 26. Answer Option 1. FFFFF. A and B ‘ranked second’, first, second etc., are facts. C, D and E—‘the report said’ ‘the report notes’ are facts.

Question 27. Answer Option 4. IFIIF. A—‘are a major contributor’ is an inference based on comparison. B—‘said that’ is a fact. C—‘equivalent to’ is an inference based on figures and calculations. D—‘remain in the atmosphere’ is an inference based on observed facts. E—‘suggest’ is a fact.

Question 28. Answer Option 3. IFFIF. A—‘has now declined’ is an inference based on comparison of numbers. B—‘discussed threadbare’ is a fact. C—‘continued to take a toll’ was an ongoing phenomenon, hence a fact. D—‘has declined ot less than 100’ is an inference. E—covers an area, claimed to be etc., are facts.

Question 29. Answer Option 2. JJJIF. A—‘the hope is just a fantasy’ is a judgment. B—‘the technology is so backward, it will die’ is a judgment. C—‘extremely expensive’ will run far less’ etc., are judgments. D—‘suggests’ is an inference based on the facts mentioned in the research. E—‘the researchers found’ is a fact.

Question 30. Answer Option 4. IJFJ. A—‘needs to be commended’ is an inference based on certain observations about performance. B—‘is welcome’ is similar to A and is an inference. C—‘will make’ is a prediction, though based on facts can only be termed as a judgment (inferences are verifiable; a prediction cannot be verified). D—‘cannot choose’, ‘often do not know’ are facts. E—‘they are compelled’ backed by facts can be either an inference or a judgment. The subjectivity in ‘compelled’ whether greater towards the subjective (judgment) or objective (inference) is difficult to decide. Since options do not ask us to make this choice, it is labeled judgment.

Question 31. Answer Option 3. JIJJJ. A—‘angst’ and to a greater extent ‘understandable’ are judgments. B—‘clearly aimed at establishing the finance ministry diktat’ is too subjective to be an inference, hence judgment. C—‘play footsie’ is a judgment. D and E similarly, repersonal assessment of a situation, rather than facts or inferences.

Question 32. Answer Option 1. IFIJJ. A—‘after making inroads’ is a fact, ‘now eyeing the Indian market’ (now watching the Indian market) can also be accepted as a fact. B—‘entered’ (though idiomatic) is a fact. C—‘now expanding operations’ is an inference based on observation of operations. D—is personal assessment of the situation. E—‘could be in the offing’ is a judgment

Question 33. Answer Option 3. JIIFJ. A—‘appear to be indispensable’ is a judgment. B—‘take them for granted’ is an inference made on the basis of people not talking about them. C—‘comparatively rare and notable’ on the basis of the examples given is an inference made on the basis of them not being widespread. D—‘we ascribe such abilities’ is a fact. E—‘the impression of truth exerts a pressure’ is a judgment (though well reasoned)

Question 34. Answer Option 1. FFFFF. A—‘backed down’ is a fact. B—‘comes three after saying it would’ is a fact. C—‘Blizzard said’ is a fact. D—‘Blizzard received’ is a fact. E—‘there

were *around* 50,000' is an estimate looking at the number, as is 'some 2,500 pages'. Hence inferences. (*there were* 50000 will be fact).

Question 35. Answer Option 4. FFFFJ. A—'the internet giant has said' is a fact. B—'gave no details' is a fact C—'there had been speculation' is a fact. D—'Google said it would' is a fact. E—'appears to have ended in a score draw' is a judgment.

Question 36. Answer Option 4. JJJJ. A—'cannot be met; B—'poor'; C—fruitless exercise; D—'prove disastrous' E—'needs to' are all judgments.

Question 37. Answer Option JFFIF. A—'seeming flood' makes it a judgment. B—'mavens are thinking aloud (speaking) is a fact. C—'notes' makes this a fact. D—'emphasizes' is based on the fact that it repeats or through the tone communicates that the measures are important, hence is an inference. E—'it adds' makes it a fact.

Question 38. Answer Option 2. JJJF. A—the writers opinion though well reasoned is a judgment. B—'we need long term efforts' and 'it si here that government can help' are judgments. C—the verb 'states' is a fact. D—'seem attractive on paper' 'do entail' are judgments. E—with statists and 'declared' is a fact.

Question 39. Answer Option 4. FJJFJ. A—'proposed to be implemented' is a fact (not an inference because proposal can be directly heard or experienced). B and C are personal assessment of the situation, hence judgments. D—'talks of' (in the sense of 'mentions') is a fact. E—a personal opinion.

Question 40. Answer Option 1. JJJF. A—'about to lose their spots' is a personal opinion. B—'*more and more* financial deals are being cut' is an inference based on comparison. C—since spur growth of financial centers is based on the facts about 'rising trade', it is an inference. D—'alluring chance to make money' though based on fact is a personal assessment, hence judgment. E—'we see flows' is a fact.

Question 41. Answer Option 2. IIIJ. A—almost a historical fact , but revolutionized cannot be a concrete as a fact. Hence, inference. B—similar to A. C—'it exposes' is an inference. D—too many abstract ideas like 'complex' 'multifaceted' 'potentially dangerous' etc., are labelled judgment in the options.

Question 42. Answer Option 5. FFII. A—'is still proceeding' is a fact. B—' this case concerns (is about) is a fact. C—' has spread farther' is based on certain observations, hence inference. D—' does seek remediation' is not so personal to make it a judgment, hence inference.

Question 43. Answer Option 3. FJFF. A—'The first sight that greets the visitor' is direct experience, hence fact. B—' soaring skyward add to the temple's glory' etc., is a personal opinion. C—' is maintained by' is a fact. D—' it came to be known as' is a historical fact.

Question 44. Answer Option 4. JJII. A—' certainly not true' is a judgment. B—is a personal opinion with may and could be in it, hence a judgment. C—numerous Exist only on gloosy letterheads' is based on certain observations hence inference. D—genuine NGOs is an inference based on their performance. Genuine is not subjective enough to be a judgment.

Question 45. Answer Option 2. FJJJ. A—' last week I wrote' is a fact. B—it would have tanked is a personal opinion. C—whatever the short statement may mean it is a personal opinion. D—And that, alas, is the nature of what columnists ... is a personal opinion.

Question 46. Answer Option 3. JIIF. A—‘huge stake’ is a judgment. B—‘at least some of it is meant to ensure’ is an inference. C—‘India has spent at least a couple of billion’ is based on some observation of facts—hence inference. D—all are verifiable facts.

Question 47. Answer Option 1. JJJJ—all the statements are intensely personal reaction to a situation.

Question 48. Answer Option 5. JJJJ—the given statements are all judgments. Someone’s particular viewpoint about life.

Question 49. Answer Option 4. IFIJ. A—‘we are increasingly confronted’ is based on the observation of the frequency hence an inference. ‘indeed’ does not make it a judgment. B—‘there are many cases’ is a fact. C—‘reflections of the past’ is an inference by looking at the past; the second part is more towards judgment; however, the first part overrides it. D—is clearly a personal assessment.

Question 50. Answer Option 3. IJIF. A—‘excellent tools to address health etc.,’ are verifiable through facts, hence inference. B—is personal reaction to the issue. C—‘most EU countries’ governments are unwilling’ is an inference. D—is a fact.

5

Sentence Completion and Cloze Paragraph

Directions: In each of the following sentences, parts of the sentence are left blank. Beneath each sentence, four/five different ways of completing the sentence are indicated. Choose the best alternative from the given options.

Question 1

The law prohibits a person from felling a sandalwood tree, even if it grows on one's own land, without prior permission from the government. As poor people cannot deal with the government, this legal provision leads to a rip-roaring business for _____ who care neither for the _____, nor for the trees.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. middlemen, rich | 2. the government, poor |
| 3. touts, rich | 4. touts, poor |

Answer Option 4.

HOW TO SOLVE

There are two aspects to questions on sentence completion and cloze (paragraph): vocabulary and reasoning. Vocabulary issues arise when one or several of the words in the sentence or in the answer choices are unfamiliar words. To an extent, you can try to eliminate the words that you are familiar with, and if all the known words can be safely eliminated; you may choose the unknown word for the answer. However, if several words are not known to you, the question may become a lost opportunity.

The basic test in these questions, the writer feels, is not vocabulary, as there are several other question types in competitive exams that directly test a candidate's vocabulary. With or without vocabulary items the question tests your reasoning skills, though mildly.

Reasoning means completely comprehending the *context* provided by the sentence. This is where sentence completion and cloze differ from mere fill in the blanks. In fill-in-the-blank situations, one is not bothered about the context but is merely constructing a grammatically correct sentence which is meaningful—whatever its meaning may be! For example: *I _____ you (love/hate),* can be correctly completed by fixing any verb that is grammatically correct—*love, hate,* etc.—it makes no difference! However, if the sentence is expanded to, *I _____ you, mom.* The word 'mom' controls the context completely and eliminates the word

'hate'. One may argue that both the words can still be used. In objective tests and in reasoning questions, one has to go by the generally accepted common meaning of all the terms. The word 'mom' is a loaded word in English—it is not merely a biological relationship, there is a great deal of love, care, and affection associated with that word. Hence, the word *love* goes into the blank naturally and smoothly. The word *hate* needs to be fixed subjectively—you have to justify it by quoting an exception. In other words, the test is not a subjective one in which a person has to think about his or her mom. It is an objective test in which the generally accepted meaning of the word 'mom' controls the context.

So, reasoning in these questions involves comprehending the context completely and identifying the elements that control the word in the blank directly and indirectly. Every word in the context is important, but there are certain ideas and words that will have a direct bearing on the word in the blank space. Most conjunctions will have an influence on the answer choice; hence do not miss them while analysing the context.

Once the context is well understood and the operative ideas well identified, it becomes very easy to see why only one option can score and not the others—even though, more often than not, the choices appear to be very close.

Look at the above example. The law prohibits a person from felling a sandalwood tree, even if it grows on one's own land, *without prior permission from the government*. As *poor people cannot deal with the government*, this legal provision leads to a *rip-roaring business* for ____ who care neither for the ____, nor for the trees.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. middlemen, rich | 2. the government, poor |
| 3. touts, rich | 4. touts, poor |

rip-roaring business for and *who* eliminate 'the government'—no government is in business; it cannot be referred to as 'who'. Though option 1, 3, and 4 fit in the first blank, in the context, the word *care* eliminates *rich* (options 1 and 3)—*care for the rich* is meaningless in the context. Hence option 4. This is a very simple question used merely to illustrate the working.

Question 2

In these bleak and depressing times of ____ prices, non-performing governments and ____ crime rates, the Indian Cricket team has given us, Indians, a lot to cheer about.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. escalating, increasing | 2. spiraling, booming |
| 3. spiraling, soaring | 4. ascending, debilitating |

In these bleak and depressing times of ____ prices, non-performing governments and ____ crime rates, the Indian Cricket team has given us, Indians, a lot to cheer about.

The word '*prices*' directly controls the word before it, and *depressing times* controls this word indirectly, hence the word '*ascending*' can be eliminated in comparison to '*spiraling*' and '*escalating*'—*ascending prices* would not make as much sense as *spiraling* does. *Ascending* and *escalating* applied to prices would mean a steady and smooth upward movement whereas *spiraling* would mean an upward movement which is swift, uncontrolled, and unpredictable. Hence comparing these words in the context of *depressing times* the word *spiraling* is best applied to *prices*. The next word is directly controlled by the term *crime rates* and need to build a climax, *spiraling prices, non-performing governments, and _____ crime rates*. Between *booming* and *soaring* to be applied directly to *crime rates*, *booming* suggests a physical expansion (in size—booming population, booming economy), and *soaring* suggests a shooting upward and can be applied to *rates* well. If the times are depressing and prices are *spiraling*, *soaring crime rates* logically builds the climax. Hence the best option is 3, which is the scoring option.

Question 3

The manners and _____ of the nouveau riche is a recurrent _____ in the literature of the 1950s.

1. style, motif 2. morals, story 3. wealth, theme 4. morals, theme

The *manners and _____* of the *nouveau riche* is a recurrent _____ in literature.

Some of us may confront vocabulary items in this sentence. *Nouveau riche* [pronounced: noo-voh reesh] means: a person who is newly rich. *Motif* may also pose a problem. It means: 1. a recurring subject, theme, idea, etc., esp. in a literary, artistic, or musical work. 2. a distinctive and recurring form, shape, figure, etc., in a design, as in a painting or on wallpaper. 3. a dominant idea or feature.

The first word is directly controlled by '*manners and*'. In comparison to *morals* and *wealth*, *style* can be easily eliminated as '*style*' does not add much to *manners* in the context of the sentence; hence, option 1 can be eliminated for others. '*recurrent _____ in the literature ...*' can be either *motif* or *theme* rather than *story*. This comparison of options can eliminate option 2. Choosing between option 3 and 4 becomes easy because the term *nouveau riche* already implies *wealth*, besides *wealth* being a recurrent theme is inferior (logically) to *morals* being a theme. Hence the scoring option in this question is option 4.

Note: Since these are less time-consuming questions, attempting them carefully will give rich rewards. Remember to read and understand the context well before looking at the options. Analyse the options only after the context is understood well and the controlling ideas are identified.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Directions: In each of the following sentences, parts of the sentence are left blank. Beneath each sentence, four/five different ways of completing the sentence are indicated. Choose the best alternative from among the five options.

Question 1

As the consequences of climate change become more _____, increasing numbers of people have come to _____ that the longer we hesitate, the more expensive the problem becomes.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. severe, reminisce | 2. visible, evaluate |
| 3. evident, reconcile | 4. visible, recognize |
| 5. pronounced, imagine | |

Question 2

In the past, universities have been created in times of _____, typically to encourage people to think beyond their immediate need for survival to more edifying spiritual or national _____.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. poverty, wealth | 2. distress, well being |
| 3. plenty, goals | 4. prosperity, interests |
| 5. scarcity, goals | |

Question 3

Is academic freedom affordable in a time of economic crisis? There remains a nagging sense that universities are _____ now that ordinary people are _____ to make ends meet.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. free, living | 2. luxuries, struggling |
| 3. useless, surviving | 4. unnecessary, studying |
| 5. exuberances, able | |

Question 4

The new knowledge produced by original research is an instance of social capital formation. Hence, the university's unique institutional mission is to manufacture knowledge as a/an _____.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. social institution | 2. intellectual property |
| 3. consumable | 4. utility |
| 5. public good | |

Question 5

Contrary to the hopes of many, the end of the Second World War and the shock of the Nazi atrocities did not mean the end of war and genocide; the decades following it have been _____ with bloody conflicts in which entire population groups have been _____.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. marred, involved | 2. riddled, involved |
| 3. rife, murdered | 4. rife, associated |
| 5. marred, compromised | |

Question 6

Nazis did not exterminate the Jews in order to take their _____ as most Jews were _____, and those who owned anything probably would have given it up gladly in order to save themselves.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. property, wealthy | 2. property, poor |
| 3. territory, atheists | 4. religion, atheists |
| 5. ideology, hedonists | |

Question 7

There is a lot of value in forgetting; forgetting permits us to _____ details and generalize, to see the forest and not just the trees.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. transcend | 2. forget | 3. discount | 4. comprehend |
| 5. apprehend | | | |

Question 8

_____ memories of past experiences allow new memories to bloom, much as leaves allow for new growth.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pleasant, dying | 2. Renewing, exfoliating |
| 3. Fading, new | 4. Fading, decaying |
| 5. Newfangled, emerging | |

Question 9

For a lot of women, the main benefit of a job is not just _____, but also the chance to learn and _____ with others.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. boredom, enjoy | 2. economic, interact |
| 3. monetary, gossip | 4. escape, interact |
| 5. financial, converse | |

Question 10

Though Vitamin C is strongly associated with immunity, a prolonged marginal deficiency of Vitamin C may not lead to clinical symptoms; however, it may _____ one towards heart disease and _____ immunity.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. lead, lowered | 2. lead, acquired |
| 3. predispose, lowered | 4. influence, improved |
| 5. make liable, wipe out | |

Question 11

Cars _____ to accommodate wheelchair users are vital to disabled people to get out and about and enjoy _____ lives.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. designed, their | 2. modified, healthy |
| 3. adapted, active | 4. modified, itinerant |
| 5. adopted, itinerant | |

Question 12

Some _____ defending, especially in the second half of the game allowed the opposition to _____ and the defending champions lost the game.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. slack, score | 2. superb, lose |
| 3. robust, win | 4. superb, score |
| 5. slack, lose | |

Question 13

Print, paper, and newspapers enabled the rise of new types of _____ based on expanded popular participation.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. class conflicts | 2. cultural forms | 3. social norms | 4. political systems |
| 5. ethical dilemmas | | | |

Question 14

Businesses attempt to _____ the conflicts of interest between groups to ensure _____ operation of the organization.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. compromise, profitable | 2. reconcile, efficient |
| 3. reconcile, commercial | 4. stimulate, efficient |
| 5. encourage, professional | |

Question 15

One in three people on our planet have no _____ to modern energy to light and heat the _____ in which they live.

1. resource, homes
2. right, houses
3. contact, nations
4. access, dwellings
5. source, countries

Question 16

The financial implications of ensuring universal energy access are _____, but not overwhelming when weighed against the enormous _____.

1. insignificant, disadvantages
2. large, benefits
3. immaterial, benefits
4. vast, drawbacks
5. small, investments

Question 17

Long stretches of _____ rule, with its emphasis on command and control, has left policymaking in Pakistan highly _____.

1. inefficient, enfeebled
2. military, efficient
3. parliamentary, democratic
4. totalitarian, vulnerable
5. military, centralised

Question 18

Quite simply, if the European Union is to overcome national _____ and embrace a shared and binding purpose, it must abandon the _____ of accountants and speak in a language that comprehends what is good and bad, beautiful and ugly, right and wrong.

1. boundaries, rhetoric
2. integration, language
3. parochialism, rhetoric
4. paradoxes, language
5. pride, matters

Question 19

Clearly, the popular response to the agitation was so _____ that the government could not _____ it as it had done many times in the past.

1. downbeat, deal with
2. strong, join
3. extensive, ignore
4. pervasive, control
5. massive, unite

Question 20

As the _____ of manufacturing industries such as chemicals, textiles, pharmaceuticals and engineering, Mumbai has been a city of opportunity for the _____.

1. center, political class
2. hub, elites
3. hub, working class
4. edge, middle class
5. heart, avant-garde

Question 21

Ironically, the conditions of the unorganised class of workers are far _____ in those states that boast _____ per capita incomes and high minimum wages.

1. worse, high
2. worse, low
3. better, high
4. safer, higher
5. subhuman, low

Question 22

The _____ nature of the food inflation over the last year has brought the acuteness of food _____ in India into political focus.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. truculent, scarcity | 2. persistent, insecurity |
| 3. hostile, shortage | 4. unrelenting, surplus |
| 5. repugnant, conference | |

Question 23

The food procurement policy of the government had two objectives: _____ regional distribution of food grains at _____ prices and the provision of a fair price to farmers.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. restricted, low | 2. limited, fair |
| 3. just, low | 4. equal, reasonable |
| 5. equitable, reasonable | |

Question 24

The situation in Kashmir has always been _____, but policymaking in New Delhi, which has remained "one track", has only helped to _____ it further.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. sensitive, alleviate | 2. confounded, exacerbate |
| 3. fragile, aggravate | 4. violent, assuage |
| 5. peaceful, spoil | |

Question 25

Being unsure of itself, reform is pursued _____ by a coalition government constantly _____ of voters' reactions.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. vigorously, hopeful | 2. slowly, chary |
| 3. hesitantly, wary | 4. nervously, circumspect |
| 5. reluctantly, eager | |

Question 26

Palestinian officials say that there is no use holding talks with Israeli leaders that are nothing more than a photo opportunity intended to create the _____ of a peace process while avoiding any substantive _____.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. impression, conflicts | 2. blueprint, problems |
| 3. proposal, arrangements | 4. impression, commitments |
| 5. conception, implementation | |

Question 27

We should be wary of hyperbolic predictions; more often than not, what sound like horrific changes in climate and geography actually turn out to be _____—and in some cases even _____.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. beneficial, malignant | 2. destructive, catastrophic |
| 3. worse, unmanageable | 4. manageable, benign |
| 5. productive, catastrophic | |

Question 28

Climate science is a subtle and fiendishly convoluted discipline that rarely yields _____ forecasts or _____ prescriptions.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. unambiguous, straightforward | 2. ambiguous, unreliable |
| 3. unreliable, useless | 4. extreme, dubious |
| 5. ambiguous, reliable | |

Question 29

Despite his long tenure, North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il's hold on power sometimes has been _____ by a small group of _____.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. threatened, dissidents | 2. reinforced, dissidents |
| 3. reconciled, loyalists | 4. compromised, patriots |
| 5. endangered, patriots | |

Question 30

The relationship between the International Monetary Fund and the G-20 is _____ but conflicted. Like a long-married couple who habitually bicker and fight, the two can't seem to live together—but they can't live _____, either.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. certified, together | 2. official, separate |
| 3. symbiotic, apart | 4. synergetic, apart |
| 5. harmonious, together | |

Question 31

Unfortunately, trying to scare the socks off of people doesn't help matters. Yes, a startling statistic, combined with some hyperbolic prose, will make us sit up and pay attention. But we quickly become _____, requiring ever more _____ scenarios to move us. As the scare stories become more _____, so, too, does the likelihood that they will be _____ for the exaggerations that they are—and the public will end up tuning the whole thing out.

1. outraged, exaggerated, outrageous, belied
2. desensitized, reassuring, outrageous, contradicted
3. outraged, inflated, outrageous, exposed
4. desensitized, outrageous, inflated, exposed
5. incapacitated, reassuring, outrageous, prevaricated

Question 32 Cloze 1

Throughout modern times ____ (i) ____ states have always co-existed alongside many kinds of tyranny. Similarly, the modern world has always contained ____ (ii) ____ economic systems—many varieties of capitalism, planned and guided economies, and a host of hybrid economic systems not easily ____ (iii) _____. Diplomacy and international law developed to cope with the fact of ____ (iv) ____ regimes. Yet throughout the 20th century global politics was shaped by the project of ____ (v) ____ the world within a single regime. The whole world was to be a single socialist economy, administered by forms of governance that were to be everywhere the same.

- (i) 1. liberal 2. political 3. autocratic 4. military 5. civilized

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| (ii) | 1. Marxist | 2. Fabian | 3. numerous | 4. poor | 5. rich |
| (iii) | 1. structured | 2. unstructured | 3. perceived | 4. classified | |
| | 5. understood | | | | |
| (iv) | 1. totalitarian | 2. tyrannical | 3. closed | 4. diverse | |
| | 5. democratic | | | | |
| (v) | 1. describing | 2. unifying | 3. destroying | 4. conquering | |
| | 5. globalizing | | | | |

Question 33 Cloze 2

China's decision to _____(i)_____the head of its drug regulatory agency has rekindled international debate about capital punishment. It is an age-old question, one that harks back to Plato, who in his "Laws" saw the need to punish by death those who commit _____(ii)_____crimes. Supporters of capital punishment usually put forward three arguments to _____(iii)_____state-sanctioned killing of those who take the life of another. First, there is the old law of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." In the words of Immanuel Kant no other _____(iv)_____is capable of satisfying justice. Then there is a _____(v)_____argument: capital punishment deters many criminals from murder. Furthermore, killing murderers prevents _____(vi)_____: if released from prison, they might kill again.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| (i) | 1. punish | 2. banish | 3. absolve | 4. exonerate | 5. execute |
| (ii) | 1. egregious | 2. munificent | 3. carnal | 4. philistine | 5. corporeal |
| (iii) | 1. vilify | 2. disparage | 3. justify | 4. undermine | 5. eviscerate |
| (iv) | 1. penalty | 2. compensation | 3. amends | 4. atonement | 5. cessation |
| (v) | 1. contrarian | 2. useful | 3. fashionable | 4. strange | 5. utilitarian |
| (vi) | 1. extravagance | 2. dogmatism | 3. fanaticism | 4. recidivism | |
| | 5. stubbornness | | | | |

Question 34 Cloze 3

The reality of the world's epic _____(i)_____is well known. We have seen how financial engineering in the United States can _____(ii)_____economic growth in every part of the world; how carbon dioxide emissions from China end up _____(iii)_____crop yields and livelihoods in Vietnam, Bangladesh, the Maldives, and beyond; how an epidemic in Mexico endangers the rhythm of public life in the US; or how volcanic ash from Iceland _____(iv)_____travel across Europe.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| (i) | 1. calamities | 2. tragedy | 3. problems | 4. recession | |
| | 5. interdependence | | | | |
| (ii) | 1. undermine | 2. determine | 3. encourage | 4. accelerate | |
| | 5. complicate | | | | |
| (iii) | 1. ameliorating | 2. acculturating | 3. among | 4. influencing | 5. emending |
| (iv) | 1. prevents | 2. affects | 3. boosts | 4. augments | 5. ramifies |

Question 35 Cloze 4

In fact, we all are coming to learn that lesson the hard way: digital information almost never goes away, even if we wish that it would. The result is the _____(i)_____of the past in the present. This fact is one of the biggest challenges that society will face as computers and the Internet become more a part of everyday life. For millennia, _____(ii)_____information was

costly and time-consuming, and to forget was a natural part of being human. In the digital age, the opposite is true: cheap computer storage, powerful processors, and ubiquitous Internet access have made remembering the norm. Consider this: we tend to _____ (iii) our rough drafts, years of e-mail traffic, and thousands of ghastly digital snapshots on our hard drives, not because we have decided that they are worth remembering, but because keeping them is now the _____ (iv) way of doing things. By contrast, deciding what to _____ (v) is costly. It actually requires much more time and effort to shed data than to keep it. So we click "save" just in case.

- (i) 1. insistence 2. permanency 3. transience 4. relevance
5. intransigence
- (ii) 1. getting 2. spreading 3. remembering 4. forgetting
5. generating
- (iii) 1. delete 2. forget 3. recycle 4. retain 5. polish
- (iv) 1. default 2. only 3. anticipated 4. predictable 5. other
- (v) 1. remember 2. understand 3. reconcile 4. merge 5. delete

Question 36 Cloze 5

Several years ago, citing brain-drain and patriotism as reasons, the president of one of the IITs banned undergraduates from accepting academic or business internships overseas. There are other _____ (i) to global mobility, too, not always explicitly _____ (ii), but all having the effect of limiting _____ (iii) to universities around the world. In the years following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, for example, legitimate _____ (iv) concerns led to enormous student-visa delays and bureaucratic hassles for _____ (v) aspiring to study in the US. Student numbers have since _____ (vi), despite intermittent problems, but there remain severe limits on work and residency visas, which should serve as a/an _____ (vii) for the best and brightest to study in the US.

- (i) 1. subterfuges 2. boosts 3. provisions 4. impediments
5. circumventions
- (ii) 1. diplomatic 2. adverse 3. protectionist 4. dispassionate 5. illegal
- (iii) 1. sanctions 2. supply 3. applications 4. access
5. admissions
- (iv) 1. security 2. religious 3. dogmatic 4. jingoistic 5. anabatic
- (v) 1. natives 2. foreigners 3. aliens 4. alumni 5. strangers
- (vi) 1. rebounded 2. declined 3. multiplied 4. ascended 5. stagnated
- (vii) 1. embellishment 2. condition 3. assessment
4. application 5. enticement

Question 37 Cloze 6

A/an _____ (i) should be made between work and occupation. Work implies _____ (ii); it is something that must be done as contributing to the means of life in general and to one's own _____ (iii) in particular. Occupation absorbs time and energy so long as we choose to give them; it demands constant _____ (iv), and is its own reward. For the average person, the element of necessity in work is _____ (v), for he is saved the mental stress involved in devising outlets for his energy. Work has for him obvious _____ (vi), and it brings the satisfaction of tangible rewards.

- (i) 1. comparison 2. distinction 3. evaluation 4. dissimilarity
5. estimation
- (ii) 1. exigency 2. emergency 3. requirement 4. necessity
5. sine qua non
- (iii) 1. sustenance 2. status 3. deliverance 4. liberty 5. equality
- (iv) 1. awareness 2. initiative 3. motivation 4. dedication
5. concentration
- (v) 1. elegant 2. venerable 3. devious 4. civil 5. valuable
- (vi) 1. repercussions 2. necessity 3. utility 4. reverence
5. consideration

Question 38 Cloze 7

It is undeniable that some very useful _____(i)_____ can be drawn between the relational systems of computer mechanism and the relational systems of brain mechanism. The comparison does not depend upon any close _____(ii)_____ between the actual mechanical links which occur in brains and computers; it depends on what the machines do. Furthermore, brains and computers can both be _____(iii)_____ so as to solve problems. The mode of communication is very similar in both the cases, so much so that computers can now be _____(iv)_____ to generate artificial human speech and even, by accident, to produce sequences of words which human beings _____(v)_____ as poetry. The implication is not that machines are gradually assuming human forms, but that there is no sharp break of continuity between what is human and what is _____(vi)_____.

- (i) 1. analogies 2. conclusions 3. inferences 4. summaries
5. conjectures
- (ii) 1. contrast 2. relationship 3. resemblance 4. relations 5. anomaly
- (iii) 1. constructed 2. assembled 3. organized 4. conditioned
5. programmed
- (iv) 1. forced 2. persuaded 3. trained 4. pioneered 5. designed
- (v) 1. write 2. recognize 3. dismiss 4. eulogize 5. maunder
- (vi) 1. synthetic 2. moral 3. evolutionary 4. mechanical 5. prose

Question 39 Cloze 8

I do not think that men of science can cease to regard the _____(i)_____ pursuit of knowledge as their primary duty. It is true that new knowledge and new skills are sometimes _____(ii)_____ in their effects, but scientists cannot profitably take account of this fact since the effects are _____(iii)_____ to foresee. We cannot blame Columbus because the discovery of the Western Hemisphere _____(iv)_____ throughout the Eastern Hemisphere an appallingly devastating plague. Nor can we blame James Watt for the Dust Bowl _____(v)_____ if there had been no steam engines and no railways the West would not have been so carelessly or so quickly cultivated. To see that knowledge is wisely used is _____(vi)_____ the duty of statesmen, not of science; but it is part of the duty of men of science to see that important knowledge is widely disseminated and is not falsified in the _____(vii)_____ of this or that propaganda.

- (i) 1. fervent 2. uninterested 3. fanatical 4. disinterested
5. obsessive

- | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| (ii) | 1. beneficial | 2. harmful | 3. diplomatic | 4. prejudiced | 5. bigoted |
| (iii) | 1. inevitable | 2. feasible | 3. impenetrable | 4. immediate | 5. impossible |
| (iv) | 1. spread | 2. inculcated | 3. inseminated | 4. dissipated | 5. jolted |
| (v) | 1. despite | 2. still | 3. although | 4. instead | 5. anyway |
| (vi) | 1. only | 2. primarily | 3. finally | 4. eventually | 5. arguably |
| (vii) | 1. cover | 2. beliefs | 3. dogmas | 4. interests | 5. principle |

Question 40 Cloze 9

Humans have probably always been surrounded by their kin—those to whom they have been related by _____(i)_____or marriage. But the size, the composition, and the functions of their families and kinship groups have _____(ii)_____tremendously. People have lived not only in the “_____ (iii) _____ family”, made up of just the parents and their offspring, which is standard in the West and has been found almost everywhere, they have also lived in _____(iv)_____families and in formal _____(v)_____; they have been conscious of themselves as heirs of _____(vi)_____hundred of generations deep.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| (i) | 1. blood | 2. society | 3. kith | 4. country | 5. religion |
| (ii) | 1. conflicted | 2. grown | 3. contradicted | 4. varied | 5. dwindled |
| (iii) | 1. universal | 2. nucleus | 3. core | 4. small | 5. nuclear |
| (iv) | 1. dysfunctional | 2. extended | 3. distended | 4. chaotic | 5. foreign |
| (v) | 1. systems | 2. cliques | 3. blocs | 4. societies | 5. clans |
| (vi) | 1. genes | 2. property | 3. tradition | 4. lineages | 5. chattels |

Question 41 Cloze 10

The fact is often _____(i)_____by the widespread confusion about the nature and role of emotions in man’s life. One frequently hears the statement, “Man is not merely a _____(ii)_____being; he is also an emotional being”, which implies some sort of _____(iii)_____, as if, in effect, man possessed a dual nature, with one part in _____(iv)_____to the other. In fact, however, the content of man’s emotions is the product of his rational faculty; his emotions are a/an _____(v)_____and a consequence, which, like all of man’s other psychological characteristics, cannot be _____(vi)_____without reference to the conceptual power of his consciousness.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| (i) | 1. contradicted | 2. obscured | 3. recognized | 4. ignored | 5. aggrandized |
| (ii) | 1. human | 2. sentimental | 3. rational | 4. responsible | 5. social |
| (iii) | 1. enfeeblement | 2. dichotomy | 3. contrast | 4. inferiority | 5. euphemism |
| (iv) | 1. mesalliance | 2. harmony | 3. accord | 4. opposition | 5. conjunction |
| (v) | 1. exhilaration | 2. superfluity | 3. excess | 4. exuberance | 5. derivative |
| (vi) | 1. misunderstood | 2. understood | 3. measured | 4. contradicted | 5. existing |

Question 42

If the more articulate members of a community formed a coherent and _____ class with a common interest, democracy would probably be _____ into the rule of that intelligent, educated _____; even as it is, the democracies of the modern world are much closer to this fate than they are to the much-canvassed _____ of mob rule.

1. united, overthrown, minority, benefits
2. separate, overthrown, majority, problems
3. united, replaced, minority, dangers
4. separate, replaced, minority, benefits
5. united, replaced, majority, dangers.

Question 43

I think it is the duty of science—I do not say of every individual man of science—to study the means by which we can _____ ourselves to the new world. There are certain things that the world quite obviously needs: _____, as opposed to dogmatism in our beliefs; an expectation of co-operation, rather than _____, in social relations; a lessening of envy and collective _____. These are things which _____ could produce without much difficulty.

1. adapt, fanaticism, competition, malice, philosophy
2. adopt, fanaticism, affection, malice, science
3. reorient, tentativeness, war, consciousness, science
4. adapt, tentativeness, competition, hatred, education
5. orient, diffidence, competition, malice, education

Question 44

As man's tool of survival, reason has two basic functions: cognition and evaluation. The process of cognition consists of discovering _____ A, of identifying their nature, their _____ B. The process of evaluation consists of man discovering the relationship of things to himself, of identifying _____ C to him and _____ D, what should be sought and what should be avoided.

1. A—what is beneficial, B—what is harmful, C—attributes and properties, D—what things are,
2. A—what things are, B—what is beneficial, C—attributes and properties D—what is harmful.
3. A—what is beneficial B—what things are, C—what is harmful D—attributes and properties.
4. A—attributes and properties, B—what is beneficial, C—what things are, D—what is harmful.
5. A—what things are, B—attributes and properties, C—what is beneficial, D—what is harmful.

Question 45

When you first arrive in a new culture, there is a period of _____ that comes from the new situation and from a lack of information. It leaves you quite _____ and in need of help in the form of information and more. The second stage begins as you start to _____ with

the new culture. It is called the stage of small victories. Each new _____ with the culture is fraught with peril. It is _____ by anxiety and information collection and rehearsal. Then the event occurs and you return home either _____ or defeated.

1. confusion, vulnerable, interact, observation, preceded, jubilant
2. excitement, vulnerable, observe, observation, followed, victorious
3. confusion, dependent, interact, encounter, preceded, triumphant
4. excitement, dependent, interact, encounter, followed, victorious
5. confusion, dependent, observe, observation, preceded, triumphant

Question 46

The core of modern doctoring is diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Western doctors have been _____ the wheezes and pains of their patients since the 17th century to identify the _____ disease of the cause of complaints. They did it well and good _____ became the hallmark of a good physician. They were less strong on treatment. But when *sulphonamides* were _____ in 1935 to treat certain bacterial infections, doctors found themselves with powerful new tools. The area of modern medicine was born. Today there is a _____ array of complex diagnostic tests, and of pharmaceutical and surgical methods of treatment.

1. analysing, deep rooted, diagnosis, conceived, burgeoning
2. curing, deep-rooted, medicines, invented, dwindling
3. diagnosing, widespread, prescriptions, conceived, escalating
4. analysing, underlying, diagnosis, discovered, burgeoning
5. curing, widespread, prescriptions, discovered, dwindling

Question 47

Today, Adam Smith is widely seen as the intellectual champion of self-interest. This is a _____. Smith saw no moral virtue in selfishness; on the contrary he saw its _____. Still less was he a _____ of capital over labour, of the rising _____ over the common folk. His _____ of self-interest and his regard for the people as a whole come through clearly in his writings.

1. delusion, benefits, critic, middle class, mistrust
2. misconception, dangers, defender, bourgeoisie, suspicion
3. fallacy, risks, detractor, bourgeoisie, distrust
4. misconception, risks, critic, bourgeoisie, mistrust
5. delusion, benefits, defender, middle class, suspicion

Question 48

A conservation problem as important as that of soil erosion is the _____ of soil fertility. Most agriculture was originally supported by the _____ fertility of the soil; and, in areas in which soils were deep and rich in minerals, _____ could be carried on for many years without the return of any _____ to the soil other than those supplied through the natural _____ of plant and animal wastes.

1. loss, normal, cultivation, fertilizers, compost
2. lack, usual, agriculture, nutriments, downfall
3. loss, natural, farming, nutrients, breakdown

4. lack, natural, farming, fertilizers, decay
5. loss, usual, cultivation, crops, cultivation

Question 49

Charles Darwin may have been _____ when he argued that competition was the major driving force of evolution. He imagined a world in which _____ battled for _____ and only the fittest _____. But new research identifies the availability of "living space", rather than competition, as being of key _____ for evolution. Findings question the old adage of "nature red in tooth and claw".

1. right, animals, survival, lived, reason
2. erroneous, organisms, survival, lived, consequence
3. mistaken, creatures, control, survived, importance
4. wrong, creatures, power, survived, significance
5. wrong, organisms, supremacy, survived, importance

Question 50

Approximately 17% of all global greenhouse gas emissions come from the _____ of tropical forests. So _____ and restoring these forests must form part of a _____ climate change deal; reducing _____ from the developed world is _____, but is not enough.

1. burning, conservation, complete, forests, sine qua non
2. elimination, preserving, broad, temperature, essential
3. destruction, conserving, comprehensive, emissions, essential
4. trees, conserving, comprehensive, emissions, vital
5. destruction, management, wide ranging, emissions, critical

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 4. visible, recognize. When things are *visible* people *recognize*.

Question 2. Answer Option 3. plenty, goals. If people are to be encouraged towards thinking "beyond their immediate need for survival", it can only be done when survival is not a problem, hence plenty or prosperity fits in the blank. Once they are beyond the problem of survival people can be directed towards "edifying spiritual or national" goal or objectives.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. luxuries, struggling. In times of economic crisis, the nagging sense about universities could be option 2 or 4. During economic crisis it does not make sense to say that people are 'studying' to make ends meet. 'struggling' makes better sense.

Question 4. Answer Option 5. Public good. 'social capital' controls the word. The most appropriate option approximating to 'social capital' is public good.

Question 5. Answer Option 3. rife, murdered. "did not mean the end of war and genocide" controls the words; the options will show that something that is "contrary to" the hopes of many. Hence "rife" (widespread) fits in the first blank. *Marred* and *riddled* will be followed by "by" and not with. In the second blank we need a word that is similar to *genocide* hence murdered.

Question 6. Answer Option 2. property, poor. “those who owned anything probably would have given it up gladly in order to save themselves” controls the first blank—hence *property*, or *territory* may fit the blank. “*Atheists*” eliminates option 3. If the Nazis did not exterminate them for what they own—the writer rules out this reason because most Jews probably had nothing, hence *poor* fits the next blank.

Question 7. Answer Option 1. Transcend. ‘to see the forest and not just the trees’ (the idiomatic expression in English means: to be overly concerned with the details and not see the larger picture) controls the sentence. If this has to be possible one has to transcend the details and generalize, not merely comprehend or discount.

Question 8. Answer Option 4. Fading, decaying. If ‘past experiences allow new memories to bloom,’ the past experiences must essentially recede or go into the background, hence *fading* in the first blank. For the comparison of fading memories (past experiences) to be consistent, it must refer to something that is going away—hence *dying* in the next blank. Vocabulary: *Newfangled* means: a new kind or fashion: *newfangled ideas*; fond of or given to novelty. *Exfoliate* means: to throw off scales or flakes; peel off in thin fragments: *The bark of some trees exfoliates*.

Question 9. Answer Option 2. economic, interact. *Benefit* controls both the blanks; *learn* controls the second blank, hence in comparison to *converse* and *enjoy*, *interact* is better—*interact* is more related to learning. *Benefit* is *economic*, *monetary*, or *financial*. *Monetary* is too specific. Since *economic* is a more general term than *financial*, *economic* benefits makes a better choice.

Question 10. Answer Option 3. predispose, lowered. ‘may not lead to clinical symptoms’ and ‘however’ control the words. The deficiency may make one susceptible to heart disease and immunity may be affected adversely’ hence *predispose* (make one susceptible) one to heart disease, and *lowered immunity* logically complete the sentence.

Question 11. Answer Option 3. adapted, active. There is nothing in the context to justify healthy or itinerant (moving from place to place; wandering—like a salesperson) option 1 ‘enjoy their lives’ is grammatically correct but logically it does not justify “to get out and about”—hence active is justified. Cars can be adapted, modified or designed. The best combination, however, is option 3.

Question 12. Answer Option 1. slack, score. The _____ defending had allowed the opposition to *win* or *score*, hence the defending cannot be *superb* or *robust* it has to be *slack*. Option 3 also seems to give a correct sentence, but the logic is clearer in option 1.

Question 13. Answer Option 4. political systems. ‘based on expanded popular participation’ and ‘print, paper, and newspaper’ (media) control the word in the blank. Political systems relate to both, whereas all the other options are not necessarily related to one or the other.

Question 14. Answer Option 2. reconcile, efficient. Conflicts need to be reconciled if operations are to be efficient. *Conflicts of interests* controls the first blank. *Operations* controls the second word. Some of the other options (e.g., option 4) may make sense—but it is not natural communication or logic, it is a contrived sense.

Question 15. Answer Option 4. ‘modern energy’ controls the first blank in the context. ‘in which they love’ and ‘heat and light’ control the next blank, hence *dwelling*s.

Question 16. Answer Option 2. “But not overwhelming” controls the first blank hence we need a word that is lesser in degree than ‘overwhelming’, hence large or vast (options 2 or 4). ‘not overwhelming when weighed against’ controls the next word. We need a positive word, hence benefits.

Question 17. Answer Option 5. ‘with its emphasis on command and control’ determines the first word—hence military, totalitarian are likely answers. Vulnerable will not fit in the next blank (vulnerable to what?), centralised gives a coherent sentence. Military rule has left the policy making centralised.

Question 18. Answer Option 3. The ‘overcome national _____’ “and embrace a shared and binding purpose” control the first blank hence parochialism. “it must abandon and speak in a language”, hence rhetoric fits best.

Question 19. Answer Option 4. The extensiveness of the popular response forced the government not to ignore it, hence, option 3. Option 4 may appear correct, but ‘control’ the ‘popular response to the agitation’ does not make much sense as no government can actually control the response of the people. downbeat, (sad) and deal with also does not make sense.

Question 20. Answer Option 3. ‘manufacturing and working class go together. It is possible to have all the options except 4 in the first blank. Since manufacturing industries and ‘opportunity’ control the net blank, working class is better than elites or the political class.

Question 21. Answer Option 1. The words ‘ironically’ and ‘boast’ control the first and the second blanks respectively. ‘boast cannot take ‘low’ after that. ‘ironically’ needs that the two parts need to be in contrasting; hence, option 1.

Question 22. Answer Option 2. ‘food inflation’, ‘acuteness of’, ‘into political focus’ etc. control the blanks. Something is brought into political focus only when it is unrelenting (option 4) or persistent (option 5). Food inflation does not directly result in scarcity or shortage but necessarily creates insecurity. Hence option 2. The first part of options 1, 3 and 5 are nonsensical.

Question 23. Answer Option 5. ‘regional distribution’ and ‘prices’ in the light of ‘procurement policy of the government’ control the blanks. Equal means the same quantity and equitable means characterized by equity or fairness, which is what is intended. Hence option 5.

Question 24. Answer Option 3. ‘has always been’ and ‘further’ control the words. The word ‘but’ does not warrant a contrast in this sentence because it has the sense of ‘contrary to expectations’, or simply, ‘and’ can easily replace ‘but’. So the sentence communicates a ‘bad to worse’ situation. Hence option 3.

Question 25. Answer Option 3. Being unsure of itself controls the first blank—unsure makes hesitantly the best option for the blank. Between chary, circumspect and wary, wary (cautious) fits the best. The difference between chary and wary is that: circumspect suggests less fear and stresses the surveying of all possible consequences before acting or deciding. Wary emphasizes suspiciousness and alertness in watching for danger and cunning in escaping it keeps a wary eye. Chary implies a cautious reluctance to give, act, or speak freely.

Question 26. Answer Option 4. Photo opportunity controls the first blank, hence impression; if they are merely creating an ‘impression’ they will be avoiding any commitments.

Question 27. Answer Option 4. ‘wary of hyperbolic predictions’ means the reality turns out to be different, hence the first blank requires a contrasting word: beneficial, productive, and manageable may be considered; however, ‘even’ that controls the next word requires to intensify the first word, hence options 1 and 5 will be eliminated.

Question 28. Answer Option 1. “subtle and fiendishly convoluted discipline” controls the blanks, hence it is likely to yield positive results, hence option 1 fits the bil. What is convoluted is *unlikely to yield* (rarely yields) unambiguous or straightforward results.

Question 29. Answer Option 1. ‘Despite’ calls for a contrast to ‘hold on power’ hence threatened and dissidents fit well in the context.

Question 30. Answer Option 3. *Symbiotic* means: the living together in more or less intimate association or close union of two dissimilar organisms; the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in a mutually beneficial relationship. *Synergy* means: interaction of discrete agencies (as industrial firms), agents (as drugs), or conditions such that *the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects*. Option 3 creates the most logical sentence.

Question 31. Option 4. The first blank talks about the effect of paying continued attention to hyperbolic prose and startling statistics—we become desensitized. Then we will require still outrageous stories to move us. Such inflated stories run two risks—they may be exposed because they are exaggerations or people stop listening to them. Hence option 4 constructs the most logical paragraph.

Question 32. Cloze 1

Answer Key: (i) Option 1; (ii) Option 3; (iii) Option 4; (iv) Option 4; (v) Option 2. **Explanation:** (i) Option 1—‘along with many kinds of tyranny’ requires a contrasting word in the first blank. (ii) Option 3—After the hyphen we have, ‘many varieties of capitalism...’ indicating that the writer’s emphasis is on the variety of economic systems available, hence numerous. (iii) Option 4. numerous and difficult (not easily) calls for classified. (iv) Option 4. The paragraph and the sentence is more about the variety of economic systems (varieties of capitalism) in the modern world—hence they have to cope with variety or diversity. Other options are not justified. (v) Option 2. The last sentence talks about bringing the world under a single regime—this calls for ‘unifying’ in the blank.

Question 33. Cloze 2

Answers: (i) Option 5 (ii) Option 1 (iii) Option 3 (iv) Option 1 (v) Option 5 (vi) Option 4
Explanation: (i) Option 5—Since capital punishment controls the word, ‘execute’ is the correct choice. (ii) Option 1—egregious means: conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible. (iii) Option 3—‘Supporters’ controls the word—hence justify. The other parts of the paragraph also call for ‘justify’ in the blank. (iv) Option 1—We need a word synonymous with punishment—hence no other word fits; only penalty fits. (v) Option 5—utilitarian in the context means: considering every value from the point of view of its “usefulness”. (vi) Option 4. Recidivism means: The state or quality of being recidivist; relapse, specifically (Criminology), a falling back or relapse into prior criminal habits, esp. after conviction and punishment.

Question 34. Cloze 3

Answers: (i) Option 5 the paragraph is about how world is now interconnected that an event in US has impact the world over; it becomes easier to complete the paragraph is this central

theme is understood. Hence interdependence in the first blank (ii) Option 2 (iii) Option 4 (iv) Option 2 are then very easy to choose.

Question 35. Cloze 4

Answers: (i) Option 2 (ii) Option 3. (iii) Option 4. (iv) Option 1. (v) Option 5.

Explanation: (i) Option 2—‘never goes away’ in the first sentence results in permanency. (ii) Option 3. ‘to forget was natural’ makes the opposite of it costly and time consuming. (iii) Option 4. The sentence later states that we keep all these things (rough drafts etc.) hence retain. (iv) Option 1. since we fail to delete them retaining information has become the ‘normal’ way of doing things—the closest option that comes to this meaning is default. default means: failure to act; inaction or neglect. (v) Option 5. By contrast to ‘retaining information’ will be deleting it (in this context) rather than any other option.

Question 36. Cloze 5

Answers: (i) Option 4 (ii) Option 3 (iii) Option 4 (iv) Option 1 (v) Option 2. (vi) Option 1 (vii) Option 5

Explanation: (i) Option 4. If IITs had banned foreign internships, it is an obstacle to foreign education—there are other obstacles too (impediments. (ii) Option 3. IITs’ banning was quite clearly protectionist hence 3. (iii) Option 4—such situations limit ‘access to’ foreign education and universities. (iv) Option 1—they were security concerns. (v) Option 2 the problem was faced by people coming into US from outside, hence foreigners. (vi) Option 1—the contrast to ‘despite intermittent problem calls for a word that communicates that things have improved, hence rebounded. (vii) Option 5—the improvement in situation should tempt (entice) the students to the US.

Question 37. Cloze 6

Answers: (i) Option 2 (ii) Option 4 (iii) Option 1 (iv) Option 3 (v) Option 5 (vi) Option 3

Explanation: (i) Option 2. The paragraph is about the difference between work and occupation, not merely a comparison, ‘should be’ also justifies ‘distinction’, hence Option 2. (ii) Option 4. ‘something that must be done’ calls for ‘necessity’. (iii) Option 1. ‘contributing to the means of life’ calls for ‘sustenance’. (iv) Option 3. ‘absorbs time and energy’ and constant’ in the context makes ‘initiative’ better than all other choices. (v) Option 5. A word that is synonymous with ‘useful’ will best complete the blank; hence ‘valuable’ is the best choice. (vi) Option 3. ‘tangible rewards’ justifies ‘utility.’

Question 38. Cloze 7

Answers: (i) Option 1 (ii) Option 3 (iii) Option 3 (iv) Option 5 (v) Option 2 (vi) Option 4

Explanation: (i) Option 1. the word ‘comparison’ in the next sentence tells us that the writer is drawing a comparison or ‘analogies’. No conclusion or inferences can yet be drawn. (ii) Option 3. Comparisons are always certainly based on ‘likeness’ or resemblances. (iii) Option 3. The word should be able to accommodate both computers and the human brain. Constructed and programmed may apply to the computers and not to the brain. “organize” better accommodates both. (iv) Option 5. The word applies to computers in the context, hence only ‘designed’ can be right. (iv) Option 2. A word that implies ‘classify’ ‘call’ etc., can fit in the blank. The closest word available is ‘recognize.’ (vi) Option 4. The difference between man and machine is mechanical—this difference is, according to the author, is now blurred.

Question 39. Cloze 8

Answers: (i) Option 4 (ii) Option 2 (iii) Option 5 (iv) Option 1 (v) Option 3 (vi) Option 2 (vii) Option 5

Explanation: (i) Option 4. The answer choice is between fervent and disinterested which means unbiased. as the paragraph is about the good and bad of science and the scientist's neutrality Option 4 is the best choice. (ii) and (iii): Scientists pursue knowledge with disinterest—hence it is not possible for him to account for the fact that the knowledge he generates may be used for harmful purposes as well. (iv) Option 1 because the sentence is talking about plague. (v) Option 3. The writer is stating that although James Watt's inventions made the Dust Bowl possible, he cannot be directly blamed for it. (vi) Option 2. We need a word which means 'chiefly', hence primarily fits. (vii) Option 5. The duty of the scientist is that knowledge is disseminated but not used for vested 'interests.'

Question 40. Cloze 9

Answers: (i) Option 1 (ii) Option 4 (iii) Option 5 (iv) Option 2 (v) Option 5 (vi) Option 4

Explanation: (i) Option 1. 'Kin' in the earlier part calls for relation by blood. (ii) Option 4. In the later part, the writer is describing different kinds of family units, hence 'varied'. (iii) Option 5. "just the parents and their offspring" is a nuclear family. (iv) Option 2. Nuclear family vs extended or (joint) family (v) Option 5. The largest group in the context of family will be a clan. (vi) Option 4. In the context of family, one is aware of one's lineage or descent form a common ancestry.

Question 41. Cloze 10

Answers: (i) Option 2. (ii) Option 3. (iii) Option 2. (iv) Option 4. (v) Option 5. (vi) Option 2.

Explanation: (i) Option 2. 'by the widespread confusion' justifies obscured. (ii) Option 3. emotional vs _____, hence rational. (iii) Option 2. dual nature controls this word hence dichotomy. (iv) Option 4. dichotomy and duality means they are in opposition to each other. (v) Option 5. 'and a consequence' calls for a similar idea in the blank before it 'derived from' or 'derivative' goes with consequence. (vi) Option 2. 'without reference to..' justifies understood.

Question 42. Answer Option 3. 'common interest' and united will go together. Mob rule eliminates benefits vs dangers.

Question 43. Answer Option 4. Adopt is incorrect. Dogmatism as opposed to fanaticism does not make sense; we need its opposite, hence tentativeness in the second blank. War, and consciousness will eliminate Option 3.

Question 44. Answer Option 5. Immediately after blank A, it is said identifying their nature which means A and B are related to the nature of things—hence Option 5. After C and D we have 'what should be sought and what should be avoided, hence beneficial and harmful combination in Option 5.

Question 45. Answer Option 3. From a 'new situation and lack of information', there cannot be excitement. Observe eliminates option 5. Observation eliminates option 1. Hence 3.

Question 46. Answer Option 4. If the doctors were doing this to "to identify..." something it has to be 'analysing'. Diseases are not deep rooted but underlying, hence option 1 can be eliminated in favour of option 4.

Question 47. Answer Option 2. The first blank is a contradiction of the first sentence. In comparison, misconception and fallacy score over delusion, besides benefits eliminates both the options with delusion. Detractor and critic eliminates 4 and 1. Detractor eliminates option 3.

Question 48. Answer Option 3. It is easier to choose between lack and loss because of the paragraph is talking about conservation. usual can be easily eliminated in favour of natural and normal. Option 5 is eliminated for the last two words and option 1 is also eliminated for the last two words.

Question 49. Answer Option 5. 'Animals' eliminates option 1—this would exclude plants and other organisms. Consequence eliminates option 2. Creatures, control eliminate option 3. Creatures, power eliminate option 4. Option 5 is the best choice and no blemishes.

Question 50. Answer Option 3. Options 1 and 4 can be easily eliminated as the cause of the emissions from these sources can be ruled out—burning is too specific. Conserving vs preserving vs management—it is easy to see that conserving is the best. Hence option 3.

6

Paragraph Jumbles

Directions for Questions 23 to 29: Each of the questions below consists of a group of sentences followed by four/five suggested sequential arrangements. Select the best sequence.

Question 1

- A. And that the pursuit of money by whatever design within the law is always benign.
- B. And it holds broadly that the greater the amount of money, the greater the intelligence.
- C. This is the institutional truth of Wall Street; this you will be required to believe.
- D. The institutional truth of the financial world holds that association with money implies intelligence.

1. ACBD 2. CDBA 3. DBAC 4. DCAB 5. BDCA

HOW TO SOLVE

The key to solving these questions correctly is to read the given sentences several times until you are able to see what the paragraph is trying to communicate. Hence, these questions are a bit time consuming. You can work faster to save time, but not carelessly.

It is a good idea to begin reading after looking at the options. For example, in the above example, the options tell us that the paragraph can begin with any of the four sentences. So we can read A, B, C, and D and assess each sentence for the beginning of the paragraph by comparing with the other. As we read carefully it becomes easy to see that, *in comparison*, D is better for the start than the other sentences. Options 3 and 4 become likely choices for the answer though the others are not eliminated—but just kept aside, to come back to if the situation demands.

If the paragraph starts with D, as per the options, it progresses as DB or DC—when we check these combinations by reading them carefully, ‘holds’ in D and again ‘holds’ in B make a better pair in comparison to DC, though both (D and C) have the ‘institutional truth’ in common—but to make ourselves doubly sure, we will read DBA vs DCA. At this time by comparing these two options we are almost sure that DBA has to score. However, you may quickly have a look if any other option has the sequence DBA, there could be a CDBA. In that

case, we will have to compare again to see where C could be placed best—at the beginning or at the end. You can see that the scoring option in the above has to be option 3.

Paragraph Jumbles are as easy and as this. You can go wrong in paragraph jumbles only if you do not spend sufficient time on it or if you do not read the sentences several times. Also, when you solve too many at a stretch you may make errors after the first few questions. Hence during practice it is not advisable to solve too many paragraph jumbles at a stretch. 5 or 6 questions at a time should be sufficient.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question 1

- A. She opted for Akshay Kumar instead of SRK for the lead role.
 - B. Now Sallu is Farah's close buddy.
 - C. Now priorities have changed and Farah Khan thinks SRK with whom she worked in '*Main Hoon Na*' and '*Om Shanti Om*' won't be suitable for her new flick, '*Tees Maar Khan*'.
 - D. Gone are the days when Farah Khan and Shahrukh Khan used to be think buddies.
 - E. The story doesn't end here, Farah Khan is now friend with the man whom King Khan dislikes the most.
1. BADCE 2. DACEB 3. AEBDC 4. DCAEB 5. BCADE

Question 2

- A. She had certainly touched a chord.
 - B. That was greeted by much hooting, clapping and thumbs up signs by other ladies.
 - C. At one point a spirited lady declared dramatically, "What I really need in my life is a wife!"
 - D. 'Our' designated area was the smoke and alcohol free zone and 'our' conversation was restricted to children, cooking and maids.
 - E. We were at an Independence Day dinner at which two predictable camps had formed without anybody trying—women on one side, men on the other.
1. CBAED 2. ADBCE 3. EDBAC 4. EDCBA 5. CADBE

Question 3

- A. She said, it was an unexpected turning point when she realized she had the courage to face various aspects of her past.
 - B. She smiled, "I felt so relieved! I said to myself, 'Nice to meet you!'"
 - C. As always, she spoke transparently about various issues, but mainly she spoke about herself.
 - D. And come to terms with them without wincing.
1. ACBD 2. ADBC 3. CABD 4. CDBA 5. CADB

Question 4

- A. We have converted it into something pretty anti-social.
- B. But even here, we get it all wrong.

- C. Our Touchy-Feely selves are pretty hard to restrain as anybody who has ever travelled by public transport in India will confirm.
 - D. Indians are total '*rascalams*' when it comes to taking advantage of gullible foreigners.
 - E. What is comparatively new to us in the big cities, involves the art of social kissing—we see on foreign television and in the movies... and increasingly on local entertainment channels.
 - F. A social kiss is just that—social.
1. DCEBFA 2. ACDEBF 3. BACDEF 4. CADFEB

Question 5

- A. During his inaugural address at a seminar the Chairman of the Press Council of India also expressed grave concern about the covert emergence of the "paid news" syndrome.
 - B. The phenomenon of "paid news" goes beyond the corruption of individual journalists and media companies.
 - C. Large sections of society have already expressed their unhappiness and concern about the pernicious influence of such malpractices.
 - D. Subsequently, representations against such malpractices were received from several veteran journalists.
 - E. It has become pervasive, structured and highly organized and in the process, is undermining democracy in India.
1. ECADB 2. CADBE 3. BEDAC 4. CDABE 5. BECAD

Question 6

- A. They—we—can invest in classic items that don't age so fast, and absorb these low-cost trendy disposables as the mood hits.
 - B. This evolution has freed Western women from the tyranny of a fashion industry that in the bad old days would dictate a style, compelling women to invest heavily in updating their wardrobes, and then blithely declare their entire closets obsolete—again and again, with no end in sight.
 - C. Fashion has been transformed by the recent emergence of retail chains that hire good designers to make throwaway clothing and accessories that are right on trend.
 - D. Enter the mass-production style emporia, and Western women have the seemingly delicious and liberating option of getting this summer's must-have tiny floral retro eighties print sundress—which will look appallingly frumpy by next summer—for \$12.
1. ADCB 2. BDCA 3. CBDA 4. DACB 5. CDBA

Question 7

- A. They are the lowest-paid garment workers in the world, earning \$25 a month.
- B. Most of the two million people working in Bangladesh's garment industry are women.

- C. Their leaders make the point that, at current pay levels, workers cannot feed themselves or their families.
- D. But they are demanding that their monthly wage be almost tripled, to \$70.
 - 1. BACD 2. ADBC 3. DABC 4. ABCD 5. BADC

Question 8

- A. Genetic personalized medicine isn't the only important new development.
- B. Commercial ventures like private blood banks play up the uniqueness of your baby's umbilical-cord blood.
- C. Enhancement technologies like deep-brain stimulation promote the idea that you have a duty to be the best "me" possible.
- D. In fact, modern biotechnology is increasingly about "me" medicine, the "brand" being individual patients' supposed distinctiveness.
 - 1. BACD 2. ACBD 3. CDBA 4. ADBC 5. ABCD

Question 9

- A. There is a growing popular tendency to define all conditions as genetically determined.
- B. Genetic tests, if properly administered, can save lives, but they also tend to create a feeling that the responsibility for your health rests with you, the individual patient.
- C. And that means that public-health measures are likely to be neglected in favour of individual genetic scans or personalized genetic-testing services.
- D. Major advances like the Human Genome Project have certainly geneticized medicine.
 - 1. ABCD 2. DACB 3. ACBD 4. DABC 5. ADBC

Question 10

- A. This makes the industry's current operating model financially non-viable.
- B. Drugs that make it to market have to fund the cost of failure of those that did not make it to the market.
- C. Thus, companies must either improve success rates or decrease the cost of failure.
- D. As a recent Morgan Stanley report pointed out, the pharmaceutical industry's current success rates are not sufficient to sustain large internal R&D organizations.
 - 1. ABDC 2. DACB 3. DCBA 4. BDAC 5. BADC

Question 11

- A. Is the international scholarly pecking order about to be overturned?
- B. They have been unsurpassed since World War II in the sheer volume and excellence of the scholarship and innovation that they generate.
- C. They are building new universities, improving existing ones, competing hard for the best students, and recruiting US-trained PhDs to return home to work in university and industry labs.
- D. For decades, research universities in the United States have been universally acknowledged as the world's leaders in science and engineering.
- E. But there are growing signs that the rest of the world is gaining ground fast.
 - 1. BECAD 2. DACBE 3. DBECA 4. ADCBE 5. AECDB

Question 12 (*Arrange A to E between 1 and 7*)

1. There is no question that the academic enterprise has become increasingly global, particularly in the sciences.
 - A. Half of the world's top physicists no longer work in their native countries.
 - B. Nearly three million students now study outside their home countries—a 57% increase in the last decade.
 - C. Tsinghua and Peking universities together recently surpassed Berkeley as the top sources of students who go on to earn American PhDs.
 - D. Foreign students now dominate many US doctoral programs, accounting for 64% of PhDs in computer science, for example.
 - E. Faculty are on the move, too.
7. And major institutions such as New York University and the University of Nottingham are creating branch campuses in the Middle East and Asia.
 1. ABCDE 2. AEBDC 3. BDCEA 4. BEADC 5. DCEAB

Question 13 (*Arrange A to E between 1 and 7*)

1. The expansion of knowledge is not a zero-sum game.
 - A. Indeed, the economic benefits of a global academic culture are significant.
 - B. On the contrary, it enhances what America knows and can accomplish.
 - C. More PhD production and burgeoning research in China, for instance, doesn't take away from America's store of learning.
 - D. Chinese research may well provide the building blocks for innovation by US entrepreneurs—or those from other countries.
 - E. Because knowledge is a public good, intellectual gains by one country often benefit others.
7. Just as free trade benefits both consumers and the most efficient producers, global academic competition has enormously positive consequences for individuals, universities, and countries.
 1. CBEDA 2. ACDBE 3. ADECB 4. AEBDC 5. CADEB

Question 14 (*Arrange A to D between 1 and 6*)

1. What are the main constraints?
 - A. Seed replacement remains a concern.
 - B. Water will be a scarce resource in times to come.
 - C. Land will remain limited, may even shrink.
 - D. The first green revolution areas have limited potential to increase yields particularly of cereals.
6. Varietal replacement is still lower.
 1. ABCD 2. BCDA 3. CBDA 4. DABC 5. ADBC

Question 15 (*Arrange A to D between 1 and 6*)

1. In the past two years, two dangerous episodes of financial instability and sudden changes in market dynamics have hit the world economy.
 - A. Systemic risks drive most crises, and pose a challenge for several reasons.
 - B. Second, predicting the exact timing of a break point (when bubbles burst, markets lock up, and credit freezes) is, and will likely remain, beyond our ability.

- C. More are likely, because the global economy is out of balance in several respects as it emerges from the crisis, particularly in terms of sovereign debt and the structure of global demand.
 - D. First, they are not easy to detect with confidence, and are even more difficult to prove.
 - 6. Finally, crises are highly non-linear events, which means that they occur without much warning.
1. ABCD 2. ACDB 3. CDAB 4. CADB 5. DBAC

Question 16

- A. Mines in Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia are the obvious choice.
 - B. So, companies are rapidly tying up affordable long-term coal supply.
 - C. Coal is the cheapest fuel for power plants and steel factories, and also their single-biggest recurring cost.
 - D. It's almost a truism now that if we want more electricity and build more cities and infrastructure, the country needs to shop overseas for quality coal.
 - E. Demand is growing 10% each year.
1. DCEBA 2. DCABE 3. CDEBA 4. ABCDE 5. CDABE

Question 17

- A. India's demand for calories from fat has long outstripped supply from our oilseed fields.
 - B. As our energy needs spiral, these countries will become as critical for our growth as West Asia for crude oil.
 - C. We are increasingly reliant on Malaysia and Indonesia for palm oil, which today sells in four out of every 10 bottles.
 - D. Coal is one kind of energy, cooking oil or fat another.
 - E. The biggest market for palm oil is south India.
1. BDACE 2. DACBE 3. DACEB 4. EABCD 5. EDACB

Question 18

- 1. There would also be other earnest spiritual seekers, who would be involved with outdoor activities such as sports, social work, event management, etc.
 - A. A volatile person would, through observation and practice, be able to manage his outbursts well.
 - B. There would be some who are essentially introverted too, loving to spend time in quiet company, reading or introspection.
 - C. The intelligent seeker would also know how to dilute certain unhealthy reactions, that are otherwise instinctive in him.
 - D. Each person, when inspired by that wish power within, would be able to chart a path that would particularly and eminently suit him.
 - 6. Similarly, one who is too prosaic, staid and cool would comprehend that not reacting well need not necessarily mean that he has attained victory over himself.
1. BCDA 2. ABDC 3. BDCA 4. ADBC 5. BCAD

Question 19

- A. The hyena-like animal, *Palaeonictis wingi*, evolved from the size of a bear to the size of a coyote during a 200,000-year period.
- B. Extinct carnivorous mammals shrank in size during a global warming event that occurred 55 million years ago, according to a new University of Florida study.
- C. Following this global warming event, Earth's temperature cooled and the animal evolved to a larger size.
- D. Earth's average temperature in this period increased about 15 degrees Fahrenheit.
- E. The study describes a new species that evolved to half the size of its ancestors during this period of global warming.

1. DCAEB 2. ADCBE 3. DCBEA 4. BEADC 5. EADCB

Question 20

- A. An unusually complex magnetic eruption on the Sun has flung a large cloud of electrically charged particles towards our planet, scientists have warned.
- B. The explosion was aimed directly towards Earth, which then sent a "solar tsunami" racing 93 million miles across space.
- C. Several satellites, including NASA's new Solar Dynamics Observatory, recorded a small solar flare erupting above sunspot 1092, the size of the Earth.
- D. The Earth could be hit by a "solar tsunami" anytime now.
- E. The satellites also recorded a large filament of cool gas stretching across the Sun's northern hemisphere also exploded into space.

1. CEBDA 2. DABCE 3. EBDAC 4. EDABC 5. DACEB

Question 21 (*Arrange A to D between 1 and 6*)

- 1. People are language users: they read, write, speak, and listen; and they do all of these things in natural languages such as English, Russian, and Arabic.
- A. The most popular line of thought is to cast this relationship in terms of knowledge, specifically, knowledge about linguistic facts: those who have mastered English have knowledge about the syntax and semantics of English.
- B. Many philosophers and linguists have been interested in knowing what accounts for this facility that language users have with their language.
- C. So the question may be posed: What relationship do speakers of a language have to the abstract system that constitutes the language they speak?
- D. A language may be thought of as an abstract system, characterized either as a set of grammatical rules or as an axiomatic theoretical structure.
- 6. Moreover, it is because they have this knowledge that they are able to read, write, speak, and have conversations in English.

1. BACD 2. ABCD 3. DBCA 4. ADBC 5. BDCA

Question 22 (*Arrange A to F between 1 and 8*)

- 1. Take the belief that there are currently at least one thousand kangaroos alive in Australia. That belief is true, although it need not have been.
- A. The claim that any contingent truth could instead have been false is not the fallibilist claim, because fallibilism is not a thesis about truths in themselves.

- B. So, the belief is only contingently true.
 - C. But even if we were to accept that all truths are only contingently true, we would not be committed to fallibilism.
 - D. By definition, any contingent truth could have failed to be true.
 - E. It could have been false—in that the world need not have been such as to make it true.
 - F. The recognition that contingent truths exist is not what underlies fallibilism.
8. Instead, it is about our attempts in themselves to accept or believe truths. It concerns a kind of fundamental limitation first and foremost upon our powers of rational thought and representation.
1. EBDCEFA 2. ABDCEF 3. BCDEFA 4. DAFEBC 5. FAEBDC

Question 23

1. Most of us are certain that we have free will, though what exactly this amounts to is much less certain.
- A. Minimally, to say that an agent has free will is to say that the agent has the capacity to choose his or her course of action.
 - B. According to David Hume, the question of the nature of free will is “the most contentious question of metaphysics.”
 - C. Let us then understand free will as the capacity unique to persons that allows them to control their actions.
 - D. If this is correct, then figuring out what free will is will be no small task indeed.
 - E. But animals seem to satisfy this criterion, and we typically think that only persons, and not animals, have free will.
7. It is controversial whether this minimal understanding of what it means to have a free will actually requires an agent to have a specific faculty of will.
1. DAECB 2. BDAEC 3. CAEDB 4. ABCED 5. EABCD

Question 24

1. While tantrism is a complex and controversial subject, one of its most definitive characteristics for contemporary classifications—if not its most definitive one—is the pursuit of power.
- A. The theological designation for the essence of such power is Shakti - the female counterpart to the male divine principle, whose essence is power.
 - B. Tantric traditions are thus those that aim at increasing the power of the practitioner.
 - C. The tantric pursuit of such power transgresses orthodox, mainstream Hindu norms that delimit human agency for the sake of symbolic and ritual purity.
 - D. The manifestations of Shakti that the practitioner of tantra aspire after vary greatly, from relatively limited magical proficiencies, to the liberated saint's omnipotence, to the performance of God's cosmic acts.
6. Violating prescriptions regarding caste, sexuality, diet and death, many of the tantric rites were originally performed in cremation grounds.
1. BADC 2. ABCD 3. ADCB 4. BDAC 5. DABC

Question 25 (*The first sentence of the paragraph is given—arrange the given sentences to form a coherent paragraph.*)

Newspapers are becoming more balanced businesses, with a healthier mix of revenues from readers and advertisers.

- A. Not surprisingly, Japanese newspapers are much more stable.
- B. American papers have long been highly unusual in their reliance on ads.
- C. In Japan, the proportion is 35%.
- D. Fully 87% of their revenues came from advertising in 2008.

1. ABCD 2. ADBC 3. CADB 4. BDCA 5. BDAC

Question 26

I've always believed that standup comedians need to be performers and actors themselves.

- A. And I would imagine that it is because standup comedy doesn't require all the assets of an actor, or of the stage for that matter.
- B. But there is also a reason why standup comedy is standup comedy and theater is theater.
- C. And so it is performed at a separate space where one just needs to see the performer.
- D. A reason why they are separate and are performed separately.
- E. They need to know their way around the stage.

1. BACDE 2. ABCDE 3. DCABE 4. EBDAC 5. ACEBD

Question 27

The need to identify a suitable mate is such a strong biological urge that the animal kingdom has spawned a bewildering array of courtship rituals.

- A. Humans also use dance as part of courtship, but it has been difficult for scientists to pin down exactly what it is about a dance that appeals to members of the opposite sex.
- B. Such competitive displays depend on the speed, strength and size of an animal, which is why they convey a measure of reproductive fitness.
- C. Scorpions and sandhill cranes, for instance, dance to impress.
- D. Hippo males fling their faeces, and humpback whales sing and leap above the ocean surface.
- E. Dancing is popular among animals for similar reasons.
- F. This is because factors such as facial attractiveness, height and even social status tend to confound any attempt to judge the relative merits of a person's gyrations.

1. DBECA 2. DCBEA 3. CDBEA 4. BDECA 5. EDACB

Question 28

- A. Carbon fiber is an expensive alternative to making things in steel or aluminium, but besides being extremely strong it is also very light.
- B. When his Formula 1 car cartwheeled in a spectacular 306kph crash at the recent Valencia Grand Prix, what helped him to escape unscathed was the immensely strong carbon-fiber "tub" that racing drivers now sit in.

- C. But if work by Germany's BMW proves successful, it could also become the material of choice to mass-produce electric cars.
 - D. It is found in high-performance parts, like aircraft wings, bits of supercars and the frames of pricey mountain bikes.
 - E. Mark Webber has a lot to thank tiny strands of carbon for.
1. BEADC 2. AEBDC 3. EBADC 4. ABDCE 5. EDBAC

Question 29

Arguments for legalizing prostitution depend on the strength of two arguments: that prostitution is a choice for those in it and that the harms of prostitution are decreased if it is legalized. There is little evidence that either of these arguments is true.

- A. They usually have options for escape.
 - B. For most, prostitution is not a freely-made choice because the conditions that would permit genuine choice are not present: physical safety, equal power with buyers, and real alternatives.
 - C. But zombie theories about prostitution never seem to die no matter how many facts we beat them down with.
 - D. The few who do choose prostitution are privileged by class or race or education.
 - E. Only a tiny percentage all women in prostitution are there because they choose it.
 - F. Most women in prostitution do not have viable alternatives. They are coerced into prostitution by sex inequality, race/ethnic inequality, and economic inequality.
1. ACEBD 2. BDACE 3. CEBDA 4. DACEB 5. EBDAC

Question 30

Two weeks back, a Himalayan desert town, Leh was ravaged by a fatal cloudburst - but scientists insist that there isn't sufficient evidence to confirm that it occurred as a result of global warming.

- A. According to New Scientist, climate scientist Jayaraman Srinivasan of the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore said that the number of extreme events such as cloudbursts would increase with rising global temperature.
 - B. On 6th August, however, the cloudburst that attacked Leh, led to flash floods and mudslides, washing away houses that weren't built to withstand such rainfall.
 - C. Heavy rainfall is common elsewhere in the Himalayas, but not in Ladakh.
 - D. Instead, it's a rain shadow area, making it a cold, high-altitude desert and receives a meager average of 15 millimeters of rain during August.
 - E. More than 150 people have died and hundreds more are missing.
 - F. But added that there is not enough evidence to pin the Leh cloudburst on global warming.
1. ADCBE 2. ABECD 3. CDABE 4. CABDE 5. CDBEA

Question 31

- A. One powerful force is the use of language to tell stories.
- B. But there is no Darwinian payoff to sacrificing our resources to anonymous strangers, particularly those in faraway lands.
- C. These can motivate us to think of distant people as if they were friends and family.

- D. There is an adaptive logic to being kind to those with whom we continually interact; we scratch their backs, they scratch ours.
- E. The explanation for our expanded morality comes from intelligence, imagination, and culture.
1. DCABE 2. DBEAC 3. ABECD 4. ACBDE 5. EACBD

Question 32

- A. Indeed, one recent study found that spending money on others is more rewarding than spending it on oneself.
- B. It feels good to be good.
- C. The paradoxical finding here is that one great trick to being happy is to forget about being happy and instead try to increase the happiness of others.
- D. The effects of our kindness are not zero-sum.
- E. Those who receive charity have their lives improved, but those who provide it also benefit.
- F. It's not just short-term pleasure: those who donate wealth and time to others tend to be a lot happier in their entire lives than those who do not.
1. EDBAFC 2. BAFCDE 3. CDEBAF 4. FDEBAC 5. DEBAFC

Question 33

- A. The US, as the most powerful member of the international system, tends to prefer ad hoc approaches to global governance.
- B. With its vast resources and alliances, ad hoc solutions allow the US to advance its interests effectively without the entanglements of more enduring rules, customs, and structures.
- C. Europeans prefer a more systematic reliance on the rule of law, and also on what has come to be known as the global public-goods paradigm.
- D. Adherents of this view point first and foremost to the existence of certain vital global public goods, climate being the most obvious example.
- E. By definition, public goods mean a collective-action problem.
- F. The global public-goods paradigm also implies some commensurability, if not uniformity, in the way we respond to various global collective-action challenges.
1. FDBACE 2. DBACEF 3. ABCDEF 4. DEFACB 5. EFDCAB

Question 34

- A. A slight move of the steering wheel in the wrong direction would wreak havoc, but we cruise carefree, because we have reasonable expectations about the behaviour of other drivers.
- B. That framework has to be based on global civics, a system of conscious responsibilities that we are ready to take on—and corresponding rights that we are ready to claim—after due deliberation.
- C. In an increasingly interdependent world, we need a corresponding global framework to put our minds at relative ease.
- D. Every day millions of people drive at high speeds encased in a ton of metal, and they do so extremely close to others who are doing the same thing.

- E. Our expectations of other drivers, which serve to mitigate the theoretical risks of driving, can exist because people adhere to a framework of laws, habits, and conventions about how to operate automobiles.

1. DEABC 2. ACDBE 3. DACEB 4. DAECB 5. CBDAE

Question 35

- A. On a worldwide scale, nuclear energy is thus only a small component of the global energy mix, and its share, contrary to widespread belief, is not on the rise.
B. Yet that renaissance never seems to come.
C. In July 2010, there was a total of 439 nuclear power plants with a net installed capacity of 373.038 GW(e), about 1.2 GW(e) more than at the beginning of 2006.
D. Nuclear fission's contribution to total electric energy has decreased from about 18% more than ten years ago to about 14% in 2008.
E. Repeatedly, in recent years, there have been calls for a revival of civilian nuclear power.
F. Indeed, of the more than 200 countries in the world, only 30 use nuclear power.

1. ACEFDB 2. EBFCDA 3. DAFCEB 4. EFCABD 5. CDAEBF

Question 36

- A. The obstacles to energy access are not technical.
B. What is missing is a global commitment to move energy access up the political and development agendas.
C. We know how to build power systems, design modern cooking stoves, and meet energy demand efficiently.
D. But over 2 billion people—one in three people on our planet—have no access to modern energy to light and heat the dwellings in which they live.
E. If you are reading this, you most likely have electricity and heat at home and never think of that fact as at all remarkable.

1. EDACB 2. ABCDE 3. ACBED 4. BEDAC 5. EDBCA

Question 37

- A. Then, in the twentieth century, airplanes moved us even faster.
B. To be modern is to be mobile.
C. In the modern world, we cherish our freedom and individuality.
D. Our economy depends on the free and rapid circulation of people and goods, and we have invented transportation technologies to suit our needs.
E. And, as automobile advertisers have long understood, few experiences make us feel more liberated than a fast ride with the top down.
F. First, the railroads moved people and goods at previously unimaginable speeds, while steamships circled the globe.

1. BDFAEC 2. BDFACE 3. CEBAFD 4. CDBAFE 5. CEBDFA

Question 38

- A. It is now one of the two major themes as governments prepare for the *Rio+20* conference in Brazil in 2012.

- B. The Green Economy is not a luxury, but a clear imperative on a planet of six billion people—and nine billion by 2050.
 - C. But, as multiple case studies demonstrate, many developing economies are making up their own minds.
 - D. The inherent logic offers, perhaps for the first time, a sustainable growth paradigm that is suited to developing and developed countries alike.
 - E. New ideas and policies, especially when they challenge the *status quo*, will always have their critics.
 - F. Over the past two years, the Green Economy has gone from theory to practice.
1. FACBDE 2. FACEBD 3. FADECB 4. CADBEF 5. BDFACE

Question 39

- A. The past twelve months was the hottest 12-month period since measurements began.
 - B. Satellite data have this March the hottest March on record, with April ranking second-hottest; the surface data have it the other way round, with March the second-hottest and April the hottest.
 - C. But if you prefer satellite data, the picture is similar.
 - D. This April was the hottest April on record, globally, for at least 130 years, according to the worldwide temperature records maintained by NASA and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
 - E. That is what the data from weather stations and ships show.
1. DAECB 2. ECBDA 3. AECDB 4. AECBD 5. DAEEC

Question 40

- A. Without an improved geopolitical strategy, there can be no effective fight against climate change.
 - B. The first lesson is that climate change is a matter not only of science, but also of geopolitics.
 - C. The expectation at Copenhagen that scientific research would trump geopolitics was misguided.
 - D. International climate-change negotiations are to be renewed this year.
 - E. To be successful, they must heed the lessons of last December's Copenhagen summit.
1. ABCDE 2. DEBCA 3. DEABC 4. BCADE 5. CADEB

Question 41

- A. The authors also assert that the world's past did not unfold of its own accord, but that "we create history by our observation, rather than history creating us."
- B. The main novelty in "The Grand Design" is the authors' application of a way of interpreting quantum mechanics, derived from the ideas of the late Richard Feynman, to the universe as a whole.
- C. They say that these surprising ideas have passed every experimental test to which they have been put, but that is misleading in a way that is unfortunately typical of the authors.

- D. According to this way of thinking, “the universe does not have just a single existence or history, but rather every possible version of the universe exists simultaneously.”

1. BADC 2. BDAC 3. BCAD 4. ACDB 5. ACBD

Question 42

- A. Seminars on the subject drew 25 people to a small Mississippi town and another 30 to Nashville, Tennessee preposterously early one recent Saturday morning.
B. But then, most Power Points do not conclude with a good 60 pounds of perfectly smoked pork shoulder.
C. Most people would not relish the thought of devoting one of summer’s last Saturdays to sitting in a cavernous room listening to a five-hour PowerPoint presentation—particularly if that presentation begins just before 8 am.
D. Welcome to the arcane and delicious world of barbecue-judging.

1. ABCD 2. ADBC 3. CBDA 4. ADCB 5. CABD

Question 43

- A. Game theory studies interactive situations.
B. Situations, in which the outcome of an agent’s action depends on the actions of all the other agents involved, are called interactive.
C. Its fundamental idea is that an agent in an interactive decision should and does take into account the deliberations of her opponents, who, in turn, take into account her deliberations.
D. Two people playing chess is the archetypical example of an interactive situation, but so are elections, wage bargaining, market transactions, the arms race, international negotiations, and many more.

1. ABCD 2. ABDC 3. BDAC 4. BADC 5. DACB

Question 44

- A. For example, the “fine-tuning” version of the design argument depends on empirical evidence of intelligent design; in particular, it turns on the empirical claim that as a matter of law, life could not have developed if certain fundamental properties of the universe were to have differed even slightly from what they are.
B. In contrast, the ontological arguments are conceptual in roughly the following sense: just as the propositions constituting the concept of a bachelor imply that every bachelor is male, the propositions constituting the concept of God, according to the ontological argument, imply that God exists.
C. Likewise, cosmological arguments depend on certain empirical claims about the explanation for the occurrence of empirical events.
D. Most of the arguments for God’s existence rely on at least one empirical premise.

1. ABCD 2. ADBC 3. ACBD 4. DCAB 5. DACB

Question 45

- A. Modern physics and cosmology suggest that basic truths about how nature operates, and how our universe arose, are visible only to those who can see events that occur faster than the time it takes for light to cross a proton, and whose vision can resolve sub-nuclear distances.

- B. By smashing protons together with unprecedented energy, monitoring the many particles that emerge from the collisions, and reconstructing the primary events that produced them, physicists will in effect have constructed the fastest, highest-resolution microscope ever, with each proton taking a snapshot of the other's interior.
 - C. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) rises to the opportunity.
 - D. Fortunately, that does not rule out humans, for we can augment the eyes we were born with.
1. ADBC 2. ADCB 3. ABDC 4. BCAD 5. CBAD

Question 46

- A. For more than a decade, the precious metallic component of e-waste has been fueling a polarized international trade in potentially hazardous materials, with defunct electronic products exported to countries where labour is cheap.
 - B. It can be argued that disposing of high-tech e-waste in landfills is just another way of returning these precious metals to the earth, where, millennia from now, it will have merged with the substrata, becoming just like any other ore.
 - C. The short-term consequences of using landfills, shallow pits, or incinerators to get rid of e-waste is the release of these noxious chemicals, which adversely impact ecological processes, wildlife, and human health.
 - D. But, along with the precious metals, e-waste also contains potent toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants.
1. BDCA 2. ABCD 3. BCAD 4. ACBD 5. CABD

Question 47

- A. It makes eminent sense; I grew up with Malthus's ideas brought up-to-date in apocalyptic books like *The Population Bomb*.
 - B. It was not that long ago that experts were predicting that our skyrocketing human population would outstrip its food supply, leading directly to mass famine.
 - C. It was the old doom-and-gloom mathematics of Thomas Malthus at work: population shoots up geometrically while food production lags behind.
 - D. By now, millions were supposed to be perishing from hunger every year.
1. BCAD 2. BDCA 3. BACD 4. ADCB 5. CADB

Question 48

- A. Help is at hand in the form of a new study from cognitive scientists at the University of Rochester, which suggests that video gamers make faster and more accurate decisions.
 - B. Parents worry that violent games make their children antisocial, violent, shallow, and obese, and are breeding a generation that cannot sustain their concentration.
 - C. Video games have been blamed for the ills of the world.
 - D. Screen time is routinely limited, much to the chagrin of their keyboard-pounding offspring.
1. CBDA 2. BDCA 3. BADC 4. ABDC 5. CBAD

Question 49

- A. That business is not just about profit and the interests of shareholders, and that the wishes of executives cannot be placed above those of all other stakeholders.
- B. In today's business climate, organizations need well-rounded executives with strong leadership skills and the ability to integrate ethical, sustainable and stakeholder thinking into their management decisions.
- C. Nowhere was this more apparent than the BP oil spill where the suspicion was that protecting the dividend and shareholder value was placed above public interest.
- D. For the MBA to remain relevant, there needs to be an acknowledgement of this fact.
1. ADBC 2. BDCA 3. ACBD 4. BDAC 5. DACB

Question 50

- A. It is absolutely fundamental to our concept of actions performed intentionally, which in turn is central to those of agency, free will, and moral responsibility.
- B. The phenomenon of mental causation is thoroughly commonplace and ubiquitous.
- C. An action, as philosophers use the term, is not a mere bodily motion like involuntarily blinking one's eyes.
- D. It is something one does intentionally, as when one winks to grab someone's attention.
- E. But this is not the only reason why it is significant.
1. ACEBD 2. BEACD 3. CEDBA 4. CDBEA 5. CABED

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 4. DCAEB. Comparison of B, D and A yields D as the best starter. Going on from there it is easy to discover the best sequence as option 4. Also, sentence B cannot be anywhere else other than at the end.

Question 2. Answer Option 4. EDCBA; E best starts the paragraph. ED makes a pair. CB makes the next pair with the lady's observation and the reaction. A continues the idea from B ending the paragraph.

Question 3. Answer Option 5. CADB. Between C and A, CA is far better than AC because 'she said' in A is properly understood when it is preceded by "As always she spoke..." Then it goes on naturally to D placing D at the end.

Question 4. Answer Option 1. DCEBFA. Only statement D is an intelligent start for the paragraph. And there is only one option starting with D. However, if you go on and analyze the options, only option 1 makes sense as a paragraph.

Question 5. Answer Option 5. BECAD 'already expressed', 'such malpractices' indicate C is unlikely compared to B for the starter. E is also eliminated as 'it has become pervasive...' is inferior to B for the starter. BEC is better compared to BED. Reading further on the answer choice becomes obvious.

Question 6. Answer Option 3. CBDA. When all the four sentences are considered for starting the paragraph C makes the best choice in comparison. 'This evolution' in B is directly to the 'transformed' in C, hence CB scores over CD. CBDA hence is the best option.

Question 7. Answer Option 5. BADC. B introduces the paragraph. A and D are illogical in comparison to B. BA is continuous, Ad is continuous and DC is continuous.

Question 8. Answer Option 5. ABCD. CD is mandatory can be easily understood. The placement of A and B in comparison with the sequences in the options shows that BA is a less likely versus AB. AB is better placed before CD because 'not the only' in A is continued in the other sentences with various examples.

Question 9. Answer Option 2. DACB. The tendency to 'define all conditions as genetically...' is result of the 'certainly geneticised medicine' in D—hence DA is logical. If the paragraph is started with A, the placement of D is problematic in every other option. AC is mandatory; also B has to be after C because of the 'genetic-testing services' (C) and 'genetic tests if properly administered' (D).

Question 10. Answer Option 4. BDAC. By comparing A first gets eliminated for the start over D and B. Since the 'current success ratio' is vague without placing B before it BA can be seen as mandatory. After A 'this makes the industry's ...' makes sense to be followed by 'thus' in C. Hence option 4.

Question 11. Answer Option 3. DBECA. A and D become contenders for the starter AE gets eliminated in comparison and ADC gets eliminated when you continue it with B. DA gets eliminated in comparison to DB—DBECA is the best choice.

Question 12. Answer Option 3. BDCEA. The contest is between options 2 and 3, after comparing the other options and to lesser extent 5 also can be considered. What eliminates option 2 in favour of 3 is the combination EB—the mention of "Faculty are on the move too" makes much better sense after it is mentioned that students are on the move as globalization is more related to student movement than faculty movement. Option 5 is eliminated because B immediately before the footer.

Question 13. Answer Option 1. CBEDA. On comparison of options, DB eliminates option 2; B moving into the 7 or the footer eliminates option 3. EB eliminates option 4. CA eliminates option 5. These combinations may make sense but the answer choice 1 is the best in comparison to all these.

Question 14. Answer Option 3. CBDA. Obviously, the paragraph is about agriculture—what are the main constraints—first it has to be related to the land, not by rule but in comparison to the other statements related to seeds and irrigation. Next water, water affects yield, hence BD make a pair. A can only be placed just before the footer.

Question 15. Answer Option 4. CDAB. C goes best with the header—"two episodes ... more are likely." CA need to be together because there is no other place for A in the paragraph, just the way DB have to be together.

Question 16. Answer Option 1. DCEBA. D and C may be considered for the start compared to A. DCA eliminates option 2. Option 5 is eliminated when it comes to BE. Option 1 comparatively offers the most logical paragraph.

Question 17. Answer Option 3. DACEB. ED is eliminated first. EA next. 'These countries' in B is better placed after C eliminating option 1. Placement of E is the comparison in option 2 and 3. E at the end (option 2) just does not make sense. Option 3 scores in comparison.

Question 18. Answer Option 3. BDCA. Header logically continues in statement B rather than any other statement, D continues the same train of thought. Next sentence could either be C or A; here the option 3 has made the decision limiting the analysis.

Question 19. Answer Option 4. BEADC. B introduces the paragraph and the study. E continues the details of the study. A provides the example with the justification in D and C to conclude the paragraph.

Question 20. Answer Option 5. DACEB. D introduces the news item. A gives the reason why a statement is made. C and E are mandatory and state the evidence. B concludes the paragraph.

Question 21. Answer Option 5. BDCA. 'this facility' in statement A links to the header. "what accounts for this facility' in B justifies the " a language may be thought of as..." in D. "an axiomatic system' in D is continued in C as 'the abstract system'. 'A' needs to be placed before the footer. Thus we get the best paragraph in option 5.

Question 22. Answer Option 1. EBDCFA. The second sentence in 1 and E can be seen to be very closely connected. Or, if we compare the other statements to follow the header, then also the link between the header and the statement E can be seen by comparison. Even if BCD is analysed, BCDE is not logical.

Question 23. Answer Option 2. BDAEC 'though what exactly this means ..' justifies the quotation 'the most contentious question' in B. BD, then makes perfect sense—"figuring out ... no small task indeed." Also, one can easily note that neither B nor D (according to the options) can be placed before the footer.

Question 24. Answer Option 1. BADC Though A would logically continue to form the header, AB eliminates option 2; besides, "such power transgresses orthodox, mainstream Hindu norms" in C is closely linked to the footer with "*Violating prescriptions regarding caste, sexuality, diet and death,...*" hence option 2 and 3 are eliminated. Since there is a sentence that introduces the foreign term 'shakti' (A), it needs to come before D, eliminating option 5. Between options 1 and 4 "The theological designation..." of power is better followed by its 'manifestations' rather than preceded, i.e., DA vs AD (in comparison alone) makes option 1 the best choice.

Question 25. Answer Option 4. BDCA After the introductory sentence, the paragraph compares American and Japanese businesses. 'have long been highly unusual' is justified after 'becoming balanced businesses.' D gives what has been unusual. C compares Japanese and D concludes it.

Question 26. Answer Option 4. EBDAC The reason for what is stated in the header is stated in E. No other sentence continues from the header as logically as E. "But..." in B also has no other place other than after E. "... standup comedy is standup comedy and theater is theater...." logically moves into "why they are separate..." A and C then follow logically form here as reason (because) and consequence (so).

Question 27. Answer Option 1. DBECA. 'bewildering array' in the header is explained only in D; hence D continues from the header. B then explains the reason for 'such competitive displays'; this is then linked by E with its 'similar reasons'. C gives examples of animals

that use ‘dance to impress’. A can only follow C because of the ‘also’ in it. The second part of statement A is explained in the footer—making option 1 the best choice.

Question 28. Answer Option 3. EBADC. AE and AB can be very easily eliminated. If E and b are compared for the starter B can be eliminated. EDB is inferior to EBA. Hence option 3.

Question 29. Answer Option 3. CEBDA. Since the header states ‘there is little evidence ...’ which makes these arguments ‘zombie theories’—(mechanical or apathetic); hence statement C is the best one after the header; besides there is no other place in the paragraph where C can be placed logically—especially after A as all the other options do. CEBDA thus makes the most logical paragraph, as only statement A can be placed before the footer.

Question 30. Answer Option 5. CDBEA. Statement A cannot continue from the header because it contradicts the header. Once that is seen the decision to make is what follows C. CA vs CD is an easy choice in favour of CD. Also, there is a very strong clue to place A just before the footer.

Question 31. Answer Option 2. DBEAC. DB is a mandatory pair. B does not make sense after any other sentence. Though A can be confused for the starter, none of the options beginning with A have the mandatory DB.

Question 32. Answer Option 5. DEBAFC. D provides the best starter in comparison, the non zero-sum then gets explained in E. After that the paragraph moves on. The other options are eliminated at this stage itself.

Question 33. Answer Option 3. ABCDEF. By comparing the option it can be seen that the original order itself is the best.

Question 34. Answer Option 4. DAECB. The comparison between driving and global co-operation comes through logically in option 4. DAE is about driving, and CB about global framework.

Question 35. Answer Option 2. EBFCD. ‘Renaissance’ in E is the revival in ‘B’—hence they are a mandatory pair. A is eliminated for the starter because of the ‘thus’ in it—best in a concluding line. In comparison, D and C also can be eliminated for the starter. In comparison, the best sequence is to be found in option 2.

Question 36. Answer Option 1. EDACB. While comparing the starter B gets eliminated first. Then, in comparison, ACB and ABC (options 2 and 3) get eliminated as they do not make as much sense as the other options do. EDA scores over EDB.

Question 37. Answer Option 5. CEBDFA. B and C seem to be equally good for the start. However, after BDFA the paragraphs do not seem to make sense. Working with options beginning with C, it becomes easy to notice the scoring option as 5.

Question 38. Answer Option 3. FADECB. Though the sentences seem to be disconnected, the options help arrive at the answer quickly. C and its continuation in option 4 and B and its continuation in option 5 can be very easily eliminated in favour of options beginning with F. However, options 1 and start losing sense after FAC in comparison to FAD.

Question 39. Answer Option 1. DAECB. Since D has details about both the sources of data used to reach the conclusion it starts the paragraph best. The choice between options 1 and 5 can be made after DAE (or by evaluating CB vs BC) in favour of option 1.

Question 40. Answer Option 2. CEBCA. DE is mandatory; EB is mandatory; BC is mandatory; they are better combinations also in comparison with the others.

Question 41. Answer Option 2. BDAC. 'application to the universe as a whole' continues logically in statement D making them a better pair than any other. This is then continued with 'the authors also assert...' in A; hence DA would also go together.

Question 42. Answer Option 3. CBDA. "most people would not' And " but then, most powerpoints..." make a logical pair. D is most effective when placed immediately after CB than anywhere else (other options).

Question 43. Answer Option 3. BDAC. If you had selected option 1 you fell for the trickster. Look a little more carefully. AC is a mandatory pair. "Its fundamental idea ..." is best placed after A and there is no sequence beginning with AC. BC (option 1) does not make much sense with 'its' begging the question. Compare all the options; you will see that 3 is the best sequence.

Question 44. Answer Option 5. DACB—Very straightforward if one notices the transition words; it may necessitate only a very casual reading of the sentences and not any comprehension. "Most of the arguments For example Likewise In contrast " forms the best sequence The other sequence possible is " Most of the arguments ... for example.... In contrast ... Likewise..." (DABC) No other option is logical.

Question 45. Answer Option 2. ADCB. In comparison, A is the best starter. A states "visible only to those..." this makes "Fortunately, that does not rule out humans..." a logical pair with D. since B explains what happens in the LHC, C need to be before it.

Question 46. Answer Option 1. BDCA. First, the major clue available is that DC needs to be together in that order because 'these noxious chemicals' in D refers to the chemicals mentioned in D. No other option has DC. Comparison of options shows you that option 1 is the answer.

Question 47. Answer Option 2. BDCA. Between B, A and C for the starter B definitely scores in comparison. BA can be ruled out in comparison to BD and BC. Since D cannot be placed at the end, (in comparison with BDCA) BDCA scores. Besides, "experts were predicting" in B is best followed by " by now millions were supposed to perish"—the prediction itself.

Question 48. Answer Option 1. CBDA. BD is mandatory pair with references to parents and offspring respectively. Placement of C and A on either side in that order makes the most logical sequence.

Question 49. Answer Option 5. DACB. 'this fact' in D is specified in A making DA a mandatory pair. "nowhere was this more apparent' in C refers to the fact highlighted in A, hence DAC. B concludes the paragraph.

Question 50. Answer Option 2. BEACD. Between A, B, and C for the starter A is easily eliminated. CE and CA are inferior to CD. CDB eliminates option 4 forcing us to look at option 2, which provides a logical sequence.

7

Logical Set Theory

Type 1

Directions: Each of these questions contains six statements followed by four/five (BCD etc.) sets of combinations of three. Choose the set in which the statements are the most logically related.

- A. Some of my closest friends disapprove of me.
 - B. Some of my closest friends are aardvarks.
 - C. All of my closest friends disapprove of me.
 - D. All who disapprove of me are aardvarks.
 - E. Some who disapprove of me are aardvarks.
 - F. Some of my closest friends are no aardvarks.
1. BCD 2. ABD 3. BCE 4. ABE

Type 2

Directions: Each of the questions below contains four arguments of three sentences each. Choose the set in which the third statement is a logical conclusion of the first two.

- A. Some Xs are Ps; Some Ps are Ys; Some Xs are Ys.
 - B. All Sonas are bright; Some bright are crazy; Some Sonas are crazy.
 - C. No faith is strong; Only strong have biceps. No faith has biceps.
 - D. All men are weak. Some weak are strong. Some strong are weak.
1. A and D 2. C only 3. D only 4. None of these

Answers: Type 1 Answer Option 3; Type 2 Answer Option 2.

HOW TO SOLVE

In these questions, you are asked to test the validity of a syllogism. A syllogism is (in logic) “a valid deductive argument having two premises and a conclusion.” The traditional type is the categorical syllogism—a set of three statements in which two premises lead to the third as the conclusion. They use only three simple terms between them, each term appearing twice: “All **men** are **mortal**; no **gods** are **mortal**; therefore no **men** are **gods**.” (*men, mortal, gods* being the three terms)

In this book, we are not going into the details of logic or syllogisms. We will look at the principles required to solve questions.

The first thing you should bear in mind is that there are four categorical **propositions** in logic, and all logical set theory questions are based on these four (only these four) propositions:

They are:

All X are Y (Universally affirmative proposition)

Some X are Y (Partially affirmative proposition)

Some X are not Y (Partially negative proposition)

No X are Y (Universally negative proposition)

Any question in logical set theory will be combinations of three from these four statements. Some test writers may change the format of these standard propositions to sentences like "All of my closest friends disapprove of me." However, the changed sentence will always mean one of the categorical propositions. Hence "All of my closest friends disapprove of me" is merely "All X are Y."

First, translate your syllogism into standard form. For simplicity, you may, if you wish, assign variables to each of the three terms. For example:

All caffeinated drinks are stimulants. becomes: All CDs are S

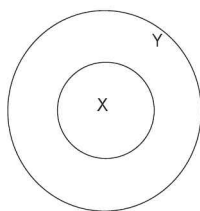
All forms of coffee have caffeine. becomes: All C are CD

All forms of coffee are stimulants. becomes: All C are S

Second, use Venn diagram to check the validity of the given conclusion.

Venn diagram visually represents the given sets (variables) and makes it easy to check the validity of the conclusion. Each proposition is represented thus:

1. All X are Y:



The (inside) set of X is also Y. Hence *Some Y are X*, but the data does not give us any information about Y which are not X.

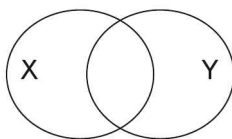
Hence *Some Y are X* is true.

But we don't know if there is Y which is not X, hence *Some Y are not X* cannot be concluded.

All X are Y means 1. there is *at least one X that is Y* and conversely *Some Y are X* (in the $X=Y$ set. "Some" in logic means *at least one* or *non-empty*)

2. there is no information about Y which are not X, hence *some Y are not X* is not true but only a possibility.

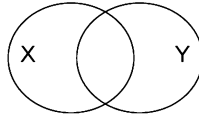
2. Some X are Y



Some X are Y means

1. *Some Y are X* (in the intersection where $X=Y$ / $Y=X$)

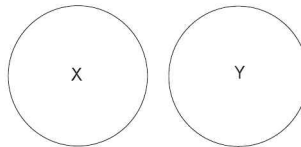
2. There is no information about Y that are not X and X that are not Y in which case *Some X are not Y* and *Some Y are not X* do not follow as conclusions. However, the possibilities *Some Y may not be X*, *All Y may be X*, *Some may not be Y* are true.
3. **Some X are not Y**



We have no knowledge about the intersection or the area in which Y is not X. We know that X outside the Intersection is not **empty**.

Some X are not Y does not yield any definite conclusion because we do not know the relationship between X and Y. However, *Some X may be Y*; *Some Y may be X*, *All Y may be X* etc., are possibilities which are **true**.

4. **No X are Y**



No X are Y means *No Y are X*.

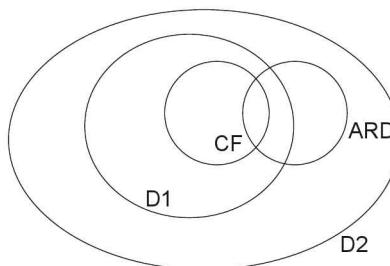
This is all you need to know to solve these questions correctly. As we saw earlier a question has three terms X,Y and Z.

Now solve this question:

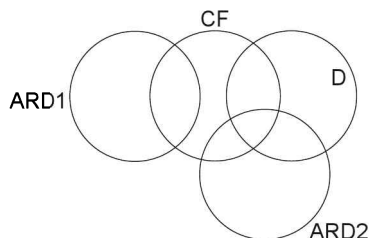
Directions: Each of these questions contains six statements followed by four/five (BCD etc.) sets of combinations of three. Choose the set in which the statements are the most logically related.

- A. Some of my closest friends disapprove of me.
 - B. Some of my closest friends are aardvarks.
 - C. All of my closest friends disapprove of me.
 - D. All who disapprove of me are aardvarks.
 - E. Some who disapprove of me are aardvarks.
 - F. Some of my closest friends are no aardvarks.
1. BCD 2. ABD 3. BCE 4. ABE

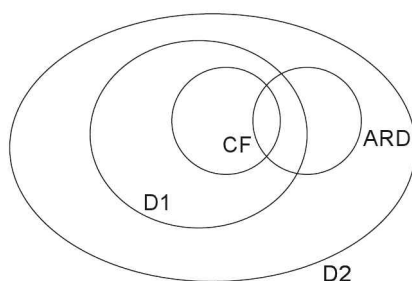
Work form the options backward. Check (option 1) if from statement B and Statement C we get the conclusion D. (some CF are A; all CF are D; therefore, All D are A.) The Venn diagram would look like this-



D1 or D2 do not support the conclusion that All D are A. Hence eliminate option 1. Then examine option 2. Draw an appropriate Venn diagram and check; it will look like below. (ARD2 can also be drawn to include all of D). However, as we do not know which case is true it cannot be concluded that *All D are ARD*.



Answer option 3 is correct and the Venn diagram looks like this (it is the same as above); we know that the intersection of CF and ARD contains those elements in the conclusion.

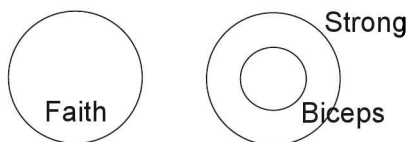


Hence the conclusion is about the intersection we definitely know that is not empty, hence E follows from B and C

Directions: Each of the questions below contains four arguments of three sentences each. Choose the set in which the third statement is a logical conclusion of the first two.

- A. Some Xs are Ps; Some Ps are Ys; Some Xs are Ys.
 - B. All Sonas are bright; Some bright are crazy; Some Sonas are crazy.
 - C. No faith is strong; Only strong have biceps. No faith has biceps.
 - D. All men are weak. Some weak are strong. Some strong are weak.
1. A and D 2. C only 3. D only 4. None of these

Sequence A - Some Xs are Ps; Some Ps are Ys; does not yield Some Xs are Ys. Hence eliminate option 1 as it contains A. Check C—it is true and the conclusion follows from both the premises it is the answer as there is no other option containing C. You can mark the answer. However, D appears to be correct at first glance but the third statement (conclusion follows only from the second premise, hence not a part of the answer. The Venn diagram for C looks like this:



Note: Only strong have biceps **OR** *Only X are Y* is equivalent to *All Y are X*—or All biceps are strong.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

TYPE I

Question 1

- A. All those who grow up are unhappy.
 - B. All children are unhappy.
 - C. All children grow up.
 - D. No children grow up.
 - E. No children are unhappy,
 - F. Some children are unhappy.
1. ADE 2. ACB 3. ADB 4. ADF 5. ABF

Question 2

- A. All honest men are persons who acknowledge value in a rival.
 - B. Some educated men are very honest.
 - C. Some educated men are not persons who acknowledge value in a rival.
 - D. Some educated men are persons who are very honest.
 - E. Some educated men are not honest.
 - F. Some persons who recognize value in a rival are educated.
1. ABE 2. ACF 3. ADE 4. BAF 5. BAE

Question 3

- A. All chairs are tables.
 - B. All chairs are made of wood.
 - C. All chairs are used to sit.
 - D. All chairs need nails
 - E. All used to sit need nails
 - F. All used to sit are made of wood.
1. CED 2. ACB 3. BDC 4. CFE 5. ACE

Question 4

- A. All men are men of scientific ability.
 - B. Some women are women of scientific ability.
 - C. Some men are men of artistic genius.
 - D. Some men and women are people of scientific ability.
 - E. All men of artistic genius are men of scientific ability.
 - F. Some women of artistic genius are women of scientific ability.
1. ACD 2. ACE 3. DEF 4. ABC 5. ACF

Question 5

- A. No plants grow in water.
- B. All plants have leaves.

- C. Some algae grow in stream.
- D. All algae grow in water.
- E. No algae are plants.
- F. All plants are green.

1. ABC 2. BCD 3. ADE 4. DEF 5. ADF

Question 6

- A. Some cats are carnivores.
- B. All lions are cats.
- C. All lions are kings.
- D. All lions are carnivores.
- E. Some kings are cats.
- F. Some cats are lions.

1. ADF 2. ABC 3. AEF 4. ACE 5. BCE

Question 7

- A. First-year students of this college like to enter for the prize.
- B. All students of this college rank as University students.
- C. First-year students of this college are entitled to enter for the prize.
- D. Some who rank as University students are first-year students.
- E. All University students are eligible to enter for the prize.
- F. All those who like to are entitled to enter for the prize.

1. AEF 2. ABC 3. BEC 4. CDF 5. BED

Question 8

- A. Some beliefs are uncertain.
- B. Nothing uncertain is worth dying for.
- C. Some beliefs are worth dying for.
- D. All beliefs are uncertain.
- E. Some beliefs are certain.
- F. No belief is worth dying for.

1. ABF 2. BCD 3. BEF 4. BDF 5. ACE

Question 9

- A. No lunatics are fit to serve on a jury.
- B. Everyone who is sane can do logic.
- C. None of your sons can do logic.
- D. Some who can do logic are fit to serve on a jury.
- E. All who can do logic are fit to serve on a jury.
- F. Everyone who is sane is fit to serve on a jury.

1. BDE 2. BEF 3. BDF 4. ADE 5. ADF

Question 10

- A. No phones are cameras.
- B. Some PDAs are cameras.

- C. Some PDAs are not cameras.
- D. All PDAs are phones.
- E. All phones are cameras.
- F. Some phones are cameras.

1. ABF 2. CDF 3. BDF 4. BDE 5. ABC

Question 11

- A. Mary is John's wife.
- B. Mary and John danced together.
- C. Mary wears John's ring.
- D. Husbands and wives danced the last waltz.
- E. John loves Mary.
- F. John danced last with Mary.

1. ADF 2. ABD 3. ACE 4. AEF 5. ADE

Question 12

- A. All pens are blue.
- B. All pens are pencils.
- C. All pens are erasers.
- D. All erasers need ink.
- E. All pens need ink.
- F. All erasers need paper.

1. ABC 2. BCD 3. CDE 4. CEF 5. DEF

Question 13

- A. Ron is a dog.
- B. Ren is Ron's pet.
- C. Some dogs are pets.
- D. No dog is a cat.
- E. Ren is not a cat.
- F. Ron is not a cat.

1. ADE 2. ABE 3. ADF 4. CDE 5. ACD

Question 14

- A. No politician is a gentleman.
- B. Some gentlemen are politicians.
- C. Some gentlemen are corrupt.
- D. No gentlemen are corrupt.
- E. Some politicians are not corrupt.
- F. All politicians are corrupt.

1. ABE 2. BCE 3. ADF 4. BDE 5. ADE

Question 15

- A. Painting and music are forms of art.
- B. Art is a symptom of culture.

- C. Culture and art are complementary.
- D. Music is a form of art.
- E. Painting is a form of art.
- F. Music shows culture.

1. BDF 2. AEF 3. ACE 4. CEF 5. ABD

Question 16

- A. Fats cause heart problems.
- B. All fried foods are hazardous to health.
- C. Fats do not cause heart problems sometimes.
- D. One fried food is Fryums.
- E. Brand Fryums causes heart problems.
- F. Fryums is bad for health.

1. ABE 2. BDF 3. ABD 4. ABC 5. ABF

Question 17

- A. CFL is a good form of lighting.
- B. Philips is CFL.
- C. This lighting is not Philips.
- D. This lighting is Philips.
- E. This lighting is not CFL.
- F. This lighting is CFL.

1. ADF 2. BCE 3. ABD 4. BDF 5. BDE

Question 18

- A. Mathew and Paul are brothers.
- B. Siblings are known to quarrel often.
- C. Mathew and Paul do not quarrel.
- D. All those who quarrel are siblings.
- E. Paul and Mathew quarrel often.
- F. Mathew and Paul cannot be siblings.

1. BDE 2. ADF 3. CDE 4. ACE 5. ABE

Question 19

- A. Different hues are obtained from primary colours.
- B. A rainbow consists of several hues.
- C. Blue and red can give different hues.
- D. Red is a primary colour.
- E. Blue can give different hues.
- F. Red can give different hues.

1. ACE 2. AEF 3. ADF 4. CDF 5. ABE

Question 20

- A. Some college athletes are professionals.
- B. No college athlete is a professional.

- C. Some professionals are well-paid.
 - D. All professionals are well-paid.
 - E. All well-paid persons are professionals.
 - F. No well-paid person is a college athlete.
1. BEF 2. ABF 3. BDF 4. ACF

Question 21

- A. All boys are good.
 - B. Some girls are bad.
 - C. Good people are educated.
 - D. Boys are educated.
 - E. Ram is an educated boy.
 - F. Lata is an educated girl.
1. BCF 2. ACD 3. DEF 4. ADF

Question 22

- A. All who are sincere are graduates.
 - B. Some graduates are not sincere.
 - C. All who are sincere are dull.
 - D. All graduates are dull.
 - E. Some who are dull are graduates.
 - F. No one who is dull is sincere.
1. BEF 2. ADF 3. ABF 4. ADC

Question 23

- A. Sham won a lottery.
 - B. Sham lost in a chess game.
 - C. Sham is not intelligent.
 - D. One need not be intelligent to win a lottery.
 - E. One need not be intelligent to win a chess game.
 - F. Sham plays chess.
1. BEF 2. ACD 3. BDE 4. BDF

Question 24

- A. Good managers are intuitive.
 - B. Some managers are women.
 - C. Supriya is a good manager.
 - D. Supriya is a woman.
 - E. Some women are intuitive.
 - F. Supriya is intuitive.
1. BCE 2. ABD 3. ACF 4. ADF

Question 25

- A. Some intolerant are poor thinkers.
- B. Some poor thinkers are intolerant.

- C. All people with high ideals are intolerant.
 - D. No poor thinker is intolerant.
 - E. No poor thinker has high ideals.
 - F. Some people with high ideals are not poor thinkers.
1. CDE 2. CDF 3. ABD 4. BCF

Question 26

- A. Some well-dressed people are sociable.
 - B. All sociable people are well-dressed.
 - C. Some well dressed people are dull.
 - D. No dull person is well-dressed.
 - E. Some sociable people are dull.
 - F. Some dull ones are well-dressed.
1. ACE 2. BCE 3. ADE 4. BEF

Question 27

- A. Iran and Iraq are members of the UN.
 - B. Iran and Iraq are not friends.
 - C. Iran and Iraq are neighbours.
 - D. Some UN members are friends.
 - E. Not all members of the UN are friends.
 - F. All neighbours are not friends.
1. ABE 2. ABD 3. CDF 4. AEF

Question 28

- A. No spring is a season.
 - B. Some seasons are springs.
 - C. Some seasons are autumns.
 - D. No seasons are autumns.
 - E. Some springs are not autumns.
 - F. All springs are autumns.
1. DFA 2. BEF 3. CEB 4. DEB

Question 29

- A. Some abra are dabra.
 - B. All abra are cabra.
 - C. All dabra are abra.
 - D. All dabra are not abra.
 - E. Some cabra are abra.
 - F. Some cabra are dabra
1. AEF 2. BCF 3. ABD 4. BCE

Question 30

- A. Some buildings are not sky-scrapers.
- B. Some sky-scrapers are not buildings.

- C. No structure is a sky-scraper.
 - D. All sky-scrapers are structures.
 - E. Some sky-scrapers are buildings.
 - F. Some structures are not buildings.
1. ACE 2. BDF 3. CDE 4. ACF

TYPE II

Question 1

- A. All men are weak. Some weak are strong. Some strong are weak.
 - B. All Sonas are bright; Some bright are crazy; Some Sonas are crazy.
 - C. Some Xs are Ps; Some Ps are Ys; Some Xs are Ys.
 - D. No faith is strong; Only strong have biceps. No faith has biceps.
1. A and D 2. C only 3. D only 4. None of these

Question 2

- A. Some icicles are cycles; All cycles are men; Some icicles are men.
 - B. All girls have teeth; No teeth are yellow; No girls are yellow.
 - C. No hand is foot; Some foot are heads; Some hands are heads.
 - D. Every man has a wife; All wives are devoted; No devoted has a husband.
1. A, B and C only 2. A and B
3. C and B 4. A, B and C and D

Question 3

- A. No sun is not white; all moon is sun; All moon is white.
 - B. All windows are open; No open space is allocated; All window is closed space.
 - C. No German can fire; All Americans bombard; both, Germans and Americans can fight.
 - D. No X is Z; No Z is Y; No X is Y.
1. A only 2. B only 3. A and D only 4. D only

Question 4

- A. All Ts are square; all square are rectangular; all Ts are rectangular.
 - B. Some fat are elongated; some elongated things are huge; some fat are huge.
 - C. Idiots are bumlbers; bumlbers fumble; idiots fumble.
 - D. Water is good for health; health foods are rare; water is rare.
1. D only 2. C only 3. Both A and C 4. A, B, C and D

Question 5

- A. All software companies employ knowledge workers. Tara Tech is a software company. Tara Tech employs knowledge workers.
- B. Some software companies employ knowledge workers. Tara Tech employs only knowledge workers. Tara Tech is a software company.
- C. Some traffic congestion does not cause increased carbon monoxide. Some traffic congestion is not hazardous to health. Increase in carbon monoxide is not hazardous to health.

- D. Increase in carbon monoxide is hazardous to health. Traffic congestion increases carbon monoxide in the environment. Traffic congestion is hazardous to health.
1. A and D 2. A and C 3. B and C 4. B and D.

Question 6

- A. Some apples are sweet. Some apples are tasty. Some apples are not tasty
B. All polluted towns should be destroyed. Town Meghana is polluted. Town Meghana should be destroyed.
C. Some towns in India are polluted. Some town in India should be destroyed. Town Meghana should be destroyed
D. All sweets are tasty. No apple is tasty. Apples are not sweets.
1. A and B 2. C only 3. A and D 4. B and D

Question 7

- A. No patriot is a criminal. Bundledas is not a criminal. Bundledas is a patriot.
B. No patriot is a criminal. Bundledas is a patriot. Bundledas is not a criminal.
C. No patriot is a criminal. Bogusdas is not a patriot. Bogusdas is a criminal.
D. Bogusdas is a criminal. Bogusdas is not a patriot. No patriot is a criminal.
1. A and B 2. B only 3. A and C 4. D only

Question 8

- A. Balaram likes ants. Balaram is an ant eater. Ant eaters like ants.
B. Ant eaters like ants. Balaram likes ants. Balaram is an ant eater.
C. Ant eaters like ants. Boys are ant eaters. Balaram may eat ants.
D. Balaram likes ants. Boys are ant eaters. Balaram is an ant eater.
1. A and B 2. C only 3. A and D 4. None of these

Question 9

- A. All actors are handsome. Some actors are popular. Some popular people are handsome.
B. Ram is handsome. Ram is a popular actor. Actors are handsome.
C. Modern industry is technology driven. BTI is a modern industry. BTI is technology driven.
D. Technology-driven industry is modern. BTI is not modern industry. BTI may be technology driven.
1. A and D 2. C only 3. A and C 4. D only

Question 10

- A. All Golmal islanders are blue-coloured people. Some smart people are not blue-coloured people. Some smart people are not Golmal islanders.
B. Some babies are blue coloured. Some babies are smart. Blue coloured babies are smart.
C. MBAs are in great demand. Ram and Sita are MBAs. Ram is in great demand.
D. MBAs are in great demand. Sita is in great demand. Sita is an MBA.
1. A only 2. B only 3. A and C 4. A, C and D

Question 11

- A. No cowboys laugh. Some who laugh are sphinxes. Some sphinxes are not cowboys.
 - B. All ghosts are florescent. Some ghost do not sing. Some singers are not florescent.
 - C. Cricketers indulge in swearing. Those who swear are hanged. Some who are hanged are not cricketers.
 - D. Some crazy people are pianists. All crazy people are whistlers. Some whistlers are pianists.
1. A and B 2. C only 3. A and D 4. D only

Question 12

- A. All good people are knights. All warriors are good people. All knights are warriors.
 - B. No footballers are ministers. All footballers are tough. Some ministers are players.
 - C. All pizzas are snacks. Some meals are pizzas. Some meals are snacks.
 - D. Some barkers are musk-deer. All barkers are sloth bears. Some sloth bears are musk-deer.
1. C and D 2. B and C 3. A only 4. C only

Question 13

- A. Dinosaurs are pre-historic creatures. Water-buffaloes are not dinosaurs. Water-buffaloes are not pre-historic creatures.
 - B. All politicians are frank. No frank people are crocodiles. No crocodiles are politicians.
 - C. No diamond is quartz. No opal is quartz. Diamonds are opals.
 - D. All monkeys like bananas. Some GI Joes like bananas. Some GI Joes are monkeys.
1. C only 2. B only 3. A and D 4. B and C

Question 14

- A. All earthquakes cause havoc. Some landslides cause havoc. Some earthquakes cause landslides.
 - B. All glass things are transparent. Some curios are glass things. Some curios are transparent.
 - C. All clay objects are brittle. All XY are clay objects. Some XY are brittle.
 - D. No criminal is a patriot. Ram is not a patriot. Ram is a criminal.
1. D only 2. B only 3. C and B 4. A only

Question 15

- A. MD is an actor. Some actors are pretty. MD is pretty.
 - B. Some men are cops. All cops are brave. Some brave people are cops.
 - C. All cops are brave. Some men are cops. Some men are brave.
 - D. All actors are pretty. MD is not an actor. MD is not pretty.
1. D only 2. C only 3. A only 4. B and C

Question 16

- A. All IIMs are in India. No BIMs are in India. No IIMs are BIMs.
B. All IIMs are in India. No BIMs are in India. No BIMs are IIMs.
C. Some IIMs are not in India. Some BIMs are not in India. Some IIMs are BIMs.
D. Some IIMs are not in India. Some BIMs are not in India. Some BIMs are IIMs.
1. A and B 2. C and D 3. A only 4. B only

Question 17

- A. Citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Citizens of Yes Islands are young people. Young people speak only the truth.
B. Citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Some Yes Islands are in the Atlantic. Some citizens of Yes Islands are in the Atlantic.
C. Citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Some young people are citizens of Yes Islands. Some young people speak only the truth.
D. Some people speak only the truth. Some citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Some people who speak only the truth are citizens of Yes Islands.
1. A only 2. B only 3. C only 4. D only

Question 18

- A. All mammals are viviparous. Some fish are viviparous. Some fish are mammals.
B. All birds are oviparous. Some fish are not oviparous. Some fish are birds.
C. No mammal is oviparous. Some creatures are oviparous and some are not. Some creatures are not mammals.
D. Some creatures are mammals. Some creatures are viviparous. Some mammals are viviparous.
1. A only 2. B only 3. C only 4. D only

Question 19

- A. Many singers are not writers. All poets are singers. Some poets are not writers.
B. Giants climb beanstalks. Some chickens do not climb beanstalks. Some chickens are not giants.
C. All explorers live in snowdrifts. Some penguins live in snowdrifts. Some penguins are explorers.
D. Amar is taller than Akbar. Anthony is shorter than Amar. Akbar is shorter than Anthony.
1. A only 2. B only 3. B and C 4. D only

Question 20

- A. Few farmers are rocket scientists. Some rocket scientists catch snakes. A few farmers catch snakes.
B. Poonam is a kangaroo. Some kangaroos are made of teak. Poonam is made of teak.
C. No bulls eat grass. All matadors eat grass. No matadors are bulls.
D. Some skunks drive Cadillacs. All skunks are polar bears. Some polar bears drive Cadillacs.
1. B only 2. A and C 3. C only 4. C and D

LOGICAL CONSISTENCY

Directions: In each of the following sentences, the main statement is followed by four sentences each. Select a pair of sentences that relate logically with the given statement.

Either Sam is ill; or he is drunk.

- A. Sam is ill.
- B. Sam is not ill.
- C. Sam is drunk.
- D. Sam is not drunk.

1. AB 2. DA 3. AC 4. CD

Answer option 2

HOW TO SOLVE

In these questions, we are given two events related in a particular way. In the options we are given four sentences—one affirming and another negating the first event; still, one affirming and another negating the second event. These are labelled A, B, C and D. The basic difference between two combinations in the options e.g., the difference between AC and CA is this: AC means event A guarantees event C; and CA, on the other hand, means that event C guarantees event A.

Read the main statement carefully; notice the conjunction used; work out how the events are related—their interdependency. Then, look at the combination in the options. For example: Juliet is in the balcony when Romeo is in the garden, guarantees the following: *Romeo is in the garden*, guarantees that *Juliet is in the balcony*; *Juliet is not in the balcony* guarantees that *Romeo is not in the garden*.

However, *Juliet is in the balcony* does not guarantee that *Romeo is in the garden* (as per the main statement) because the main statement does not rule out her freedom to be in the balcony for other reasons and at other times. Also, *Romeo is not in the garden* does not guarantee that *Juliet is not in the balcony* for the same reason.

So, if the combination is reversed the dependency of the events as per the main statement (indicted by the conjunction used) may be destroyed. Hence you need to remember this dependency while choosing the correct option.

However, sometimes the exams present you with two correct options. The affirmation sequence and the negation sequence. It is wise to choose the negation over affirmation because negation creates a void and hence scores over the affirmation.

Either Sam is ill; or he is drunk.

- A. Sam is ill.
- B. Sam is not ill.
- C. Sam is drunk.
- D. Sam is not drunk.

1. AB 2. DA 3. AC 4. CD

In this case, AD, DA, CB, BC, are correct sequences because the conjunction is either or. Hence the scoring option is DA.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question 1

Whenever Ram hears of a tragedy, he loses sleep.

- A. Ram heard of a tragedy.
- B. Ram did not hear of a tragedy.
- C. Ram lost sleep.
- D. Ram did not lose sleep.

1. CA 2. BD 3. DB 4. AD

Question 2

Either the train is late; or it has derailed.

- A. The train is late.
- B. The train is not late.
- C. The train is derailed.
- D. The train is not derailed.

1. AB 2. DB 3. CA 4. BC

Question 3

When I read a horror story I have a nightmare.

- A. I read a story.
- B. I did not hear a horror story.
- C. I did not have a nightmare.
- D. I had a nightmare.

1. CB 2. AD 3. BC 4. AC

Question 4

Either Sita is sick or she is careless.

- A. Sita is not sick.
- B. Sita is not careless.
- C. Sita is sick.
- D. Sita is careless.

1. AB 2. AD 3. BA 4. DA

Question 5

Ram gets a swollen nose whenever he eats hamburgers.

- A. Ram gets a swollen nose.
- B. Ram does not eat hamburgers.
- C. Ram does not get a swollen nose.
- D. Ram eats hamburgers.

1. AB 2. DC 3. AC 4. CB

Question 6

Either the employees have no confidence in the management or they are hostile by nature.

- A. They are hostile by nature.
 - B. They are not hostile by nature.
 - C. They have confidence in the management.
 - D. They have no confidence in the management.
1. BA 2. CB 3. DA 4. BD

Question 7

He does not go to college when his dad is out of station.

- A. His dad is out of station
 - B. He is in college
 - C. His dad is in town
 - D. He does not go to college.
1. AD 2. CB 3. BC 4. DA

Question 8

All irresponsible parents shout if their children do not cavort.

- A. All irresponsible parents do not shout.
 - B. Children cavort.
 - C. Children do not cavort.
 - D. All irresponsible parents shout.
1. AB 2. BD 3. CA 4. All of these

Question 9

Either the orangutan is not angry, or he frowns upon the world.

- A. The orangutan frowns upon the world.
 - B. The orangutan is not angry.
 - C. The orangutan does not frown upon the world.
 - D. The orangutan is angry.
1. CB only 2. DA only 3. AB only 4. CB and DA

Question 10

Either Ravana is a demon, or he is a hero.

- A. Ravana is a hero.
 - B. Ravana is a demon.
 - C. Ravana is not a demon.
 - D. Ravana is not a hero.
1. CD only 2. BA only 3. CD and BA 4. DB and CA

Question 11

Whenever Rajeev uses the internet, he dreams about spiders.

- A. Rajeev did not dream about spiders.
 - B. Rajeev used the internet.
 - C. Rajeev dreamt about spiders.
 - D. Rajeev did not use the internet.
1. AD 2. DC 3. CB 4. DA

Question 12

If I talk to my professors, then I do not need to take a pill for headache.

- A. I talked to my professors.
- B. I did not need to take a pill for headache.
- C. I needed to take a pill for headache.
- D. I did not talk to my professors.

1. AB only 2. DC only 3. CD only 4. AB and CD

Question 13

When I eat berries I get rashes.

- A. I ate berries.
- B. I did not get rashes.
- C. I did not eat berries.
- D. I got rashes.

1. DA 2. BC 3. CB 4. AD

Question 14

I go college only if it is a holiday.

- A. I went to college.
- B. I did not go to college.
- C. It was a holiday.
- D. It wasn't a holiday.

1. AD and AC 2. CA and DA 3. AC and DB 4. AC and BD

Question 15

The bomb will explode if it strikes the ground.

- A. The bomb exploded.
- B. The bomb did not explode.
- C. The bomb struck the ground.
- D. The bomb did not strike the ground.

1. AC 2. CD 3. DB 4. BD

Question 16

He will make it to an IIM if he clears the CAT.

- A. He went to an IIM.
- B. He did not make it to an IIM.
- C. He cleared the CAT.
- D. He did not clear the CAT.

1. AC 2. CD 3. DB 4. BD

Question 17

He is honest unless he is under pressure.

- A. He is honest.
- B. He is not honest.

- C. He is under pressure.
- D. He is not under pressure.
- 1. AD 2. CD 3. BD 4. DB

Question 18

He changes his clothes as soon as he reaches home.

- A. He changes his clothes.
- B. He does not change his clothes.
- C. He has reached home.
- D. He has not reached home.
- 1. AC 2. CA 3. BD 4. DB

Question 19

She phones her boyfriend whenever he is in trouble.

- A. She phoned her boyfriend.
- B. She did not phone her boyfriend.
- C. Her boyfriend is in trouble.
- D. Her boyfriend is not in trouble.
- 1. AC 2. CA 3. BD 4. DB

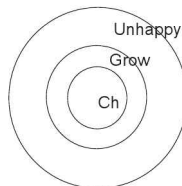
Question 20

Water evaporates at 100 degree Celsius.

- A. Water evaporated.
- B. Water did not evaporate.
- C. It is 100 degree Celsius.
- D. It is not 100 degree Celsius.
- 1. AC 2. CA 3. BC 4. DB

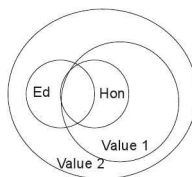
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 2. ACB.

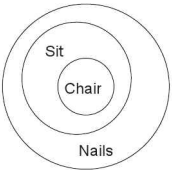


It follows that all children are unhappy.

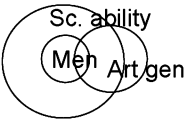
Question 2. Answer Option 4. Some persons who recognize value (Value) are present in the intersection between Educated/honest—hence the conclusion(F) definitely follows form BA.



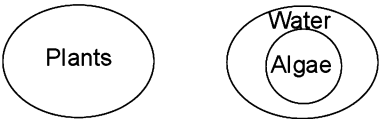
Question 3. Answer Option 1. CED. Since chairs and used to sit are subsets of nails, the conclusion follows.



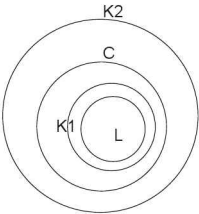
Question 4. Answer Option 2. ACE. All men are men of scientific ability needs to be understood as—among the elements that make up the set up scientific ability, men need to be placed as a subset. In other words “men of scientific ability” cannot be assumed to be a superset and ‘me’ as a subset of this. (it is ridiculous to think so. Hence if they are *men* of artistic genius they completely go into the set of ‘men’ first. Hence the conclusion is true in ACE.



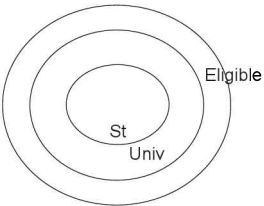
Question 5. Answer Option 3. ADE. Since plants grow in water and no algae grow in water—no algae is plant can be concluded.



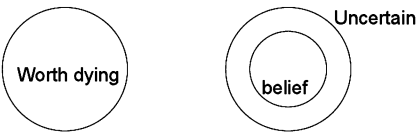
Question 6. Answer Option 5. BCE. Two possibilities for K. In any case, some K are C.



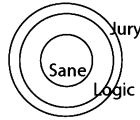
Question 7. Answer Option 3. In BEC, we have students in this college, university students, and eligible students in three concentric circles. Hence C follows from B and E.



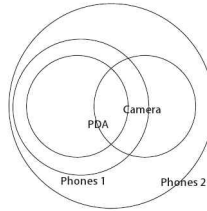
Question 8. Answer Option 4. BDF.



Question 9. Answer Option 2. Three concentric circles with sane, logic, and jury in that order, hence F follows form B and E.



Question 10. Answer Option 3. BDF:

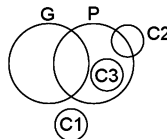


Question 11. Answer Option 1. This question is not open to Venn diagrams—mere correlation should give you the answer. ADF is correct.

Question 12. Answer Option 3. Three concentric circles for pens, erasers, and ink—hence E follows form CD.

Question 13. Answer Option 3. Since there is no relation between the two sets dogs and cats. And since Ron is a dog, the conclusion that Ron is not a cat follows:

Question 14. Answer Option 4. In $G=P$, the politicians are not corrupt because C cannot touch G. Hence the conclusion that some politicians are not corrupt follows.



Question 15. Answer Option 1. BDF Since music, art, and culture are three concentric circles, Option 1 is correct.

Question 16. In BDF we have three concentric circles of hazardous to health, fried foods, and fryums—making Fryums bad for health.

Question 17. Answer Option 4. BDF we have three concentric circles of: this lighting, Philips, and CFL making the conclusion in BDF true.

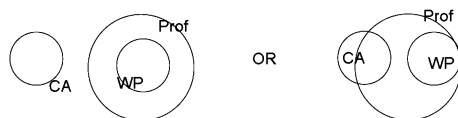


Question 18. Answer Option 5. ABE. More than Venn diagrams mere common sense is enough to solve this question. Mathew and Paul go into the circle of brothers—this circle will in turn go into the circle of quarrel often. Hence the conclusion becomes true.

Question 19. Answer Option 3. ADF. Red goes into primary colours. Primary colours go into different hues. Hence red gives different hues. We need to read statement A as “All

Primary colors are Different hues" because of the 'are obtained' phrasing. We cannot read 'All different hues are primary colours'. We do not get the conclusion in that case. And, *None of these* is not an option.

Question 20. Answer Option 1. BEF. There is no relation between the sets college athlete and well paid + professionals; hence conclusion F follows from B and E.



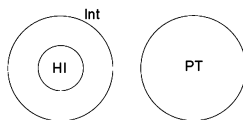
Question 21. Answer Option 2. ACD. Three concentric circles for boys, good, educated making the conclusion D true.

Question 22. Answer Option 4. ADC. Three concentric circles for sincere, graduates, dull making C a conclusion from AD.

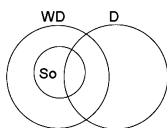
Question 23. Answer Option 2. ACD. Sham has won a lottery in spite of not being intelligent leads to the conclusion that one need not be intelligent to win the lottery.

Question 24. Answer Option 3. ACF. Venn diagram, if one takes that route, will show Supriya, good managers, and intuitive as three concentric circles.

Question 25. Answer Option 1. CDE. Separate sets for high ideals and poor thinkers. High ideals will be within intolerant and have no relationship with poor thinker.



Question 26. Answer Option 4. BEF. The part where So(ciable) intersects D(ull) we have dull and well dressed making the conclusion true.

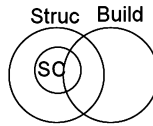


Question 27. Answer Option 1. "not all X are Y" or "All X are not Y" is equivalent to "some X are not Y"—that the data is categorical about the presence of at least one X which is not Y and ignorant about the rest of the set. For example: "Not all members of the UN are friends" means the data is categorical about 'at least one being not friends'—about the other members there is no knowledge. Hence ABE is true.

Question 28. Answer option 1. DFA Seasons and Autumns are mutually exclusive sets and Spring is a subset of Autumn. Hence there can be no relationship between spring and season.

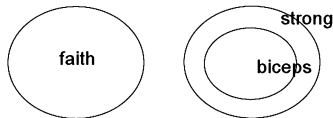
Question 29. Answer Option 2. BCF. Three concentric circles dabra, abra, and cabra in that order from inside. Hence BCF is true.

Question 30. Answer Option 2. BDF Those structures which are skyscrapers are not buildings.

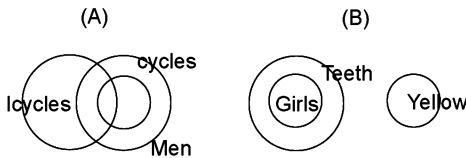


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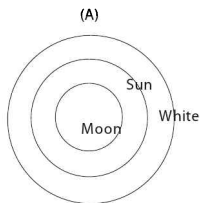
Question 1. Answer Option 3. D only. "Only strong have biceps" needs to be understood as "All biceps are strong." (*Only X are Y* means *All Y are X*)



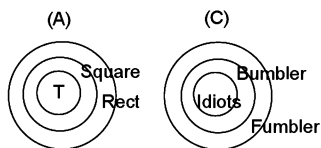
Question 2. Answer Option 2. A and B.



Question 3. Answer Option 1. A only. 'No sun is not white' is equivalent to All sun are white.



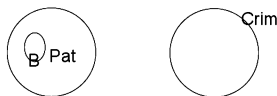
Question 4. Answer Option 3. A and C only. When the quantifier is absent " Idiots are bumlbers" "bumblers fumble" etc., they need to be understood as "All idiots...." "All bumlbers..." etc.



Question 5. Answer Option: 1, A and D. Tara Tech, software company, and knowledge workers form three concentric circles with T tech innermost. Hence A should be a part of the answer. Between C and D, C gets eliminated or D gets chosen by examining either C or D hence option 1 is the answer.

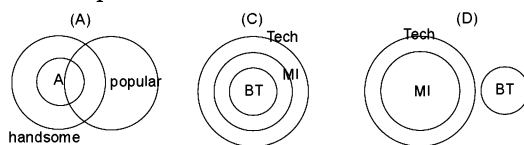
Question 6. Answer Option 4. B. Since Meghana goes inside polluted. Since polluted goes inside to be destroyed the first two conditions suffice for the third. D. Since sweets and tasty are the same set and apples a disjointed set, the conclusion follows.

Question 7. Answer Option 3. B only

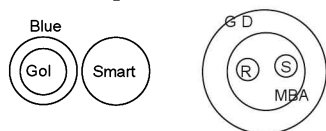


Question 8. Answer Option 4. None of these. In C and D, it is necessary to assume that Balaram is a boy. Hence we cannot accept the conclusions. In B, 'like ants' could be the superset for 'Ant eaters'—Balaram could be outside the sub set.

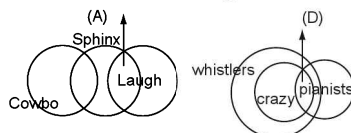
Question 9. Answer Option 3. A and C. *D is not true.*



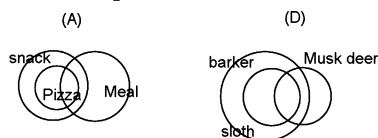
Question 10. Answer Option 3. A and C



Question 11. Answer Option 3. In both the diagrams below, the arrows indicate the area in which the conclusion (the third fragment of each statement) becomes definitely true.

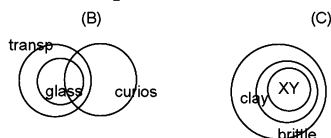


Question 12. Answer Option 1. C and D



Question 13. Answer Option 2. B only. Frank and politicians in one set and crocodiles as a disjointed set. Hence conclusion becomes true.

Question 14. Answer Option 3. C and B



Question 15. Answer Option 2. C only.

Question 16. Answer Option 1. A and B only

Question 17. Answer Option 3. C only

Question 18. Answer Option 3. C only

Question 19. Answer Option 2. B only

Question 20. Answer Option 4. C and D

SOLUTIONS TO LOGICAL CONSISTENCY

Question 1. Answer Option 3. DB Ram did not lose sleep means he did not even hear of a tragedy. CA is not correct; he might have lost sleep for some other reason; but AC would be correct.

Question 2. Answer Option 4. With either ... or affirm one event, negate the other. Hence BC and CB are both right. AD and DA would also be right.

Question 3. Answer Option 1. CB. AD is also correct. Negation scores over affirmation.

Question 4. Answer Option 2. AD. DA, BC and CB would also be correct.

Question 5. Answer Option 4. CB. Ram hasn't got a swollen nose guarantees that he did not eat hamburgers. Another correct option would be DA.

Question 6. Answer Option 4. BD. With either or affirm one and negate the other: the employees have no confidence (affirmed) they are not hostile by nature (negated). DB and BD are equal. Please note that when a negative is affirmed (no confidence) it will remain negative.

Question 7. Answer Option 1. AD. His dad is out of town guarantees that he does not go to college.

Question 8. Answer option 1. AB. A guarantees B—none of the causes for shouting is present including their children not cavorting.

Question 9. Answer Option 4. CB and DA. Refer to the explanation for Q6. Either ... or situation is explained there.

Question 10. Answer Option 4. DB and CA.

Question 11. Answer Option 1. AD. He did not dream about the spiders means there was no cause operating for this effect, including his using the internet.

Question 12. Answer Option 2. DC only. I did not talk is reason enough for the pill as per the main statement.

Question 13. Answer Option 2. BC. I did not get rashes guarantees that none of the causes including the berries did not operate.

Question 14. Answer Option 3. AC and DB.

Question 15. Answer Option 4. BD. DB is not right as other causes can make the bomb explode (remote control?)

Question 16. Answer Option 4. BD. AC is incorrect as the main statement does not state *only if*. There may be other ways for him to get into an IIM. (GMAT?)—CA would be right. Hence DB is not right.

Question 17. Answer Option 1. AD. He is honest guarantees that he is under pressure.

Question 18. Answer Option 2. CA—He has reached home guarantees that he changes his clothes. Other events (options) are not guaranteed by the main statement.

Question 19. Answer Option 3. BD. The correct options are CA and BD. Negation scores over affirmation. Hence option 3.

Question 20. Answer Option 2. CA. AC would be right if the main statement was 'only at'. That eliminates DB as well. BD would be right (not an option). Hence the answer is CA.

8

Word Usage Questions

Directions for questions 1 to 4: In each of the following questions, a word has been used in sentences in five different ways. Choose the option corresponding to the sentence in which the usage of the word is incorrect or inappropriate.

Question

RUN

- A. I must run fast to catch up with him.
- B. Our team scored a goal against the run of play.
- C. You can't run over him like that.
- D. The newly released book is enjoying a popular run.
- E. This film is a run-of-the-mill production.

Question. Answer Option C. run over is an idiom meaning: to exceed a limit, overflow, to go over, examine, repeat, or rehearse quickly, to collide with, knock down, and often drive over. None of the meanings given above fits in the context.

HOW TO SOLVE

The question type tests your proficiency with everyday words. Like in any vocabulary question, one needs to know the correct and the incorrect. There cannot be a method or a strategy to solve these questions you simply need to know. In some questions, elimination may help. You may be sure that the remaining options are correct; then, you can choose the doubtful one for your answer.

Looking at the past CAT questions, one can see that these questions are mainly based on phrasal verb questions. Hence, while solving the question, if you feel lost, pay attention to the phrasal verb used. See if according to your knowledge, the phrasal verb (verb + preposition) (in the above run + over) makes sense in the context.

For preparation, you can go through a list of phrasal verbs. Web, as usual, is an inexhaustible resource for this.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question 1

Wait

- A. I am just waiting to see him lose in one of his reckless wagers.
- B. He needs to have a cup of coffee waiting in the bed every morning to get up.
- C. He augmented his income by waiting on tables in small restaurants.
- D. I had to wait in line for almost an hour to get to the ATM.

Question 2

Quick

- A. She prepared a quick and tasty dinner.
- B. I was taken by surprise by the quick turn in the road.
- C. You need to do some quick thinking to get the answer right.
- D. The streets are generally quick with traffic in the morning.

Question 3

Fill

- A. The story of her brave life filled our hearts with joy.
- B. The marriage party filled two floors of the house.
- C. The young prince will soon fill the throne.
- D. He filled up on his favourite dessert.

Question 4

Use

- A. He gained practice in the use of the camera.
- B. This method is a handy use for prototyping and testing queries.
- C. Though she liked art, she had no use for modern art.
- D. After the litigation, she had the use of the estate for life.

Question 5

Enjoy

- A. The children enjoyed a lot at the birthday party.
- B. He had enjoyed great success in life.
- C. She enjoys his company.
- D. I cannot enjoy the music as I am worried about my exams.

Question 6

Enter

- A. Before entering a career, one must be sure that one has chosen the right one.
- B. The family quarrel had almost been resolved when the grandfather entered the lists.
- C. The neighbour's unruly behaviour forced her to go to the police and enter a complaint.
- D. The nations entered into a trade agreement.

Question 7**Occupy**

- A. The students were bored with the lecture that occupied three hours.
- B. She tried to occupy the restless children with colouring books.
- C. She occupied as a waitress to put herself through college.
- D. The students occupied the auditorium.

Question 8**Take**

- A. Take one problem at a time.
- B. He was quite taken with her at their first meeting.
- C. In mythologies, gods often took the likeness of human beings.
- D. The nurse took his temperature before giving him the medicine.

Question 9**Complete**

- A. He made me look like a complete idiot.
- B. Scientists have found the oldest complete skeleton of an ape-like man.
- C. This stamp completes my collection.
- D. The author completed the article by restating the major points.

Question 10**Word**

- A. May I say a word about that?
- B. She has always kept her words.
- C. The commander gave the word to retreat.
- D. Any word about your promotion?

Question 11**Add**

- A. The flowers added beauty to the dinner table.
- B. Moonlighting gradually added to my meagre savings.
- C. The witness's testimony simply didn't add to.
- D. He added up the other competitors in one glance.

Question 12**End**

- A. I was put in charge of the business end of the campaign.
- B. He ended up being an advisor to the President.
- C. She had no end of stories to tell.
- D. The remark made him go off the end.

Question 13**Position**

- A. What is your position on this issue?
- B. They fought to regain the lost position.

- C. He assumed a position of surrender.
- D. The British are more aware of social position than Americans are.

Question 14

Beat

- A. We beat you home by five minutes.
- B. The sun beated on us all day.
- C. He beat me out of 20 dollars with his latest scheme.
- D. In the old days, a policeman walked a beat and knew all his people by name.

Question 15

Stop

- A. The police pulled out all the stops to find the thief.
- B. Her parents were annoyed because she stopped out all night.
- C. We stopped off for lunch about halfway there; then, we carried on driving.
- D. I'll stop by this afternoon when you're free.

Question 16

Kick

- A. The management dealt with his haughtiness by kicking him upstairs.
- B. The employees kicked around when downsizing was suggested.
- C. The sales manager had to kick five per cent back to the purchase manager.
- D. Rather than go out tonight, I plan to kick back in front of the TV.

Question 17

Work

- A. She was in her work clothes when I met her.
- B. She took up small jobs and worked her way in college.
- C. They could not work out an agreement even after several hours of wrangling.
- D. In her free time, she engages herself in social work.

Question 18

Hack

- A. I just can't hack all the noise of the crackers in Diwali.
- B. The personnel database of the firm was hacked.
- C. The bridge hacked the river in two.
- D. She hacked down all the weeds in her garden.

Question 19

Clear

- A. The water was clear and one could see the bottom of the lake.
- B. The instructions to the questions were not quite clear to the students.
- C. The writer's style was simple and elegant, as well as clear.
- D. Among the audience were the farmers of the north—a clear cultural group.

Question 20**Value**

- A. He is now declared an outlaw with a value on his head.
- B. He had nothing of value to speak in the meeting.
- C. At that price, you seem to have got good value.
- D. He is driven by material rather than human values.

Question 21**Attend**

- A. People were angry that the police did not attend their complaints on time.
- B. We camped for the night at a campsite attended by forest officers.
- C. Ministers attend upon the king.
- D. The speech was attended by wild applause.

Question 22**Open**

- A. Please keep an hour open for me on Friday; I need your help.
- B. Their hostilities eventually erupted with open war.
- C. These items are in open stock.
- D. We were not impressed by his open confessions.

Question 23**Suggest**

- A. The title of the film suggested its subject matter.
- B. My imagination suggested the explanation you only hinted at.
- C. The measures they initiated suggested that bankruptcy was imminent.
- D. Such a crime suggests apt punishment.

Question 24**Understand**

- A. The policeman understood the murderer.
- B. I understand that your fee will be ₹ 1000.
- C. The teacher understands her pupils.
- D. He understands finance.

Question 25**Become**

- A. Her clothes become her.
- B. What has become of the old house?
- C. What becomes to such a man in the end?
- D. It ill becomes you to complain.

Question 26**Deal**

- A. He has a great deal of support from the people.

- B. His father deals in diamonds.
- C. Deal with this complaint the way you feel fit.
- D. She was asked to deal three books to each student.

Question 27

See

- A. I can't understand what she sees in him.
- B. I can still see through my daughter as she was years ago.
- C. The last fifty years have seen sweeping changes in technology.
- D. She could not see the task through as she fell ill.

Question 28

Know

- A. Millions in our country have known poverty for generations.
- B. She knows to write well.
- C. We do not yet know the solution to this problem.
- D. Many top politicians were in the know of the scam for a very long time.

Question 29

Look

- A. She is looking really pretty in that pink dress.
- B. We are looking at the possibility of relocating.
- C. We look to have good year in the B-School.
- D. The business seems to be looking up this year.

Question 30

Mean

- A. The average of 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10 is 6 whereas the mean is 5.
- B. I believe, I was meant to teach.
- C. His criticism of others is often petty and mean.
- D. His being physically handicapped makes his selection to the B-school no mean feat.

Question 31

Tag

- A. They tagged the telephone trying in vain to reach each other.
- B. The shirt was tagged at ₹ 1500.
- C. He moved on with several people tagging along.
- D. The teacher asked them to add a tag question to every sentence.

Question 32

Hold

- A. Can the roof hold all that weight?
- B. The restaurant holds 400 diners.
- C. The rule holds in most cases.
- D. Let's hold till we have more data.

Question 33**Form**

- A. The captain of the team, generally low profile, was in unusual form during the crisis.
- B. The map shows the form of North America with its mountains, rivers, and plains.
- C. Being confined to one's house under house arrest is a form of punishment.
- D. The inflected forms of a word can be represented by a stem and a list of inflections to be attached.

Question 34**Refer**

- A. This story refers an incident during the Second World War.
- B. He referred the complaint to another department.
- C. Students asked several questions referring to yesterday's lecture.
- D. The teacher constantly refers the students to their studies.

Question 35**Set**

- A. Let's set the error down to inexperience.
- B. It is wise to set food and money by in case of a future emergency.
- C. A parent must set a good example for the children.
- D. Evening was setting as I took the road over the hill.

Question 36**Insert**

- A. The writer was asked to insert a change in the manuscript.
- B. It is his habit to insert new topics in the discussion.
- C. The country is planning to insert a new satellite into the orbit.
- D. The ceremony was announced through an insert in the newspapers.

Question 37**Write**

- A. The boy writes Sanskrit with ease.
- B. The ailing old asked his attorneys to write his will.
- C. He was asked to write in a cheque for the amount he owed.
- D. He is type of man who writes his own ticket.

Question 38**Scale**

- A. Thick scales covered the animal.
- B. The government brought in policies to scale imports.
- C. He scaled the fish by scraping it with a knife.
- D. Hard water scales the boiler.

Question 39**Make**

- A. The children intended to make a lot of fun during the picnic.
- B. One should not make a disturbance near hospitals.
- C. The housekeeping department makes beds twice a day.
- D. It was difficult for the family to make ends meet.

Question 40**Gain**

- A. The clock gains a minute per day.
- B. The day is gaining warmth.
- C. The trekkers gained the peak in the evening.
- D. The amplifier helped the signal gain intensity.

Question 41**Show**

- A. The excavation showed a staggering number of artefacts.
- B. When they arrived a waiter showed them to the table.
- C. She didn't show up for her appointment.
- D. The general meeting of the opposition party turned out to be a show of strength.

Question 42**Trade**

- A. The shop stocked novelties for the tourist trade.
- B. The brothers found it beneficial to trade places in their business.
- C. At this dealer, one can trade the old car on a new one.
- D. This magazine has limited circulation as it is a trade publication.

Question 43**Pay**

- A. It is not possible to pay someone like him to do that.
- B. It is futile to think that crime pays.
- C. You could make the call from a pay telephone.
- D. Such a reckless act will mean that you have to pay the devil.

Question 44**Act**

- A. Trees act against the wind.
- B. Under cover of darkness the police waited to catch thief in the act.
- C. His life is hard act to follow.
- D. The legislature did not act on the bill.

Question 45**Affect**

- A. The sight affected her to tears.

- B. Our beliefs are affected by our upbringing.
- C. Drops of water affect roundness.
- D. He issued a statement to the affect that he would resign.

Question 46**Bark**

- A. The street was noisy with the vendors barking their wares.
- B. The rhinoceros is famous for its very thick bark.
- C. You seem to be barking up the wrong tree in blaming your neighbour.
- D. The bark of the cinnamon tree is used as a spice.

Question 47**Cover**

- A. It appears as if the ruling coalition is trying to cover the scandal.
- B. The new book on the history of science covers a lot of ground.
- C. I am unwilling to cover for her in the meeting.
- D. The project was a cover for intelligence operations.

Question 48**Inform**

- A. The policy is based on the principles that inform bilateral relations.
- B. As an expert musician, he is well informed with the keyboard.
- C. Compassion for fellow beings informs all her novels.
- D. The Prime Minister was informed about the crisis in the party.

Question 49**Give**

- A. She gave birth last Thursday.
- B. The students gave the CAT (Common Aptitude Test) last Sunday.
- C. The professor freely gave of his time to the students.
- D. As the time passed, optimism gave place to worry.

Question 50**Pass**

- A. The throne passed to the king's son.
- B. The court passed on the legality of the wiretapping.
- C. My experience of the Himalayas passed all expectations.
- D. He is not the one to pass an opportunity for promotion.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option B. Statement B should read: "waiting by the bed" and not "waiting in the bed."

Question 2. Answer option D. None of the meanings of quick will fit in this context. *Swarming with traffic* may correct the sentence.

Question 3. Answer Option C. The word *occupy* instead of *fill* will correct the sentence. A—To engage or occupy completely; make full: *filled the child's mind with strange ideas* B—to occupy the whole of. D—fill up means: eat until one is sated.

Question 4. Answer Option B. The sentence would be correct if the word 'utility' is used in place of 'use'. A— a method or manner of employing or applying something *gained practice in the use of the camera* D— the legal enjoyment of property that consists in its employment, occupation, exercise, or practice *she had the use of the estate for life* C— favourable attitude : *had no use for modern art.*

Question 5. Answer Option A. Enjoy in intransitive senses is usually followed by the 'self' word e.g. the children enjoyed themselves a lot would be correct. The other sentences use the word in its transitive sense.

Question 6. Answer Option A. Statement A should read, " before entering on/upon a career ..."; the idiom enter on/upon means to begin. C—To place formally on record—submit *enter a plea of innocence; enter a complaint.* B—'enter the lists' means : to begin to take part in a contest or argument. D— enter into means : to become party to (a contract)

Question 7. Answer Option C. A—To fill up (time or space): *a lecture that occupied three hours.* B—To engage or employ the attention or concentration of: *occupied the children with colouring books.* D—to take and hold possession of, esp. as a demonstration *students occupied the college buildings.* C is incorrect—neither the transitive nor the intransitive senses of 'occupy' is correct in the context. One can occupy a chair or a position' but not occupy as a waitress.

Question 8. Answer Option A. 'Take up ...' will be appropriate in the sentence. In the second sentence 'taken with her' means captivated by her ... In the third sentence 'take' has the meaning of 'assume'. In the last sentence take means "ascertain".

Question 9. Answer Option D. A—*complete idiot* means an *absolute/thorough* idiot. B—Having all necessary or normal parts, components, or steps; entire: *a complete meal.* C—To make whole, with all necessary elements or parts: *A second child would complete their family.* D , though not incorrect—conclude would be better in the context as conclude is more formal than complete in this context. Statement D is inferior in precision to others.

Question 10. Answer Option B. 'to keep one's word' means to keep 'one's promise'—cannot be pluralised as 'words'—hence incorrect. A—*word* in the context means: something said; an utterance, remark, or comment. C—A command or direction; an order. D —*word* in the context means: news.

Question 11. Answer Option C. 'add up'- meaning *to be reasonable, plausible, or consistent; make sense*—will correct the sentence. The witness's testimony simply did not add up. In sentence D *add up* has the meaning: "to formulate an opinion of."

Question 12. Answer option D. *To go off the deep end* (Informal idiom) means to lose one's temper; react angrily. To go off the end is non-standard. Option A means: A particular area of responsibility. Option B means: to arrive at a place, situation, or condition as a result of a course of action. Option C means: A great deal.

Question 13. Answer Option C. C is better phrased as *assumed an attitude of surrender.* Option A means point of view. Option B means ranking or status. D means status.

Question 14. Answer Option B. “beated” is not an English word. A means: to arrive or finish before (another). C means : to deprive, as by craft or ability. D—Beat as a noun means: a regular route for a sentry or policeman. Sentence B can be corrected as the sun beat down on us all day (to shine or glare intensely)

Question 15. Answer Option D. A—The idiom ‘pull out all the stops’ means: use all the resources or force at one’s disposal. B—the idiom stop out means: be out late, especially when you are expected home. C—the idiom means: to break a journey. D is incorrect as there is no idiom like stop by. *Drop by* would be correct in the context. Another idiom that can be used in D correctly is ‘stop back’ which means to return somewhere.

Question 16. Answer Option B. Though the idiom ‘kick around’ means discuss, it si to eb used as they ‘kicked the idea around”. Option A “kick upstairs” means to promote to a higher but less desirable position. C means: pay someone illegally as part of the price. Option D means to relax. Apart from these two meanings the idiom kick back also has the meaning resist.

Question 17. Answer Option B. The sentence can be corrected “She took up small jobs and worked her way *through* college,” which means “to pay for or achieve through labour.” In the other sentences, the word ‘work’ is used correctly.

Question 18. Answer Option C. The word used to mean “cut” implies ruthless strokes—hence the bridge hacked the river does not make sense—the bridge divided would correct the sentence. In sentence A, ‘hack’ is used to mean tolerate and is correct usage.

Question 19. Answer Option D. Distinct or separate would replace the word ‘clear’ in this sentence. The other uses of the word are correct in the other sentences.

Question 20. Answer Option A. The word ‘price’ would correctly substitute ‘value’ in the context of the first sentence. The other sentences are correct.

Question 21. Answer Option A. ‘attend to’ will correct the sentence A. In B, the word is used to mean “in the charge of”. In C, it is used to mean “to serve”. In D, attend is used with the meaning : To accompany as a circumstance or follow as a result.

Question 22. Answer Option D. Sentence D can be corrected by substituting open with *frank* or *candid*. Open is used with the following meanings in the sentences: A—not to take up engagements or duties. B—exposed to general view or knowledge; free from concealment. C—available for future purchase.

Question 23. Answer Option B. The intended meaning of sentence B is unclear—perhaps my imagination supplied the explanation etc. In sentence A, it means: putting into the mind by association of ideas; in sentence C, word is used to mean imply. Sentence D uses suggest with the specific meaning of: to serve as or provide a motive for; prompt or demand.

Question 24. Answer Option A. “apprehended” the murderer or “understood who the murderer was “etc., would make sense. But not sentence A as it stands. The other sentences are correct. In sentence B, it has the meaning ‘accept’ or ‘agree’. In C, it has the meaning ‘to be thoroughly familiar’. In D, it has the meaning ‘to have a thorough or technical acquaintance.’

Question 25. Answer Option C. The sentence can be corrected as what *becomes of such a*

man? In sentence the usage is correct and means: to suit or be suitable to. In sentence B, it means—what happened to Sentence D is correct and it means: appropriate or befit.

Question 26. Answer Option D. The sentence can be corrected by stating “deal out three books”—to mean distribute or apportion; deal three books is incorrect. Sentence A has the sense of (informal but not incorrect): large or indefinite quantity or degree. Sentence B means to trade. Sentence C means: to take action.

Question 27. Answer option B. Sentence A means: to find attractive. B is incorrect; omit ‘through’ to correct the sentence. C—to be the setting or time of. D—continue with something to the end.

Question 28. Answer Option B. The sentence should read she *knows how to* write well. The other sentence are correct In sentence D, “in the know of” is an idiom which means ‘aware of’.

Question 29. Answer Option A. It is awkward (with most stative verbs) to be put in the continuous tense; hence, she looks pretty is correct. In C, “look to” means expect or anticipate. In D, “looking up” means to improve prospect or conditions.

Question 30. Answer option A. In this sentence, *mean* has to be replaced with *median* for the sentence to make sense. In A, it means to design for or destined to do a particular task. B means contemptible. “no mean feat” means commendable or excellent.

Question 31. Answer Option A. Though ‘telephone-tag’ means telephoning back and forth by parties trying to reach each other without success—tagged the telephone is incorrect usage. Other uses are correct. Tag question is a question put at the end of a sentence. E.g., It is big, isn’t it?

Question 32. Answer Option D. *Let’s hold off (delay) till we have more data* corrects the sentence. The other sentences use the word correctly.

Question 33. Answer Option B. “form of North America with its mountains, rivers ... etc.” is vague and incorrect. Substituting ‘topography’ or ‘configuration’ would correct the sentence. The other uses of form are correct.

Question 34. Answer Option A. The story refers to.... will correct the sentence. In B, it is used to mean ‘direct’. In sentence C, it is used with the meaning ‘pertaining to’. In D, the word refer is used with the meaning ‘to direct the attention of’ e.g., ‘I must refer you to your indiscretion’

Question 35. Answer Option D. “setting in” would correct the sentence—the sun was setting, but the evening was *setting in*. In sentence A, set ... down means to assign to a cause. In B, *set by* means to reserve for future use. In C, *set* means to establish as a model.

Question 36. Answer Option B. Sentence B is better phrased with *introduce* rather than *insert*. A means: to put or thrust in. C means: to put or introduce into the body of something or *interpolate*. In C, insert is a noun which means: something that is inserted, written or printed material inserted (as between the leaves of a book).

Question 37. Answer Option C. “write a cheque” or “write out a cheque” would correct the sentence. In a it si used with the simple meaning of inscribing the characters. In B, it used

with the meaning daft or draw up. In D the idiom “to write one’s own ticket” means to select a course of action entirely according to one’s wishes.

Question 38. Answer Option B. The can be corrected by adding up/down—scale up/down imports—which will mean adjust. As it stands the sentence is meaningless. In sentence e A scale is noun. In sentences C and D scale is used as verb.

Question 39. Answer Option A. The sentence can be corrected by substituting ‘have’ for make. Sentence B has the meaning ‘create’. Sentence C has the meaning arrange. Sentence D uses the idiom ‘make ends meet’ which means “to make one’s needs adequate to meet one’s means”.

Question 40. Answer Option D. “*gain in intensity*” would correct the sentence. Sentence A means the clocks goes ‘faster’ by a minute every day. Sentence B means ‘increase’. Sentence D means ‘to arrive at’, ‘reach’ or ‘attain’.

Question 41. Answer Option A. If ‘showed’ is replaced by ‘exposed’, the sentence would be correct. In sentence B, it is used to mean to conduct; guide. In sentence C, the idiom ‘show up’ (informal) means: to make an appearance. Sentence d means: a display.

Question 42. Answer Option C. The idiom ‘trade in’ means to ‘turn in as payment or part payment for a purchase or bill.’ Hence sentence A can be corrected as ... *trade the old car in* on a new one. Or ‘.. trade for a new one “in which case it will mean exchange. Option A uses the word to mean market. Option B uses it to mean exchange. Option D uses it as an adjective meaning ‘meant for industry’.

Question 43. Answer Option D. The idiom “the devil to pay” means severe consequences; hence the sentence is to be corrected to “... will mean that you have the devil to pay.” Option A means to “hire”. Option B means “to be worth the expense or effort”. Option C, pay telephone; or pay station means a public telephone—one uses a coin to make a call.

Question 44. Answer option A. Sentence A is meaningless and as the intended meaning is not clear, we cannot correct it either. Sentence B means when ‘in the process of’. Sentence C means the sum of a person’s actions or effects that serve to create an impression or set an example. Sentence D means to give a decision.

Question 45. Answer Option D. Affect needs to be replaced with effect. In sentence A affect is used to mean ‘provided the stimulus’. In B, it means influence. In C, affect means ‘tend toward.’

Question 46. Answer Option B. Sentence B can be corrected by using ‘skin’ instead of bark. In sentence A, ‘barking their wares’ means advertising with persistent outcry. In sentence C, to bark up the wrong tree (idiom) to misdirect one’s efforts, or to proceed under a misapprehension. In sentence D, bark is used as noun to refer to the outer covering of the tree stem.

Question 47. Answer Option A. The sentence can be corrected by writing ‘cover up the scandal’ rather than cover the scandal. Sentence B means ‘includes a lot of information’. Sentence C means to substitute. Sentence D means a pretext.

Question 48. Answer Option B. Sentence B will be corrected if instead of *informed*, *acquainted* is used. In sentence A, ‘inform’ is used with the specific contextual meaning: to give character

or essence to something. Sentence C also has a specific contextual meaning of 'inform' which is: to be the characteristic quality of. In D, it has the common meaning 'communicated the knowledge of.'

Question 49. Answer Option B. Students do not 'give the CAT'; they *take* the CAT. (Take tests not give tests). In sentence A, gave birth is correctly used to mean 'to have a baby.' In C, the idiom 'give of' means to make available or provide generously. In D 'give place to' means replace with or succeeded by.

Question 50. Answer Option D. The can be corrected by making it "... not the one to pass up an opportunity..." the idiom 'pass up' means to let go without accepting or taking advantage of. Sentence A means to go from the control of one to another. Sentence C means exceed or surpass.

9

Spot the Error

I

Directions: In each question, there are five sentences or parts of sentences that form a paragraph. Identify the sentence(s) or part(s) of sentence(s) that is/are correct in terms of grammar and usage (including spelling, punctuation and logical consistency). Then, choose the most appropriate option.

- A. Charges and countercharges mean nothing.
- B. to the few million who have lost their home.
- C. The nightmare is far from over, for the government.
- D. is still unable to reach hundreds who are marooned.
- E. The death count have just begun.

1. A only 2. C only 3. A and C 4. A, C and D 5. D only

Answer Option 4. A, C and D are correct. B is incorrect in the singular use of 'million' with few—it should be *few millions*. E needs *has* to link the singular subject *the death count*. Countercharge as one word is correct like counterchallenge.

Example 2

- A. When I returned to home, I began to read
- B. everything I could get my hand on about Israel.
- C. That same year Israel's Jewish Agency sent
- D. a *Shaliach* a sort of recruiter to Minneapolis.
- E. I became one of his most active devotees.

A. 3 and 5 B. 3 only C. 5 only D. 2, 3 and 5 E. 3, 4 and 5

Answer Option A. 3 and 5 are correct. 1 should be corrected to "returned home". 2 should be corrected to 'get my hands on' - an idiom. 4 should include a comma, or a dash after *Shaliach*—a sort of.... In fragment 3, *That same year* like *that very year* is acceptable.

II

Directions: Choose the grammatically correct sentence from among the four options given for each question.

- A. The Excel Company has greatly enhanced it's advertising expense.

- B. The Excel Company has greatly increased its advertising expense.
- C. The Excel Company has greatly enhanced its advertising expense.
- D. The Excel Company has greatly increased it's advertising expense.

Answer 2. *It's* is an abbreviation for *it is* or *it has*, hence eliminated. *Increase* vs *Enhance*—*Increase* implies: to become progressively greater (as in size, amount, number, or intensity). *Enhance* implies, rather than size, to increase or improve in value, quality, desirability, or attractiveness. Hence option 2.

III

In each of the following questions, a part of the paragraph or sentence has been underlined. From the choices given to you, you are required to choose the one, which would best replace the underlined part.

This government has given subsidies to the Navratnas but there is no telling whether the subsequent one will do.

- 1. whether the subsequent government will do so.
- 2. if the government to follow will accept the policy.
- 3. if the government to follow will adhere to the policy.
- 4. no telling whether the subsequent one will do so.

Answer option 4. Option 1, 2 and 3 are eliminated as they do not contain *no telling*, hence the sentence cannot continue. Also, 'will do' (original sentence) is incorrect. Hence 4.

HOW TO SOLVE

In question types II and III, compare all the options together to spot the difference in them. For example, in type II, the first difference is increase vs. enhance. Decide which makes better sense and eliminate the other options (2 and 4) . Compare options 1 and 3. The difference is *it's* vs *Its*. Make your decision. In type III example, by comparing all the 4 options at once, you have to make the decision whether 'no telling' needs to be removed from the sentence "but there is if ... " as in options 2 and 3, and "but there is whether ..." as in option 1, do not make sense. Hence Option 4.

However, in type I questions, elimination is possible by working with the options. Look for a fragment (A, B, C etc...) that you are sure is correct or incorrect; eliminate options and work forward to your answer.

Though the above methodology can be applied to save time and to avoid confusion, a candidate must be aware that grammar questions, like vocabulary questions, are 'technical' questions in which the candidate's awareness of the principles of grammar is tested. Hence it becomes necessary to learn the principles of grammar while preparing for the test. There are innumerable grammar books available in the market. The coaching institutes for competitive examinations also provide abundant notes. However, one must make sure that the common areas of errors are not missed.

These areas generally repeated in competitive examinations are, usage issues related to:

- 1. Nouns and Subject-Verb Agreement
- 2. Determiners, Adjectives, Adverbs, and Modifiers
- 3. Pronouns

4. Conjunctions, Prepositions, Phrasal Verbs and idiomatic expressions
5. Verbs and Inconsistency in Tenses
6. Parallel construction, Redundancy, and Wordiness etc. AND
7. Spelling and Punctuation marks.

In short, competitive exams cover all the areas that a student who has English as second language is likely to make errors. It is beyond the scope of this book to go into all these principles. This writer's "English Usage for the CAT" published by Pearson can be referred to for a detailed discussion of these topics.

While solving these questions make sure that you have read the explanation to each question, because these explanations will make you aware of most of the principles that you are expected to learn. Hence, it is all right to get the answers wrong, if you consider these questions learning tools.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question 1

The number of foreigners going to India for fertility treatments, specially surrogacy, has dramatically increased in recent years.

1. especially surrogacy, have dramatically increased in past years.
2. especially surrogacy, has dramatically increased in recent years.
3. specially surrogacy, have dramatically increased in recent years.
4. specially surrogacy, have shown dramatic improvement in recent years.

Question 2

The LHC is a magnificent engineering project, who's many "gee-whiz" features have been widely reported.

1. whose many "gee-whiz" feature have been widely reported.
2. who's "gee-whiz" features has been reported widely.
3. whose many "gee-whiz" features has been widely reported.
4. who's many "gee-whiz" features have been widely reported.

Question 3

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, outspoken as usual, compared the choice of Liu for the Nobel Prize with Obama.

1. compared the choice of Liu for Nobel Prize with that of Obama.
2. compared the choice of Liu with Obama for the Nobel Prize.
3. compared the choice of Liu for the Nobel Prize to that of Obama.
4. compared the choice of Liu and Obama to the Nobel Prize.

Question 4

The OECD expects average GDP growth among their mostly rich members to slow from 2.8% in 2010 and 2.3% in 2011, before bouncing back to 2.8% in 2012.

1. their most rich members to slow from 2.8% in 2010 and 2.3% in 2011,
2. their mostly rich members to slow from 2.8% in 2010 and 2.3% in 2011,

3. its most rich members to slow between 2.8% in 2010 to 2.3% in 2011,
4. its mostly rich members to slow from 2.8% in 2010 to 2.3% in 2011,

Question 5

A sphere cannot be represented on a flat plane without distortion, which will mean that all map projections will distort in one way or another.

1. which means all map projections distort in one way or another.
2. that means all map projections will distort one way or another.
3. which will mean that all map projections distorts one way or other.
4. which means all map projections will distort in one way or others.

Question 6

The blame for rising obesity rates have been pinned on many things, including having more calorific diet, the spread of processed food, a lack of exercise and modern man's generally more stressful lot.

1. has been pinned on many things, including a more calorific diet,
2. have been pinned to many things, including more calorific diets,
3. have been pinned on many things, including a calorie rich diet,
4. has been pinned on many things: having a more calorific diet,

Question 7

The tendency to eat late, though it has never been tested properly, many nutritionists believe, as a factor in putting on weight.

1. many nutritionists believe, to be a factor in putting on weight.
2. many nutritionists believe factor in putting on weight.
3. is believed by many nutritionists to be a factor in putting on weight.
4. is believed by many nutritionists as a factor in putting on weight.

Question 8 *(Pay attention to punctuation also)*

Of the billion or so Windows machines, some 63% still uses old XP version launched in 2001, in America, the proportion of XP users are over 80%.

1. some 63% still use the old XP version launched in 2001, in America the proportion of XP users are
2. some 63% still uses the old XP version launched in 2001; in America, the proportion of XP users are
3. some 63% still use the old XP version launched in 2001 in America, the proportion of XP users is
4. some 63% still use the old XP version launched in 2001; in America, the proportion of XP users is

Question 9

Though subjected to varying influences, the distinctive features of China's artistic activity possess a unity which is quite as complete as that of our Western art.

1. possess a unity which is quite as complete as that of our Western art.
2. possesses a unity which are quite as complete as our Western art.
3. possesses a unity which is quite complete like our Western art.
4. possess a unity which is quite complete like our Western art.

Question 10

To know by parts is science, knowing the whole as a whole is philosophy.

1. Knowledge of parts is science,
2. Knowing by parts is science,
3. To know partially is science,
4. To know by parts is science,

Question 11

In the fission reactions that nuclear power generation rely on today, heavy elements such as uranium breaks into smaller ones.

1. relies on today, heavy elements such as uranium break into smaller ones.
2. rely on today, heavy elements such as uranium break into smaller ones.
3. relies on today, heavy elements such as uranium breaks into smaller ones.
4. rely on today, heavy elements such as uranium breaks into smaller ones.

Question 12

The nature of our party system has changed in the past few decades, and the lesson of the past decade had been that the party that did not hold the White House had every incentive to refuse to co-operate with the president's party.

1. was that the party that does not hold the White House had every incentive
2. is that the party that does not hold the White House has every incentive
3. had been that the party that had not held the White House had every incentive
4. had been that the party that did not hold the White House had every incentive

Question 13

Looking at the path of German GDP and the fact that total private sector hours didn't fall by that much, it becomes clear that Germany's unique recession and recovery was about more than just its choice in labour market policies.

1. Looking at the path of German GDP and that total private sector hours didn't fall much,
2. Looking at the path of German GDP and the fact that total private sector hours didn't fall much,
3. When one looks at the path of German GDP and the fact that total private sector hours didn't fall much,
4. When one is looking at the path of German GDP and that total private sector hours didn't fall much,

Question 14

The Beijing Language and Culture University Press, the largest publisher of Chinese-language textbooks, says South Korea and Japan are their biggest customers.

1. say South Korea and Japan are their biggest customers.
2. says South Korea and Japan are it's biggest customers.
3. says South Korea and Japan are their biggest customers.
4. says South Korea and Japan are its biggest customers.

Question 15 *(Pay attention to punctuation also)*

There are two pieces to Mr Keats' argument; that English is open-source as other languages are not; and that that is why it has spread.

1. Mr Keats' argument, that English is open-source as other languages are not and that
2. Mr Keats' argument: that English is open-source as other languages are not, and that that
3. Mr Keats' argument—that English is open-source as other languages are not—and that
4. Mr Keats's argument; that English is open-source as other languages are not; and that that

Question 16 *(Pay attention to punctuation also)*

Partnership, he said, was a "two-way street", adding of Karzai, "We have to listen and learn. But he's got to listen to us as well".

1. "two-way street," adding of Karzai: "We have to listen and learn. But he's got to listen to us, as well."
2. "two-way street"; adding of Karzai: "We have to listen and learn - but he's got to listen to us as well".
3. "two-way street," adding of Karzai; "We have to listen and learn; but he's got to listen to us as well."
4. "two-way street", adding of Karzai, "We have to listen and learn. But he's got to listen to us, as well".

Question 17

There has been heightened concern among India's civil society about the threats for the environment caused by the pressures of development and industrialization.

1. within the civil society of India about the threats to the environment.
2. within India's civil society about the threats to the environment.
3. among India's civil society about the threats to the environment.
4. for India's civil society about the threats to the environment.

Question 18

Unable to cope up with the losses, 1.5 lakh workers were laid off by the private sector.

1. Unable to cope up with the losses, the private sector lay off 1.5 lakh workers.
2. Unable to cope with the losses, 1.5 lakh private sector workers were laid off.
3. Unable to cope with the losses, the private sector laid off 1.5 lakh workers.
4. Unable to cope with the losses, the private sector had lain off 1.5 lakh workers.

Question 19

Dasara is now celebrated across Karnataka as a State festival with an exquisitely unique blend of the religious and the secular.

1. festival with an exquisitely unique blend of religions and secularism.
2. festival with an exquisite blend of unique religions and secularism.
3. festival with an unique blend of religions and the secular.
4. festival with a unique blend of the religious and the secular.

Question 20

If I was you, then I would not do that.

1. If I were you, I would not do that.
2. If I were you, then I would not have done that.
3. If I was you, then I would not do that.
4. If I had been you, I would not have done that.

Directions: In each of the following questions, there are four sentences or parts of sentences that form a paragraph. Identify the sentence(s) or part(s) of sentence(s) that is/are correct in terms of grammar and usage (including spelling, punctuation and logical consistency). Then, choose the most appropriate option.

Question 21

- A. Sometimes, we think we are only the people with problems.
 - B. Our problems override other considerations; we can't think beyond our own vexations.
 - C. When we see a small dampness on our wall we scurry to get them repaired and corrected,
 - D. but we don't think of people whose homes have been washed away by the rage of the rain gods.
1. A and B 2. B and D 3. C only 4. C and D

Question 22

- A. Chen Jianping repeated again on twitter something her fiancé said
 - B. about anti-Japan protests getting violent, and added, "Charge, angry youth!"
 - C. For this she was sentenced one year in a labour camp.
 - D. Twitter is banned in China, but its easy to use blocked sites with simple internet tricks.
1. A only 2. B only 3. C only 4. B and D

Question 23

- A. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is gyre of marine litter in the central North Pacific Ocean.
 - B. The patch extends over a very wide area, with estimates ranging from area
 - C. the size of the state of Texas to one larger as the continental United States;
 - D. however, the exact size is unknown.
1. A and D 2. B and C 3. C only 4. D only

Question 24

- A. At media agency Mindshare's Mumbai office
 - B. sit a team of ninety-three individuals
 - C. who's only focus is the consumer giant Hindustan Unilever.
 - D. In fact, this unit occupies an area the size of most mid-sized agency's in this country.
1. A only 2. A and C 3. A and D 4. B and C

Question 25

- A. One of the classroom exercise I conduct with my Persuasive Communication students
 B. at IIMA is taken from Kurukshetra war.
 C. I ask a student to be Kunti, other to be Karna.
 D. Kunti has to persuade Karna to leave Duryodhana and join the Pandavas.
1. A only 2. A and B 3. C and D 4. D only

Question 26

- A. The debasement of currencies, particularly US dollar, has given gold,
 B. perceived a monetary unit, a leg up with the metal slated to record it's tenth annual gain,
 C. the longest since 1920's. With the US Federal Reserve set to pump \$600 billion
 D. through purchase of debt, more money is expected to chase commodities such as gold.
1. A and D 2. A and C 3. C and D 4. D only

Question 27

- A. Three years have passed since Dr Ira Kalish , global research head, Deloitte, visited India.
 B. But the changes in modern trade are all too apparent to Kalish.
 C. There has been well-publicised expansions and scale backs.
 D. Some have taken a fall, and others picked pace.
1. A and B 2. B and C 3. C and D 4. D only

Question 28

- A. The world of luxury is innovating in ways which strike an emotional chord with the affluent buyer.
 B. And the elite are not complaining.
 C. Vishakha Doshi Director Marketing & Communication Entrack distributors for Montblanc India says that people identify with the core values of such legends.
 D. "Each of the limited edition luxury writing instrument pays tribute to icons and is a collector's pride."
1. A, C and D 2. B only 3. All are correct 4. All are incorrect

Question 29

- A. NRIs does not include a person who has gone out of India on employment, business or vocation,
 B. or any other purpose for an uncertain period.
 C. Also, a person who has come to stay in India other than employment,
 D. business or vocation, or on any other purpose for an uncertain period.
1. A, C and D 2. B only 3. All are correct 4. All are incorrect

Question 30

- A. Companies will have to compete not only on prices to the consumer

- B. but also remunerative prices to farmers.
 - C. This is possible only if they invest on better seeds, fertilizers and farm practices.
 - D. The farmer has to get higher returns from his land and they need support to do this.
1. A only 2. B only 3. A and D 4. C and D

Question 31

- A. Its one thing to win power, another to wield it.
 - B. Two dissipated leaders met in Delhi this week.
 - C. President Obama was chastened by dramatic electoral losses in the US Congress and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh disheartened by never ending corruption scandals.
 - D. Both seemed to have forgot the fundamentals of what created their respective democracies.
1. A and B 2. C and D 3. A and C 4. B and D

Question 32

- A. Just like America's founding fathers were obsessed with liberty,
 - B. so were India's founders deeply attached to dharma--so much so that they placed
 - C. the dharma-chakra in the middle of Indian flag.
 - D. The Congress party still does not realize how much it has diminished by the relentless series of corruption scandals.
1. All are correct 2. All are incorrect
3. A and D 4. B and C

Question 33

- A. Her words had had the desired effect
 - B. and when he had reached her place, he stopped for longer than he had intended to.
 - C. Throughout the drive to her home,
 - D. he had kept thinking about how much he would miss her.
1. All are correct 2. All are incorrect
3. A and D 4. B and C

Question 34

- A. Couldn't make it to Arnab's show tonight. Nor to Rahul's (Headlines Today).
 - B. The topic on both were the same - it's the big story about Raakhi Sawant's
 - C. show timing getting changed to a later slot.
 - D. But hopefully kids won't be awake to watch this rubbish. So... it's all good.
1. All are correct 2. All are incorrect
3. A, C and D 4. A, B and C

Question 35

- A. Liquid Comics, an entertainment company found by three Indians
 - B. have announced the digital iPad release of "Untouchable",
 - C. a graphic novel with a supernatural horror twist
 - D. exploring various themes of racial prejudice during the British Raj.
1. A and B 2. C and D 3. A and C 4. B and D

Question 36

- A. That the US and the UK are the most popular destination for management studies is not big news.
 - B. But the finding of a survey conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council have thrown up some surprises.
 - C. Number 4 on the list of the Top 10 preferred destination for B-school aspirants is India.
 - D. According to experts, India's foray into the elite league has a lot to do with the emergence of institutions such as the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.
1. A only 2. A and D 3. B and C 4. D only

Question 37

- A. The fact is that Indian cities, unlike many cities abroad, lack in leadership.
 - B. The mayor, supposed to be the first citizen of the city,
 - C. has neither the time or the power to steer the city's affairs.
 - D. His tenure is a glorious one year in cities like Delhi and Bangalore or a extended 20 months in some other cities.
1. A only 2. B only 3. B and C 4. D only

Question 38

- A. CPM's diminished clout today is surely thanks the mismatch
 - B. between adherence to ideological purity and the inability to follow through in practice.
 - C. Survival in politics is to the nimble-footed.
 - D. Hence 'revolutionary' communists have been outrun by social democrats.
1. A only 2. B and D 3. C and D 4. A and D

Question 39

- A. Forget the fact that the Chinese economy has grown faster than India.
 - B. Forget the fact that in terms of infrastructural development be it power plants
 - C. and highways or hospitals and schools China is way ahead.
 - D. Perhaps the most fundamental difference between China and India is the vulnerability of each to terror.
1. A only 2. B and D 3. C and D 4. D only

Question 40

- A. The organization that benefitted from the scam were the Internet Service Providers.

- B. Rather than a risky military operation, American officials hope to isolate Mr Khomeini.
 - C. Shahrukh Khan plus Kareena Kapoor mean a hit film.
 - D. 93.5, the first FM station, launched a few years ago turning teenagers to radio listeners.
1. All are correct 2. All are incorrect
3. A and B 4. C and D

Question 41

- A. Mild showers turning gusty increasing to a storm today.
 - B. Any mention and explanation of the idea is likely to be dismissed.
 - C. Since becoming a Project Manger in April, I have been working in Bangalore.
 - D. It was a great concept and execution of the project.
1. A only 2. B only 3. C only 4. D only

Question 42

- A. The cause of the power outage is not known to us.
 - B. These were the circumstances when I made that the decision to quit.
 - C. The King rewarded him for a commitment evidenced by years of loyal service.
 - D. He cut off his long hair, which made him look younger.
1. A and D 2. A and C 3. B and C 4. B and D

Question 43

- A. Diseases when suffered by poor appear
 - B. to be more deadly than when they afflict better of people.
 - C. The less affluent, indeed, are more likely to die
 - D. off diseases than people who are rich.
1. A only 2. D only 3. B and C 4. C only

Question 44

- A. In autumn of 1940, Warsaw's Jewish population,
 - B. swollen by forced immigration, amounted to nearly 450,000 people,
 - C. all of those walled into an area covering less than four square kilometres.
 - D. By early 1942, about 83,000 died from hunger.
1. D only 2. B only 3. B and D 4. C only

Question 45 (*Pay attention to punctuation also*)

- A. The first human settlements in Myanmar appeared some 11000 years ago.
 - B. The stone and fossilized-wood tools used by these people
 - C. have been named Anyathian, from Anyatha (another term for Upper Burma);
 - D. little else, however, is known of these people.
1. B, C, and D 2. A, C, and D 3. A, B, and D 4. A, B, and C

Question 46

- A. With the expansion of Indian commerce in Southeast Asia
- B. between the 1st to the 4th centuries AD, Myanmar's importance increased.

- C. Indian merchants and seamen came to Myanmar as traders
- D. rather as conquerors or colonists.
- 1. A and D 2. A and C 3. B only 4. B and C

Question 47

- A. It's some time since anyone accused GM of making a good move.
- B. The company surrendered its title as the worlds top-selling carmaker
- C. to Toyota this year, in part because GM underestimated drivers appetite
- D. for leaner, greener cars—a desire filled spectacularly by Toyotas Prius.
- 1. B and C 2. A and D
- 3. C and D 4. None of the above (are correct)

Question 48 (*Pay attention to punctuation also*)

- A. *Dhobi Ghat* is the story of 4 characters: Arun, the famous lonely painter (Aamir);
- B. Munna, the *dhobi* who wants to be a star (Prateik),
- C. Shai, the banker on a sabbatical in India (Monica),
- D. and Yasmin, the recently married Muslim girl who records her life in Mumbai for her brother back home (Kriti).
- 1. A only 2. B, C and D 3. A and D 4. D only

Question 49

- A. All over the world, children study math and science
- B. in the hope for becoming Bill Gates. But the hero-entrepreneur myth can be dangerous,
- C. because what healthful economies really need is not more entrepreneurs,
- D. but rather enough people who are willing to work for them.
- 1. A only 2. B, C and D 3. A and D 4. D only

Question 50

- A. Not only the Earth's surface is warming,
- B. but the troposphere is heating up too.
- C. In review of four decades of data on troposphere temperatures,
- D. the scientists found that warming was occurring in troposphere layer.
- 1. A only 2. B only 3. A and B 4. D only

Directions: In the following questions, choose the grammatically correct sentence from among the four options given for each question.

Question 51

- A. It looks like it is going to rain this afternoon.
- B. It looks as if it is going to rain this afternoon.
- C. It looks as if it is going to rain today afternoon.
- D. It looks like it is going to rain today afternoon.

Question 52

- A. A belief that he is humble and being really humble is what makes him so likeable.

- B. A belief that he is humble and being really humble are what makes him so likable.
- C. Believing that he is humble and really being humble is what makes him so likeable.
- D. Believing that he is humble and really being humble are what makes him so likable.

Question 53

- A. This book left by who knows whom? has been lying here for days.
- B. This book—left by who knows whom—has been lying here for days.
- C. This book left by—who knows who?—has been lying here for days.
- D. This book left by—who knows who—has been lying here for days.

Question 54

- A. I can understand my sister better than my mother.
- B. I can understand my sister more than my mother.
- C. I can better understand my sister than my mother.
- D. I can understand my sister better than I can understand my mother.

Question 55

- A. She said that Raj had a fall last week and he had been injured.
- B. She said that Raj had fallen the previous week and he had injured.
- C. She said that Raj had had a fall last week and he was injured.
- D. She said that Raj had had a fall the previous week and he had been injured.

Question 56

- A. In speaking with the Minister, he denied that there were any payoffs involved in the deal.
- B. While speaking with the Minister, we were informed that there were no payoffs in the deal.
- C. While speaking with the Minister, the Minister denied that there were any payoffs in the deal.
- D. In speaking with the Minister, he denied to the journalists that there were any payoffs in the deal.

Question 57

- A. She intended to get married to him, but then she goes and breaks relations with him.
- B. She intends to get married to him, but then she goes and breaks relations with him.
- C. She intended to get married to him, but then she went and broke relations with him.
- D. She intended to get married to him, but then she will go and break relations with him.

Question 58

- A. Of all the students in the class whom do you think the teacher likes the most?
- B. Of all the students in the class who do you think the teacher likes the most?
- C. Who do you think the teacher likes the best of all students in the class?
- D. In the class, who do you think the teacher likes the most of all the students?

Question 59

- A. In 2009, she was promoted to the position of General Manager, Systems.
- B. She was promoted in 2009 to a General Manager, Systems post.
- C. She was promoted to a General Manager, Systems position in 2009.
- D. She was promoted in 2009 to General Manager, Systems.

Question 60

- A. If I had any idea, I would have warned you immediately.
- B. If I had had any idea, I would have warned you immediately.
- C. If I have any idea, I would warn you immediately.
- D. I had had any idea, I would warn you immediately.

Question 61

- A. It is recommended that the college acquire a large enough playground.
- B. It is recommended that the college acquires a large enough playground.
- C. It is recommended that the college must acquire large enough playground.
- D. It is recommended that the college acquires a large enough playing ground.

Question 62

- A. The Beatles was an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in the 1960, and one of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed act in the history of popular music.
- B. The Beatles was an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960, and was one of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed acts in the history of popular music.
- C. The Beatles were an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960, and was one of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed acts in the history of popular music.
- D. The Beatles were an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960, and one of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed acts in the history of popular music.

Question 63

- A. More than one student has expressed their support for the campaign.
- B. More than one student have expressed their support for the campaign.
- C. More than one student has expressed his/her support for the campaign.
- D. More than one student have expressed his/her support for the campaign.

Question 64

- A. The majority of the population in our country today is young below 30 year of age.

- B. The majority of the population in our country today are young below 30 year of age.
- C. A majority of population in our country today is young below 30 year of age.
- D. A majority of population in our country today are young below 30 year of age.

Question 65

- A. The labour union is expected to issue a statement to the management on Monday to request an increase in the coffee break's duration.
- B. On Monday, the labour union is expected to issue a statement requesting the management to an increase in the coffee-break's duration.
- C. On Monday, the labour union is expected to request the management for an increase in the duration of the coffee break.
- D. The labour union is expected to issue a statement on Monday to the management in order to request to increase the duration of the coffee-break.

Question 66

- A. I had an intuition that our plan was not going to be successful.
- B. I had an intuition that our plan is not going to be successful.
- C. I had an instinct that our plan was not going to be successful.
- D. I had an instinct that our plan is not going to be successful.

Question 67

- A. The museums, the markets, and the restaurants make our city a place to stay and not merely a place to come to.
- B. Museums, markets, and restaurants make our city a place to stay in and not merely a place to come.
- C. The museums, the markets, and the restaurants make our city a place to stay at and not merely a place to come to.
- D. The museums, the markets, and the restaurants make our city a place to stay in and not merely a place to visit.

Question 68

- A. It is through the co-operation of people like yourself that we had been able to achieve this.
- B. It was through the co-operation of people like yourself that we have been able to achieve this.
- C. It is through the co-operation of people like you that we have been able to achieve this.
- D. It was through the co-operation of people like you that we have been able to achieve this.

Question 69

- A. She likes all kind of foods, but Chinese and Thai is what she likes best.
- B. She likes all kinds of food, but Chinese and Thai are foods she likes best.
- C. She likes all kind of foods, but Chinese and Thai are foods she likes the best.
- D. She likes all kinds of food, but Chinese and Thai are what she likes the best.

Question 70

- A. For the purpose of this contract “vendors” means all those to whom services are subcontracted.
- B. For the purpose of this contract “vendors” mean all those to whom services is subcontracted.
- C. For the purpose of this contract “vendors” mean all those to who services are subcontracted.
- D. For the purpose of this contract “vendors” means all those who’s services are subcontracted.

Question 71

- A. CPL’s personalized instruction ensures that their faculty are there to help you to reach your goals.
- B. CPL’s personalized instruction ensures that the members of its faculty are there to help you reach your goals.
- C. CPL’s personalized instructions ensures that each of their faculty is there to help you reach your goals.
- D. CPL’s personalized instructions ensure that their faculty is there to help you reach your goals.

Question 72

- A. They know like us that a few lines of code could wreak as much havoc as a few handfuls of bombs.
- B. They know like us that a few lines of code could wreck as much havoc as a few handful of bombs.
- C. They know, as do we, that a few lines of code could wreak as much havoc as a few handfuls of bombs.
- D. They know, as do we, that a few lines of code could wreck as much havoc as a few handful of bombs.

Question 73

- A. He worked harder and harder, but there was no way he could catch up with his friend, Raj.
- B. He worked, harder and harder, but there was no way he could catch up, with his friend Raj.
- C. He worked harder, and harder, but there was no way he could catch up with his friend, Raj.
- D. He worked harder and harder, but there was no way he could catch up with his friend Raj.

Question 74

- A. Manish, our math teacher, said he would meet us here; however, I doubt whether he will be able to come, especially if it rains.
- B. Manish, our math teacher, said he would meet us here, however, I doubt whether he will be able to come, especially if it rains.

- C. Manish our math teacher said, he would meet us here, however, I doubt whether he will be able to come, especially if it rains.
- D. Manish, our math teacher said, he would meet us here; however, I doubt whether he will be able to come, especially if it rains.

Question 75

- A. Frost's poem "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" contains these haunting lines: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep / But I have promises to keep."
- B. Frost's poem, Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening, contains these haunting lines "The woods are lovely, dark and deep / But I have promises to keep."
- C. Frost's "poem," Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening, contains these haunting lines: The woods are lovely, dark and deep / But I have promises to keep.
- D. "Frost's poem Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," contains these haunting lines: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep / But I have promises to keep."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 2. Specially vs especially (*Specially* means exclusively for, *especially* means—for a particular purpose); 'especially' suit the context better because 'infertility treatments' are mentioned as the class of treatments the tourists go for. Options 3 and 4 are eliminated. 'The number of foreigners...' is the subject of the sentence. "the number" is always singular, hence 'has' is the correct verb.

Question 2. Answer Option 1. Who's vs whose—whose is the possessive of who. 'many features' is plural, hence the verb has to be the plural 'have.'

Question 3. Answer Option 3. *Choice* is compared, hence *that of* (choice of) is essential. Otherwise *choice* and Obama are directly compared making it an error. To identify either the similarities **or** the differences between two things, use "compare to." To identify both the similarities and the differences (at the same time), use "compare with." (*Compared with* places the things compared on equal level.) *India is often compared with China. India is often compared to the US.* In comparing with something, one finds or discusses both things that are alike and things that are different.

Question 4. Answer Option 4. The OECD is singular (that is why the verb is 'expects' rather than expect; the pronoun has to be consistent, hence *its* is necessary- *their* is incorrect. 'mostly rich members' is correct, 'their most rich members' is vague. 'from' needs to be followed by 'to', not 'and.' Option 4 corrects these errors.

Question 5. Answer Option 1. The shift to future tense is unnecessary from the present 'cannot be represented' as it is a fact. It is an error to change *which* to *that*, as *which* introduces a descriptive clause. 'one way or another' is the correct idiom.

Question 6. Answer Option 1. Since the subject is 'the blame'—the verb has to be singular 'has'. 'pinned on' is correct idiom. 'A more calorific diet' is parallel with 'the spread of ..' and a lack of ...' Hence option 4 is faulty parallelism.

Question 7. Answer Option 3. There are there are two clauses in this sentence: *The tendency*

to eat late is believed (by nutritionists) to be a factor in putting on weight and (though) it has never been tested properly. The first clause can also be correctly constructed as “The tendency to eat late, many nutritionists believe, is a factor in putting on weight.” But, this is not among the options. “believed as a factor” is incorrect.

Question 8. Answer Option 4. Portions (per cent, fractions etc..) the verb will agree with the noun what follows the *of*. (50 of the *people come* from 50% of the *money comes* from ... etc) In this sentence the noun is *machines*; hence, the verb ‘use’ is correct. When there is already a comma in any of the punctuation that replaces a conjunction has to be a semicolon. In the above sentence, there is no conjunction. Option 3 makes the sentence incorrect because the sentence is not saying “launched in 2001 in America.” “The proportion...” is the subject in the next clause; hence, the verb has to be singular ‘is’.

Question 9. Answer Option 1. There is no error in the original sentence nor does it need any improvement. ‘features’ needs a plural verb ‘possess’. To establish comparison ‘that of’ is necessary.

Question 10. Answer Option 2. Faulty parallelism in all the other options.

Question 11. Answer Option 1. Pure subject-verb agreement question. The subject ‘nuclear power generation’ requires the singular verb ‘relies’ and ‘heavy elements’ requires the plural verb ‘break’.

Question 12. Answer Option 2. Tense inconsistency. The lesson of the past decade has to be either “is’ or ‘was’ , hence had been is eliminated. The option with was (1) continues the sentence into the present tense and is illogical. The consistent present tense in option 2 makes the whole idea a fact. (simple present tense is used to state facts)

Question 13. Answer Option 3. Modifier error if ‘it’ is retained as the subject. ‘it’ cannot be ‘looking.’ Options 1 and 2 are, hence, eliminated. Option 4 unnecessarily uses the continuous tense, and has a parallelism error. *When one looks at the path and the fact* are parallel. Hence option 3 is the only correct choice.

Question 14. Answer Option 4. The verb ‘says’ and the pronoun ‘its’ are consistent with the subject “The Beijing Language and Culture University Press”.

Question 15. Answer Option 2. A colon correctly introduces the list of ideas. Semicolon in its place is incorrect. Dashes (option 3) are incorrect because the idea (between the dashes) is not parenthetical. The second ‘that’ is necessary to maintain parallelism. The possessive of Keats can be either *Keats’* or *Keats’s*.

Question 16. Answer Option 1. Commas and periods *generally* go inside the quotation marks (there are situations in which they are outside). A semicolon has no place in this sentence. The comma after us, helps to remove the ambiguity that may arise “us as well” or “listen .. as well.” Adding of Karzai is better followed by a colon than a comma. A comma would suffice if it was “adding to Karzai”.

Question 17. Answer Option 2. ‘among’ vs ‘within’, the latter is a better preposition in the context. ‘threats to the environment’ is idiomatically correct. There is no need to change ‘India’s civil society’.

Question 18. Answer Option 3. ‘cope up’ is incorrect idiom; ‘cope’ as verb is sufficient.

The first part of the sentence is a modifying phrase (subject modifier); the correct subject is 'private sector'. 'laid off' is the correct past tense of 'lay off'.

Question 19. Answer Option 4. 'exquisite' and 'unique' together becomes redundant. 'The religious and the secular' is parallel (both adjectives).

Question 20. Answer Option 1. The subjunctive mood (If I were.) - "in grammar, subjunctive mood designates the mood of a verb used to express condition, hypothesis, contingency, possibility, etc., rather than to state an actual fact: distinguished from imperative, indicative." Also, in modern English "If I was you ..." is completely incorrect. *If ... then* as a conjunction is best avoided, though it is not always incorrect; 'if' would suffice in most situations.

Question 21. Answer Option 2. B and D. In A 'only' is misplaced; "we are the only people..." In C, the pronoun 'them' is inconsistent (in number) with its antecedent 'a small dampness'; 'it' is the correct pronoun.

Question 22. Answer option 2. B only. In A 'repeated again' is redundant. 'repeated' is correct. In C, 'sentenced one year..' is incorrect; 'sentenced to one year..' will make it correct. In D, *its* is used instead of *it's*.

Question 23. Answer Option 4. D only. In A 'gyre' needs a determiner before that 'a gyre' would be correct. In B 'ranging from *an* area...' would be correct. 'from and' is incorrect. In 'as large as' or 'larger than' would correct the part. "larger as" is incorrect.

Question 24. Answer Option 1. A only. In B, The verb 'sit' for the subject 'team' is incorrect. It should be 'sits'. In C, who's has to be replaced with 'whose'. In D *agency's* is incorrect, it should be agencies.

Question 25. Answer Option 4. D only. A should be corrected to 'one of the ... exercises'. B has to include the definite article "the Kurukshetra war". C should be corrected "another to be ..." D has no error.

Question 26. Answer Option 4. D only. A must include the definite article before US dollar—the US dollar. B has two errors: 'perceived as a monetary unit' and *it's* vs *its*. C has two errors: since 1920's is incorrect, it should be corrected to *since the 1920s*—*the* is necessary and no apostrophe for the plural of years.

Question 27. Answer Option 1. A and B are correct. The verb in C must be "there have been..." In D, the correct idiom would be "picked up pace".

Question 28. Answer Option 2. B only. Sentence A uses *effluent* (flowing out) instead of *affluent* (wealthy). B is correct—the collective noun *the elite* is considered as individuals, hence the plural verb is correct. C is not punctuated at all—it requires commas this way: "Vishakha Doshi, Director, Marketing & Communication, Entrack, distributors for Montblanc India says that people identify with the core values of such legends." D is incorrect in "each of the instrument." It should be "each of the ... instruments."

Question 29. Answer Option 4. All are incorrect. A is incorrect in *NRI's does not*; it should be *NRI's do not*... B is incorrect as the preposition is missing "on employment etc..." is correct, but *on* cannot be applied to 'or on any other purpose' hence a new preposition needs to be inserted. E.g., "for any other purpose". C also misses the preposition—*other than for/on employment* will be correct. D is incorrect "on any other purpose"—"for any other purpose" would be correct.

Question 30. Answer Option 1. A only. In B, the preposition *on* is missing after ‘but also’ giving rise to faulty parallelism. C has the incorrect preposition “invest on’ rather than ‘invest in’. In D, the farmer is singular hence the pronoun *they* is inconsistent with it.

Question 31. Answer Option 2. C and D. There are no errors in C and D. The past participle of *forget* is both *forgot* and *forgotten*. Hence D is correct. A is wrong because of its—we require it’s. B has a spelling error ‘dispirited’ is the correct spelling—single ‘s’.

Question 32. Answer Option 2. All are incorrect. A is incorrect in Just like—it should be “just as America’s...”. B is incorrect as “India’s” needs an apostrophe. C is incorrect as it should read “in the middle of *the* Indian Flag”. D is incorrect as it should read: “.... how much it is diminished by...”

Question 33. Answer Option 1. All are correct.

Question 34. Answer Option 3. A, C and D are correct. In B, the verb should be ‘were’ as the subject is ‘the topic’.

Question 35. Answer Option 2. C and D . A is erroneous in ‘found by’ instead of ‘founded by’. B has the incorrect plural verb ‘have’ for the singular subject company.

Question 36. Answer Option 4. D only. In A and C, the singular destination is incorrect in the context. Plural *destinations* is necessary; similarly in B, *finding* as a noun and *have* as its verb are inconsistent.

Question 37. Answer Option 2. B only. A is incorrect in “lack *in* leadership’- the intended meaning is “Indian cities ... lack leadership. C is incorrect as *neither* is followed by *or* instead of *nor*. D is incorrect because it should be “*an* extended ...”.

Question 38. Answer Option 2. B and D. A is incorrect as the correct idiom is “*thanks to* the mismatch...” C is incorrect because “of” is the appropriate preposition in “survival ... of the nimble footed.”

Question 39. Answer Option 4. D only. A should be “faster than India’s or India’s economy.” B and C have punctuation errors, “be it power plants schools in China” is parenthetical a dash or a comma should be placed at the beginning of the parenthetical phrase and at the end.

Question 40. Answer Option 2. All are incorrect. In A, ‘the organization’ is the subject; hence the verb should be ‘was’. In B, ‘rather than a risky ...’ phrase cannot modify the subject American officials. The sentence can be corrected by writing, “Rather than risk a military operation,....” .. One plus one equals two; hence SRK plus KK *means* a hit...” Sentence D can be corrected by changing ‘turning’ to ‘turned’.

Question 41. Answer Option 2. B only. B is correct. *Any* makes the subject singular and the verb is correctly singular *is*. A, C and D are awkward and incorrect. Suggested improvements: *Mild showers will become gusty and increase to storm today. Since I became a Project Engineer in.... The project was well conceived and nicely executed.*

Question 42. Answer Option 2. A and C are correct. In C, evidence is used as a verb and is correct. B is incorrect as circumstances is not clearly temporal hence ‘when’ is not appropriate. ‘circumstances in which...’ would correct the sentence. In D, whatever ‘which’ refers to is not clear, hence the sentence is awkward can be improved to *He looked younger when he cut off his long hair.*

Question 43. Answer Option 4. C only. A is incorrect because an adjective if used as a noun must have the definite article—*the poor*. B is incorrect *better off* people needs *ff* in *off*. In D ‘die off’ is incorrect—*die of diseases* will be correct.

Question 44. Answer Option 2. B only. A requires the definite article before autumn. C requires ‘all of them’ and not all of those. In D the verb needs to be in the past perfect because of “by early 1942....” “had died from hunger.”

Question 45. Answer Option 1. B, C, and D. A is incorrect 11,000 and not 11000. The other punctuation marks are correct.

Question 46. Answer Option 2. A and C are correct. B is incorrect because ‘between’ is to be followed by ‘and’ and not *to*—*between the 1st and the 4th centuries* or *from the 1st to the 4th century*. D is incorrect because it should be ‘rather *than* as conquerors...’

Question 47. Answer Option 4. None of the above. A has a tense error. With ‘since’ one needs to use the perfect tense. Hence A should be: *It’s been some time since.....* In B, world’s needs an apostrophe. In C *drivers* needs an apostrophe after *drivers’*. In D, *Toyota’s* needs an apostrophe.

Question 48. Answer Option 3. A and D. Both the fragments need a semicolon at the end of them instead of a comma. The correct way to punctuate a long list with commas within it (Arun, the famous...) is as it is in fragment A.

Question 49. Answer Option 3. A and D. B is incorrect in hope for becoming instead of hope of becoming. *Healthy* is confused with *healthful* in fragment C. The context refers to *healthy economies*.

Question 50. Answer Option 2. B only. A is incorrect as it should read, “Not only is the Earth’s atmosphere warming....” When a sentence begins with a negative adverb the verb order gets inverted, e.g., *Never have I seen* such a beautiful.... etc. In C and D, articles (determiners) are missing before review and troposphere (*a* and *the* respectively).

Question 51. Answer Option B. *As* is a conjunction and *like* is a preposition; always use *as, as if, as though* etc. to introduce clauses. *Today afternoon* is incorrect. *This afternoon, this morning, tonight* etc.

Question 52. Answer Option C. “Believing that he is humble and really being humble” are not considered separately—it is a compounded singular subject like “slow and steady *wins* the race”; hence, the verb *is* is correct. Between options A and C—A is faulty parallelism.

Question 53. Answer Option B. ‘left by who knows whom’ is parenthetical, hence B punctuates it correctly. Left by whom (him) is better than ‘left by who (he)’, though some authorities may accept “who (left it?).” “who knows whom” is more of an exclamation than an interrogation, hence the question mark may be omitted. Option B makes the best choice.

Question 54. Answer Option D. Sentences A and B are ambiguous. Does it mean what is stated in D or that *I can understand my sister better than my mother understands my sister*? Sentence D is unambiguous, hence the answer.

Question 55. Answer Option D. This is the reported speech of the sentence: Raj had a fall last week and he was injured. In the other sentences, either the tense is incorrect or the adverb (*last week* must become *previous week* in reported speech).

Question 56. Answer Option B. While speaking with the minister modifies the subject of the sentence. In none of the other sentence do we have any meaningful subject that can be modified by this phrase. Option C is ambiguous. Option D is also ambiguous.

Question 57. Answer Option C. Option C is consistent in the use of the simple past. Shifting to tenses especially as in option A is common in casual speech; it is not acceptable, however, in writing.

Question 58. Answer Option A. Who versus whom, whom fits the sentence because it is the object o *likes* “likes whom”, and not *likes who*?

Question 59. Answer Option D. Option D eliminates the redundancy of the words position and post.

Question 60. Answer Option B. In if constructions go this way: If I had had I would have; If I had I would; If I have ... I will; If I have ... I am)

Question 61. Answer Option A. The verb recommended makes the subjunctive appropriate in the above sentence, hence the verb is used in its base form “acquire”—recommended makes “must acquire” redundant.

Question 62. Answer Option D. Though the rock band *Beatles* is a single entity, we think of teams as groups of individuals and use a plural verb. Hence Beatles were is correct. Option C uses ‘was’ later in the sentence.

Question 63. Answer Option C. “More than one ...” though plural in sense is always singular in construction—the verb has is correct. With a singular concept the plural pronoun ‘their’ is incorrect. Hence C.

Question 64. Answer Option A. The word *majority* is singular when what follows it is thought of as unit. It is plural when the members making that unit of thought of. In the above sentence ‘young below thirty years of age’ means the individuals are thought of and not the unit. Hence the plural verb *are* is appropriate. This is also known as ‘notional agreement’ in grammar.

Question 65. Answer Option C. C is concise and clear and does with wordiness and awkward phrasing like coffee-break’s duration etc. Among the choices C is the most elegant sentence.

Question 66. Answer Option A. Though A and C are both right (they correct the tense error of the present tense) *intuition* scores over *instinct* in the context. For the difference, refer to a dictionary. Animals have only instincts; human beings have both—instincts and intuition.

Question 67. Answer Option D. The verb ‘stay’ used alone is awkward—as if the city needs to be fixed in one place. ‘stay in’ means to reside, hence correct. ‘to come to’ is ambiguous, ‘visit’ clear.

Question 68. Answer Option C. ‘yourself’ is a reflexive pronoun and has nothing to reflect to in this sentence, hence, ‘you’ would be correct. There is tense inconsistency in the other options.

Question 69. Answer Option D. “the best” is necessary to correctly express the comparison. ‘kinds of food’ is correct.

Question 70. Answer Option A. ‘vendors’ is used a term, hence the singular verb means is correct. ‘to whom’ is correct and not who and who’s.

Question 71. Answer Option B. Since it is not very clear that the collective noun ‘faculty’ in the context is the unit or members, it is not possible to clearly decide the verb should be singular or plural; option B removes the uncertainty. CPL is a company the pronoun has to be *it* rather than *they*. “help you reach your goal” (without the *to*) is correct.

Question 72. Answer Option C. We need the conjunction *as* in the sentence and not the preposition ‘like.’ Wreak is the correct word in the context and not wreck. *Wreak* means to cause the infliction of. For the word *handful* both ‘handsful’ and ‘handfuls’ are standard plural forms—hence that part is not decisive.

Question 73. Answer Option D. Only D is correctly punctuated. Since the name Raj is essential to identify his friend there cannot be a comma after friend.

Question 74. Answer Option A. When ‘however’ comes between two sentences use semicolon. In other options commas are misplaced.

Question 75. Answer Option A. Only option A is correctly punctuated.

10

Confusable Words

Directions: In each question, there are four sentences. Each sentence has pairs of words/phrases that are italicized and highlighted. From the italicized and highlighted word(s)/phrase(s), select the most appropriate word(s)/phrase(s) to form correct sentences. Then, from the options given, choose the best one.

Example:

- (i) The cricket council that *was [A]/were [B]* elected last March is [A]/are [B] at sixes and sevens over new rules.
- (ii) The critics *censored [A]/censured [B]* the new movie because of its social unacceptability.
- (iii) Amit's explanation for missing the meeting was *credulous [A]/credible [B]*.
- (iv) She coughed *discreetly [A]/discretely [B]* to announce her presence.

- (1) BBAAA (2) AAABA (3) BBBBA (4) AABBA (5) BBBAA

Answer Option 3. (i) council, a collective noun, is functioning not as a unit but as members, hence the plural verbs are appropriate. (ii) censor—to remove objectionable parts; censure—to criticize. (iii) credulous—gullible; credible—believable. (iv) discreet—modest; discrete—distinct.

HOW TO SOLVE

These are vocabulary questions. A candidate is expected know the meaning of the (confusing) words and their application in contexts. However, the questions may at times offer an opportunity to score through elimination. Of all the sentences given, you may be sure of at least one sentence. By studying the options well, you may be able to make the correct decision.

The World Wide Web is an invaluable resource for the list of confusing words. While preparing for the exam you could use those resources to make yourself familiar with as many confusing words as possible. The list of confusing words in English may be large but not endless.

Generally, the confusion arises because the pronunciation of two different words with

Question 4

- (i) She did not look *overly* [A]/*overtly* [B] at the customer till she had established herself comfortably on the chair.
 - (ii) By persisting in his efforts against failure he has shown his *ability* [A]/*capacity* [B] to persevere.
 - (iii) The closure of the company *effected* [A]/*affected* [B] the workers adversely.
 - (iv) I am not sure *if* [A]/*whether* [B] I should take the CAT this year or the next.
1. ABAB 2. ABBA 3. BABB 4. BAAB

Question 5

- (i) It is important to *cite* [A]/*site* [B] as many examples as possible in your answer.
 - (ii) Each batch in our classes is *comprised* [A]/*composed* [B] of 25 students and not more.
 - (iii) Persistent questioning by the lawyer failed to *elicit* [A]/*illicit* [B] a clear answer from the accused.
 - (iv) The professor could *imply* [A]/*infer* [B] that the students had not understood his explanation.
1. ABAB 2. ABAA 3. BAAB 4. BAAB

Question 6

- (i) Though the story was centred on some *historic* [A]/*historical* [B] figures, it was mainly fiction.
 - (ii) The accused made a passionate effort before the judge to *ensure* [A]/*assert* [B] his innocence.
 - (iii) The authorities *complemented* [A]/*complimented* [B] her for completing the project well in time.
 - (iv) The invasion was *preceded* [A]/*proceeded* [B] by a massive mobilisation of forces along the borders.
1. ABBB 2. BBBA 3. BABB 4. BBAA

Question 7

- (i) I don't think I can proceed with the matter without your expert *advise* [A]/*advice* [B].
 - (ii) The venue for the event was decided after taking into account the *climatic* [A]/*climactic* [B] conditions.
 - (iii) Did he ever *prophecy* [A]/*prophecy* [B] anything but bad news for me?
 - (iv) The poor countries are finding it difficult to reconcile concerns about the environment with *economic* [A]/*economical* [B] growth.
1. ABBA 2. BBAA 3. BABA 4. BAAA

Question 8

- (i) He had unsuccessfully explored every *road* [A]/*avenue* [B] that he hoped might lead to him to success.
- (ii) The manufacturing units along the river were required to check the *effluent* [A]/*affluent* [B] material for harmful chemicals.

Question 18

- (i) The warp [A]/woof [B] of India's economic structure is still agriculture.
 - (ii) My friend always does the opposite of [A]/to [B] what I advise him.
 - (iii) Compact disks with prurient [A]/prudish [B] content are secretly in circulation on the campus.
 - (iv) He believed that the existence of god cannot be proved; he was not an atheist [A]/agnostic [B].
1. AAAA 2. ABAA 3. ABBB 4. BAAB

Question 19

- (i) The teacher asked the young boy to name the *hews* [A]/*hues* [B] of the rainbow.
 - (ii) I haven't spoken with my mentor *for* [A]/*since* [B] several months.
 - (iii) *Besides* [A]/*beside* [B] the fact that we were unprepared, the exam turned out to be difficult.
 - (iv) I was expecting a big *rise* [A]/*raise* [B] in my salary after the appraisal.
1. BAAB 2. BBBA 3. ABAB 4. BBAB

Question 20

- (i) We were asked to read the article with the *title* [A]/*headline* [B] "Verbal Ability in the CAT".
 - (ii) After the long trek he *lay* [A]/*lied* [B] down to rest for a while.
 - (iii) His bike hit a *stationary* [A]/*stationery* [B] car and was damaged.
 - (iv) My mom took my shirt away *to sew* [A]/*sow* [B] the *loose* [A]/*lose* [B] buttons.
1. ABAB 2. BBAA 3. BAAA 4. BAAB

Question 21

- (i) I have kept the book *besides* [A]/*beside* [B] your bag on the table.
 - (ii) You can attempt 10 questions from *among* [A]/*between* [B] 30 questions.
 - (iii) It was so hot in the sun that they moved into the *shadow* [A]/*shade* [B].
 - (iv) *Although* [A]/*Despite* [B] his having known her for years, he behaved like a stranger.
1. ABAB 2. ABBA 3. BAAA 4. BABB

Question 22

- (i) The announcement said that the chief guest would be arriving *presently* [A]/*currently* [B].
 - (ii) After the recession employment rates are on the *rise* [A]/*raise* [B] again.
 - (iii) The professor could not explain the topic fully because of the *continuous* [A]/*continual* [B] interruptions.
 - (iv) I was not able to wear the trousers because they were *creased* [A]/*crinkled* [B].
1. AABA 2. BBBA 3. AABB 4. BBAB

Question 23

- (i) I was not able to answer the interviewer's question about who *discovered* [A]/*invented* [B] the computer.

Question 28

- (i) In a few years, she became his trusted *confident* [A]/*confidant* [B]
 - (ii) We were required to make a *custom* [A]/*costume* [B] design for the online shop.
 - (iii) He was declared *illegible* [A]/*eligible* [B] for the post in spite of not having enough work experience.
 - (iv) Several *eminent* [A]/*imminent* [B] scientists are expected to be present for the seminar.
1. ABAB 2. ABBA 3. BABA 4. BAAB

Question 29

- (i) For long he has been talking about his plans to *emigrate* [A]/*immigrate* [B] to Canada.
 - (ii) The way he plays the guitar is an *aural* [A]/*oral* [B] treat.
 - (iii) The advertisement mentioned several vacancies in the *personnel* [A]/*personal* [B] department.
 - (iv) The police found it very difficult to control the *restive* [A]/*restless* [B] crowd.
1. ABAB 2. AAAA 3. BABB 4. BBBB

Question 30

- (i) The vacuum cleaner came with several *complementary* [A]/*complimentary* [B] attachments for cleaning different surfaces.
 - (ii) In an age infatuated of machines, life becomes *amoral* [A]/*immoral* [B], without moral bearings, devoid of moral categories.
 - (iii) The trainer mounted the horse and rode for some distance in order to *dispel* [A]/*expel* [B] the fears of the child.
 - (iv) It was as if she had seen a ghost that her face had a *deadly* [A]/*deathly* [B] pallor.
1. ABAB 2. ABBA 3. BAAA 4. BAAB

Question 31

- (i) The student approached the teacher to seek *council* [A]/*counsel* [B] about her career plans.
 - (ii) I had to change a few *principal* [A]/*principle* [B] parts of the engine to make it work again.
 - (iii) She was *jealous* [A]/*zealous* [B] in her pursuit to get into one of the IIMs.
 - (iv) His *judicious* [A]/*judicial* [B] decisions about his investments have made him wealthy.
1. AAAB 2. ABAB 3. BABA 4. BBAB

Question 32

- (i) When he was upset, one could see his *juggler* [A]/*jugular* [B] veins standing out in his neck.
- (ii) At this *junction* [A]/*juncture* [B] students are required to make careful decisions about their future course.

Question 37

- (i) In the internet age there is no dearth [A]/death [B] of uncensored, firsthand information.
- (ii) He would often digress [A]/regress [B] into his past and talk at length about his childhood.
- (iii) His small physique worked against him minimizing [A]/diminishing [B] his authority as a CEO.
- (iv) She had a very official [A]/officious [B] manner, always offering her services even when she was not asked nor needed.

1. ABAB 2. AB BB 3. BABA 4. BAAB

Question 38

- (i) The newlywed couple were facilitated [A]/felicitated [B] by their friends before they left the town.
- (ii) If my girlfriend invited me to dinner I would feign [A]/fain [B] do it for sure.
- (iii) We hung [A]/hanged [B] the painting on the wall.
- (iv) The law has a structure [A]/stricture [B] against sale and possession of guns.

1. BBAB 2. ABAB 3. BBAB 4. AAAB

Question 39

- (i) His magnificent song was the grand final [A]/finale [B] of the programme.
- (ii) The other participants resented the flippant [A]/flip-flop [B] remarks he made during the group discussion.
- (iii) The two pharmacists in the town worked on alternate [A]/alternative [B] Sundays.
- (iv) He behaved so arrogantly as if there was a hallow [A]/halo [B] surrounding him.

1. ABAA 2. AAB B 3. BAAB 4. BAAA

Question 40

- (i) The housing complex was cosmopolitan and seemed to represent a microcosm [A]/macrocosm [B] of this city's population.
- (ii) The court mulcted [A]/mulched [B] the man for having lied in the court.
- (iii) The judge had to adjure [A]/abjure [B] the spectators to be silent.
- (iv) During our camp, we lived in a movable [A]/mobile [B] home which was located on the slope of a hill.

1. AAAA 2. AABA 3. BABB 4. BAAA

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option 1. AAAB. *Loose* is the opposite of *tight*. *Uninterested* means not interested and *disinterested* means unbiased. *Prophecy* is noun and—*sy* is the verb. *Loath* is adjective—we can say *I am to admit...* ; *loathe* is the verb, hence *I loathe to admit...*

Question 2. Answer Option 4. AAAAB. 'Special effects' refers to visual or sound effects in a

movie. *Past* as a preposition means beyond the age of/for. *Dependent* is an adjective *dependant* is a noun—*your dad has 2 dependants* (noun). *Intend* (verb); *intent* (noun)—is generally used in official jargon as a request for something. *Stationary* means not moving; *-ery* means pens, paper etc.

Question 3. Answer Option 1. ABAB. *Wreak* is sometimes confused with *wreck*, perhaps because the wreaking of damage may leave a wreck. (ii) *Mordant* means caustic, pungent, etc. *Mordent* means: a musical ornament made by a quick alternation of a principal tone with the tone immediately below it. (iii) *Accessory* as an adjective means: present in a minor amount and not essential as a constituent. (iv) *weather* refers to the state of the atmosphere; *whether* refers to alternatives.

Question 4. Answer Option 3. BABB. *Overtly* is the opposite of *covertly*. *Overtly* means in an open manner. *Capacity* in the sense of skill is generally followed by *for* (capacity for love). *Effected* means brought about *affected* means influenced. *If* implies uncertainty—when the alternatives are spelt out use *whether*.

Question 5. Answer Option A. ABAB. *Cite* means to quote. *Site* mean a location. *Comprised* is not followed by *of*—*comprises 25 students* will be correct. *Compose* is always followed by *of*. *Elicit* means to bring forth or draw. *Illicit* means illegal. *Imply* is to express indirectly. *Infer* means to conclude.

Question 6. Answer Option 2. BBBA. *Historic* means momentous; *historical* means related to history or from history. *Assert* means to affirm; express positively. *Ensure* means to guarantee. *Complement* means to match or to complete; *compliment* is to praise. *Precede* means to come before; *proceed* is to go forward.

Question 7. Answer Option 4. BAAA. *Advise* is verb and *advice* in noun. *Climatic* means related to climate; *climactic* refers to climax. *Prophecy* is verb and *prophecy* is noun. *Economic* means related to the economy; *economical* means to be thrifty or prudent.

Question 8. Answer Options 3. BAAA. *Avenue* has the meaning of “means to achieve something”; road is merely a path for vehicles. *Effluent* is the discharge; *affluent* means wealthy. *Discomfit* is embarrassment; *discomfort* is lack of comfort. *Distrust* is lack of trust; *mistrust* implies suspicion or doubt.

Question 9. Answer Option 3. BBBB. *Constant* implies regularity; *continuous* means non-stop. *Continually*, on the other hand, means off and on but persistent. *Imaginative* means creative; *imaginary* means existing only in imagination. *Minimal* means the least possible. *Minimum* means the least amount/number.

Question 10. Answer Option 3. BABAA *aid* is verb *aide* is noun meaning an assistant/help. *Masterful* means dominating *masterly* means skilled. Even though there is a distinction between *masterly* and *masterful* Merriam Webster’s dictionary states that this distinction need not be made. *Maize* is corn and *maze* is a confusing intricate network of passages. *Tide* means the overflow *tied* is the past tense of *tie*.

Question 11. Answer Option 1. ABABB *Unsociable* means unfriendly; *antisocial* means hostile or harmful. *hypoallergenic* less likely to cause an allergic reaction; *nonallergenic* unable cause an allergic reaction. *Turgid* means swollen; *turbid* is muddy. i.e., Latin, *id est* , *that is*; e.g. Latin, *exempli gratia* , *for example*.

Question 12. Answer Option 1. ABBA. *Blatant* means glaringly conspicuous or offensively noticeable. Although most blatant things are negative or offensive, conspicuousness is central to blatancy. *Flagrant* means conspicuously bad, offensive, or reprehensible. Being reprehensible is central to flagrant. *There on* is the correct adverb. *Their* is possessive of *they*. We need the past tense of *lay* which is *laid*. *Emigrate* is to leave a place. *Immigrate* is to come into a place.

Question 13. Answer Option 4. ABBA. 1 Cue is a signal (as a word, phrase, or bit of stage business) to a performer to begin a specific speech or action. Queue is line of people. Innate what one is born with; inherent is belonging by habit or nature. Linage is printing technology jargon; lineage means family tree/ancestry. Large apes, chimpanzee, etc. are contrasted with monkeys that are small and tailed.

Question 14. Answer Option 1. BAAA. *Effect* as a verb means to bring about. *Affect* is to have an influence upon. *Rationale* means the reason; *rational* means that which stands to reasoning. *Bathos* means an anticlimax or sudden fall from dignity. *Recumbent* is idle; *incumbent* is obligation or the one currently in position.

Question 15. Answer Option 3. BABB. *Firstly* will go with *thirdly* and *first* will go with *third*. *Eclectic* means having elements drawn from a variety of sources, styles, methods, etc. *Esoteric* means understood or intended for a small knowledgeable group. In normal use, *monotonic* is uniform sound as is *monotonous*. The sentence here uses *monotonic* technically. *Comma* is a punctuation mark, and *coma* is unconsciousness.

Question 16. Answer Option 2. BAAA. May implies permission; and can implies the ability to do something. Learn these with few etc., less used with quantities that cannot be counted; fewer used with nouns that can be counted; less not as much in quantity (less and a singular noun); fewer not as much in number (fewer and a plural noun); fewest the smallest in number (fewest and a plural noun); least the smallest in quantity (least and a singular noun); less smaller in amount or extent; lower in rank; lesser not great in value, quantity, or size.

Question 17. Answer Option 2. BAAA. Sung is the past participle of sing. Prefect is the chief officer or magistrate. Practical is the opposite of ideal. Pragmatic is more the opposite of philosophical. Plans need to be practical rather than pragmatic. Faint means to lose consciousness; feint to make a movement designed to mislead.

Question 18. Answer Option 1. AAAA. One of the meanings of warp is the foundation. When the word opposite functions as a noun use the preposition of—when it is adjective use to. Prurient means unhealthy interest in sexual matter. Prudish means exhibiting modesty in sexual matters. Agnostic is a person who believes that the existence of god cannot be proved—hence he was agnostic and not an atheist—who believes that there are no gods.

Question 19. Answer Option 1. BAAB. *Hew* (verb) to cut or fashion with an axe or knife; *hue* is a particular gradation of a colour. When specific time is mentioned (since Wednesday) use *since*, other wise use *for*. *Besides* means other than, *beside* means by the side of. We get *raise* in salary, the balloon *rises* in the air.

Question 20. Answer Option 3. 3. BAAA. Articles have headlines; stories, essays have titles (the distinction is not so rigid). *Lie down* (to recline)—past tense is *lay down*; *lied* is the past

tense of *lie* (to tell lies); *stationary* means unmoving; *stationery* is paper, pens etc. *sew* means to mend using a needle and thread; *sow* mean to plant the seed.

Question 21. Answer Option 4. BABB. *Beside* means by the side of; *besides* means other than. More than two takes *among*. *Shadow* is a reflected image; *shade* is free from the heat and light. *Despite* means in spite of, or notwithstanding.

Question 22. Answer Option 3. AABB. *Currently* means now; *presently* means soon after. *Raise* (verb) is to life up; *rise* means to increase. *Continuous* is without break; *continual* is happening again and again without breaks. Too many creases means *crinkled*; crease may even be proper.

Question 23. Answer Option 2. BBBA. Break (noun) is a recess. A car has brakes. As far as (she) is concerned is the correct idiom. Tangle means to become entangled; dangle is to be suspended in air.

Question 24. Answer Option 1. BBAA. *Currently* is now; *presently* is very soon. *To telephone* is the correct idiomatic use.

Question 25. Answer Option 2. BBBA. 'tell us' is the correct idiom. *Valueless* means without value; *invaluable* means of great value. *Sensible* means intelligent; *sensitive* means considerate towards others feelings etc. *Assure* means to convince; *ensure* is to secure.

Question 26. Answer Option 3. Accede means to agree; *exceed* means to surpass. *Excess* is too much quantity; *access* is permission. *Elude* means to avoid; *allude* means to refer. *All ready* means prepared or completely ready. *Already* means previously.

Question 27. Answer Option 4. ABBB. *All together* means in a group; *altogether* means completely. *Anyway* means anyhow; *any way* means any method or means. *Causal* means due to a cause; *casual* means informal. *Cease* means to stop; *seize* means to take control of or confiscate.

Question 28. Answer Option 3. BABA. Confident is an adjective meaning having trust in; confidant is a noun referring to person in whom one confides. Custom means tailor made; costume refers to clothing. Illegible means not easily readable, not clear; eligible means entitled. Eminent means famous; imminent means ready to take place.

Question 29. Answer Option 2. AAAA *emigrate* means to leave one country for another *immigrate* is the opposite to come into another country. *Aural* is related to the ear and *oral* is related to the mouth. *Personnel* is related to manpower, staff; *personal* means related an individual. *Restive* means difficult to control, *restless* means impatient.

Question 30. Answer Option 2. AAAB. Complementary fits the sentence because attachments cannot eb complimentary—given free. Without moral bearings etc. makes one amoral—being neither moral nor immoral, rather than immoral. Dispel means to remove; expel means to throw out. Deadly means dangerous; deathly means death-like.

Question 31. Answer Option 3. BABA. *Counsel* means advice; *council* is a group of officials. *Principal* means main/important; *principle* is a rule or doctrine. *Jealousy* is envy; *zeal* is enthusiasm. *Judicious* means wise; *judicial* means related to the judiciary or law.

Question 32. Answer Option 4. BBAB. Jugular is the main vein in the neck; juggler is a person who does tricks. Junction is where two paths meet; juncture means an important point

in one's development or history. Unexceptionable means unobjectionable; unexceptional means ordinary / commonplace. Urbane means suave or sophisticated; urban means related to the city.

Question 33. Answer Option 2. AABB. *Babble* means meaningless and loud talk; *bauble* means a trinket/trifle. She felt *bad* because *feel* is a stative verb in the context; stative verbs need to be followed by an adjective (*bad*) and not an adverb (*badly*). *Bail* as a noun is a container; *bale* (noun) means a large bundle. *Bated breath* is the correct idiom; *baited* (past tense of bait) means to entice or lure.

Question 34. Answer Option 2. AAAA. *Baneful* means poisonous, deadly or destructive; *baleful* means sinister. *Burly* means strong and heavy build. *Burley* is a type of tobacco. *Billow* means to rise in waves/spirals. *Bellow* is to make a loud and hollow sound. *Malediction* means a curse; *benediction* means a blessing.

Question 35. Answer Option 1. AABA. *Beneficent* means performing acts of kindness and charity; *beneficial* is conducive to personal or social well being. *Earthly* means possible; *earthy* means practical. *Egoism* emphasises self interest; *egotism* means conceited or proud. *Egress* is way out and *ingress* is a way in.

Question 36. Answer Option 3. AABA. *Immanent* means in-built; *imminent* is waiting to happen. *Immediately* means directly or straightaway which correct in the context. *Diary* is a record of events and *dairy* is where milk products are stored. *Damp* implies slightly wet. *Dank* is unpleasantly wet (stinking)

Question 37. Answer option 2. AB BB. *Dearth* means scarcity, hence correct. *Digress* means to stray away from the topic; *regress* means to go back in time. *Minimize* means to keep to minimum; *diminish* means to cause to appear less. *Officious* means volunteering one's services where they are neither asked nor needed or meddlesome.

Question 38. Answer Option 3. BBAB. *Facilitate* means to help bring about; *felicitate* means to offer congratulations. *Feign* means to pretend *fain* means willing, obliged, constrained etc. The past tense of *hang* is *hung* and *hanged*; but *hanged* is used only in the context of *hanged to death* and in no other. *Stricture* means restriction.

Question 39. Answer Option 3. BAAB. *Finale* means conclusion. *Final* is the last event. *Flippant* means lacking proper respect; *flip-flops* are rubber sandals. *Alternate* means occurring by turns. *Alternative* means choice. *Hallow* means to make holy; *halo* means a circle of light appearing around a person or thing.

Question 40. Answer Option 1. AAAA. *Micro* is small and *macro* is large. *Microcosm* means a small universe. *Mulct* means to fine; *mulch* means a protective covering. *Adjure* is to request / beg. *Abjure* means to abstain from. *Movable* means that which can be moved. *Mobile* means that which can move.

11

Reading Comprehension

Generally, fifty per cent of the questions in the Verbal Ability Section of the CAT are Reading Comprehension questions. This has been the pattern of the CAT for over three decades. When there were 100 questions in the Verbal Section, Reading comprehension used to be a stand-alone section with 50 questions. The proportion is maintained even today; of the 20 questions in the Verbal Ability Section, 9 are Reading Comprehension questions. In 2009, as well as in 2010, there were three passages for Reading Comprehension. The questions per passage were generally 3, but a few test windows had 2 and 4 questions on a passage as well. The length of the passages differed too. The length varied from 400 to 800 words per passage. Though an 800-word passage cannot be considered very long—it's just about a page and a half—the online format does make it appear very long.

HOW TO SOLVE

Solving Reading Comprehension questions accurately in competitive examinations requires time. Hence, one should be ready to devote reasonably good amount of time to these questions, though that does not mean that one should be working slowly.

Time management is of paramount importance in dealing with these questions. In an exam (like the CAT) in which equal importance is attached to Reading Comprehension and other types of questions, it is a good idea to go through the shorter questions first and attempt them as quickly as possible and devote all the remaining time to score from these rather time consuming questions. Also, reading comprehension questions are such, unlike technical questions based on vocabulary items and grammatical principles, that if one is able to devote sufficient time to them, analyse the passage and the options well, one can attempt these questions correctly and score the marks.

Accuracy in these questions mainly depends on the following: whether you have adequate comprehension of the **passage**, whether you have correctly understood the **question stem**, and whether you have comprehended the exact implication of each **option**.

The problems related to poor reading skills resulting in passive reading are what make the questions difficult for some test takers. These problems are briefly as follows: one is not able to comprehend the passage because of vocabulary items that the passage includes;

unfamiliar topics make it difficult and time consuming to understand the passage and the options; the complex sentence structure of Standard English is unfamiliar and intimidating. These are the problems that the candidate should address while practising, rather than solve passage after passage and experience the same problems over and over again. What this means is that at least some aspect of practice related to reading comprehension must happen outside the passages themselves. In other words, efforts should be made to acquire respectable reading skills. One must read widely to cultivate these skills—not merely to become familiar with topics such as economics, philosophy psychology, art etc., etc., but also not to be intimidated by any text that one may be presented within the exam.

If the skill-set is in place, one will soon realize that reading comprehension questions are easy and highly scoring ones.

Some of us are comfortable attempting reading comprehension questions by reading the passage first, and then attempting questions one by one. In this case, make sure that the first reading of the passage is quick and active. The questions can be tackled one by one by referring back to the passage and reading the parts necessary to answer the question carefully and analytically. Some others are comfortable looking at the questions first, and then reading the passage. In this method, it is better only to look at the question stems and not the options at first. Again, as you read the passage it is necessary to be quick, so that while answering the questions, there is sufficient time to read parts of the passage more carefully. Some would want to read parts of the passage first, either without reading the questions, or after reading the questions and answering questions by reading only parts of the passage and not the entire passage to begin with. The debate which method is correct or better is fruitless. One should work in a way that one is comfortable and in a way that helps one to score—the method is unimportant, but scoring is.

Whichever method you follow, it is necessary to remember one thing: spend more time reading and analysing parts of the passage to answer questions (rather than merely to understand the whole passage in depth.) Do not look for an in-depth comprehension of the passage—this may not be possible owing to time constraints and the nature of the passage—at the same time, do not compromise on a workable, practical comprehension that is necessary to answer the questions. Elimination also plays a key role. If you are unable to eliminate options, you must leave the question and attempt another. First eliminate a few options; and then, read parts of the passage necessary to answer that question more carefully and analyse the shortlisted options well before you mark the answer.

The experience of many a student is that he or she comes down to two options and then chooses the wrong one. In order to avoid this and to increase accuracy, when you have come down to 2 options compare the options well and establish the difference between the two options. After clearly establishing the difference between the two options use the data in the passage to ask which difference sufficiently answers the question. You are likely to make fewer errors. In other words, when you have come down to two options be cautious.

In brief, your practice for reading comprehension should include general reading and solving many passages for accuracy. More on this can be found in the book dedicated to Reading Comprehension, *Reading Comprehension for the CAT* (Pearson) by the same author.

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Passage 1 (551 words)

No, today's NASA announcement is not about proof of life on another world. A recent release hinting at "an astrobiology finding that will impact the search for evidence of extraterrestrial life" had bloggers abuzz the past few days with speculation that the space agency had discovered extraterrestrial life. The truth, however, is that scientists have found life on Earth that's perhaps the most "alien" organism yet seen. A new species of bacteria found in California's Mono Lake is the first known life-form that uses arsenic to make its DNA and proteins, scientists announced today. Dubbed the GFAJ-1 strain, the bacteria can substitute arsenic for phosphorus, one of the six main "building blocks" for most known life. The other key ingredients for life are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and calcium. Arsenic is toxic to most known organisms, in part because it can mimic the chemical properties of phosphorus, allowing the poison to disrupt cellular activity. The newfound bacteria, described online this week in the journal *Science*, not only tolerates high concentrations of arsenic, it actually incorporates the chemical into its cells, the study authors found. "It's gone into all the vital bits and pieces," said study co-author Paul Davies, director of the BEYOND Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science at Arizona State University in Tempe. While for now Earth is the only place we know that life exists, the discovery does hold implications for the search for life elsewhere in the universe, since it shows that organisms can exist in chemical environments biologists once wouldn't have imagined.

Astrobiologists found the arsenic-based bacteria while looking for a possible "second genesis" of life on Earth. The scientists were hoping to find evidence of a "shadow biosphere," sometimes called Life 2.0. Such a discovery would prove that, before life as we know it came to dominate the globe, the world had actually seen a separate, independent origin of life. "If life happened twice on one planet, it is sure to have happened on other planets around the universe," Davies said. Last year study leader Felisa Wolfe-Simon of NASA's Astrobiology Institute published a paper suggesting that one possible version of Life 2.0 would be a creature that chemically substitutes arsenic for phosphorus.

So Wolfe-Simon and colleagues took samples of bacteria from California's Mono Lake, a briny, arsenic-rich lake in a volcanic valley southeast of Yosemite National Park. The scientists cultured Mono Lake bacteria in Petri dishes, gradually increasing the amount of arsenic while reducing phosphorus. Chemical analyses with radioactive tracers showed that the GFAJ-1 strain bacteria was in fact using arsenic in its metabolism. "Most [organisms] die, but these live on," study co-author Davies said. Despite their oddity, however, the bacteria are genetically too similar to ordinary life to truly be descendants of a second genesis. "This is not Life 2.0," Davies said.

Still, the GFAJ-1 strain might be called the most unusual of the extremophiles, bacteria that thrive under exceptionally harsh conditions, such as high heat, high salt, and low oxygen. Prior discoveries of such bacteria involved organisms that were otherwise "very ordinary," Chris McKay, an astrobiologist at NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, said in an email. "The only thing 'extreme' about them was where they lived. Biochemically, they were pretty normal," said McKay, who wasn't a member of the study team.

Question 1. It can be inferred from the passage that the scientists are fascinated by the GFAJ-1 strain of bacteria because ...

1. it most likely resembles the extraterrestrial life that may be found.
2. it almost proves the possibility that life exists elsewhere in the universe.
3. no other known life form on earth uses phosphorous to make its DNA and proteins.
4. it does not use phosphorous to make its DNA and proteins.

Question 2. Which of the following can be advanced in support of the hypothesis that GFAJ-1 strain of bacteria is indeed Life 2.0?

1. GFAJ-1 strain of bacteria does not use any of the known six key ingredients necessary for life to make its DNA and proteins.
2. GFAJ-1 exists in a chemical environments not found on earth and can be termed as “descendents of a second genesis.”
3. GFAJ-1 strain of bacteria uses arsenic instead of phosphorous to make its DNA and proteins, and incorporates the chemical into its cells.
4. GFAJ-1 strain of bacteria, though anomalous, are genetically similar to life forms that are found abundantly on the surface of the earth.

Question 3. Which of the following descriptions best suits the new strain of bacteria discovered by the scientists at BEYOND Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science?

1. The first example of an organism that in spite of its similarity with the known life forms may suggest a version of Life 2.0.
2. The first example of an extreme form of life-form in an extreme environment.
3. The first example of a life form similar to what may be found elsewhere in the universe.
4. The example of an astrobiology finding that will impact the search for evidence of extraterrestrial life existing on earth.

Passage 2 (636 words)

How should we live? Shall we aim at happiness or at knowledge, virtue, or the creation of beautiful objects? If we choose happiness, will it be our own or the happiness of all? And what of the more particular questions that face us: is it right to be dishonest in a good cause? Can we justify living in opulence while elsewhere in the world people are starving? Is going to war justified in cases where it is likely that innocent people will be killed? Is it wrong to clone a human being or to destroy human embryos in medical research? What are our obligations, if any, to the generations of humans who will come after us and to the nonhuman animals with whom we share the planet? Ethics deals with such questions at all levels.

The terms ethics and morality are closely related. It is now common to refer to ethical judgments or to ethical principles where it once would have been more accurate to speak of moral judgments or moral principles. These applications are an extension of the meaning of ethics. In earlier usage, the term referred not to morality itself but to the field of study, or branch of inquiry, that has morality as its subject matter. In this sense, ethics is equivalent to moral philosophy.

Although ethics has always been viewed as a branch of philosophy, its all-embracing

practical nature links it with many other areas of study, including anthropology, biology, economics, history, politics, sociology, and theology. Yet, ethics remains distinct from such disciplines because it is not a matter of factual knowledge in the way that the sciences and other branches of inquiry are. Rather, it has to do with determining the nature of normative theories and applying these sets of principles to practical moral problems.

When did ethics begin and how did it originate? If one has in mind ethics proper—i.e., the systematic study of what is morally right and wrong—it is clear that ethics could have come into existence only when human beings started to reflect on the best way to live. This reflective stage emerged long after human societies had developed some kind of morality, usually in the form of customary standards of right and wrong conduct. The process of reflection tended to arise from such customs, even if in the end it may have found them wanting. Accordingly, ethics began with the introduction of the first moral codes.

Virtually every human society has some form of myth to explain the origin of morality. In the Louvre in Paris there is a black Babylonian column with a relief showing the sun god Shamash presenting the code of laws to Hammurabi, known as the Code of Hammurabi. The Old Testament account of God's giving the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai might be considered another example. In the dialogue *Protagoras* by Plato, there is an avowedly mythical account of how Zeus took pity on the hapless humans, who were physically no match for the other beasts. To make up for these deficiencies, Zeus gave humans a moral sense and the capacity for law and justice, so that they could live in larger communities and cooperate with one another. That morality should be invested with all the mystery and power of divine origin is not surprising. Nothing else could provide such strong reasons for accepting the moral law. By attributing a divine origin to morality, the priesthood became its interpreter and guardian and thereby secured for itself a power that it would not readily relinquish. This link between morality and religion has been so firmly forged that it is still sometimes asserted that there can be no morality without religion. According to this view, ethics is not an independent field of study but rather a branch of theology.

Question 1. According to the passage, which of the following is the major concern of ethics?

1. Fundamental issues of practical decision making.
2. The nature of ultimate value.
3. The standards by which human actions can be judged right or wrong.
4. All of the above.

Question 2. According to the passage, how does 'ethics' differ from other discipline like anthropology, biology or economics etc.?

1. Ethics is not concerned with normative principles to be applied to practical moral problems while the other branches of study are concerned with these problems.
2. Ethics came into being when human beings reflected on the best ways to live, while other branches of study are not concerned with these.
3. Ethics developed from the customary standards of right and wrong conduct arising from the subjects of inquiry in the other branches of study.
4. Ethics is concerned with prescribing norms or standards of behavior while the other branches of study are concerned with factual knowledge.

Question 3. According to the passage, how did the strong link between morality and religion come into being?

1. The priests became the interpreters of moral codes and they would not easily relinquish their power.
2. The normative theories developed in ethics were attributed to divine origins in order to gain acceptance and adherence.
3. Zeus gave humans a moral sense and the capacity for law and justice, so that they could live in larger communities and cooperate with one another.
4. In the reflective stages of human societies, customary standards of right and wrong were developed which became morality and religion at the same time.

Question 4. The word ‘normative’ in context, most closely corresponds to which of the following descriptions?

1. expressing value judgments or prescriptions as contrasted with stating facts.
2. to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs.
3. to present or propose to another for review, consideration, or decision.
4. of, pertaining to, or acting on the mind, feelings, will, or character.

Passage 3 (585 words)

After World War I Joyce returned for a few months to Trieste, and then—at the invitation of Ezra Pound—in July 1920 he went to Paris. His novel *Ulysses* was published there on 2 February 1922, by Sylvia Beach, proprietor of a bookshop called “Shakespeare and Company” *Ulysses* is constructed as a modern parallel to Homer’s *Odyssey*. All of the action of the novel takes place in Dublin on a single day (June 16, 1904). The three central characters—Stephen Dedalus (the hero of Joyce’s earlier *Portrait of the Artist*), Leopold Bloom, a Jewish advertising canvasser, and his wife, Molly Bloom—are intended to be modern counterparts of Telemachus, *Ulysses*, and Penelope. By the use of interior monologue Joyce reveals the innermost thoughts and feelings of these characters as they live hour by hour, passing from a public bath to a funeral, library, maternity hospital, and brothel.

The main strength of *Ulysses* lies in its depth of character portrayal and its breadth of humour. Yet the book is most famous for its use of a variant of the interior monologue known as the “stream-of-consciousness” technique. Joyce claimed to have taken this technique from a forgotten French writer, Édouard Dujardin, who had used interior monologues in his novel *Les Lauriers sont coupés*, but many critics have pointed out that it is at least as old as the novel, though no one before Joyce had used it so continuously. Joyce’s major innovation was to carry the interior monologue one step further by rendering, for the first time in literature, the myriad flow of impressions, half thoughts, associations, lapses and hesitations, incidental worries, and sudden impulses that form part of the individual’s conscious awareness along with the trend of his rational thoughts. This stream-of-consciousness technique proved widely influential in much 20th-century fiction.

Sometimes the abundant technical and stylistic devices in *Ulysses* become too prominent, particularly in the much-praised “Oxen of the Sun” chapter, in which the language goes through every stage in the development of English prose from Anglo-Saxon to the present day to symbolize the growth of a fetus in the womb. The execution is brilliant, but the process

itself seems ill-advised. More often the effect is to add intensity and depth, as, for example, in the “Aeolus” chapter set in a newspaper office, with rhetoric as the theme. Joyce inserted into it hundreds of rhetorical figures and many references to winds—something “blows up” instead of happening, people “raise the wind” when they are getting money—and the reader becomes aware of an unusual liveliness in the very texture of the prose. The famous last chapter of the novel, in which we follow the stream of consciousness of Molly Bloom as she lies in bed, gains much of its effect from being written in eight huge unpunctuated paragraphs.

Ulysses, which was already well known because of the censorship troubles, became immediately famous upon publication. Joyce had prepared for its critical reception by having a lecture given by Valery Larbaud, who pointed out the Homeric correspondences in it and that “each episode deals with a particular art or science, contains a particular symbol, represents a special organ of the human body, has its particular colour . . . proper technique, and takes place at a particular time.” Joyce never published this scheme; indeed, he even deleted the chapter titles in the book as printed. It may be that this scheme was more useful to Joyce when he was writing than it is to the reader.

Question 1. Which of the following is the main purpose of the passage?

1. To introduce James Joyce to the reader.
2. To introduce *Ulysses* to the reader.
3. To comment on the style and technique of *Ulysses*.
4. To describe the setting in which *Ulysses* was written.

Question 2. According to the passage, James Joyce carried the ‘stream of consciousness’ technique one step further by...

1. presenting in words an artfully edited version of the processes of the mind combining them with rational thought.
2. presenting in words the processes that language itself had gone through from the ancient times to the modern.
3. presenting in words an unedited flow of conscious experience through the mind.
4. presenting in literature the myriad flow of impressions of the individual’s conscious awareness.

Question 3. It can be inferred from the passage that in writing *Ulysses* James Joyce ...

- A. followed a strict pattern according to which different facets of the story could fit together.
 - B. experimented with language in order to capture the interior monologue of the characters.
 - C. portrayed character by capturing the workings of the human mind.
1. A and B only 2. B and C only 3. A, B and C 4. None of these

Passage 4 (714 words)

Eighty years ago, in the autumn of 1930, Joseph Stalin enforced a policy that changed the course of history, and led to tens of millions of deaths across the decades and around the world in a violent and massive campaign of “collectivization”. Stalin pursued collectivization despite

the massive resistance that had followed when Soviet authorities first tried to introduce the policy the previous spring. The Soviet leadership had relied then upon shootings and deportations to the Gulag to preempt opposition. Yet Soviet citizens resisted in large numbers; Kazakh nomads fled to China, Ukrainian farmers to Poland. In the autumn, the shootings and deportations resumed, complemented by economic coercion. Individual farmers were taxed until they entered the collective, and collective farms were allowed to seize individual farmers' seed grain, used to plant the next year's harvest.

Once the agricultural sector of the USSR was collectivized, the hunger began. By depriving peasants of their land and making them *de facto* state employees, collective farming allowed Moscow to control people as well as their produce. Yet control is not creation. It proved impossible to make Central Asian nomads into productive farmers in a single growing season. Beginning in 1930, some 1.3 million people starved in Kazakhstan as their meager crops were requisitioned according to central directives. In Ukraine, the harvest failed in 1931. The reasons were many: poor weather, pests, shortages of animal power after peasants slaughtered livestock rather than losing it to the collective, shortages of tractors, the shooting and deportation of the best farmers, and the disruption of sowing and reaping caused by collectivization itself. Stalin presented the crop failure as a sign of Ukrainian national resistance, requiring firmness rather than concessions.

As famine spread that summer, Stalin refined his explanation: hunger was sabotage, local Communist activists were the saboteurs, protected by higher authorities, and all were paid by foreign spies. In the autumn of 1932, the Kremlin issued a series of decrees that guaranteed mass death. One of them cut off all supplies to communities that failed to make their grain quotas. Meanwhile, the Communists took whatever food they could find, as one peasant remembered, "down to the last little grain," and in early 1933 the borders of Soviet Ukraine were sealed so that the starving could not seek help. Dying peasants harvested the spring crops under watchtowers. More than five million people starved to death or died of hunger-related disease in the USSR in the early 1930s, 3.3 million of them in Ukraine, of which about three million would have survived had Stalin simply ceased requisitions and exports for a few months and granted people access to grain stores.

These events remain at the center of East European politics to this day. Each November, Ukrainians commemorate the victims of 1933. But Viktor Yanukovich, the current Ukrainian president, denies the special suffering of the Ukrainian people—a nod to Russia's official historical narrative, which seeks to blur the particular evils of collectivization into a tragedy so vague that it has no clear perpetrators or victims. Rafal Lemkin, the Polish-Jewish lawyer who established the concept of "genocide" and invented the term, would have disagreed. As Lemkin knew, terror followed famine: peasants who survived hunger and the Gulag became Stalin's next victims. The Great Terror of 1937-1938 began with a shooting campaign—directed chiefly against peasants—that claimed 386,798 lives across the Soviet Union, a disproportionate number of them in Ukraine. Collectivization casts a long shadow. When Nazi Germany invaded the western Soviet Union, the Germans kept the collective farms intact, rightly seeing them as the instrument that would allow them to divert Ukrainian food for their own purposes, and starve whom they wished. After Mao made his revolution in 1948, Chinese communists followed the Stalinist model of development. This meant that

some 30 million Chinese starved to death in 1958-1961, in a famine very similar to that in the Soviet Union.

Even today, collective agriculture is the basis for tyrannical power in North Korea, where hundreds of thousands of people starved in the 1990s. And in Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship, collective farming was never undone, and a former collective farm director, Aleksandr Lukashenko, runs the country. Lukashenko is running for a fourth consecutive presidential term in December. Controlling the land, he also controls the vote.

Question 1. According to the passage, "collectivization" by Stalin did NOT mean which of the following?

- A. Providing farmers the working capital and other financial requirements of production.
 - B. Bringing Soviet agriculture under direct state control.
 - C. Taxing the individual farmers and seizing their seeds.
 - D. Farmers pooling their resources in certain areas of activity in a cooperative.
1. A and B only 2. B and C only 3. A and D only 4. B and D only.

Question 2. Passages supports the inference that

- A. Stalin knowingly transformed the collectivization famine in Ukraine into a campaign of politically motivated starvation.
 - B. The Ukrainian famine of the 1930s was a case of Soviet genocide.
 - C. Maoist collectivization was not followed by mass shooting campaigns.
 - D. Years after the collectivization campaign, Stalin's policies exist in the world.
1. A and B 2. A, B and D 3. B and D 4. B, C and D

Question 3. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. Stalin's collectivization campaign had far reaching consequences in history.
- 2. Stalin sealed the borders of Soviet Ukraine so that the starving could not escape or seek help.
- 3. Beginning 1930 some 1.3 million people in Kazakhstan dies owing to collectivization and crop failure.
- 4. Maoist regime followed the Stalinist model of collectivization.

Question 4. Which of the following most accurately describes the style and the tone of the passage?

- 1. Historical and foreboding
- 2. Factual and reassuring
- 3. Historical and malefic
- 4. Factual and sanguinary

Passage 5 (674 words)

The conventional way to produce natural gas is to drill and extract it out of "traps," or folds and pockets in underground sandstone layers. Scientists have long known there was also natural gas in the soft rock layer called shale, formed by millions of years of heat and pressure from dead algae that mixed with mud at the deep bottom of ancient seas that once covered land in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Geologists believe the gas found in sandstone traps

seeped out of this rich source rock. When it became clear that gas companies were successfully tapping the largest such rock formation in North America, the Marcellus shale, in December 2007, Pennsylvania State University geologist Terry Engelder did the calculations based on 54,000 square miles of rock he gauged to be the right geological age for gas prospecting. "I remember thinking, 'Merry Christmas, America, you don't know what's out there,'" he says. "It's going to be a real treat."

Engelder had studied shales for decades. He was especially interested in learning why black shales, including the Marcellus, had a natural fracture pattern different from that of any other rock. His conclusion, back in 1990, was that the fractures were due to the shale's stores of pressurized methane, the major constituent of natural gas. Indeed, throughout the long oil and gas history of the Appalachian Mountains, where the world's first oil well was drilled in 1859, drillers have known of "shows" of gas from the shale, brief blasts that would blow methane-charged water out of the hole, or tangle the drilling lines. There was even a notorious month-long gas blowout in 1940 from a well drilled near the Pennsylvania border in Whitesville, New York. At the time, people speculated that the drillers on the Crandall Farm site had hit a fault line. But Engelder says it is clear they hit the Marcellus shale, early proof of how much gas was stored in the rock at extremely high pressure. Geologist Bill Zagorski, now a vice president of the gas company Range Resources, knew about the shale history in 2003, when he was working on a problematic well southwest of Pittsburgh. Although Range is now based in Fort Worth, Texas, the company had its roots in Ohio and the Appalachian Basin, and so had an active conventional exploration and production operation in Pennsylvania. Zagorski's division, then known as Great Lakes Energy, was aiming for a promising trap in the Oriskany sandstone, 8,500 feet below the surface, and 2,000 feet below the Marcellus shale. The Oriskany was the bread-and-butter target for the small oil and gas firms that were still making modest finds Pennsylvania. It was a decent business, although too trivial for major oil companies. But in this well, which had seemed such a good prospect, the drillers came up with nothing. "Well, nobody likes a dry hole, but it was an expensive dry hole," Zagorski says. "We were kind of at a crossroads on what to do."

Coincidentally, Zagorski had a chance to visit a geologist friend in Texas, who was studying the implications of an exciting development unfolding in the Barnett shale near Dallas-Fort Worth. Iconoclastic oilman George Mitchell, with years of effort that flew in the face of conventional industry wisdom, had earlier succeeded in coaxing gas out of the shale by hydraulic fracturing - fracking. The "slick" water frack that proved successful was different from the type the oil industry had been using for more than 50 years to get wells to produce. Mitchell used a huge volume of water and fewer of the gel-like chemicals that reduce friction. A logical step for saving money in the energy-industry bust of the late 1990s, it happened to fracture the shale more effectively. Sand mixed into the water kept the paper-thin shale fractures propped open to allow the gas to release. In 2002, a bigger firm, Devon Energy, had purchased Mitchell's company. Now, a year later, Devon attacked the shale by combining fracking with another technique that was its specialty—horizontal drilling. The results were stupendous.

Question 1. In the context of natural gas or oil production, why is 'fracking' done?

1. In order to increase or restore the rate at which gas or oil can be produced from the rock formation, water and gel-like chemicals are injected into the rocks.

2. In order to produce gas or oil from the rock formation, gel-like chemicals are injected into the rock formation so that the wells can produce.
3. A crack is made in the rock formation that traps gas or oil stores gel-like chemicals mixed with water is injected into the rock to create an outlet for the gas or oil.
4. Water and sand mixture is injected into the natural cracks in the rock formation that holds large amounts of gas or oil, prior to horizontal digging.

Question 2. Which of the following is the most suitable title for the above extract?

1. A Massive Resource Unlocked.
2. The Great Shale Gas Rush.
3. Forcing Gas out of Rock with Water.
4. The Science of Shale Gas.

Question 3. Which of these companies/agencies *most likely* profited directly from the trap in the Oriskany sandstone below the Marcellus shale?

1. Range Resources
2. Great Lakes Energy
3. Devon Energy
4. Terry Engelder

Question 4. Match the names correctly with the description:

A.	Bill Zagorski	E.	Pennsylvania State University
B.	Oriskany	F.	Studied the Barnett shale near Dallas—Fort Worth
C.	George Mitchell	G.	Oil reserve
D.	Terry Engelder	H.	Geologist, Great Lakes Energy

1. A—F, B—G, C—H, D—E
2. A—E, B—G, C—H, D—F
3. A—H, B—E, C—F, D—G
4. A—H, B—G, C—F, D—E

Question 5. “... with years of effort that **flew in the face of** conventional industry wisdom...” Which of the following most accurately expresses the meaning of the highlighted idiom?

1. Acted in defiance of authority or custom.
2. Put up with or get used to matters as they stand.
3. Hurled or propelled.
4. Gave free rein to an emotion

Passage 6 (479 words)

Many of the philosophers commonly described as “existentialist” have made original and decisive contributions to aesthetic thinking. In most cases, a substantial involvement in artistic practice (as novelists, playwrights or musicians) nourished their thinking on aesthetic experience. This is true already of two of the major philosophers who inspired 20th Century existentialism: Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche. 20th Century thinkers who at one point or another accepted the tag “existentialist” as an accurate characterisation of their

thinking, and who have made the most significant contributions to aesthetics are: Albert Camus, Simone de Beauvoir, Gabriel Marcel, Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Jean-Paul Sartre. Existentialism owes its name to its emphasis on “existence”. For all the thinkers mentioned above, regardless of their differences, existence indicates the special way in which human beings are in the world, in contrast with other beings. For the existentialists, the human being is “more” than what it is: not only does the human being know that it is but, on the basis of this fundamental knowledge, this being can choose how it will “use” its own being, and thus how it will relate to the world. “Existence” is thus closely related to freedom in the sense of an active engagement in the world. This metaphysical theory regarding human freedom leads into a distinct approach to ontology, i.e., the study of the different ways of being.

This ontological aspect of existentialism ties it to aesthetic considerations. Existentialist thinkers believe that, under certain conditions, freedom grants the human being the capacity of revealing essential features of the world and of the beings in it. Since artistic practice is one of the prime examples of free human activity, it is therefore also one of the privileged modes of revealing what the world is about. However, since most of the existentialists followed Nietzsche in the conviction that “God is dead,” art’s power of revelation is to a large extent devoted to expressing the absurdity of the human condition. For the existentialists, the world is no longer hospitable to our human desire for meaning and order.

This ontological approach to art underpins some of the most distinctive features of existentialist aesthetics. Because it views art in terms of “revelation,” it favors representative art and is suspicious of formalist avant-gardes. And because it grounds expressive capacity on the notion of human freedom, it demands that artistic representation be strongly informed by ethical and political concerns. This is why at times existentialist aesthetics can appear out of touch with the aesthetic avant-gardes of the 20th century.

Some of the existentialists wrote substantial analyses about different art forms and how they can be compared, elaborating something like a “system of the arts” similar to that of classical aesthetics. All the existentialist thinkers, with the exception of Merleau-Ponty, thought that the form that best enabled the revelatory potential of art was the theatre, followed by the novel.

Question 1. Which of the following best describes the emphasis of this passage?

1. Ontological aspect of existentialism.
2. The theatre and the novel of the Absurd.
3. The ontological approach to art.
4. Existentialism and Freedom.

Question 2. According the passage, why is existentialist art based on “revelation”?

1. Existentialists believed that human beings were essentially “free” and artistic activity is one of the prime examples of free human activity.
2. Existentialists believed that “God is dead”, hence the world is no longer hospitable to the desire for meaning and order.
3. Existentialists believed that human existence was essentially free and this freedom meant an active engagement in the world.
4. Existentialists’ belief in the freedom of human beings, under certain circumstances, granted them the capacity of revealing the essential features of the world and the beings in it.

Question 3. According to the passage, why is most existentialist art devoted to expressing the absurdity of the human condition?

1. According to the existentialists, human condition was marked by absolute freedom, and art was an expression of this freedom.
2. 20th century existentialism was majorly inspired and influenced by Friedrich Nietzsche's conviction that the universe was essentially without any absolute meaning.
3. Since the existentialists claimed absolute freedom to human existence, their artistic expression had to be strongly ethical and political.
4. None of the above.

Question 4. Which of the following is NOT supported by the passage?

1. Most existentialist artists were playwrights and novelists.
2. Aesthetic considerations of existentialism arose from a study of different ways of being.
3. Existentialist art dealt with ethical and political themes.
4. Existentialist philosophers believed that the human condition was devoid of any meaning.

Passage 7 (629 words)

Patience and good eyesight are what you need to finish this 900-page gargantuan of Latin American fiction. But it's well worth persevering: 2666 has the power to mesmerise, and was justifiably hailed as a masterwork on its publication in Spanish in 2004. The author, Roberto Bolaño, had died one year earlier, at the age of 50, while waiting for a liver transplant in a hospital in Spain. His stock has risen since his death in 2003, and he is now recognised as a modern master. Born in Chile in 1953, he chose to reject the "magical realism" associated with Garcia Marquez in Colombia, and fashion a darker, more astringent fiction. *Nazi Literature in the Americas*, his bleakest novel, found a lugubrious comedy in human failings. *By Night in Chile*, his most accessible work, was set partly during the 1973-1990 junta under General Pinochet. 2666 is composed of a bewildering multiplicity of half-finished novels, anecdotes, life stories and Tristram Shandy-like digressions, each contained within another like Russian dolls. At the book's centre is an elusive (fictional) German writer called Benno von Archimboldi. Virtually nothing is known about him, other than that he is Nobel Prize material. Where he lives, what he looks like, remain a mystery. He has become the subject of literary conferences, though, and attracted legions of academic admirers. The literary and sexual escapades of three "Archimboldians" (French, Italian and Spanish respectively) and their English admirer constitute the opening sections of 2666. On a whim, the four journey to Mexico in search of Archimboldi (there have been sightings of him in the desert borderlands near Arizona). They fail to find their quarry and, after a few pages, disappear from view.

With a few deft strokes, Bolaño conjures a sense of dread as he chronicles next the descent into madness of a Chilean professor of literature, Oscar Amalfitano, who lives with his teenage daughter Rosa in the Mexican border city of Santa Teresa. The city is modelled on Ciudad Juárez, made infamous during the 1990s for a series of unsolved sex crimes. As

in Juárez, the bodies of hundreds of women are found dumped in the municipal rubbish tips and industrial parks on Santa Teresa's outskirts. Drawn by the serial killings, a black American sports journalist called Oscar Faith arrives in Santa Teresa. One night at a party he gets caught up in the city's underbelly of narco crime, nightclubs and murder, and saves Rosa from likely rape or worse. An air of mystery drives the book forward. In the final section, "The Part of Archimboldi", details at last emerge of the writer's life. He was born in Prussia to Jew-hating parents of humble birth. During the war he served in the Wehrmacht as Hans Reiter, adopting his Italianate pseudonym on deciding to become a writer. When, finally, we return to the "horrible city" of Santa Teresa, the identity of the chief suspect in the killings is revealed to us as a 40-year-old German drifter and computer expert named Klaus Haas...

The disparate strands of the novel now cohere, yet the Santa Teresa murders are not resolved conclusively. 2666, a detective novel without a solution, contains much dark philosophical humour, wickedly effective pastiche and pages of gutsy, irreverent boisterousness (not to mention peculiar sex). Along the way, Bolaño indulges a wide range of interests from hip-hop to Marcel Duchamp, snuff movies and the cinema of David Lynch. These digressions are rarely tedious. Among other things, 2666 offers an apology for the novel as a vast network that links all things, no matter how trivial or disparate. It is a marvellous gallimaufry of the funny, fabulist and, at times, oddly beautiful. All human life is contained in these burning pages, and Natasha Wimmer deserves a medal for her fluent translation.

Question 1. Which of the following best describes the reviewer's attitude towards 2666?

1. Adulation
2. Sycophantism
3. Fawning
4. Aspersions

Question 2. The novel 2666, according to the reviewer,

- A. is a bleakly realistic account of the life in Santa Teresa with its under belly of narco and sex crimes.
 - B. captures the life story of a German novelist Benno von Archimboldi.
 - C. is made up of several unfinished novels.
 - D. is the life story of the Chile born writer Roberto Bolaño.
1. A, B and C 2. D only 3. A only 4. C only

Question 3. The reviewer of 2666 cites which of the following as a weakness of the novel?

- A. Its Tristram Shandy-like digressions.
 - B. Its dark and astringent realism.
 - C. Its English translation from Spanish.
 - D. Its bewildering multiplicity of anecdotes.
1. A only 2. A and D 3. B and C 4. None of these

Question 4. Which of the following is NOT true about 2666?

1. Oscar Amalfitano is one of its characters.
2. It deals with the depressing comedy of human failings.
3. Its various anecdotes are packed one within the other as a Russian doll.
4. Benno von Archimboldi is the pseudonym adopted by its protagonist.

Passage 8 (852 words)

Many public-policy decisions are based on implicit assumptions about “human nature,” and it is currently popular to speculate about how evolution might have shaped human behaviour and psychology. But this raises some important questions: are humans continuing to evolve—and, if so, is our basic biological nature changing—or has modern culture stopped evolution? For some traits, we do not have to speculate—we can measure and compare on the basis of studies covering thousands of individuals over several generations. Such studies have not yet been done on most of the traits where speculation is popular, but they have been done on some traits of medical interest. What have we learned? Scientists are taking two approaches. In one, they sequence the DNA of particular genes in many individuals with or without some determined health condition and look for differences between the two groups. This genetic approach measures effects that have accumulated over hundreds to thousands of generations, and the message is clear: humans have evolved in these respects fairly recently, some in one direction, some in another, depending on their environment and other conditions encountered. From this approach, we have learned, for example, that the ability to digest milk as adults evolved within the last 10,000 years—and several times—in cultures that domesticated sheep, goats, or cattle. Similar studies have taught us that sensitivity to alcohol consumption and resistance to diseases like malaria and leprosy also evolved within the last several thousand years.

Some scientists, I included, have taken a different approach. Instead of looking for changes in genes that take many generations to accumulate until they can be detected, we have measured natural selection directly. This method can reveal selection in action, working over periods of time as short as one generation—so that it can answer the question of whether modern culture has stopped evolution. The message of this approach is also clear: natural selection continues to operate in modern cultures. Whether it will operate consistently enough for a long enough time to produce significant genetic change can be answered only by future generations. Nevertheless, it is interesting to see in what direction natural selection is starting to shape us. Some of the answers are surprising. We measured natural selection operating on women in Framingham, Massachusetts, where a long-term medical study on heart disease produced the data that we used. The women were born between 1892 and 1956. We found significant selection and projected that if it continued for ten generations, the women would evolve to be about two centimetres shorter and have their first child about five months earlier.

This is a surprising result, because women in developed countries have become taller thanks to better nutrition, and are having children later in life for many reasons, some of them cultural. So what is going on here? Three things: First, we know that giving birth for the first time when younger carries a cost in increased infant mortality, but modern medicine and hygiene have strikingly reduced infant mortality, reducing the cost of younger age at first birth. We therefore expect a shift toward earlier reproduction, because the costs previously associated with doing so have disappeared—exactly what we found in Framingham. And we expect those younger women to be shorter simply because they have had less time to grow. In five other cases, scientists found women in developed countries maturing earlier, in two of them at smaller size (in the other three cases, size was not measured). It is too

early to say that this is a general trend, but right now, all signs point that way. Second, we measured the effects of natural selection by noting that women who were shorter and first gave birth when younger had more children. But genes are only one of many factors that influence height and age at first birth. Personal decisions, nutrition, income level, education, and religious affiliation all enter the mix. When we estimated how much of the variation among individuals could be attributed to biology, the answer was less than 5%. That left 95% of the variation to be explained by the effects of culture and individual decisions. But, while the effects of biology on the traits that we measured are relatively small for humans living in complex modern cultures, even small effects, when repeated consistently, will accumulate. Third, traits like these are always the result of interactions between genes and environment.

If evolution took its steady course and changed the genetic basis of height and age at first birth, we might not see women ten generations later who were shorter and matured earlier, for the effects of nutrition and culture could more than compensate for the genetic change. As a colleague of mine likes to put it, one good school-lunch program could be enough to obscure the biological effects. Even when we focus on a simple physical trait like height, natural selection in humans turns out to be a multifaceted and nuanced process. Similar studies on human behaviour and psychology, where causation is more complex, remain beyond our grasp. In such cases, silence may be wiser than speculation.

Question 1. “One good school-lunch program could be enough to obscure the biological effects.” Which of the following best supports this argument?

1. Evolutionary biologists estimate the contribution of genes to variation in height among individuals is not more than 5%.
2. Evolutionary biologists estimate the contribution of culture and personal decision to variation in height among individuals to be about 5%.
3. Evolutionary scientists attribute the variation in height among individuals almost completely to the genes as opposed to cultural and psychological factors.
4. The women who gave birth first at a young age were found to be taller and than those who gave birth first when they were older.

Question 2. The writer is most likely to agree with which of the following with respect to the “the currently popular speculation about how evolution might have shaped human behaviour and psychology”?

1. Studies have more or less established the causal relationship between evolution and human behaviour and psychology.
2. Scientists have more or less accurately established the direct causal relationship between genes and evolution notwithstanding modern culture.
3. It is beyond our capacity to comprehend how evolution might have influenced our behaviour and psychology as the causal relationship between the two is extremely complex.
4. Genetic studies establish that ten generations later women will be shorter and will have their first child earlier.

Question 3. According to the passage, what was proved by the study undertaken on women in Framingham, Massachusetts?

1. We are still evolving.
2. Modern culture significantly alters the way we evolve.

3. Modern culture neutralises the operation of biological evolution.
4. There is hardly any interaction between genes and environment.

Question 4. The writer of this passage is most likely a scholar in

1. Anthropology
2. Anthropobiology
3. Ecology
4. Cosmology

Question 5. Which of the following is an example for the interaction between genes and environment?

1. A woman who has her first birth very young is shorter than average because she has genes that would make her short.
2. A woman who has genes that would make her taller is shorter than average because of malnourishment.
3. Women in developed countries are taller thanks to better nutrition, and are having children later in life.
4. A female infant in a poor country lives longer because of modern medicine and hygiene specially provided to her.

Passage 9 (576 words)

Anti-trust laws aim to stop abuses of market power by big companies and, sometimes, to prevent corporate mergers and acquisitions that would create or strengthen a monopolist. There have been big differences in antitrust policies both among countries and within the same country over time. This has reflected different ideas about what constitutes a monopoly and, where there is one, what sorts of behavior are abusive. In the United States, monopoly policy has been built on the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. This prohibited contracts or conspiracies to restrain trade or, in the words of a later act, to monopolize commerce. In the early 20th century, this law was used to reduce the economic power wielded by so-called “robber barons”, such as JP Morgan and John D. Rockefeller, who dominated much of American industry through huge trusts that controlled companies’ voting shares. Du Pont chemicals, the railroad companies and Rockefeller’s Standard Oil, among others, were broken up. In the 1970s the Sherman Act was turned against IBM, and in 1982 it secured the break-up of AT&T’s nationwide telecoms monopoly.

In the 1980s, a more laissez-faire approach was adopted, underpinned by economic theories from the Chicago school. These theories said that the only justification for antitrust intervention should be that a lack of competition harmed consumers, and not that a firm had become, in some ill-defined sense, too big. Some monopolistic activities previously targeted by antitrust authorities, such as predatory pricing and exclusive marketing agreements, were much less harmful to consumers than had been thought in the past. They also criticized the traditional method of identifying a monopoly, which was based on looking at what percentage of a market was served by the biggest firm or firms, using a measure known as the herfindahl-hirschman index. Instead, they argued that even a market dominated by one firm need not be a matter of antitrust concern, provided it was a contestable market. In the 1990s, American anti-trust policy became somewhat more interventionist. A high-profile

lawsuit was launched against Microsoft in 1998. The giant software company was found guilty of anti-competitive behavior, which was said to slow the pace of innovation. However, fears that the firm would be broken up, signaling a far more interventionist American antitrust policy, proved misplaced. The firm was not severely punished.

In the UK, anti-trust policy was long judged according to what policymakers decided was in the public interest. At times this approach was comparatively permissive of mergers and acquisitions; at others it was less so. However, in the mid-1980s the UK followed the American lead in basing antitrust policy on whether changes in competition harmed consumers. Within the rest of the European Union several big countries pursued policies of building up national champions, allowing chosen firms to enjoy some monopoly power at home which could be used to make them more effective competitors abroad. However, during the 1990s the European Commission became increasingly active in antitrust policy, mostly seeking to promote competition within the EU. In 2000, the EU controversially blocked a merger between two American firms, GE and Honeywell; the deal had already been approved by America's antitrust regulators. The controversy highlighted an important issue. As globalization increases, the relevant market for judging whether market power exists or is being abused will increasingly cover far more territory than any one single economy. Indeed, there may be a need to establish a global antitrust watchdog, perhaps under the auspices of the world trade organization.

Question 1. It can be inferred from the passage that anti-trust is

1. a government policy to prevent monopoly.
2. a government policy for dealing with monopoly.
3. law used to reduce the domination of large corporate.
4. law for regulating the economic power of huge trusts.

Question 2. The adoption of the Chicago school of economic theory impacted antitrust in which of the following ways?

1. The anti-trust laws became more rigid with government interference regulation as the underlying principle.
2. The antitrust laws became laissez-faire with no government interference and regulation of business and economy.
3. The antitrust laws became more liberal with minimal government interference and regulation to protect consumer interests.
4. The herfindahl-hirschman index was used to determine whether the competition and the increase of market power of a firm made it a monopoly.

Question 3. The lawsuit in 1998 against Microsoft under antitrust was significant in which of the following ways?

1. The Chicago school theory that even a market dominated by one firm need not be a matter of antitrust concern was proved false.
2. The anti-competitive behaviour of Microsoft could be dealt with and led to the breaking up of Microsoft.
3. As Microsoft was not severely punished, it allayed the fears of a more interventionist American antitrust policy.
4. As Microsoft was not severely punished, American antitrust trust policy became more liberal and became redundant.

Question 4. According to the passage, what does the current European antitrust policy highlight?

1. It brings into focus the need for a global antitrust watchdog under the aegis of WTO.
2. It highlights the issue that in a global market the market power of a company and the application of antitrust laws cannot be decided by a single country.
3. It highlights the conflict between America and the European Union in an increasing globalizing world.
4. It highlights the fact that America is still following a protectionist policy for its domestic industries and antitrust policy is not strictly adhered to.

Passage 10 (419 words)

A gene therapy technique which aims to ease memory problems linked to Alzheimer's Disease has been successfully tested in mice. US scientists used it to increase levels of a chemical which helps brain cells signal to each other. This signalling is hindered in Alzheimer's Disease, the journal *Nature* reported. The Alzheimer's Research Trust said the study suggested a way to keep nerve cells in the brain communicating. Ageing populations in many countries around the world mean that Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia are set to increase. Researchers at the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease in San Francisco believe that boosting the brain chemical, a neurotransmitter called EphB2, could help reduce or even prevent some of the worst effects of the condition. Their research suggests that the chemical plays an important role in memory, and is depleted in Alzheimer's patients. One of the most noticeable features about the brains of Alzheimer's patients is the build-up of "plaques" of a toxic protein called amyloid. Over time this leads to the death of brain cells. However, another characteristic of amyloid is its apparent ability to bind directly to EphB2, reducing the amount available to brain cells, which could in part explain the memory symptoms involved. To test this idea, they used gene therapy experiments to artificially reduce and increase the amount of available EphB2 in the brains of mice. When levels of the chemical were reduced, healthy mice developed memory symptoms similar to those seen in mice bred to have a condition similar to Alzheimer's. Conversely, when the "Alzheimer's" mice were given gene therapy which boosted levels of EphB2, their memory symptoms disappeared. Dr Lennart Mucke, who led the study, said that his team had been "thrilled" to find this. "We think that blocking amyloid proteins from binding to EphB2, and enhancing EphB2 levels or functions with drugs might be of benefit in Alzheimer's Disease." However UK researchers said that the find, while interesting, did not offer a swift answer to Alzheimer's patients. Rebecca Wood, chief executive of the Alzheimer's Research Trust, said: "Our brains are hugely complex and understanding how they work and become damaged by diseases like Alzheimer's is a massive task." This research adds a piece to the Alzheimer's puzzle and provides new leads for researchers. "It suggests a way to keep nerve cells in the brain communicating, which is vital for thinking and memory." But she added: "We don't know yet if these findings will lead to a new treatment for Alzheimer's - that's some way off."

Question 1. Which of the following best introduces the passage?

1. US scientists have found potential new treatment for Alzheimer's disease by boosting levels of a chemical, EphB2.

2. US scientists have found that boosting levels of a chemical, EphB2, improves nerve cell function in mice with Alzheimer's and highlight potential new treatment targets.
3. US scientists have found that boosting levels of a chemical, EphB2, improves nerve cell function and memory in people with Alzheimer's disease.
4. US scientists have found that boosting levels of a chemical, EphB2, improves nerve cell function and memory in mice with Alzheimer's.

Question 2. According to the passage, which of the following is the function of EphB2 in a normal brain?

1. It is the chemical in the brain that is responsible for thinking and memory.
2. It binds with amyloid to prevent the plaques from developing.
3. It helps the nerve cells in the brain in communicating with each other.
4. It prevents the death of the brain cells.

Question 3. According to the passage, which of the following most accurately expresses the reason why the new research may not lead to a treatment for Alzheimer's disease?

1. Gene therapy as an area is still under study and there has been no instance of its success so far, hence a gene therapy for Alzheimer's disease is still some way off.
2. The cause of Alzheimer's disease is not yet fully understood; hence, treating the memory loss aspect may only be partial without the root cause being addressed.
3. EphB2 and its contribution to the prevention of memory loss and brain cell activity have only been tested in mice; the working of the human brain may not be the same or similar.
4. There is no conclusive knowledge about how the brain is damaged by Alzheimer's disease; hence, the study may not lead to practical solutions.

Passage 11 (671 words)

In its early days, socialism was a revolutionary movement of which the object was the liberation of the wage-earning classes and the establishment of freedom and justice. The passage from capitalism to the new régime was to be sudden and violent: capitalists were to be expropriated without compensation, and their power was not to be replaced by any new authority. Gradually a change came over the spirit of socialism. In France, socialists became members of the government, and made and unmade parliamentary majorities. In Germany, social democracy grew so strong that it became impossible for it to resist the temptation to barter away some of its intransigence in return for government recognition of its claims. In England, the principal activities of the Fabian society consisted in the furtherance of its goal of socialism through the education of the public along socialist lines by means of meetings, lectures, discussion groups, conferences, and summer schools; carrying out research into political, economic, and social problems; and publishing books, pamphlets, and periodicals.

The method of gradual reform has many merits as compared to the method of revolution, and I have no wish to preach revolution. But gradual reform has certain dangers, to wit, the ownership or control of businesses hitherto in private hands, and by encouraging legislative interference for the benefit of various sections of the wage-earning classes. I think it is at

least doubtful whether such measures do anything at all to contribute toward the ideals which inspired the early socialists and still inspire the great majority of those who advocate some form of socialism. Let us take as an illustration such a measure as state purchase of railways. This is a typical object of state socialism, thoroughly practicable, already achieved in many countries, and clearly the sort of step that must be taken in any piecemeal approach to complete collectivism. Yet, I see no reason to believe that any real advance toward democracy, freedom, or economic justice is achieved when a state takes over the railways after full compensation to the shareholders.

Economic justice demands a diminution, if not a total abolition, of the proportion of the national income which goes to the recipients of rent and interest. But when the holders of railway shares are given government stock to replace their shares, they are given the prospect of an income in perpetuity equal to what they might reasonably expect to have derived from their shares. Unless there is reason to expect a great increase in the earnings of railways, the whole operation does nothing to alter the distribution of wealth. This could only be effected if the present owners were expropriated, or paid less than the market value, or given a mere life-interest as compensation. When full value is given, economic justice is not advanced in any degree. There is equally little advance toward freedom. The men employed on the railway have no more voice than they had before in the management of the railway, or in the wages and conditions of work. Instead of having to fight the directors, with the possibility of an appeal to the government, they now have to fight the government directly; and experience does not lead to the view that a government department has any special tenderness toward the claims of labor. If they strike, they have to contend against the whole organized power of the state, which they can only do successfully if they happen to have a strong public opinion on their side. In view of the influence which the state can always exercise on the press, public opinion is likely to be biased against them, particularly when a nominally progressive government is in power. There will no longer be the possibility of divergences between the policies of different railways. Railway men in England derived advantages for many years from the comparatively liberal policy of the North Eastern Railway, which they were able to use as an argument for a similar policy elsewhere. Such possibilities are excluded by the dead uniformity of state administration.

Question 1. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

1. Pitfalls of socialism
2. Pitfalls of Gradual Reform towards Socialism
3. Socialism and Economic Justice
4. Socialism and Democracy

Question 2. It can be inferred from the passage that the Fabians, in order to achieve socialism ...

1. preferred reform against revolution, and conciliatory bargaining against antagonism.
2. preferred reform against revolution, and expropriation of property as against conciliatory bargaining.
3. preferred revolution against reform, and conciliatory bargaining against expropriation.

4. preferred revolution against reform, and a sudden and violent change to socialism.

Question 3. Which of the following reasons is/are advanced by the writer as the demerits of gradual reform?

- A. State ownership or control of businesses after full compensation to share holders.
 - B. Expropriation of shares.
 - C. The government machinery becomes a formidable adversary for the workers.
 - D. The uniformity of the state administration.
1. A, B and C 2. A, C and D 3. B only 4. None of these

Question 4. It is the writer's belief that a piecemeal approach to collectivism does not ...

1. ensure economic justice
2. further the cause of democracy
3. help realize the ideals of early socialists
4. All of the above

Question 5. "But gradual reform has certain dangers, to wit, the ownership or control ..." "to wit" in the context means which of the following?

1. to come to know
2. with humour
3. to reason
4. namely

Passage 12 (584 words)

Amongst the 68 teeming million citizens of India who belong to tribal groups, Indian tribal religious concepts, terminologies and practices are as wide-ranging as the hundreds of tribes. However, members of these groups possess one thing in common: they believe in the constant insistency to remain united under religious faiths and customs. Most of the insistency, however, comes from the process of consolidation within a national political and economic system that brings tribes into increasing reach with other groups and uncountable prestigious belief systems. On the whole, those tribes that remain geographically separated in desert, hill, and forest regions or on islands are able to retain their traditional cultures and religions for a longer period of time.

The Naga tribes live in the mountains of north-east India. They believe in a specific earthquake god who created the earth out of the waters by earthquakes. The sons of this God now watch over mankind and punish those who perform wrong deeds. Religious life in this Indian tribe is quite quaint and secretive, compared to the others. Other deities without name or form reside in the mountains, forests, rivers and lakes, who need mollifying, for their hostile attitude to men. Omens and dreams are also generally believed in. Witchcraft is widely practised and some men are also believed to have the capability to turn into tigers. Some tribal groups sacrifice dogs or pigs when making a wood carving; otherwise the carver will soon fall ill or die. This most likely belongs to the older tradition of only allowing a man to carve a human figure in a morung (bachelors' dormitory) when he had taken a head.

Head-hunting was a significant practice, since fertile crops depended on a sprinkling of blood from a stranger over the fields. Reincarnation is believed by many Naga tribes and the dead are buried in the direction from which their ancestors have arrived. The doctrine of genna (tabu) involves the entire social groups: villages, clans, households, age groups, sex groups, in a series of rituals that are regularly practised; this genna ritual is also the result of an emergency such as an earthquake.

The Bhils are one of the largest tribes of western India, living in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Many Bhils are Hinduised. Religious life amongst this Indian tribe is known to be much varied and curious. There exists a myth of descent from a tiger ancestor. The Jhabua Bhil and others believe in Bhagavan or Bholo Iswor, who is a personal supreme God. They also believe in minor deities who have shrines on hills or underneath the trees. Worship of Bhagavan is generally performed at the settlements central sanctuary. There lies a human-oriented cult of the dead amongst the Bhils, whose main ritual is named Nukto and is practised in front of a dead person's house. Nukto purifies the spirit of the dead and merges it with Bhagavan. Gothriz Purvez is the collective ancestor. The perception of a spirit-rider is crucial in Nukto and Gothriz Purvez accompanies the spirit on part of its journey to the after-world.

Many tribes in India demonstrate considerable syncretism with Hinduism, like the Kadugollas of Karnataka, who worship gods such as Junjappa, Yattappa, Patappa, and Cittappa. In reality they are more devoted to Shiva, who dominates their festivals and religious observances. Local deities are still of significance, though, the Bedanayakas of Karnataka worship Papanayaka. This deity is supposed to have lived 300-400 years ago as a holy man among them and who performed miracles.

Question 1. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true?

1. Common religious faiths and customs unite the various tribal groups in India.
2. Tribal groups living in isolation retain their unique customs and faiths for longer periods.
3. Tribal groups lose their unique customs and faiths when brought into the mainstream India.
4. None of these.

Question 2. What is this passage about?

1. Life of Indian tribes.
2. Religious life of Indian tribes
3. Tribal concepts and practices.
4. The Nagas of north-east and the Bhils of western India.

Question 3. According to the passage, which of the following is/are true about the Nagas of the north-east?

- A. They are head-hunters and practice human sacrifice to appease their gods.
 - B. They practice their religious belief more often individually and privately.
 - C. They practice prohibition imposed by social custom or as a protective.
 - D. They worship mountains, forests and other natural phenomena.
1. A, B, C and D 2. B, C and D 3. C and D 4. A, B and D

Question 4. According to the passage, the Gothriz Purvez of the Bhils is which of the following?

1. The leader (head) of the tribe also called a spirit rider.
2. The supreme God.
3. The spirit from which the tribe has descended.
4. The purified spirit of the dead Bhil that merges with Bhagwan.

Question 5. Which of the following descriptions most closely correspond to the meaning of ‘syncretism’ in the context? (the last paragraph, first line)

1. The fusion of two or more originally different inflectional forms.
2. The combination of different forms of belief or practice
3. The attempted reconciliation with a common enemy.
4. The principles or practice of producing fantastic or incongruous imagery or effects.

Passage 13 (900 words)

Modern physics and cosmology suggest that basic truths about how nature operates, and how our universe arose, are visible only to those who can see events that occur faster than the time it takes for light to cross a proton, and whose vision can resolve sub-nuclear distances. Fortunately, that does not rule out humans, for we can augment the eyes we were born with. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) rises to the opportunity. By smashing protons together with unprecedented energy, monitoring the many particles that emerge from the collisions, and reconstructing the primary events that produced them, physicists will in effect have constructed the fastest, highest-resolution microscope ever, with each proton taking a snapshot of the other’s interior. The LHC is a magnificent engineering project, whose many “gee-whizz” features have been widely reported. I will forego all that, and skip to the chase: what can we hope to see?

We will see what the universe was like when it was a thousandth of a second old, in the earliest moments of the Big Bang. The primary events at the LHC are in effect Little Bangs, tiny fireballs that reproduce Big Bang conditions, albeit over very small volumes. This recreation of the early universe opens up an exciting possibility. We know that the universe today contains a form of matter, the so-called dark matter, that is different from anything we have ever observed. The dark matter is actually not dark in the usual sense, but utterly transparent. It neither emits nor absorbs light significantly, which is why astronomers failed to notice it for millennia, even though dark matter contributes five times as much to the total mass of the universe as normal matter. It was only in the late twentieth century that careful study of the motion of normal, visible matter revealed the gravitational influence of lots of otherwise invisible stuff. Because the original Big Bang produced dark matter, the LHC’s Little Bangs might produce some more. So experimenters will be looking for new particles with the right properties to provide the astronomical dark matter: very long-lived and very feebly interacting with ordinary matter or light. There is a good chance, then, that we will learn what that ubiquitous, abundant, yet elusive substance is.

Imagine a race of intelligent fish that start to think deeply about the world. For millennia, their ancestors took their watery environment for granted; to them, it was “emptiness”

as empty as they could conceive. But, after studying some mechanics and using their imaginations, the physicist-fish realize that they could deduce much simpler laws of motion by supposing that they are surrounded by a medium (water!) that complicates the appearance of things. We are those fish. We have discovered that we can get a much simpler set of equations for fundamental physics by supposing that what we ordinarily perceive as empty space is actually a medium. We have observed the effects of the “water” that we use to simplify our equations—it slows down particles, and makes them heavy—but we do not know what it is made out of. The LHC will allow us to discern the microscopic structure of the universal medium. The simplest idea is that it is made out of one new kind of particle, the so-called “Higgs particle,” but I suspect that there is more to it. (One gets prettier equations with five new particles, and there might be even more.)

In the 1860’s, James Clerk Maxwell assembled the equations for electricity and magnetism, as they were then known, and discovered an inconsistency. He repaired the inconsistency by adding new terms to the equations. The augmented equations, today known as the Maxwell equations, described a unified theory of electricity and magnetism. The new equations showed that light is a moving, self-renewing disturbance in electrical and magnetic fields, and they predicted that new kinds of disturbances are possible. Today we call those disturbances radio waves, microwaves, infrared and ultraviolet radiation, x-rays, and gamma rays. We use them to communicate, cook, and diagnose and cure disease. The unified theory of electromagnetism has led to profound advances across all physical science, from atomic physics (where lasers and masers are essential tools) to cosmology (where the microwave background radiation is our window on the Big Bang). Our current understanding of physics is powerful and accurate, as far as it goes, but it is not as beautiful and coherent as it should be. We have separate equations for four forces: strong, weak, electromagnetic, and gravitational. This jumble recalls the piecemeal equations of electricity and magnetism before Maxwell.

Some of us have proposed expanded equations that unify the different forces. These expanded equations, which incorporate an idea called supersymmetry, predict many new effects. A couple of the predicted effects have already been observed (for experts: tiny neutrino masses and unification of couplings). But, as Carl Sagan observed, “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence,” while here the existing evidence is still circumstantial. Fortunately, these ideas for a new unification predict that extraordinary things will be seen at the LHC. If so, a whole new world of particles will be discovered: each currently known particle will have a heavier relative—its superpartner—with different, but predictable, properties. Such are my hopes and expectations for the LHC. Other speculations for what might be seen abound; they include extra dimensions of space, strings instead of particles, and mini-black holes. Very likely, reality will outrun apprehension.

Question 1. The author expects his/her reader to be which of the following?

1. Quantum Physicists
2. Physics students
3. Research Students
4. Laymen

Question 2. It can be inferred from the passage the writer is a

1. Scientist
2. Cosmologist
3. Physicist
4. Cosmologist

Question 3. “This jumble recalls the piecemeal equations of electricity and magnetism before Maxwell.” Through this sentence the writer is trying to signify which of the following?

1. We need a unified equation for four forces: strong, weak, electromagnetic, and gravitational for a better understanding of physics.
2. Our current understanding of physics is inaccurate in the absence of a theory that unifies the four forces in the universe.
3. We can easily observe an inconsistency in the equations dealing with the four forces; these are badly in need of some repair work the way Maxwell did.
4. Quantum theories as they are today are in early stages of development and have to undergo much repair work before we can have an adequate understanding of the world.

Question 4. According to the passage, which of the following is/are the prime objective of the Large Hadron Collider?

1. An effort to recreate on a tiny scale conditions similar to those of the earliest moments of the origin of the universe.
2. An effort to create particles generally known as antimatter.
3. An effort to produce empirical evidence that may lead to the unified theory of the four forces.
4. All of the above.

Question 5. The example of the “race of intelligent fish” serves which of the following purposes in the essay?

1. It acts as a smooth transitional device between two disparate elements in the essay.
2. It helps explain the abstract concepts that are crucial to the understanding of the essay.
3. It states in understandable terms the theme of the essay.
4. None of these.

Question 6. The tone of the passage is

1. Cheerful
2. Optimistic
3. Skeptical
4. Lugubrious

Passage 14 (523 words)

The word “knowledge” and its cognates are used in a variety of ways. One common use of the word “know” is as an expression of psychological conviction. For instance, we might hear someone say, “I just knew it wouldn’t rain, but then it did.” While this may be an

appropriate usage, philosophers tend to use the word “know” in a factive sense, so that one cannot know something that is not the case. Even if we restrict ourselves to factive usages, there are still multiple senses of “knowledge,” and so we need to distinguish between them. One kind of knowledge is procedural knowledge, sometimes called competence or “know-how;” for example, one can know how to ride a bicycle, or one can know how to drive from Washington, D.C. to New York. Another kind of knowledge is acquaintance knowledge or familiarity; for instance, one can know the department chairperson, or one can know Philadelphia.

Epistemologists typically do not focus on procedural or acquaintance knowledge, however, instead preferring to focus on propositional knowledge. A proposition is something which can be expressed by a declarative sentence, and which purports to describe a fact or a state of affairs, such as “Dogs are mammals,” “It is wrong to murder innocent people for fun.” A proposition may be true or false; that is, it need not actually express a fact. Propositional knowledge, then, can be called knowledge-that; statements of propositional knowledge, or the lack thereof, are properly expressed using “that”-clauses, such as “He knows that Houston is in Texas.”

Propositional knowledge, obviously, encompasses knowledge about a wide range of matters: scientific knowledge, geographical knowledge, mathematical knowledge, self-knowledge, and knowledge about any field of study whatever. Any truth might, in principle, be knowable, although there might be unknowable truths. One goal of epistemology is to determine the criteria for knowledge so that we can know what can or cannot be known, in other words, the study of epistemology fundamentally includes the study of meta-epistemology—what we can know about knowledge itself.

We can also distinguish between different types of propositional knowledge, based on the source of that knowledge. Non-empirical or *a priori* knowledge is possible independently of, or prior to, any experience, and requires only the use of reason; examples include knowledge of logical truths such as the law of non-contradiction, as well as knowledge of abstract claims, such as ethical claims or claims about various conceptual matters. Empirical or *a posteriori* knowledge is possible only subsequent, or posterior, to certain sense experience, in addition to the use of reason; examples include knowledge of the colour or shape of a physical object or knowledge of geographical locations. Some philosophers, called rationalists, believe that all knowledge is ultimately grounded upon reason; others, called empiricists, believe that all knowledge is ultimately grounded upon experience. A thorough epistemology should, of course, address all kinds of knowledge, although there might be different standards for *a priori* and *a posteriori* knowledge.

We can also distinguish between individual knowledge and collective knowledge. Social epistemology is the subfield of epistemology that addresses the way that groups, institutions, or other collective bodies might come to acquire knowledge.

Question 1. Which of the following clusters is true about the types of knowledge mentioned in the passage?

1. *a priori* knowledge, *posteriori* knowledge, individual knowledge, collective knowledge Procedural knowledge, acquaintance knowledge, propositional knowledge.

2. Procedural knowledge, logical knowledge, propositional knowledge, *a priori* knowledge, *posteriori* knowledge, individual knowledge, collective knowledge.
3. Procedural knowledge, acquaintance knowledge, systemic knowledge, *a priori* knowledge, *posteriori* knowledge, individual knowledge, collective knowledge.
4. Procedural knowledge, empirical knowledge, propositional knowledge, *a priori* knowledge, *posteriori* knowledge, individual knowledge, collective knowledge.

Question 2. According to the passage, “if dogs are mammals” is propositional knowledge, how will the following (statements i. and ii.) be classified?

- (i) $2 + 2 = 7$
- (ii) She does not know that the square root of 81 is 9.
 1. i. procedural knowledge ii. collective knowledge
 2. i. propositional knowledge ii. propositional knowledge
 3. i. individual knowledge ii. empirical knowledge
 4. i. empirical knowledge ii. propositional knowledge.

Question 3. According to the passage, the study of epistemology is basically a theory

1. of knowledge of abstract claims, such as ethical claims or claims about various conceptual matters.
2. of the multiple senses of knowledge, with reference to their distinction and validity.
3. that encompasses knowledge about a wide range of matters, and knowledge about any field of study whatever.
4. of the nature and grounds of knowledge with reference to its limits and validity.

Question 4. Which of the following will qualify to be an example of *a priori* knowledge?

- A. $5 + 2 = 7$
 - B. It is unjust to punish an innocent person.
 - C. The room is bright.
 - D. There are four people in this room.
1. A and D 2. A and B 3. B and C 4. C and D

Passage 15 (493 words)

There is no general agreement regarding the causes of the breakdown of Harappan urban society. Broadly speaking, the principal theories thus far proposed fall under four headings. The first is gradual environmental change, such as a shift in climatic patterns and consequent agricultural disaster, perhaps coinciding with rapid population growth. Second, some scholars have postulated more precipitous environmental changes, such as tectonic events leading to the flooding of Mohenjodaro, the drying up of the Saravati River, or other such calamities. Third, it is conceivable that human activities, such as invasions of tribespeople from the hills to the west of the Indus Valley, perhaps even Indo-Aryans, contributed to the breakdown of Indus external trade links or more directly disrupted the cities. The fourth theory posits the occurrence of an epidemic or similar agent of devastation.

It is still far from certain at what date the urban society broke down. The decline probably occurred in several stages, perhaps over a century or more; the period between about 2000

and 1750 BC is a reasonable estimation. The collapse of the urban system does not necessarily imply a complete breakdown in the life-style of the population in all parts of the Indus region, but it seems to have involved the end of whatever system of social and political control had preceded it. After this date the cities, as such, and many of their distinctively urban traits—the use of writing and of seals and a number of the specialized urban crafts—disappear. The succeeding era, which lasted until about 750 BC, may be considered as post-Harappan or perhaps better as “post-urban.”

In Sindh, the Post-Urban phase is recognizable in the Jhukar culture at Chanhudaro and other sites. Here certain copper or bronze weapons and tools appear to be of “foreign” type and may be compared with examples from farther west (Iran and Central Asia); a different, but parallel, change is seen at Pirak, not far from Mehrgarh. In the Rann of Kachchh and Saurashtra there appears to have been a steady increase in the number of settlements, but all are small and none can compare with such undoubtedly Harappan cities as Dholavira. In this region, however, the distinctive “foreign” metal elements are less prominent.

In the Sarasvati valley there is a very interesting development: here, the early Post-Urban stage is associated with the pottery known from the so-called Cemetery H at Harappā. This coincides with a major reduction in both the number and size of settlements, suggesting a deterioration in the environment. In the eastern Punjab, too, there is a disappearance of the larger, urban sites but no comparable reduction in the number of smaller settlements. This is also true of the settlements farther east in the Ganges-Yamuna valleys. It is probably correct to conclude that, in each of these areas during the Post-Urban Period, material culture exhibited some tendency to develop regional variations, sometimes showing continuations of features already present during the Pre-Urban and Urban phases.

Question 1. What significance does the writer attribute to the “interesting development” in the Sarasvati valley?

1. The archaeological evidence in the Sarasvati valley most likely points to the slow and steady deterioration of the urban culture rather than an abrupt end.
2. The archaeological evidence in the Sarasvati valley most probably suggests the arrival of Indo-Aryans on the scene even during the urban period.
3. The reduction in both the size and the number of settlements suggests a complete breakdown in the life-style of the population in all parts of the Indus region.
4. All of the above.

Question 2. What is the main purpose of the passage?

1. An endeavour to trace the slow and steady decline of the Harappan culture.
2. A brief description of the end of the Harappan culture and the post-urban developments.
3. An analysis of the various factors that might have contributed to the end of the Harappan culture.
4. An attempt to reconcile the diverse views about the decline and end of the Harappan culture.

Question 3. According to the passage ...

- A. It appears that some complex of natural forces compromised the fabric of society of the Harappan culture and that subsequent human intervention hastened its disappearance.

- B. It is likely that an impoverished agricultural base due to over-exploitation, or a succession of devastating floods wiped out the Harappan culture.
- C. In the aftermath of the Indus Civilization's collapse, regional cultures emerged, to varying degrees showing the influence of the Indus Civilization.
- D. Most likely tectonic events leading to the flooding of Mohenjodaro and the drying up of the Saravati River, or other such calamities led to the end of the Indus civilization.
1. A and B 2. B, C and D 3. A and C 4. All of the above

Question 4. Which of the following is NOT advanced as a reason for the decline and end of Indus civilization?

- A. Population growth
- B. Natural calamities
- C. Loss of social and political control
- D. Invasion by foreigners
1. A and D 2. C only 3. B and D 4. None of these

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Answer Keys

Passage 1

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	4	3	2		

Passage 2

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	4	4	2	1	

Passage 3

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	2	3	3		

Passage 4

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	3	2	3	1	

Passage 5

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	1	3	2	4	1

Passage 6

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	3	4	2	4	

Passage 7

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	1	1	4	2	
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Passage 8

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	1	3	1	4	2
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Passage 9

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	2	3	3	2	
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Passage 10

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	2	3	4		
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Passage 11

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	1	1	2	4	5
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Passage 12

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	1	2	2	3	2
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Passage 13

Question	1	2	3	4	5/6
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Answer	4	3	1	4	2/2
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Passage 14

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	1	2	4	2	
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Passage 15

Question	1	2	3	4	5
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Answer	1	2	2	4	
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Explanations**Passage 1**

Question 1. Answer Option 4. The normal building blocks of life as we know it are: six elements including phosphorous as listed in the passage. This strain of bacteria do not use phosphorous; instead use arsenic (poisonous to all known life on earth) making it a previously unknown life for completely different form life as we know it. Hence scientists are fascinated. Option 2 is incorrect that it does not prove as stated. It merely points to the fact life elsewhere in the universe, if existing, can be completely different from what we know. Option 3 is contrary to the passage. (all life forms other than GFAJ-1 use phosphorous)

Question 2. Answer Option 3. "Last year study leader Felisa Wolfe-Simon of NASA's

Astrobiology Institute published a paper suggesting that *one possible version of Life 2.0 would be a creature that chemically substitutes arsenic for phosphorus.* Though the passage rules out that AFAJ-1 Is Life 2.0, a possible definition of Life 2.0 is available in the passage in the above sentence. Option 4 fulfils this criterion. Option 4 is contrary to the passage. Option 2 is erroneous in “not found on earth”- it is found on earth. Option 1 is erroneous as passage states that the bacteria only substitute arsenic for phosphorous. Other elements are the same.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. The last two paragraphs quite clearly imply this by comparing the other extremophiles with GFAJ-1. Chemical analyses showed that they were “unusual” of extremophiles. Extremophiles lived in harsh conditions but were not different from the other life forms; hence extreme life form and extreme environment are both true about GFAJ-1. Option 1 is contrary to the passage. Option 3 is wrong in “what may be found...” Option 4 is wrong in “extraterrestrial life *existing on earth,*”—which is ridiculous.

Passage 2

Question 1. Answer Option 4. All of the above. The first paragraph of the passage mentions all these. Hence all are correct. The specific questions raised in the first paragraph are generalized in each of the statements in the options. A careful reading of the first paragraph in the light of it being equated with morality will make all options correct.

Question 2. Answer Option 4. The answer is quite clearly stated in the third paragraph and explicit in the last lines of the third paragraph.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. This is stated in the last paragraph. “That morality should be invested with all the mystery and power of divine origin is not surprising. Nothing else could provide such strong reasons for accepting the moral law. By attributing a divine origin to morality ...” Option 4 is factually incorrect.

Q4. Answer Option 1. *Normative* means prescriptive or prescribing rules or standards.

Passage 3

Question 1. Answer Option 2. The passage does not contain enough data about James Joyce’s life to justify option 1. The commentary on the style or technique is brief and not the prime purpose of the passage (option 3). There is hardly anything in the passage about the setting (option 4). The passage briefly introduces the novel to the reader.

Question 2. Answer Option 3. The word “unedited” in option 3 makes it different from option 4 and describes in brief “the myriad flow of impressions, half thoughts, associations, lapses and hesitations, incidental worries, and sudden impulses that form part of the individual’s conscious awareness along with the trend of his rational thoughts.” Option 4 is merely a description of ‘stream consciousnesses’ in general.

Question 3. Answer Option 3. Different parts of the passage make all the statements correct. The last paragraph referring to the scheme makes statement A correct. The part about huge paragraphs without punctuation makes statement B correct. The first line of the second paragraph makes C correct.

Passage 4

Question 1. Answer Option 3. The passage states that farmers became state employees and individual farmers were first forced, and then deported or killed if they resisted the collective. These things make B and c correct, and A and D incorrect—hence A and D becomes the answer.

Question 2. Answer Option 2. Second paragraph supports A. The third paragraph, “Rafal Lemkin= would have disagreed” supports statement B. C is not supported by the passage. Passage does not say anything about the shooting campaign in Mao’s China. (Historically, Maoist collectivization also was followed by shooting campaign) The last paragraph supports D.

Question 3. Answer Option 3. The passage mentions only about the starving of 1.3 million people in Kazakhstan and not about the deaths or crop failures. Hence option 3 is not true. Other options are more less directly stated in the passage.

Question 4. Answer Option 1. Events are described from the point of view of history—beginning “Eighty years ago, in the...” etc., but becomes foreboding when contemporary societies are mentioned.

Passage 5

Question 1. Answer Option 1. Only 1 option answers the question ‘why’ fracking is done. Though option 3 and 4 may be factually correct, they don’t answer the question why, but merely describe ‘what’ is fracking.

Question 2. Answer Option 3. Option 1 is too general and misses the theme of the passage (Gas). Option 2 misses out completely on the fracking aspect. Option 4 is also too broad and misses on the water injection aspect which the short extract emphasizes.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. This is an inference question. The wells owned by Great Lakes Energy in the Oriskany regions were dry; that is when Zagorski who handled Great Lakes met Mitchell—the expert in fracking to make dry wells produce—*most likely Great Lakes succeeded in fracking with Mitchell’s help* (he was successful earlier and then he sold his company to Devon Energy) and profited because the passage is hopeful about fracking: “the Marcellus shale, ... Terry Engelder did the calculations based on 54,000 square miles of rock ... ‘Merry Christmas, America, you don’t know what’s out there,’ ” he says. “It’s going to be a real treat.” Devon - Option 3—in the passage has nothing to do with the Oriskany region.

Question 4. Answer Option 4. All are explicitly stated in the passage.

Question 5. Answer Option 1. The correct meaning of the idiom ‘to fly in the face of’ is expressed in option 1.

Passage 6

Question 1. Answer Option 3. The passage talks about the existentialist philosophers’ approach to art. According to them man’s existence (in a godless universe) was meaningless and art should hence deal with the ethical and political considerations of that existence. Hence option 3 best describes the main concern of the passage.

Question 2. Answer Option 4. Existentialists believed that human beings were essentially free (without a god) and art was one of the prime examples of free human activity; hence art has the capacity for ‘revealing’ what human existence is and the world. This idea is most accurately expressed in option 4. The others are partially true and are not sufficient to answer the reason why existentialist art was “revelatory.”

Question 3. Answer Option 2. The answer is stated in the third paragraph. “However, since most of the existentialists followed Nietzsche in the conviction that “God is dead,” art’s power of revelation is to a large extent devoted to expressing the absurdity of the human condition.”

Question 4. Answer Option 4. “For the existentialists, the world is no longer hospitable to our human desire for meaning and order” briefly is the existentialist philosophy—this does not mean what is stated in option 4. On the contrary, existentialist philosophers create different meaning for existence—freedom etc.; hence ‘devoid of any meaning’ is incorrect. Other options are supported by different parts of the passage.

Passage 7

Question 1. Answer Option 1. Adulation means admiration. Fawning means to seek attention by cringing. Sycophantism also has similar connotations. Aspersion is slander or blame. “But it’s well worth persevering; 2666 has the power to mesmerize, and was justifiably hailed as a masterwork...” makes option 1 correct.

Question 2. Answer Option 1. The second paragraph explicitly states statement A. The first and the third paragraph tell us statements B and C. Nowhere in the passage does the reviewer mention how far or how much the novel is the life story of the writer.

Question 3. Answer Option 4. The last paragraph states that the digressions are “rarely tedious” eliminating A. The first paragraph only states that Bolano rejected the “magical realism” of Garcia Marquez and fashioned a “darker, more astringent fiction.” Nowhere does the reviewer comment that it is a weakness. B is thus eliminated. The last sentence eliminates C. the last paragraph states “The disparate strands of the novel now cohere...”, thus it is not seen as a weakness. Hence option 4.

Question 4. Answer Option 2. The passage mentions, “*Nazi Literature in the Americas*, his bleakest novel, found a lugubrious comedy in human failings,” hence it is not true about 2666. The other options can be found in different parts of the passage. “During the war he (Archimboldi) served in the Wehrmacht as Hans Reiter, adopting his Italianate pseudonym on deciding to become a writer.” This makes option 4 true.

Passage 8

Question 1. Answer Option 1. First, the sentence means that cultural/environmental factors (example: *good school-lunch* or nutrition) can obscure biological effects. The option has to support this argument; on analysis, option 1 states the same thing—that genes do not play any significant role (not more than 5%) in the variation in height. The other factors that impact the height—could be a *good school lunch*! Once this is understood, analysis of other options will show that all of them, by implication, weaken the argument.

Question 2. Answer Option 3. The first sentence and the last few sentences of the passage make option 3 completely correct. “Many public-policy decisions are based on implicit assumptions about “human nature,” and it is currently popular to speculate about how evolution might have shaped human behaviour and psychology.” And “.... studies on human behaviour and psychology, where causation is more complex, remain beyond our grasp. In such cases, silence may be wiser than speculation.” support option 3. Option 1 is contrary to option 3. Option 2 is incorrect in “notwithstanding modern culture.” Option 4 is incorrect because ‘genetic studies’ did not establish this. (2nd paragraph)

Question 3. Answer Option 1. This almost clearly stated in the passage just prior to the writer citing this study. “The message of this approach is also clear: natural selection continues to operate in modern cultures,”—it is then that the writer cites the study.

Question 4. Answer Option 4. Anthropology means: the science that deals with the origins, physical and cultural development, biological characteristics, and social customs and beliefs of humankind. Option 2 Anthropology means study of the biology of man; Cosmology is the study of the universe. The writer of this article, in fact, is Stephen C. Stearns, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University.

Question 5. Answer Option 2. In this example, the environment has arrested development which would have the natural effect of genes. The other options do not show this relationship.

Passage 9

Question 1. Answer Option 2. The fourth line of the passage makes it clear that ‘prevention’ of a monopoly is not the prime aim of anti-trust—it is to deal with ‘behaviors that are abusive’—hence option 2 is generic and can accommodate all the details in the passage. Option 1 is eliminated because the passage in the first sentence says “sometimes.”

Question 2. Answer Option 3. The first part of the second paragraph provides the answer. “In the 1980s, a more laissez-faire approach was adopted, underpinned by economic theories from the Chicago school. These theories said that the only justification for antitrust intervention...” implies option 3. Option 4 is a contrary to the passage, as the Chicago school did not favour the herfindahl-hirschman index (HHI)

Question 3. Answer Option 3. This is stated in the passage in the second half of the second paragraph.

Question 4. Answer Option 2. The answer is in the last paragraph towards the end. European Union blocked a merger that America approved. Hence option 2 is the answer. The answer option in turn justifies option 1—option 1 cannot be justified on its own as answering the question.

Passage 10

Question 1. Answer Option 2. Opinion 1 is incorrect—scientists haven’t found. Option 3 is incorrect because the passage stated the finding is now limited to mice. Option 4 is factually correct but partial as it misses on the potential aspect.

Question 2. Answer Option 3. Option 1 may be correct by implication, but the passage says the depletion of the chemical EphB2 hindered the signaling between cells—leading to memory symptoms; hence is not completely correct as said in option 1. Option 3 states the prime function of EphB2 in a normal brain as implied in the passage.

Question 3. Answer Option 4. Option 1 is irrelevant and irrelevant to the passage. Option 2 also is irrelevant—the new research is only about memory loss and not about preventing or eradicating Alzheimer's. Option 3 goes against normal reasoning—the scientists should know better. Option 4 is merely a rephrasing of the remarks made by Rebecca Wood as quoted in the passage towards its end.

Passage 11

Question 1. Answer Option 1. (pitfall means trap/snare) Option 2 is a slight distortion, though major part of the passage is discussing this, because the writer first states, "the method of gradual reform has many merits as compared to the method of revolution, and I have no wish to preach revolution." Hence, he deals with socialism in general rather than gradual reform alone. Option 3 is too broad—it would be a different essay if these ideas are discussed. The same problem is with option 4 as well.

Question 2. Answer Option 1. "In England, the principal activities of the Fabian society consisted in the furtherance of its goal of socialism through the education of the public along socialist lines by means of meetings, lectures, discussion groups, conferences, and summer schools; carrying out research into political, economic, and social problems; and publishing books, pamphlets, and periodicals." This is in line with what is stated in option 1.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. B or expropriation is not an aspect of gradual reform, hence not a demerit either. The others are stated in the passage at different places.

Question 4. Answer Option 4. "Economic justice demands a diminution.... 'etc. justifies 1. The workers situation justifies 2. 3 is clearly stated in "I think it is at least doubtful whether such measures do anything at all to contribute toward the ideals which inspired the early socialists and still inspire the great majority of those who advocate some form of socialism."

Question 5. Answer Option 5. "to wit' (adverb) is an idiom and it means *namely* or *that is to say*.

Passage 12

Question 1. Answer Option 1. The first paragraph states that religious faiths and customs unite the members each tribe *within that tribe*. "...members of these groups possess one thing in common: they believe in the constant insistency to remain united under religious faiths and customs." The various tribal groups in India in different parts of India are not (cannot be) united by common faith and customs. Hence option 1 is incorrect. The first paragraph itself supports the other options (2 and 3). Option 3 is implied by the part, "most of the insistency, however, comes from ..."

Question 2. Answer Option 2. The passage is too concise to accommodate option 1. Option

is vague and general as this passage talks briefly about the religious faiths of two tribal groups—the Nagas and the Bhils. Option 4 is partially correct but the passage is not a general introduction of these tribes but deals only with the religious faiths, hence option 2 is the best way to describe the topic of the essay.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. Statement B is incorrect because the passage states head hunting and human sacrifice was an “older tradition” from which the current sacrifice of pigs and dogs has originated. Hence it is incorrect to say that “they are head hunters....” B is correct because the passage states “quaint and *secretive*”. C is correct because tabu (taboo) is mentioned. D is mentioned explicitly.

Question 4. Answer Option 3. This is stated in the passage at the end of the third paragraph.

Question 5. Answer Option 2.—the dictionary meaning of syncretism as used in this context.

Passage 13

Question 1. Answer Option 4. The article is written by a physicist for certain as it is stated that “some of us have proposed expanded equations”, but the article is popular science describing complex concept of antimatter with the example of fish in water etc. The language is ordinary, non technical, and easy for the laymen.

Question 2. Answer Option 3. Stated in the passage: “some of us have proposed expanded equations...” etc. is sufficient to prove option 3. Option 1 is too general.

Question 3. Answer Option 1. The paragraph makes the answer obvious. Maxwell observe inconsistency in the equations dealing with electricity and magnetism and added new terms which led to a better understanding of the phenomenon light—and we could understand the entire microwave spectrum. Similarly the unification of the four forces, the writer hopes, will lead to a better understanding of physics and phenomena/ cosmos.

Question 4. Answer Option 4. All of the above. Statement 1 is stated at the beginning of the second paragraph. The same paragraph justifies statement 2. Statement 3 is supported by the last paragraph. Hence all are true.

Question 5. Answer Option 2. The example explains the concept of dark matter simply and accurately.

Question 6. Answer Option 2. This option best describes the tone. In the various things that the writer has to say a physicist’s optimism is clearly seen, especially in the first and the last paragraphs.

Passage 14

Question 1. Answer Option 1. Option 2 mentions logical knowledge. Option 3 mentions systemic knowledge, option 4 mentions empirical knowledge and posterior knowledge (they are the same) incorrectly.

Question 2. Answer Option 2. Both are examples of propositional knowledge. “A proposition

is something which can be expressed by a declarative sentence, and which purports to describe a fact or a state of affairs, such as “Dogs are mammals,” “It is wrong to murder innocent people for fun,” Or $2 + 2 = 7$. A proposition may be true or false; that is, it need not actually express a fact. Propositional knowledge, then, can be called knowledge-that; statements of propositional knowledge, or the lack thereof, are properly expressed using “that”-clauses, such as “He knows that Houston is in Texas.” Or “*She does not know that the square root of 81 is 9.*”

Question 3. Answer Option 4. “One goal of epistemology is to determine the criteria for knowledge so that we can know what can or cannot be known, in other words, the study of epistemology fundamentally includes the study of meta-epistemology—what we can know about knowledge itself.” This completely justifies description 4.

Question 4. Answer Option 2. A and D. To check whether sentences A and D are true or not, we do not have to check with our prior experiences—it is enough to know the meaning of the terms hence they are a priori. On other hand C and D we need to actually verify.

Passage 15

Question 1. Answer Option 1. The answer is supported by the last paragraph in which the mentions “interesting development.” There isn’t enough data in the passage to infer option 2 except that is said in the first and second paragraphs and about Sindh in particular. Nowhere does the passage suggest a “complete breakdown” (sudden) as stated in option 3.

Question 2. Answer Option 2. The first paragraph mentions briefly about the end of Harappan culture and the second third and the fourth paragraphs briefly describe the post-Harppan developments. Hence option 2 answers the question best.

Question 3. Answer Option 2. A and C. Statements A and C are categorically true, independent of other statements. B is partial, can be true only in combination with other factors. D is incorrect in “most likely.”

Question 4. Answer Option 4. None of these. All the factors are mentioned in one place or another in the passage as possibly contributing to the decline and end.

12

Analogy and Odd Man Out

Type A

Directions: In each of the following questions, a related pair of words is followed by four pairs of words or phrases. Select the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to the one expressed in the question pair.

PEEL : PEAL

- A. coat : rind
- B. laugh : bell
- C. rain : reign
- D. brain : cranium

Answer Option: C

Type B

Directions: In each of the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by five lettered pairs of words or phrases. Select the lettered pair that best expresses a relationship that is least similar to the one expressed in the original pair.

GERMANE : PERTINENT

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| A. apt : appropriate | B. quick : urgent |
| C. dull : sluggish | D. excited : serene |

Answer Option: D

(the key pair is synonyms; the scoring option is antonyms)

HOW TO SOLVE

These are essentially vocabulary questions with some reasoning involved in them. On the reasoning front, these are very mild but are very strong on vocabulary.

Before attempting these questions, make sure that the words in the key pair and in the options are familiar. If a majority of them are unfamiliar, the question is best left out in an examination with negative marks.

Once vocabulary constraints are overcome, link the given pair of words by establishing the most intelligent relationship between them. Construct a short phrase or a short sentence

which makes this relationship explicit. For example, in the relationship between PEEL and PEAL is that they are homophones; i.e., they have the same pronunciation though they have different spellings and meanings. We could say "PEEL and PEAL are homophones." Now, we need to substitute the options for PEEL and PEAL. The only option that would now make sense is option C. "RAIN and REIGN are homophones." Hence the scoring option is C.

In some cases, the short sentence that you have constructed may be helpful only in eliminating options and may not give the answer directly. For example:

FISH : SCHOOL

- A. mammals : pack
- B. cow : herd
- C. geese : gaggle
- D. bed : clams

The relationship could be "SCHOOL is collective for FISH" or "A SCHOOL of FISH." By substituting we can eliminate options B and D. In B, we need 'cattle/cows' rather than 'cow'. In D, the relationship is reversed. We cannot say "Clams is collective for bed." On the contrary, it should be, "Bed is collective for clams," or "A bed of clams." We must note that "SCHOOL is collective for FISH," or "A SCHOOL of FISH" has changed the word order.

With two correct options "A pack of mammals" and "a gaggle of geese", it is necessary to expand the reasoning to find the scoring option. We can say that *fish* and *geese* are specific types and *mammals* is a broad class, and choose *geese : gaggle* over *pack : mammals*. Or we can say that mammals are viviparous whereas *fish* and *geese* are oviparous. While working with shortlisted options, expand your reasoning to find more common threads between the key pair and the options. In the above question, the best choice would be option C.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Similar Relationship

Question 1. DOGGEREL : POET

- A. symphony : composer
- B. prediction : astrologer
- C. wine : vintner
- D. pulp fiction : novelist

Question 2. PREMISE : CONCLUSION

- A. assumption : inference
- B. hypothesis : theory
- C. knowledge : ideas
- D. brand : marketing

Question 3. BARGE : VESSEL

- A. shovel : implement
- B. book : anthology
- C. rim : edge
- D. training : preparation

Question 4. LOVE : AFFECTION

- A. happiness : joy
- B. amity : harmony
- C. enemy : hatred
- D. sorrow : misery

Question 5. PARADIGM : PATTERN

- A. skeleton : flesh
- B. method : system
- C. plant : genus
- D. dinosaur : tyrannosaurus

Question 5. ZOOLOGY : ANIMAL

- A. words : etymology
- B. ontology : existence
- C. theology : evil
- D. etiology : leaves

Question 7. ABERRATION : NORMAL

- A. overdose: medicine
- B. deprivation: poverty
- C. sympathy: apathy
- D. diversion: direction

Question 8. MAN: BOY

- A. mare : horse
- B. human : animal
- C. pig : swine
- D. cat : kitten

Question 9. DAISY : FLOWER

- A. candle : chandelier
- B. cottage : residence
- C. boat : river
- D. tuxedo : tailor

Question 10. AUTOMOBILE : LIMOUSINE

- A. diamond : stone
- B. ship : harbour
- C. house : mansion
- D. yacht : river

Question 11. SHELL : EGG

- A. box : bag
- B. crate : goods
- C. ribbon : hair
- D. air : lungs

Question 12. STORY : PLOT

- A. brand ; advertisement
- B. conductor : orchestra
- C. dance : choreography
- D. handwriting : calligraphy

Question 13. PETRIFY : STONE

- A. evaporate : vapour
- B. motion : distance
- C. acid : corrode
- D. burn : fire

Question 14. INCINERATE : FIRE

- A. corrode: wear
- B. churn: liquid
- C. saturate : solute
- D. refract : light

Question 15. WOOD : SPLINTER

- A. glass : bowl
- B. pottery : shard
- C. hub : wheel
- D. stem : tree

Question 16. DEGREE : ANGLE

- A. inch : area
- B. liter : capacity
- C. student : class
- D. letter : alphabet

Question 17. INGRAINED : ENTRENCHED

- A. chronic : ephemeral
- B. augment : bankrupt
- C. immature : callow
- D. credible : incredible

Question 18. EQUITY : BIAS

- A. justice : wrong
- B. fairness : right
- C. grievance : gripe
- D. affliction : pain

Question 19. Tailor : Scissors

- A. trowel : mason
- B. field : farmer
- C. ribbon : typist
- D. carpenter : saw

Question 20. FAWN : DEER

- A. cygnet : swan
- B. sheep : lamb
- C. kid : duckling
- D. young : old

Question 21. WAIT : LINGER

- A. stop : lurk
- B. request : order
- C. see : witness
- D. love : hate

Question 22. HYENAS : LAUGH

- A. frogs : bleat
- B. jackals : chatter
- C. humans : sing
- D. seals : bark

Question 23. NOSTRUM : PANACEA

- A. farce : burlesque
- B. rostrum : speech
- C. verse : epic
- D. scapegoat : stooge

Question 24. CANON : TENET

- A. command : comply
- B. law : statute
- C. gun : bullet
- D. behaviour : etiquette

Question 25. PLOW : FURROW

- A. needle : knit
- B. blade : bleed
- C. bait : fish
- D. scalpel : incision

Question 26. LOOM : WEAVE

- A. carpenter : desk
- B. knife : cut
- C. needle : insert
- D. bed : sleep

Question 27. PARENTHESIS : DIGRESSION

- A. ellipsis : omission
- B. comma : period
- C. exclamation : exaggeration
- D. asterisk : highlight

Question 28. PERSON : PEOPLE

- A. infant : child
- B. child : juvenile
- C. genus : genera
- D. mankind : population

Question 29. CATALOG : INVENTORY

- A. register : list
- B. census : population
- C. muster : attendance
- D. country : government

Question 30. ACT : PLAY

- A. poem : verse
- B. pretend : frolic
- C. stanza : poem
- D. ballet : dance

Question 31. TEACH : EDUCATE

- A. school : train
- B. instruction : information
- C. dissuade : encourage
- D. connive : persuade

Question 32. TAKE-OFF : LAND

- A. rocket : plane
- B. train : pilot
- C. bus : station
- D. sail : anchor

Question 33. GOAD : STIMULUS

- A. cajole : happiness
- B. catalyst : impetus
- C. scold : dispirit
- D. love : lust

Question 34. DIAPHANOUS : INSUBSTANTIAL

- A. delectable : coarse
- B. fastidious : perceptive
- C. gossamer : transparent
- D. tenacious : refined

Question 35. CACOPHONOUS: HARMONIOUS

- A. decrepit : infirm
- B. perceptive : sensitive
- C. fussy : dainty
- D. fragile : strong

Question 36. INSTITUTE : ABROGATE

- A. begin : end
- B. ultimate : penultimate
- C. incipient : initial
- D. morning : afternoon

Question 37. AUTOMOBILE : PETROL

- A. train : railways
- B. palanquin : men
- C. balloon : heat
- D. oil : lamp

Question 38. AVIARY : BIRDS

- A. garden : flowers
- B. apiary : bees
- C. animals : zoo
- D. sculptor : statue

Question 39. APORETIC : DOUBT

- A. rich : wealth
- B. petulant : harm
- C. credulous : believe
- D. amorous : help

Question 40. RECIDIVISM : BEHAVIOUR

- A. globalism : parochialism
- B. addiction : rehabilitation
- C. harmony : dissonance
- D. relapse : illness

Question 41. LEAP : LEOPARDS

- A. chatter : monkeys
- B. pride : lions
- C. venison : deer
- D. plague : rats

Question 43. AVERSE : EAGER

- A. typical : exceptional
- B. banal : hackneyed
- C. abort : cancel
- D. restrained : controlled

Question 44. COURT : LAW

- A. museum : artifacts
- B. conservatoire : music
- C. school : curriculum
- D. studio : art

Question 45. KING : THRONE

- A. chairperson : chair
- B. student : study
- C. rider : bus
- D. equestrian : horseback

Question 46. ARBORETUM : PLANTS

- A. menagerie : animals
- B. field : grass
- C. botany : herbs
- D. grotesque : jokes

Question 47. DIABETES : DISEASE

- A. blood : heart
- B. pen : tool
- C. sorcery : spirits
- D. novel : prose

Question 48. CHRONOMETER : ERGOMETER

- A. sequence : energy
- B. color : voltage
- C. time : work
- D. revolution : illumination

Question 49. BEER : BARLEY

- A. whiskey : corn
- B. bourbon : hops
- C. bread : yeast
- D. vodka : grapes

Question 50. FUSTY : MUSTY

- A. fetish : aversion
- B. bias : disinterested
- C. noisome : fetid
- D. predisposition : fairness

Least Similar Relationship

Directions: In each of the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by five lettered pairs of words or phrases. Select the lettered pair that best expresses a relationship that is least similar to the one expressed in the original pair.

Question 1. DELUSION : HALLUCINATION

- A. cheat : counterfeit
- B. sophism : deception
- C. eidolon : ghost
- D. phantom : reality

Question 2. JUVENILE : MATURE

- A. calumny : slander
- B. fallacy : verity
- C. exhortation : discourage
- D. solvency : debts

Question 3. SPINACH : PINK

- A. apple : red
- B. pear : blue
- C. turquoise : orange
- D. rose : green

Question 4. CABLE : ELECTRICITY

- A. wire : sound
- B. artery : blood
- C. lamp : oil
- D. canal : water

Question 5. EXOTIC : INDIGENOUS

- A. routine : extraordinary
- B. culture : refinement
- C. callow : mature
- D. tame : wild

Question 6. CLOTHES : BODY

- A. antimacassar : chair
- B. carpet : floor
- C. frame : picture
- D. paint : signboard

Question 7. ASININE : VACUOUS

- A. nefarious : villainous
- B. heinous : flagitious
- C. deciduous : evergreen
- D. synonymous : equal

Question 8. PHILANTHROPY : WELFARE

- A. aid : resource
- B. synonym : meaning
- C. assistance : help
- D. celebrated : notorious

Question 9. COW : BOVINE

- A. cat : feline
- B. fox : ovine
- C. deer : cervine
- D. crow : corvine

Question 10. BULL : COW

- A. buck : doe
- B. goose : geese
- C. boar : sow
- D. cock : hen

Question 11. INTRANSIENT : PERMANENT

- A. resolute : wavering
- B. industrious : industry
- C. tractable : obedient
- D. improvident : responsible

Question 12. SCARF : HEAD

- A. sword : scabbard
- B. epaulet : shoulder
- C. medal : chest
- D. knapsack : back

Question 13. TOUCHSTONE : CRITERION

- A. reason : rationale
- B. convention : tradition
- C. paradigm : atypical
- D. debauchery : intemperance

Question 14. SILT : RIVER

- A. detritus : glacier
- B. dregs : liquids
- C. cinder : combustion
- D. snow : ice

Question 15. CITY : SUBURBIA

- A. town : outskirts
- B. chain : link
- C. page : margin
- D. circle : circumference

Question 16. PREVARICATE : TERGIVERSATE

- A. implicate : deduce
- B. collaborate : cooperate
- C. fabricate : manufacture
- D. procrastinate : defer

Question 17. OIL : LUBRICATION

- A. pill : treatment
- B. drug : addiction
- C. morphine : sedate
- D. liquor : intoxicate

Question 18. STRAGGLER : STRAY

- A. stickler : approximate
- B. laggard : lag
- C. dawdler : idle
- D. trailer : follow

Question 19. COSCRIPT : VOLUNTEER

- A. elect : impose
- B. tax : strain
- C. hire : fire
- D. suborn : dignify

Question 20. IMPERVIOUS : INVULNERABLE

- A. impermeable : taut
- B. inconsistent : feeble
- C. invincible : destructible
- D. imprudent : indiscreet

Question 21. BURGEON : SHRINK

- A. enrapture : ravish
- B. evolve : block
- C. excogitate : dismiss
- D. scholar : ignoramus

Question 22. FILLIBUSTER : IMPEDE

- A. cajole : wheedle
- B. ignominy : respect
- C. decadence : deterioration
- D. iniquity : evil

Question 23. VILLAGE : BUCOLIC

- A. jupiter : jovian
- B. spring : vernal
- C. summer : estival
- D. occult : ocular

Question 24. PREDILECTION : PREFERENCE

- A. penchant : affinity
- B. prolific : abundant
- C. fortitude : resilience
- D. ameliorate : exacerbate

Question 25. ANT : HILL

- A. sheep : pen
- B. spider : web
- C. snake : nest
- D. rabbit : sty

Odd Word Out

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Question 1. | A. Moon | B. Earth | C. Triton | D. Europa |
| Question 2. | A. forecast | B. predict | C. envisage | D. remember |
| Question 3. | A. threat | B. anger | C. panic | D. fear |
| Question 4. | A. meningitis | B. hepatitis | C. typhoid | D. tonsillitis |

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Question 5. | A. condense | B. freeze | C. contract | D. melt. |
| Question 6. | A. earn | B. care | C. fare | D. bail |
| Question 7. | A. reel | B. peel | C. seal | D. teal |
| Question 8. | A. paw | B. beak | C. tail | D. hoof |
| Question 9. | A. temple | B. medina | C. derasar | D. synagogue |
| Question 10. | A. virus | B. fungus | C. stimulus | D. cactus |
| Question 11. | A. alternative | B. preference | C. option | D. necessity |
| Question 12. | A. daisy | B. flax | C. lilac | D. iris |
| Question 13. | A. pop | B. boogie | C. dance | D. bop |
| Question 14. | A. assist | B. elitist | C. ageist | D. pianist |
| Question 15. | A. flip-flops | B. thongs | C. anklets | D. gloves |
| Question 16. | A. veal | B. poultry | C. pig | D. lamb |
| Question 17. | A. surgeon | B. nurse | C. vet | D. psychiatrist |
| Question 18. | A. aggrandize | B. shrivel | C. boost | D. augment |
| Question 19. | A. Associate | B. confederate | C. split | D. coalesce |
| Question 20. | A. recondite | B. trite | C. abstruse | D. hermetic |
| Question 21. | A. New Delhi | B. Beijing | C. Dhaka | D. Cambodia |
| Question 22. | A. bamboo | B. banyan | C. coconut | D. banana |
| Question 23. | A. suprematism | B. surrealism | C. symbolism | D. shamanism |
| Question 24. | A. parochial | B. insular | C. cosmopolitan | D. provincial |
| Question 25. | A. abstemious | B. epicurean | C. temperate | D. continent |

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Question 1. Answer Option D. Doggerel is a sort of loose or irregular verse; mean or undignified poetry. Hence the relationship is “A poet’s undignified work is doggerel” hence A novelist’s undignified work is pulp fiction.’

Question 2. Answer Option A. “A conclusion is based on a premise” “an inference is based on an assumption.” hypothesis and theory are the same if the hypothesis is proved, otherwise they have no relation.

Question 3. Answer Option A. Barge is a type of vessel, shovel is a type of implement.

Question 4. Answer Option B. Love and affection are synonymous; amity and harmony are synonymous.

Question 5. Answer Option B. Paradigm and Pattern are synonyms; method and system are synonyms.

Question 6. Answer Option B. Zoology studies animals; ontology studies existence. Etiology studies cause.

Question 7. Answer Option D. Aberration is a deviation from the normal; diversion is a deviation from the direction.

Question 8. Answer Option D. A boy grows up into a man; a kitten grows up into a cat.

Question 9. Answer option B. Daisy is a type of flower; cottage is a type of residence.

Question 10. Answer Option C. Limousine is a large automobile; mansion is a large house.

Question 11. Answer Option B. shell protects the egg; crate protects the goods.

Question 12. Answer Option C. The organization/structuring of a story is plot; the organization/structuring of dance is choreography.

Question 13. Answer Option A. petrify is to turn into stone; evaporate is to turn into vapor.

Question 14. Answer Option 1. When incinerated something catches fire; when corroded something wears out.

Question 15. Answer Option B. Splinter is a piece (fragment) of wood; shard is a piece of pottery.

Question 16. Answer Option B. Degree measures (unit of measurement) angle; liter measures capacity. Area is in square inches—not inch.

Question 17. Answer option C. Ingrained and entrenched are synonyms (mean deep-rooted); immature and callow are synonyms.

Question 18. Answer Option A. Where there is bias, there is no equity; where there is wrong there is no justice. (Antonyms)

Question 19. Answer Option D. Tailor uses scissors to cut the cloth; a carpenter uses a saw to cut the wood. Worker to tool relationship is not sufficient to eliminate A.

Question 20. Answer Option A. Fawn is a young deer. Cygnet is a young swan. Option D is opposites.

Question 21. Answer Option C. Wait and linger are synonyms; see and witness are synonyms.

Question 22. Answer Option D. the sound of a hyena is called laugh; the sound of a seal is called bark. Humans talk and not sing. Frogs croak. Jackals howl.

Question 23. Answer Option A. Nostrum means a questionable remedy; panacea means remedy for all ills—a cure-all. In that case, nostrum and panacea are synonyms. Farce and burlesque are synonyms.

Question 24. Answer Option B. Canon and tenet are synonyms (mean a regulation or dogma); law and statutes are synonyms.

Question 25. Answer option D. Plow makes furrow (groove) in the ground scalpel (surgeon's knife makes a slit in the skin.

Question 26. Answer Option B. tool to function relationship. Loom is used to weave cloth: knife is used to cut things. Bed is not a tool.

Question 27. Answer Option A. In writing parenthesis is used when the writer digresses from the main point. Ellipsis is used when the writer omits certain words.

Question 28. Answer Option C. Singular plural relationship. Person is singular and people is plural. Genus is singular and genera is plural.

Question 29. Answer Option A. As verbs inventory and catalog mean the same thing—to make a list. As verbs list is to register. Also, a catalog consists of the inventory. A register consists of the list.

Question 30. Answer Option C. An Act is a part of a play (drama); a stanza is a part of a poem. (Play divided into Acts)

Question 31. Answer Option A. As verbs teach means to educate; to school means to train.

Question 32. Answer Option E. A plane takes off and lands. A ship sets sail and anchors.

Question 33. Answer Option B. goad and stimulus are synonyms; catalyst and impetus are synonyms.

Question 34. Answer Option C. diaphanous and insubstantial are synonyms; gossamer (light and flimsy) and transparent are synonyms.

Question 35. Answer option D. Cacophonous and harmonious are opposites; fragile and strong are opposites.

Question 36. Answer Option A. institute (v) means to begin (initiate) and abrogate means to end. (antonyms)

Question 37. Answer option B. An automobile is powered by petrol; a palanquin is powered by men. Palanquin: a passenger conveyance, usually for one person, consisting of a covered or boxlike litter carried by means of poles resting on the shoulders of several men.

Question 38. Answer Option B. Aviary is a building for the birds; apiary is a home for the bees;.

Question 39. Answer Option C. Aporetic is tending to doubt; credulous is tending to believe.

Question 40. Answer Option D. Recidivism is a relapse into former behavior (or condition), similarly relapse is a recurrence of an illness (or condition).

Question 41. Answer Option B. A leap of leopards (collective noun); a pride of lions.

Question 42. Answer Option C. Sartorial is of or relating to clothes; terpsichorean is of relating to dance.

Question 43. Answer Option A. The words in each pair are antonyms.

Question 44. Answer Option C. Court follows (conducts itself according to) the law; school follows the curriculum.

Question 45. Answer Option D. the king sits on a throne and an equestrian sits on a horseback. No other relationship can be established.

Question 46. Answer Option A. arboretum is botanical garden—plants (for study) or display—menagerie is a collection of animals (for display)

Question 47. Answer Option B. Diabetes is a type of disease; pen is type of tool.

Question 48. Answer Option C. chronometer (clock) measures time; ergo meter measures work done.

Question 49. Answer Option A. Beer is made from barley; whisky is made from corn (corn, rye or barley)

Question 50. Answer Option C. Fusty and musty are synonyms; noisome and fetid are synonyms.

Least Similar Relationship

Question 1. Answer Option D phantom and reality are antonyms; all the others including the key pair are synonyms.

Question 2. Answer Option A. the key pair is opposites. Option A is synonyms. B and C are opposites. Solvency is the ability to pay all debts, hence are related.

Question 3. Answer option A. Spinach *is not* red; hence, the least similar is *apple is red*.

Question 4. Answer Option C. Cable conducts (as a conduit) electricity. Lamp and oil do not have a similar relationship.

Question 5. Answer Option B. The key pair is antonyms; option C is synonyms.

Question 6. Answer Option D. clothes *protect* the body; similarly the first three options are related to each other. Antimacassar is a piece of ornamented cloth that protects the back of chair from hair oils.

Question 7. Answer Option C. The key pair is synonymous. Option C is opposites.

Question 8. Answer option D. Philanthropy is related to promoting human welfare—they are related. Option D is not related—is antonyms.

Question 9. Answer Option B. Bovine is the adjective of cow; Ovine is the adjective of sheep and not fox (vulpine)

Question 10. Answer Option B. Male (Bull) : Female (cow)—Option B exhibits singular—plural relationship.

Question 11. Answer Option C. (Synonyms) Intransient is the opposite of transient, hence permanent is the synonym of permanent. Tractable and obedient are synonyms. Others are synonyms.

Question 12. Answer Option A. scarf is worn on the head. B, C, and D show the same relationship. Sword is kept (covering) in the scabbard.

Question 13. Answer Option C. Option C is opposites—the key pair and others are synonyms.

Question 14. Answer Option D. Silt is the residue left by the river. A, B and C display similar relationship. Snow and ice are not related the same way. Snow is ice.

Question 15. Answer Option B. Suburbia is the area bordering a city. Chain and link do not exhibit this relationship.

Question 16. Answer Option A. The key pair is synonymous—the options except A are synonymous pairs.

Question 17. Answer Option B. ' is used for' relationship binds all the options and the key words, except option B.

Question 18. Answer Option A. a straggler strays; a stickler is a nit-picker (perfectionist) hence does not approximate. Other options show relationship similar to the key pair.

Question 19. Answer Option B. Option B is synonymous whereas the key pair and the other options are antonyms (contrasting words)

Question 20. Answer Option C. The given pair is synonymous. Option C is opposites. Other options are synonyms.

Question 21. Answer Option A. The key pair is antonyms. Option A is synonyms. Others are antonyms.

Question 22. Answer Option B. Filibuster means to impede (legislation) by a long speech—hence are synonyms. Ignominy and respect are antonyms.

Question 23. Answer option D. Noun and adjective relationship. Ocular is related to the eye and not occult.

Question 24. Answer Option D. The key pair is synonymous. Option D is opposites.

Question 25. Answer Option D. The relationship is animal and its home. Rabbits' home is called: warren, burrow, cony-garth, and hutch. Sty and pen are for pigs. Sheep live in fold or pen.

Odd Word Out

Question 1. Answer Option B. Earth is a planet while all the others are satellites: moon—earth; triton—Neptune; europa—Jupiter.

Question 2. Answer Option D. remember is related to the past—others are related to future.

Question 3. Answer Option A. other options B, C and D indicate feelings and are internal. Threat is external.

Question 4. Answer Option C. 'itis' is common to other words; typhoid is spelt differently

Question 5. Answer Option D. Melt implies the action of heat and the others are generally due to the action of cold.

Question 6. Answer Option B. Other words have homophone with the same pronunciation. Earn—urn; fare—fair; bale—bail; care has no homophone.

Question 7. Answer Option D. The other words are used as verbs and nouns. Teal is a noun only (name of a type of duck)

Question 8. Answer Option B. birds have beaks the other body parts are common to animals.

Question 9. Answer Option B. Though all are names of places of worship temple—hindus; derasar—jains; synagogue—Judaism; medina is a place; mosque would make it a place of worship.

Question 10. Answer Option A. the other words form the plural with an "i" after the word. Virus plural is viruses.

Question 11. Answer Option D. synonyms versus antonym. Necessity is a contrasting word.

Question 12. Answer Option B. flax is the name of a plant. The others are names of flowers.

Question 13. Answer Option A. pop is the short form for popular. The other words are synonymous with dance.

Question 14. Answer Option A. The other words are “+ist” forma. In assist “ist” is not a suffix. Also *assist* has two vowels whereas the others have three.

Question 15. Answer Option D. Gloves worn on the hand—others on the foot.

Question 16. Answer Option C. The others are names of meat—pig is an animal. Lamb and mutton are used for the meat of sheep.

Question 17. Answer Option C. A vet treats animals—others people.

Question 18. Answer Option B. Shrivel is the opposite of the other words.

Question 19. Answer Option C. Split is the opposite of the other words.

Question 20. Answer Option B. Trite is the opposite of the other words.

Question 21. Answer Option D. Cambodia is a country (capital Phnom Penh) while the others are capitals of countries.

Question 22. Answer Option A. Bamboo is a plant (grass family) whereas the others are trees.

Question 23. Answer Option D. Shamanism is a religion while other ‘isms’ are movements in art.

Question 24. Answer Option C. Other options are synonyms. C is the opposite of other options.

Question 25. Answer Option B. Epicurean is the opposite of the other words which mean moderate or restrained. Continent as an adjective means moderate.

Word List

A

Abase: (v.) to lower in rank, office, prestige, or esteem—I wouldn't *abase* myself by getting into an argument with him. Noun: abasement.

Abdicate: (v.) abdicate: to cast off; discard; to relinquish—He *abdicated* all responsibility for the work to his elder son. Noun: abdication.

Aberrant: (adj.) straying from the right or normal way; deviating from the usual or natural type; atypical—His *aberrant* behaviour after his failure worried his friends. Nouns: aberrant (person who behaves exhibits aberrant behaviour) aberrance; aberrancy.

Abeyance: (n.) a state of temporary suspension or inactivity—The plan was held in *abeyance* till the funds could be arranged.

Abnegation (n.) a denial; self-denial; *Abnegation* of responsibility is bringing with it the anarchy, chaos and violence in society.

Abrogate (v.) to cancel by authority—The treaty can be *abrogated* only by the President himself.

Abstemious (adj.): marked by restraint especially in the consumption of food or alcohol—The hermit led an *abstemious* way of life.

Abstruse (adj.) hard to understand; deep; recondite—The concept was too *abstruse* for the average student to grasp.

Acerbic (adj.) tasting sour; harsh in language or temper—The opposition party's *acerbic* comments about the Prime Minister was met with wide disapproval.

Acquiesce (v.) to agree without protest—The students *acquiesced* to the fee hike even though they were opposed to it.

Acrimony (n.): harsh or biting sharpness especially of words, manner, or disposition—There was too much *acrimony* between the brothers for the dispute to be solved amicably.

Adjure (v.) to command solemnly; to urge or advise earnestly; beg—The judge *adjured* the witness to speak honestly and truthfully.

Adroit (adj.) having or showing skill, cleverness, or resourcefulness in handling situations; clever; dexterous—His *adroit* handling of an awkward situation won him praise from everyone.

Aesthetic (adj.) of, relating to, or dealing with the beautiful *aesthetic theories*; artistic *a work of aesthetic value*; pleasing in appearance *aesthetic features*—His review made one wonder what kind of aesthetic taste the critic had.

Aggrandize (v.) to make more powerful; increase; enlarge—He exploited the situation to *aggrandize* himself.

Alacrity (n.) promptness in response; cheerful readiness—She accepted the invitation with *alacrity*.

Alleviate (v.) to relieve; lessen; to make (as suffering) more bearable. Her sympathy *alleviated* his distress

Altruism (n.) unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of—There are certainly people who take up causes that help people they have never met with pure *altruism*.

Ambivalent (adj.) simultaneous and contradictory attitudes or feelings (as attraction and repulsion) toward; continual fluctuation (as between one thing and its opposite); uncertainty as to which approach to follow—Many parents are *ambivalent* about giving their child a cell phone, worried that their child will spend all their time chatting to their friends.

Ameliorate (v.) to improve or make better- There are several biologically plausible reasons why zinc may help in *ameliorating* symptoms of the common cold.

Anachronism (n.) a chronological misplacing of persons, events, objects, or customs in regard to each other. The film about Ice Age had an *anachronism* in one of the frames with a car in the background.

Anoint (v.) to smear with ointment or apply an oily substance; choose by or as if by divine intervention—She was *anointed* the head of the Christian fundamentalist group.

Anomaly (n.) an oddity, inconsistency; a deviation from the norm—The defence lawyer pointed out a glaring *anomaly* in the evidence.

Antagonism (n.) hostility; opposition—The *antagonism* was created by a misunderstanding.

Antipathy (n.) a strong dislike or repugnance—She had an *antipathy* toward meat as she was a vegetarian.

Apocalypse (n) one of the Jewish and Christian writings of 200 BC to AD 150 marked by pseudonymity, symbolic imagery, and the expectation of an imminent cosmic cataclysm in which God destroys the ruling powers of evil and raises the righteous to life in a messianic kingdom; revelation; something viewed as a prophetic revelation; Armageddon—Science-fiction movies seem to relish apocalyptic visions—In the nuclear age, we live in the shadow of the *apocalypse*.

Apocryphal (adj.) counterfeit; of doubtful authorship or authenticity—Wildly *apocryphal* rumours about terrorist attacks raced through the city.

Arcane (adj.) obscure; mysterious; understood only by a few—The old men found the technical consultant's explanation of the problem *arcane*.

Archetype (n.) original pattern or model; prototype; a perfect example—Frankenstein, Dracula, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are the *archetypes* that have influenced many horror stories.

Assiduous (adj.) carefully attentive—She tended her garden with *assiduous* attention.

Assuage (v.) to relieve; ease; make less severe—Medication should *assuage* the pain.

Attenuate (v.) to thin out; to weaken- Medicine *attenuated* the fever's effect.

Austere (adj.) having a stern look; having strict self-discipline—Gandhiji led an *austere* life.

Avarice (n.) excessive or insatiable desire for wealth or gain; greediness—His *avarice* for money made him work long hours and without rest.

Azure (adj.) the clear blue colour of the sky—The *azure* sky made the picnic day perfect.

B

Baleful (adj.) harmful, malign, deadly or pernicious in influence; foreboding evil—The Florida eagles have a fierce *baleful* look.

Banal (adj.) trite; without freshness or originality—this is the hundredth Hindi film that I have seen with the *banal* tale of unrequited love.

Baneful (adj.) deadly or causing distress; seriously harmful—He was ruined by the *baneful* habit of cocaine.

Bastion (n.) a fortified place or strong defence—The strength of the *bastion* saved the soldiers inside of it.

Batten (v.) to grow fat; to feed gluttonously; to grow prosperous especially at the expense of another—Politicians *batten* themselves on the helpless.

Bellicose (adj.) quarrelsome; warlike—The *bellicose* guest would not be invited back again.

Beneficent (adj.) doing or producing good: especially, performing acts of kindness and charity—He is a *beneficent* person, always helping people in need.

Berate (v.) scold; reproach; criticize—The child was *berated* by the parents for telling lies.

Bilateral (adj.) having two sides; affecting reciprocally two nations or parties—The *bilateral* agreement between the neighbouring countries prevented war between them at all times.

Blasphemous (adj.) irreligious; away from acceptable standards; speaking ill of using profane language—The upper-class parents thought that it was *blasphemous* for their son to marry a waitress.

Blatant (adj.) obvious; unmistakable; crude; vulgar—She broke down at his words uttered with *blatant* disregard for a person's feelings.

Bode (v.) foretell; to indicate by signs; presage—The controversy about who should be chief *bodes* ill for both of the candidates.

Boor (n.) a rude person—The not invited, the boor turned up for the party.

Broach (v.) to open up (a subject) for discussion, to make known for the first time—We *broached* our plans for the new year.

Brusque (adj.) abrupt in manner or speech- His *brusque* answer was neither acceptable nor polite.

Bucolic (adj.) relating to or typical of rural life—The *bucolic* setting inspired the artist.

Burgeon (v.) to grow or develop quickly—Many people view the quickly *burgeoning* population of the cities as a problem.

Burlesque (n.) a literary or dramatic work that seeks to ridicule by means of grotesque

exaggeration or comic imitation; a mockery—The antics of the defence attorneys turned the trial into a *burlesque* of justice.

Burly (adj.) strong; bulky; muscular—Her bodyguard was a *burly* man.

C

Cache (n.) a hiding place for goods—The *cache* of arms was hidden under the bed.

Cacophony (n.) a harsh and discordant sounds; dissonance—Rock music was termed by his grandfather as mere *cacophony*.

Cajole (v.) to persuade with flattery or gentle urging; to deceive with soothing words or false promises—The contractor resorted to lies in order to *cajole* the disgruntled workers back to work.

Callow (adj.) lacking adult sophistication; immature—Although the girl could be considered an adult, the action was very *callow*.

Calumny (n.) a misrepresentation intended to blacken another's; slander—It is pure *calumny* to say that the tribal worship their idols in a way any different from ours.

Canard (n.) false or unfounded report or story—The ruling coalition is trying to prove that the scam was a *canard* contrived by the opposition.

Caprice (n.) a sudden, impulsive, and seemingly unmotivated notion or action; a sudden usually unpredictable condition, change, or series of changes—I'm tired of the old man and his *caprices*.

Captious (adj.) disposed to find fault—A *captious* attitude often causes difficulties in a relationship.

carte blanche (n.) unlimited authority—The interior designer was given *carte blanche* to do the house.

Castigate (v.) to punish through public criticism—The Minister *castigated* the bureaucrat for the delay in the implementation of the scheme.

Cataclysm (n.) flood, deluge, catastrophe; an event that brings great changes—The stress of puberty is the most intense natural *cataclysm* that a growing child has to undergo.

Catharsis (n.) a purging or relieving of the body or mind—The city may be in mourning, but the numerous prayers and candlelight vigils help provide some emotional *catharsis*.

Censure (v.) to criticize or disapprove of—He was *censured* by his employers for the impolite behavior with a client.

Chafe (v.) to annoy, to irritate; to wear away or make sore by rubbing—His constant teasing *chafed* her.

Chagrin (n.) disquietude or distress of mind caused by humiliation, disappointment, or failure—To her *chagrin*, the party ended just as she arrived.

Chicanery (n.) trickery or deception—The swindler seemed to be well-trained in *chicanery*.

Chimera (n.) an impossible fancy—Perhaps he saw a flying saucer, but perhaps it was only a *chimera*.

Circumspect (adj.) careful considering all circumstances and possible consequences; prudent—After the first failure they became *circumspect* in all their decisions.

Cogent (adj.) appealing forcibly to the mind or reason convincing—The lawyer made a *cogent* and compelling presentation of the case in favour of the defendant.

Cogitate (v.) to think hard; ponder; meditate—It is necessary to *cogitate* on decisions which affect life goals.

Cognitive (adj.) possessing the power to think; capable of perception—An estimated 23% of people over 65 years of age suffer from mild *cognitive* impairment.

Cohesion (n.) the act of holding together; unity—The staff lacked *cohesion* in pursuing the common goals of the company.

Commiserate (v.) to show sympathy for—When I lost, she *commiserated* over my failure.

Complacent (adj.) content; self-satisfied; smug—He had become *complacent* after years of success.

Complaisance (n.) the quality of being agreeable or eager to please—The *complaisant* waiter was in no hurry for us to leave.

Conceit (n.) an exaggerated personal opinion—The film star's belief that he was the most popular actor in the industry was pure *conceit*.

Conciliatory (adj.) reconciling, appeasing—The two neighbouring nations never seem to find any *conciliatory* ground between them .

Conclave (n.) any private meeting or closed assembly—The *conclave* was to meet outside the city.

Connoisseur (n.) expert; authority (usually refers to a wine or food expert)—Let him choose the wine—he's the *connoisseur*.

Consecrate (v.) to declare sacred; to dedicate—The park was *consecrated* to the memory of the missing soldiers.

Consternation (n.) amazement or dismay that hinders or throws into confusion—The two friends stared at each other in *consternation*, and neither knew what to do

Contiguous (adj.) being in actual contact: touching along a boundary or at a point—Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan are *contiguous* States.

Contravene (v.) to act contrary to; to oppose or contradict—the management cannot frame rules that *contravene* the law of the state.

Contrite (adj.) regretful; sorrowful; having repentance—The *contrite* man apologized profusely.

Conundrum (n.) a puzzle or riddle—I spent two hours trying to figure out the *conundrum*.

Corroborate (v.) to support with evidence; confirm—The account given by the accused was not *corroborated* by the statement of the witnesses.

Covenant (n.) a binding and solemn agreement—With the exchange of vows, the *covenant* was complete.

Cower (v.) to huddle and tremble—The hostages *cowered* in their seats.

Culpable (adj.) deserving blame; guilty—She was the one who committed the crime but he was *culpable* also

Curmudgeon (n.) an ill-tempered person—The *curmudgeon* asked the children not to play near his house.

Cursory (adj.) rapidly and often superficially performed; hasty—A *cursory* reading of the report convinced him about her involvement in the crime.

Cynic (n.) a faultfinding captious critic; one who believes that human conduct is motivated wholly by self-interest—A *cynic* might see this charity drive as simply a ploy to make us part with more money.

D

Dauntless (adj.) fearless; not discouraged—The *dauntless* firefighters rescued the child.

Debacle (n.) disaster; collapse; a rout—The new regulations by the SEBI are meant to prevent another *debacle* in the stock markets.

Debase (v.) to make lower in quality—People from the North complain that people in Mumbai have *debased* the Hindi language.

Debauchery (n.) extreme indulgence in sensuality—It suits you so badly- all this *debauchery*, dissipation, and the rest of it.

Debilitate (v.) to enfeeble; to wear out—The prolonged illness *debilitated* him to the point that he was unable to walk.

Decadence (n.) a decline in morals or art; implies a reaching and passing the peak of development and a turn downward with a consequent loss in vitality or energy—Love of luxury as a sign of cultural *decadence*.

Decry (v.) to denounce or condemn openly—The critics *decried* the film for its lack of technical skill.

Deferential (adj.) respect and esteem due a superior or an elder; affected or ingratiating regard for another's wishes—The student was polite and *deferential* while speaking to his professor.

Deleterious (adj.) harmful; hurtful; noxious—*Deleterious* fumes escaped from the overturned truck carrying chemicals.

Delineate (v.) to outline; to describe—the Minister *delineated* the steps taken by the government to control prices.

Demur (v.; n.) to delay, hesitate—She hated air travel, so when the subject of the vacation came up she *demurred*.

Deprecate (v.) to express disapproval of; to protest against—The environmentalists *deprecated* the cutting down of trees for the new road.

Desultory (adj.) moving in a random, directionless manner—Most of the audience felt that his speech was *desultory*.

Determinate (adj.) distinct limits—The new laws were very *determinate* as far as what was allowed and what was not allowed.

Dexterous (adj.) skillful, quick mentally or physically; clever—The batsman showed *dexterous* ingenuity with the bat.

Diatribes (n.) a bitter or abusive speech—Graceless in loss, he burst into a *diatribe* against his rivals when he lost the championship.

Didactic (adj.) instructive; dogmatic; preachy—Our teacher's *didactic* technique boosted our scores.

Dilettante (n.) an admirer of the fine arts; a dabbler; an amateur—Though she played the piano like a professional, she was merely a *dilettante*.

Disarray (n.) (state of) disorder—The thief left the house in *disarray*.

Discreet (adj.) showing good judgment in conduct; prudent—I told her about my affair, because I could trust her to be *discreet*.

Discrete (adj.) separate; individually distinct; composed of distinct parts—these are two *discrete* issues; they need to be discussed separately.

Disdain (n.) intense dislike; look down upon; scorn—The problem with my friend is that if I don't agree with him, he shows great *disdain* for me.

Disingenuous (adj.) not frank or candid; deceptively simple—His answers are always *disingenuous*; you cannot make out what he really means.

Disinterested (adj.) neutral; unbiased—His decision will be fair to everyone as he is the most *disinterested* party in this controversy.

Disparage (v.) to belittle; undervalue; to discredit—She *disparaged* her student's efforts in the event when she took the credit for its success all for herself.

Disparate (adj.) unequal; dissimilar; different—He and his poor friend come from starkly *disparate* backgrounds.

Dissemble (v.) to pretend; to feign; to conceal by pretense—The man dissembled his assets to avoid paying *taxes*.

Distension (n.) inflation or extension—The wooden table *distended* and lost shape after being left in the rain.

Dither (v.) to act indecisively; a confused condition—She *dithered* every time she had to make a decision.

Dogmatic (adj.) stubborn; biased; opinionated—When the professor became too *dogmatic* in his speech, the students began to leave his lectures.

Dormant (adj.) as if asleep—They say that only one third of one's vocabulary is active; two third is *dormant*.

Doughty (adj.) brave and strong—The *doughty* fireman saved the woman's life.

Duplicity (n.) deception—She broke up with him for his *duplicity*.

Duress (n.) imprisonment; the use of threats—The convict pleaded in the court that his confession to the police was made under *duress*.

E

Ebullience (n.) an overflowing of high spirits; effervescence—She *emanated* ebullience as she learnt about her first rank in the exam.

Eclectic (adj.) selecting what appears to be best in various doctrines, methods, or styles; composed of elements drawn from various sources—To be good in reading Comprehension your reading should be *eclectic*.

Edify (v.) to build or establish; to instruct and improve the mind; enlighten—The students found their philosophy professor's lectures to be *edifying*.

Efface (v.) to erase; to make inconspicuous—Daylight *effaced* the stars.

Effrontery (n.) arrogance—The *effrontery* of the young man was offensive.

Effusive (adj.) pouring out or forth; overflowing—The *effusive* currents rush through the broken dam.

Egress (n.) a way out; exit—The doorway provided an *egress* from the chamber.

Ellipsis (n.) omission of words that would make the meaning clear—The accidental *ellipsis* confused all those who heard the speech.

Elucidate (v.) to make clear; to explain—The first sentence of the chapter *elucidated* its purpose.

Elusive (adj.) hard to catch—The thief proved to be too *elusive* for the police, they could never catch him.

Emanate (v.) to emit—Thick smoke *emanated* from the building that was on fire.

Embellish (v.) to make beautiful with ornamentation; decorate—His fanciful account that *embellishes* the true story.

Encomium (n.) formal expression of high praise—The actor's speech was along *encomium* for his producer and director as he received the award.

Encumber (v.) to hold back; to hinder; to burden, weigh down—His was a life that has always been *encumbered* with responsibilities.

Endemic (adj.) native to a particular area; constantly present in a particular country or locality—The *endemic* fauna was of great interest to the anthropologist.

Enervate (v.) to weaken; to deprive of nerve or strength—The sickness *enervates* its victims completely.

Engender (v.) to cause to exist; produce—The group attempted to *engender* changes to the law.

Enigmatic (adj.) baffling—The *enigmatic* murder puzzled the detective.

Ennui (n.) boredom; apathy—*Ennui* set in when the children had broken all the toys.

Ephemeral (adj.) very short-lived; lasting only a short time—His happiness was always *ephemeral* as he lived alone; it was soon replaced by boredom.

Epicure (n.) a person who has good taste in food and drink—As an *epicure*, he visits only the best restaurants in town.

Epitome (n.) model; typical or ideal example—The student chosen to represent the school was the *epitome* of dedication and excellence.

Equivocal (adj.) doubtful; uncertain—His *equivocal* behavior increased the uneasiness.

Erudite (adj.) learned, having a wide knowledge acquired through reading—He was *erudite* scholar in philosophy.

Eschew (v.) to shun; to avoid—Gandhiji exhorted people to *eschew* violence.

Esoteric (adj.) understood by only a chosen few; confidential—The *esoteric* language was only known by the select group.

Evanescent (adj.) vanishing quickly; dissipating like a vapor—The *evanescent* mirage could only be seen at a certain angle.

Exculpate (v.) to free from guilt—Though he was innocent he did not try to *exculpate* from the crime he was charged with.

Exhume (v.) to unearth; to reveal—The scientists *exhumed* the body from the grave to test the body's DNA.

Exigent (adj.) a situation calling for immediate attention—The *exigent* request for more assistance was answered quickly.

Exonerate (v.) to declare or prove blameless—Hopefully, the judge will *exonerate* you of any wrongdoing.

Expedient (adj.) convenient in obtaining a result; guided by self-interest—To drop the case against the minister was politically *expedient* decision.

Expedite (v.) to hasten the action of—We can *expedite* the transaction if we tell them it is an emergency.

F

Facetious (adj.) joking in an awkward or improper manner—When I called you a fool, I'm sure you realized I was only being very *facetious*.

Fallible (adj.) liable to be mistaken or erroneous—The sick man kept repeating that he was in the hands of God, not *fallible* human doctors.

Fanatic (n.) enthusiast; extremist—The terrorist group was comprised of *fanatics*.

Fastidious (adj.) difficult to please; dainty—The *fastidious* girl would not accept any offers as suitable.

Fathom (v.) to understand—It was difficult to *fathom* why he sold his business.

Fatuous (adj.) lacking in seriousness; vain and silly—This is going to sound completely *fatuous*, but it's my honest answer.

Fecund (adj.) productive; fertile; prolific—Zebrafish are highly *fecund* -each female is capable of laying 200 eggs per clutch.

Feign (v.) pretend- It is not uncommon for a child to *feign* illness in order to stay home from school.

Ferret (v.) to force out of hiding; to search for—The police will *ferret* the fugitive out of his hiding place.

Fetish (n.) anything to which one gives excessive devotion; fixation—She has made a *fetish* of cleanliness, cleaning her house several times a day.

Finesse (n.) the ability to handle situations with skill and diplomacy—She managed that situation with great *finesse*.

Flaccid (adj.) lacking firmness—His muscles have become completely *flaccid*.

Flagrant (adj.) glaringly wrong—The *flagrant* foul during the game was apparent to everyone.

Flamboyant (adj.) being too showy or ornate—They were all very *flamboyant* women, very well dressed with lots of jewelry.

Flippant (adj.) talkative; disrespectful—The teacher became upset with the flippant answer from the student.

Flux (n.) a flow; a continual change—Fashion is always in a state of *flux*.

Foray (v.) to raid for spoil; a venture or an initial attempt outside one's usual area—An actor's *foray* into politics.

Forbearance (n.) patience; self-restraint—He exhibited remarkable *forbearance* when his boss insulted him in public.

Forensic (adj.) belonging to, used in, or suitable to courts of judicature or to public discussion and debate; argumentative; rhetorical; relating to or dealing with the application of scientific knowledge to legal problems *forensic medicine forensic science forensic pathologist forensic experts*—The *forensic* squad dealt with the legal investigation.

Fortitude (n.) firm courage; strength—He showed great *fortitude* during his long illness

Fortuitous (adj.) happening accidentally—His *fortuitous* meeting with his friend proved lucky for him.

Fractious (adj.) rebellious; apt to quarrel—*Fractious* siblings aggravate their parents.

Frenetic (adj.) frenzied—The police received a *frenetic* call from the scene of the crime.

Forward (adj.) not willing to yield or comply with what is reasonable—The executive had to deal with a *froward* peer who was becoming increasingly difficult.

Fulminate (v.) to blame, denunciate—The social activist in his speech *fulminated* against political chicanery.

Furtive (adj.) secretive; sly—He cast a *furtive* glance in her direction.

G

Gaffe (n.) a blunder—Calling his fiancée by the wrong name was a huge *gaffe*.

Gainsay (v.) to speak against; to contradict; to deny—During the group discussion, he tried to *gainsay* me, but I was well prepared with facts.

Galvanize (v.) to stimulate as if by electric shock; startle; excite—The group is trying to *galvanize* support for the victimized woman.

Gamut (n.) a complete range; any complete musical scale—SRK's roles in films run the entire *gamut* of villain to superhero to comedian.

Garish (adj.) gaudy, showy—The gold fixtures seemed *garish*.

Garner (v.) to gather up and store; to collect—The squirrels *garnered* nuts for the winter.

Garrulous (adj.) extremely talkative or wordy—He became more *garrulous* after drinking a couple of beer.

Gauche (adj.) awkward; lacking social grace—Would it be *gauche* of me to ask her how old she is?

Gauntlet (n.) a protective glove—The *gauntlet* saved the man's hand from being burned in the fire. (An open challenge (as to combat) —used in phrases like *throw down the gauntlet*)

Genre (adj.) designating a type of film or book—The *genre* of the book is popular science.

Germane (adj.) pertinent; related; to the point—My personal opinion isn't *germane* to our discussion of the facts of the case.

Gerrymander (v.) to gain advantage by manipulating unfairly—To *gerrymander* during negotiations is considered unfair.

Glib (adj.) smooth and slippery; speaking or spoken in a smooth manner—The salesman was so *glib* that the customers failed to notice the defects in the product.

Glutton (n.) overeater—He is such a *glutton* that he ate the whole cake.

Gourmand (n.) on who is excessively fond of eating and drinking:—He is such a *gourmand* that he vacationed to Europe every year just for the wine.

Grandiose (adj.) magnificent; flamboyant—He was always full of *grandiose* ideas.

Gregarious (adj.) fond of the company of others—She is outgoing and *gregarious*.

Guile (n.) slyness; deceit—By using his *guile*, the gambler almost always won at the card table.

Gullible (adj.) easily fooled—They sell overpriced items to *gullible* tourists.

H

Hackneyed (adj.) lacking in freshness or originality; commonplace; trite—It may be *hackneyed*, but it is true that the harder you work, the luckier you get.

Haggard (adj.) untamed; having a worn look- She looked tired and *haggard* after the illness.

Halcyon (adj.) tranquil; happy—I keep remembering the *halcyon* years of growing up in a village.

Hapless (adj.) unlucky; unfortunate—The injured and *hapless* captain could not lead the team to victory.

Harangue (v.) a speech addressed to a public assembly; a ranting speech or writing—The chief guest launched into a long *harangue* about the evils of pop culture.

Harbinger (n.) forerunner; indication—The new year was seen as a *harbinger* of better times.

Haughty (adj.) proud of oneself and scornful of others—The *haughty* ways she displayed her work turned off her peers.

Hedonistic (adj.) living for pleasure—Their vacation to Switzerland turned to be *hedonistic* adventure.

Hegemony (n.) dominance, especially of one nation over others—Colonization was an example of imposing British *hegemony* over other regions.

Heresy (n.) opinion contrary to popular belief or ideology—The fact that the earth is round was considered *heresy* at one time.

Hiatus (n.) interval; break; period of rest—Summer vacation provided a much-needed *hiatus* for the students.

Hierarchy (n.) a system of persons or things arranged according to rank—When I joined the company I was at the bottom of the *hierarchy*.

Homily (n.) solemn moral talk; sermon- We listened to another one of his *homilies* about the value of public service.

Hubris (n.) arrogance—His failure in life was brought on by his *hubris*.

Histrionic (adj.) theatrical—She had a tendency to throw things, bang doors, and other *histrionic* displays of temper

Holocaust (n.) destruction by fire—We live in the shadow of a nuclear *holocaust*

Horticulture (n.) the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants—Women constitute the majority of workers in African export *horticulture*.

Humane (adj.) marked by kindness or consideration—It is not *humane* to treat animals that way.

Husbandry (n.) frugality; thrift; *also* agriculture—In accordance with his practice of good *husbandry*, he never buys anything on credit.

Hybrid (n.) anything of mixed origin—The flower was a *hybrid* of three different flowers.

Hyperbole (n.) an exaggeration, not to be taken seriously—The snake in the garden was 20 feet long, he said with a measure of *hyperbole*.

Hypochondriac (n.) person unduly worried about his health; worrier without cause about illness—My brother is a real *hypochondriac*. Every time he reads about some new disease, he thinks he has it.

I

Iconoclast (n.) one who destroys revered images; an attacker of cherished beliefs—High criticism of the government, religion, and custom made him an *iconoclast*.

Idiosyncrasy (n.) any personal peculiarity, mannerism—Her tendency to bite her nails is an *idiosyncrasy*.

Imbue (v.) to soak or stain; permeate—The values that he had *imbued* from education remained with him all his life.

Immaculate (adj.) perfectly clean; correct; pure—He always dressed *immaculately*.

Imminent (adj.) likely to happen without delay—The clouds signaled the *imminent* rains.

Immutable (adj.) unchangeable; permanent—Nature's laws are *immutable*.

Impasse (n.) a situation that has no solution or escape; deadlock—An arbitrator is necessary to break the *impasse* in the negotiations.

Impassive (adj.) showing no emotion—The culprit remained *impassive* throughout the trial.

Impecunious (adj.) poor; having no money—They were *impecunious* and did not buy any gift for the host.

Impede (v.) to stop the progress of; obstruct—The rain *impeded* the work on the building.

Impenitent (adj.) without regret, shame, or remorse—His *impenitent* remark proved that he did not regret the crime.

Imperious (adj.) arrogant; urgent—Her *imperious* manner cost her all her friends.

Imperturbable (adj.) calm; not easily excited—He remained *imperturbable* throughout the argument.

Impervious (adj.) impenetrable; not allowing anything to pass through; unaffected—The politician wore a vest that was *impervious* to bullets.

Impetuous (adj.) moving with great force; done with little thought—The young man had an *impetuous* temperament.

Impiety (n.) irreverence toward God; lack of respect—Gandhiji considered all forms of violence as *impiety*.

Implacable (adj.) unwilling to be pacified or appeased—She was *implacable* after she heard the news about her friend's accident.

Imprecate (v.) to pray for evil; to invoke a curse—Witches are known to *imprecate* people through a curse.

Impromptu (adj.) without preparation—His witty *impromptu* dialogues entertained everyone.

Improvident (adj.) not providing for the future—An *improvident* person may end up destitute in latter life.

Impudent (adj.) disrespectful and shameless—*Impudent* actions caused him to be unpopular.

Impugn (v.) to attack with words; to question the truthfulness or integrity—He *impugned* his rival's character.

Imputation (n.) to charge, to attribute a fault or misconduct to another—I resent the *imputation* that I am nice to her because she has money.

Inadvertent (adj.) not on purpose; unintentional—It was an *inadvertent* error on my part.

Inchoate (adj.) not yet fully formed; rudimentary—The outline of the thesis was the *inchoate* form of a very complex theory.

Incisive (adj.) getting to the heart of things; to the point—She's known for her *incisive* mind and quick wit.

Incognito (adj.) unidentified; disguised; concealed—The actor preferred to travel *incognito*.

Incredulous (adj.) skeptical—Many people were *incredulous* that the investigating agency could not identify the murderer.

Inculcate (v.) to impress upon the mind, as by insistent urging—A mother tries to *inculcate* good habits in her child.

Incursion (n.) an entry into, especially when not desired—The Air-force does not allow any *incursion* into the country's air space.

Indelible (adj.) that which cannot be blotted out or erased—The stories that his grandmother told him left an *indelible* impression on his mind.

Indemnify (v.) to insure against or pay for loss or damage—It is important to *indemnify* your valuables with an insurance company.

Indict (v.) charge with a crime—The court *indicted* him for theft.

Indigence (n.) the condition of being poor—The family's *indigence* was obvious in the way they lived.

Indigenous (adj.) native to a region; inborn or innate—The plants are *indigenous* to the Deccan Plateau.

Indignant (adj.) expressing anger to an injustice—He was *indignant* over the way he was treated.

Indolent (adj.) lazy; inactive—The *indolent* man slept all day.

Indomitable (adj.) not easily discouraged or defeated—Though injured his *indomitable* spirit helped him win the match, even against unbearable pain.

Indubitable (adj.) unquestionable; sure—The student was the *indubitable* leader of the group.

Ineluctable (adj.) something inevitable—The sick man was preparing for the *ineluctable* death.

Ingenious (adj.) clever, resourceful—His *ingenious* ideas helped to market the product well.

Ingenuous (adj.) showing innocent or childlike simplicity and candidness; lacking craft or subtlety—The child's *ingenuous* admission of guilt touched everyone's heart.

Ingratiate (v.) to bring into one's good graces—The man was hoping to *ingratiate* himself with his boss by enquiring after his children. .

Inimical (adj.) hostile, unfriendly—When I mentioned her boyfriend, she gave me an *inimical* stare.

Iniquitous (adj.) wicked; unjust—The insult to the man was truly *iniquitous*.

Innate (adj.) natural; inborn—She has an *innate* talent for art.

Innocuous (adj.) harmless; dull; innocent—His comment about the professor was inappropriate but *innocuous*.

Innuendo (n.) an indirect remark; insinuation—The office was rife with *innuendo* that a takeover was in the works.

Insinuate (v.) to work into gradually and indirectly—He was *insinuating* the need for a break by saying that they must be tired.

Insipid (adj.) uninteresting, boring flat, dull—Many people left the *insipid* movie before it was finished.

Insolvent (adj.) unable to pay debts—Unable to pay off his debts he declared himself *insolvent*.

Insular (adj.) having the characteristics of an island; narrow-minded, provincial—The *insular* community was not receptive to new ideas.

Intercede (v.) to plead on behalf of another; mediate—India does not want any nation to *intercede* between Pakistan and India.

Intermittent (adj.) periodic; occasional—The patient experienced *intermittent* pain in the chest.

Intractable (adj.) stubborn, obstinate; not easily taught or disciplined—Every teacher in the school became frustrated with the *intractable* student and sent him to the principal's office.

Intransigent (adj.) uncompromising—She was *intransigent*; no argument could change her mind.

Intrepid (adj.) fearless, bold—The *intrepid* reporter went right to the scene of the battle during the war.

Inundate (v.) to flood; to overwhelm with a large amount of—After the show's success he was *inundated* by congratulatory calls.

Inured (adj.) accustomed to pain—The common man has become *inured* to constant price rise in commodities.

Inveterate (adj.) a practice settled on over a long period of time—He is an *inveterate* liar.

Irascible (adj.) prone to anger—He has an *irascible* disposition.

Itinerary (n.) travel plan; schedule; course—Their trip's *itinerary* was disrupted by unexpected bad weather.

J

Jaded (adj.) worn-out—The people are *jaded* by the number of scams in the government.

Jargon (n.) incoherent speech; specialized vocabulary in certain fields—The doctor spoke in *medical jargon* which we could not understand.

Jeopardy (n.) danger; peril—The firefighters routinely put their lives into *jeopardy*.

Jettison (v.) to throw overboard goods to lighten a vehicle; to discard—With his ship rapidly sinking, the captain ordered a last-ditch *jettison* of much of its cargo.

Jingoism (n.) extreme chauvinism or nationalism marked especially by a belligerent foreign policy—When the war began many people were caught up in a wave of *jingoism*.

Judicious (adj.) to have or show sound judgment—*Judicious* planning now can prevent problems later.

Juggernaut (n.) irresistible crushing force—There was no escaping the *juggernaut* of hype for the film maker's biggest summer blockbuster

Juncture (n.) critical point; meeting—Negotiations between the countries reached a critical *juncture*.

Junket (n.) trip, especially one taken for pleasure by an official at public expense—The minister was criticized for his expensive *junkets* to foreign countries.

Junta (n.) group of persons joined in political intrigue; cabal—Although the country is very strictly ruled by a military *junta*, people are allowed to attend church.

Juxtapose (v.) place side-by-side—In the film, scenes of extravagance were often *juxtaposed* with scenes of scarcity.

K

Kleptomania (n.) an abnormal, persistent impulse or tendency to steal, not prompted by need—The film star caught shoplifting admitted that he was suffering from *kleptomania*.

Knavery (n.) a dishonest act—The teacher made it clear no *knavery* will be tolerated in the school.

Knead (v.) mix; massage— After mixing the ingredients, she *kneaded* the dough and set it aside to rise.

Knotty (adj.) to be puzzling or hard to explain—In the group discussion, the candidates cautiously gave their views on an array of *knotty* issues.

L

Labyrinth (n.) maze; something extremely complex or tortuous in structure—The culture that I grew up in was a *labyrinth* of customs and rules.

Lacerate (v.) to tear or rend roughly; to cause sharp mental or emotional pain to; distress—The broken glass *lacerated* his feet.

Laconic (adj.) sparing of words; terse, pithy—He was generally *laconic*, but always to the point.

Laggard (n.; adj.) a person who has fallen behind; moving slowly—I hate being stuck behind *laggard* motorists on the highway.

Lambaste (v.) to scold or beat harshly—His father *lambasted* him for failing in his exams.

Lament (v.; n.) to mourn or grieve; expression of grief or sorrow—The boy is *lamenting* the loss of his book.

Languid (adj.) lacking vitality; indifferent—The *languid* student was always late to class.

Larceny (n.) theft; stealing—He was found guilty of *larceny* for stealing from a shop.

Lascivious (adj.) indecent; immoral; involves lust—He was dismissed from his job for making *lascivious* comments to a female co-worker.

Lassitude (n.) a state of being tired or listless—*Lassitude* set in after they had worked for several continuous days.

Latency (n.) a period of inactivity—The buds went from *latency* to full bloom in a few days.

Laud (v.) praise—He *lauded* his daughter for winning the trophy.

Lecherous (adj.) impure in thought and act—The men at the bar were *lecherous* and were looking for some action

Lethargic (adj.) lazy; passive—Feeling very *lethargic*, he watched television or slept the whole day.

Levity (n.) lack of seriousness; instability—The teacher did not *tolerate* any sign of levity during the class.

Lewd (adj.) lustful; wicked—The comment was so *lewd* it could not be repeated in front of children.

Liaison (n.) connection; link—The union leader served as a *liaison* between the management and the workers.

Licentious (adj.) morally lacking in restraint—The culture in the entertainment industry is seen to be *licentious* and corrupt.

Lithe (adj.) easily bent; pliable; supple—A gymnast needs to be *lithe*.

Livid (adj.) discoloured, as if bruised; extremely angry; furious—the boss was *livid* when yet another deadline was missed.

Loquacious (adj.) very talkative; garrulous—The radio jockey was a *loquacious* person.

Lucid (adj.) shiny; clear minded—The old man recognized his sons only in his *lucid* moments.

Lurid (adj.) glowing through haze; shocking, sensational—The tabloid was famous for *lurid* stories about celebrities.

Luxuriant (adj.) to grow with energy and in great abundance—She had a *luxuriant* garden in front of her house.

M

Magnanimity (n.; adj.) a quality of nobleness of mind, disdain of meanness or revenge; unselfish—The rich man was well known also for his *magnanimity* and his large contributions to charity.

Malediction (n.) putting a curse on someone; talking negatively about another—The two old women began cursing and heaping *maledictions* upon one another

Malefactor (n.) an evil person—She regards anyone who would cause the breakup of a family as a *malefactor* of the worst sort.

Malevolent (adj.) wishing evil (opposite: benevolent)—Hindi films are generally about the struggle between relentlessly *malevolent* villains on one side and faultless saints on the other.

Malingering (v.) to pretend to be ill in order to escape work—He will *malingering* on Friday so he can go to the movies.

Malleable (adj.) easy to shape or bend; pliable—Clay is *malleable*.

Mandate (n.) order; charge—The winning political party believed that it had been given a *mandate* for change.

Maudlin (adj.) foolishly and tearfully sentimental—He became *maudlin* and started crying like a child.

Maverick (n.) a person who does not conform to the norm—There's always one *maverick* who has to go his own way.

Meander (v.; adj.) wind, wander; winding, wandering aimlessly—The stream *meanders* through the valley.

Mellifluous (adj.) having a sweet sound—The *mellifluous* sound of the flute held the audience captive.

Menagerie (n.) a collection of wild or foreign animals kept especially for exhibition—The living room had a *menagerie* of glass animals.

Mendacious (adj.) given to or characterized by deception or falsehood or divergence from absolute truth—The newspaper story was *mendacious* and hurtful.

Mercenary (adj.) working or done for payment only; a soldier—It became apparent that his affection was pretended and he was taking care of us only for *mercenary* reasons.

Metamorphosis (n.) change of form—The caterpillar becomes a butterfly in a beautiful *metamorphosis*.

Meticulous (adj.) exacting; precise—The lab technicians must be meticulous in their measurements to obtain exact results.

Mien (n.) appearance, demeanor—The professor's *mien* suggested that she would not put up with nonsense.

Minatory (adj.) threatening—A *minatory* black ghost is said to haunt that house.

Misanthrope (n.) a person who distrusts everything; a hater of mankind—After the man swindled all of the woman's savings, she became a *misanthrope*.

Mitigate (v.) alleviate; lessen; soothe—Government has announced myriad schemes to *mitigate* the suffering of the poor.

Modulate (v.) to regulate or adjust; to vary the pitch—He *modulated* the knob until the heater was just the right temperature.

Mollify (v.) to soften; to make less intense—All attempts to *mollify* the extremists have failed

Moot (adj.) subject to or open for discussion or debate—Theorizing a work by such an emotive director is very tempting, but somewhat *moot*.

Mordant (adj.) cutting; sarcastic—Her *mordant* remark made me feel miserable.

Morose (adj.) moody, despondent—The fans were *morose* after the team lost.

Motif (n.) theme—The novel contained several recurring *motifs*.

Mundane (adj.) ordinary; commonplace—The city girls found the small town *mundane* and boring

Munificent (adj.) giving generously—The wealthy man made a *munificent* donation for the blind.

Myriad (n.) a large number—There are a *myriad* of options available to us.

N

Narcissism (n.) self-love, excessive interest in ones appearance, comfort, abilities, etc.—The *narcissistic* actor was difficult to get along with.

Nascent (adj.) starting to grow or develop—His singing career is still in its *nascent* stages.

Nebulous (adj.) unclear or vague—These philosophical concepts are *nebulous*.

Nefarious (adj.) morally bad; wicked—The criminals hatched *nefarious* scheme to cheat people out of their money.

Nemesis (n.) a person who inflicts just punishment; retribution; a rival—Batman is the Joker's main *nemesis* and always foils his wicked plots.

Neophyte (n.) beginner; newcomer—The *neophyte* dancer was overcome by the fast tempo.

Nettle (v.) annoy; irritate—The younger brother *nettled* his older sister until she slapped him.

Noisome (adj.) harmful to health; having a foul odor—*Noisome* garbage was strewn all over the street.

Nostalgia (adj.) longing for the past; homesickness—A wave of *nostalgia* swept over me when I saw my childhood home.

Noxious (adj.) harmful to one's health—The factory was shut down for releasing *noxious* waste into the river.

Nugatory (adj.) trifling; futile; insignificant—The book is entertaining, but its contributions to scholarship are *nugatory*.

O

Obdurate (adj.) stubborn- The *obdurate* child refused to take medicines.

Obeisance (n.) a gesture of respect or reverence—He touched the feet of the dead man paying *obeisance* to him.

Obfuscate (v.) to darken, confuse, bewilder—The explanation only helped to *obfuscate* and confuse the issue.

Obliterate (v.) destroy completely—The steep increase in property rates *obliterated* my plans of buying a house.

Obloquy (n.) widespread condemnation or abuse; disgrace or infamy resulting from this—the stranger became a victim of *obloquy* and hatred.

Obsequious (adj.) servilely attentive; fawning—He is *obsequious* to anyone in authority.

Obsolete (adj.) out of date—Cassettes have become *obsolete* with the popularity of compact discs and memory sticks.

Obtrude (v.) to force oneself or one's ideas upon another—Stop *obtruding* in others' affairs.

Obtuse (adj.) dull; slow to understand or perceive—he is too *obtuse* to take the hint.

Obviate (v.) to make unnecessary—Computers have *obviated* the use of typewriters.

Odious (adj.) hateful; disgusting—It was an *odious* and unforgivable insult.

Oligarchy (n.) form of government in which the supreme power is placed in the hands of a small, exclusive group—The *oligarchy* took control after the king was overthrown.

Ominous (adj.) being or exhibiting an omen—An *ominous* threat of war loomed over the standoff.

Omniscient (adj.) having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight—God is *omniscient*.

Opprobrious (adj.) abusive—Nobody liked working for him because he was so *opprobrious*.

Opulence (n.) wealth; fortune—In some parts of the city nearly unimaginable *opulence* can be found side by side with nearly unthinkable poverty.

Ostensible (adj.) apparent—The *ostensible* reason for the meeting turned out to be a trick to get him to the surprise party.

Ostentatious (adj.) being showy—He wears an ostentatious diamond ring on his little finger.

Ostracize (v.) to exclude—The students tend to ostracize the children they dislike.

P

Paean (n.) a song of praise or triumph; a work that praises or honors someone—His farewell party featured many *paean*s for his excellent service to the company

Palindrome (n.) a word or phrase which reads the same backwards and forwards—"Dad," and "Madam" are examples of *palindromes*.

Palpable (adj.) touchable; clear, obvious—I felt a *palpable* sense of relief.

Panegyric (n.) formal or elaborate praise—His *panegyric* of the opponent was met with widespread disapproval.

Paradigm (n.) model, prototype; pattern—James Joyce's *Ulysses* set a new *paradigm* for the novel.

Paraphernalia (n.) equipment; accessories—The soldiers carried the *paraphernalia* of war with them.

Pariah (n.) an outcast—The match fixing charges against the captain made him a pariah in the world of cricket.

Parochial (adj.) narrow-minded—The protest against the influx of people into cities is sometimes looked upon as the expression of a *parochial* attitude.

Parody (n.) a piece of work imitating another in a satirical manner—The film was a *parody* of the affairs of the actor himself.

Parsimonious (adj.) very frugal; unwilling to spend—The *parsimonious* customer argued that a hundred rupees was too much for a shirt.

Peccadillo (n.) a slight fault or offense—We need to at all times forgive a child's *peccadilloes*.

Pecuniary (adj.) pertaining to money—The company forbids giving or accepting *pecuniary* gifts.

Pedagogue (n.) a teacher—He considered his teacher a true *pedagogue*.

Pedantic (adj.) characterized by a narrow, often ostentatious concern for book learning and formal rules—The *pedantic* attention to details resulted in the students not getting the big picture.

Pejorative (adj.) making things worse—The *pejorative* comment deepened the dislike between the two.

Pellucid (adj.) transparent—The *pellucid* roof of the tent was not a shield from the sun.

Penchant (n.) a liking for—I have a *penchant* for vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce.

Penitent (adj.) feeling sorry for what one has done—The *penitent* man asked for forgiveness.

Pensive (adj.) reflective; contemplative—He was *pensive* and requested to be left alone.

Perfidious (adj.) faithless; treacherous—The business failed as one of the partners indulged in *perfidious* deals.

Perfunctory (adj.) done in a routine, mechanical way, without interest—He was bored with his job and did all his tasks *perfunctorily*.

Perjury (n.) the practice of lying—Lying while on the witness stand is *perjury*.

Pernicious (adj.) dangerous; harmful—She thinks television has a *pernicious* influence on our children.

Peruse (v.) to read carefully; to study—The letter stated all the facts of the case for his *perusal*.

Petulant (adj.) peevish; cranky; rude—The long illness put the boy in a *petulant* mood.

Philanthropy (n.) charity; unselfishness—Among the industrialist's *philanthropies* was a home for the blind.

Phlegmatic (adj.) without emotion or interest; sluggish and dull—The *phlegmatic* child rarely went outside to play.

Pique (n.) resentment at being slighted—He slammed the door in a fit of *pique*.

Pithy (adj.) terse and full of meaning—His comments are always *pithy*.

Placate (v.) to appease or pacify—The angry customer was not *placated* by the salesman's apology.

Placid (adj.) undisturbed and calm—In the morning the lake was *placid* and beautiful.

Plaintive (adj.) being mournful or sad—The song was *plaintive* and melodious.

Platonic (adj.) idealistic or impractical; not amorous or sensual—They had a *platonic* friendship, not a romantic one.

Plausible (adj.) probable; feasible—We could not find a *plausible* explanation for our failure.

Plethora (n.) a superabundance—He thought an MBA would open a *plethora* of options.

Ponderous (adj.) unwieldy from weight; dull or labored—the students fell asleep during the *ponderous* lecture.

Portend (v.) to be an omen of; signify—The thunder *portends* of an oncoming storm.

Pragmatic (adj.) matter-of-fact; practical—His *pragmatic* view comes from years of experience.

Precipitate (v.) to cause to happen; happening quickly—The insult to his wife *precipitated* the fight between them.

Precocious (adj.) developed or matured earlier than usual—The *precocious* eight year-old could write poems.

Presage (n.) an omen; a foreshadowing characteristic—The lull *presages* a storm.

Prescience (n.) knowing about something before it happens—My *prescience* that I would win came true.

Prevaricate (v.) to speak equivocally or evasively, i.e., to lie—When questioned about his affair, he began to *prevaricate*.

Pristine (adj.) primitive, pure, uncorrupted—My native village is still in its *pristine* condition.

Privy (adj.) private; confidential—He was one of a handful of people *privy* to the news of the pending merger.

Probity (n.) honesty—The defense lawyer questioned the *probity* of the witness

Proliferate (v.) to reproduce quickly—Rumors about the secret wedding of the celebrity *proliferated* on the Internet.

Prolific (adj.) producing fruit; marked by abundant inventiveness or productivity—Winston Churchill was a *prolific* writer too.

Propensity (n.) a natural tendency towards; bias—She has a *propensity* to hire men over women.

Propinquity (n.) closeness in time or place; closeness of relationship—The *propinquity* of the disasters put the community in chaos.

Propitiate (v.) to win the goodwill of—The superstitious community performed animal sacrifices to *propitiate* the gods.

Prosaic (adj.) tiresome; ordinary—He wanted to escape from his *prosaic* life of a farmer.

Proselytize (v.) to convert from one belief or religion to another—The preacher's efforts to *proselytize* the villagers were met with resistance.

Provincial (adj.) regional; unsophisticated—Accustomed to city life, he found his family back home too *provincial*.

Q

Quaff (v.) to drink deeply—We stopped at a bar and *quaffed* a few beers

Quagmire (n.) marshy land; a difficult, precarious, or entrapping position—The protracted custody dispute between the divorced couple became a judicial *quagmire*.

Quaint (adj.) old-fashioned; unusual; odd—The book describes the *quaint* customs of the natives.

Qualm (n.) sudden feeling of uneasiness or doubt—He accepted their offer without a *qualm*.

Quandary (n.) dilemma—I'm in a *quandary* about whether I should try to repair my stereo or buy a new one.

Quarantine (n.) isolation of a person or persons to prevent the spread of disease—The astronauts were put under *quarantine* when they returned.

Quiescent (adj.) inactive, at rest—On Sunday morning everyone is *quiescent*.

Quintessence (n.) the pure essence of anything—This scam is the *quintessence* of India's political class.

Quirk (n.) peculiar behaviour; startling twist—Wearing white shoes everyday is one of his *quirks*.

R

Rabid (adj.; n.) furious; going to extreme lengths in expressing or pursuing a feeling, interest, or opinion—He is a *rabid* supporter of the political party.

Raconteur (n.) a person who excels in telling stories—Apart from being good in his subject, our teacher is also an excellent *raconteur*.

Ramification (n.) the arrangement of branches; consequence—We should take into the account the *ramifications* of the decision.

Rampant (adj.) growing unchecked; widespread—Rumors were *rampant* about the imminent crash in the stock market.

Rancid (adj.) having a bad odor—Left out too long, the oil turned *rancid*.

Rancor (n.) strong ill will; enmity—*Rancor* filled every line that he wrote in the letter.

Ratify (v.) to make valid; confirm—The parliament *ratified* the new law.

Raucous (adj.) disagreeable to the sense of hearing; harsh; hoarse—The street was full of *raucous* protesters.

Rebuttal (n.) refutation—He noted the points made by his rival for a systematic *rebuttal* during the debate.

Recalcitrant (adj.) stubbornly rebellious—The *recalcitrant* girl did whatever the others did not want her to do.

Recidivism (n.) habitual or chronic relapse of criminal or antisocial offenses—The criminal was sent back to prison as he experienced several episodes of *recidivism*.

Recondite (adj.) hard to understand; concealed—Many quantum physics theories are *recondite*.

Recusant (adj.) disobedient of authority—A *recusant* attitude will lead to denial of privileges.

Refurbish (v.) to make new; renovate—He is *refurbishing* his old house.

Refute (v.) challenge; disprove—She *refuted* the allegations against her.

Reiterate (v.) to repeat—The teacher *reiterated* the instructions for those who may have not understood.

Relegate (v.) banish; put to a lower position—The British used to *relegate* political rebels to faraway islands.

Relinquish (v.) to let go; abandon—In the face of fierce criticism he *relinquished* his position.

Remonstrate (v.) to protest or object to—The public *remonstrated* against the faulty verdict in the murder case.

Renegade (n.) a person who abandons something; a traitor—The opposition welcomed into their fold the *renegade* from the ruling party.

Repast (n.) food that is eaten—She offered us a light *repast* before we set out on our trip.

Reprehend (v.) to criticize—Without exception, book reviewers *reprehended* the novel's tired plot.

Reproach (v.) to scold—The major *reproached* his troops for not following orders.

Reprobate (v.) to condemn strongly as unworthy, unacceptable, or evil—Without hesitation she *reprobated* such an indecent idea.

Reproof (n.) a rebuke—For all his hard work, all he got was a *reproof* of his efforts.

Repudiate (v.) to disown; to deny support for; reject; cancel—The offer was *repudiated* because of its cost.

Repugnant (adj.) inconsistent; offensive or repulsive—The walls were full of *repugnant* graffiti.

Resplendent (adj.) dazzling and shining—Her new diamond was *resplendent* in the sunshine.

Resurgent (adj.) rising or tending to rise again—A *resurgent* wave of enthusiasm erupted from the crowd.

Reticent (adj.) silent; reserved; shy—The *reticent* child played alone.

Retract (v.) to draw or take back—You should not *retract* from your commitments.

Reverie (n.) trance; dreamy—He was lost in a *reverie*.

Reville (v.) to be abusive in speech—It is not appropriate for a teacher to *revile* a student.

Rhetorical (adj.) having to do with verbal communication; artificial eloquence—In posing a *rhetorical* question, he hoped to get people thinking.

Ribald (adj.) vulgar joking or mocking—Some of the *ribald* scenes were removed from the movie.

Rudimentary (adj.) elementary—This class requires a *rudimentary* knowledge of number system.

Ruminate (v.) to consider carefully—He *ruminated* over the implications of their decision.

Rummage (v.) search thoroughly—He *rummaged* the attic for his coin collection.

Rustic (adj.) plain and unsophisticated; rural—The suburb has a *rustic* atmosphere.

S

Sagacious (adj.) wise—The old man gave *sagacious* advice.

Salient (adj.) noticeable; prominent—Her most *salient* feature is her dark eyes.

Salubrious (adj.) promoting good health—The *salubrious* air of the hills helped him recover from his illness.

Salutatory (adj.) of or containing greetings—The institute sent out *salutatory* letters to every student.

Sanguine (adj.) optimistic; cheerful; red—Her *sanguine* temperament was infectious.

Sarcasm (n.) ironic; bitter humor—His unhappiness was evident in the petty *sarcasms* that he resorted to in his speech.

Sardonic (adj.) having a sarcastic quality—H.L. Mencken was known for his *sardonic* writings on political figures.

Satire (n.) a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn—This novel is a political *satire*.

Saunter (v.) to walk at a leisurely pace; stroll—Not knowing what to do with his time, he *sauntered* into the park.

Savant (n.) one who is intelligent—He is a *savant* in the field of fuel cells.

Schism (n.) a division in an organized group—The issue exposed the *schism* between the members of the party.

Scourge (v.) to whip severely—The trainer will *scourge* the animal if it attacks someone.

Scrupulous (adj.) morally upright; careful—She is always *scrupulous* about her behavior and work

Scurrilous (adj.) vulgar—His *scurrilous* language offended everyone.

Sedition (n.) a revolt—The leaders of the tribal people were charged and arrested for *sedition*.

Sequester (v.) to separate or segregate—The suspects were *sequestered* in special room for identification by witnesses.

Serendipity (n.) making fortunate discoveries accidentally—They found each other by pure *serendipity*.

Servile (adj.) slavish; groveling—He maintained a *servile* attitude around people with money.

Sinuous (adj.) full of curves; twisting and turning—The mountain road was *sinuous* and dangerous.

Skeptic (n.) doubter—*Skeptics* have pointed out flaws in the theory.

Skulk (v.) to move secretly—The burglar *skulked* in the area observing each house.

Slander (v.) defame; maliciously misrepresent—The celebrity filed suit against the critic for *slander*.

Slovenly (adv.) sloppy—His teachers did not approve of his *slovenly* manner.

Sojourn (v.) to stay temporarily—The family will *sojourn* at their ancestral house.

Solace (n.) hope; comfort during a time of grief—When she was sad she found *solace* in her friend.

Solemn (adj.) marked by the invocation of a religious sanction; sublime—They made a *solemn* vow to love each other for ever.

Somber (adj.) gloomy—The sad story had put everyone in a *somber* mood.

Soporific (adj.) causing sleep—As the medicine was *soporific*, he avoided it while driving.

Sordid (adj.) filthy; base; vile—He shared the *sordid* details of his past.

Sovereign (adj.) supreme—It is the government's *sovereign* duty to protect the rights of its citizens. .

Specious (adj.) having a false look of truth or genuineness—We could see through his *specious* reasoning meant to deceive us.

Spurious (adj.) not genuine, false; bogus—The newspaper was notorious for *spurious* information.

Squalid (adj.) filthy; wretched (from squalor)—We were touched by the *squalid* conditions in the slum.

Stagnant (adj.) motionless—The *stagnant* water became breeding place for mosquitoes.

Staid (adj.) marked by self-control; serious—Were surprised by the joke form a usually *staid* professor.

Stigmatize (v.) to characterize or make as disgraceful—The pilferage she committed in her first job *stigmatized* her career.

Stoic (adj.) calm, indifferent to pleasure or pain—She bore the loss of her mother with *stoic* calm.

Stolid (adj.) showing no emotion—With a *stolid* expression, the man walked away from the confrontation.

Strident (adj.) harsh, loud—The procession raised *strident* slogans against the government.

Stupor (n.) a stunned or bewildered condition—The hit on the head sent him into a *stupor*.

Stymie (v.) to hinder or obstruct—My efforts were *stymied* by lack of funds.

Suave (adj.) effortlessly gracious—As a public relations officer he was *suave* in his dealings with others.

Subjugate (v.) to bring under control—The royal family *subjugated* the peasants.

Subsume (v.) to include within a larger group—Red, green, and yellow are *subsumed* under the term 'color'

Subtlety (n.) understatement; barely noticeable—Please state your demand clearly and do not resort to *subtleties*.

Succinct (adj.) clearly stated; characterized by conciseness—The speech was *succinct* yet emotional.

Succor (n.) aid; assistance—The government provided *succor* to the victims of the earthquake in the relief camps.

Supplant (v.) to take the place of—Can you *supplant* my position in the team if I cannot play?

Suppliant (adj.) asking earnestly and submissively—He said he was a *suppliant* sinner asking forgiveness from god.

Surreptitious (adj.) done secretly—She gave a *surreptitious* glance in his direction.

Susceptible (adj.) easily imposed; inclined—She is *susceptible* to all kinds of allergies.

Sycophant (n.) flatterer—He is *sycophantic* to anyone in authority.

Syllogism (n.) reasoning in order from general to particular; deductive reasoning—‘Every virtue is laudable; kindness is a virtue; therefore kindness is laudable’ is a *syllogism*.

Synergy (n) interaction of discrete agencies (as industrial firms), agents (as drugs), or conditions such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects—The *synergy* created by the merger is expected to reduce the cost of operations.

T

Tacit (adj.) not voiced or expressed—She felt that she had the *tacit* approval of her parents to marry her boyfriend.

Taciturn (adj.) inclined to silence; speaking little—Being *taciturn*, he never initiates a conversation.

Tawdry (adj.) cheap and gaudy in appearance or quality; ignoble—The celebrity’s personal life as reported in the tabloid was a *tawdry* affair.

Temerity (n.) foolhardiness; recklessness—He was punished for his *temerity*.

Tenacious (adj.) persistent—He was *tenacious* in his pleas; she finally agreed.

Tenet (n.) a principle accepted as authoritative—The *tenets* of socialism were explained in the book.

Tenuous (adj.) thin; weak—His claim to the ownership of property was *tenuous*.

Terrestrial (adj.) pertaining to the earth—Cows are *terrestrial* animals; fish are aquatic.

Timorous (adj.) lacking courage; timid—The *timorous* child hid behind his parents.

Tortuous (adj.) full of twists and turns—The *tortuous* path had too many hairpin turns.

Tractable (adj.) easily managed—He is very *tractable* child.

Tranquillity (n.) peace; stillness; harmony—The *tranquillity* of the sunset filled with joy.

Transpire (v.) to take place; come about—Tell me what *transpired* in that room.

Trenchant (adj.) cutting; keen or incisive words—He was a writer with *trenchant* wit.

Trepidation (n.) apprehension; uneasiness—He felt *trepidation* at agreeing to their proposal.

Truculent (adj.) fierce, savage, cruel—The dies hard fans became *truculent* and violent when their team lost.

Truncate (v.) to shorten by cutting—The session was *truncated* owing to lack of time.

Tumult (n.) a noisy commotion; disturbance—The teacher had to shout to be heard over the *tumult*.

Turbid (adj.) thick and dense; cloudy—The river turned *turbid* after the rains.

Turpitude (n.) vileness—Have you ever been arrested or convicted for an offense involving moral *turpitude*?

Tyranny (n.) absolute power; autocracy—The king sought an absolute *tyranny* over the colonies.

U

Ubiquitous (adj.) omnipresent; present everywhere—Nowadays, cell phones are *ubiquitous*.

Umbrage (n.) offense or resentment—The student took *umbrage* at the remark of his mentor.

Uncanny (adj.) of a strange nature; weird—She had an *uncanny* resemblance to someone I had seen before.

Undermine (v.) to weaken; often through subtle means—The scams have *undermined* people's confidence in the government.

Unequivocal (adj.) clear and unambiguous—It was an *unequivocal* mandate with 50-0 votes.

Ungainly (adj.) clumsy and unattractive—The *ungainly* man knocked over the expensive flower vase. .

Unobtrusive (adj.) out of the way; remaining quietly in the background—The shy man found an *unobtrusive* seat in the far corner of the room.

Upshot (n.) the final act or result—The *upshot* of the debate was that the bill would be released to the floor.

Urbane (adj.) cultured; suave; notably polite or polished in manner—He was the most *urbane* in the group of aristocrats.

Usurp (v.) to take something by force—I shall not allow him to *usurp* my authority.

Utopia (n.) imaginary land with perfect social and political systems—Voltaire wrote of a *utopia* where the streets were paved with gold.

V

Vacuous (adj.) empty; lacking in ideas; stupid—He had a *vacuous* expression in his face.

Vagary (n.) caprice; whim—Most of my grandmother's ideas were dismissed as mere *vagaries* of age.

Valedictory (adj.) pertaining to farewell—The *valedictory* speech by the Principal was very emotional.

Vapid (adj.) dull and unimaginative; insipid—In her interview she came across as very *vapid* and artificial person.

Variegated (adj.) many-colored—The dancers wore *variegated* costumes.

Vendetta (n.) blood feud; series of retaliatory, vengeful, or hostile acts—He waged a personal *vendetta* against those who opposed him.

Venerable (adj.) deserving high respect—The *venerable* old man was a source of advice for the villagers.

Venison (n.) the meat of a deer—*Venison* is said to be low in fat.

Veracity (n.) truthfulness—We questioned the *veracity* of his statements.

Verdant (adj.) green; lush in vegetation—Soon after the rains the hills were *verdant*.

Verisimilitude (n.) appearance of truth, likelihood—the novel's degree of *verisimilitude* is compromised by 18th-century characters who speak in very 21st-century English

Vernal (adj.) pertaining to spring—The trees and flowers were in *vernal* bloom.

Viable (adj.) practical or workable; capable of maintaining life—The plan did not appear *viable* at all.

Vicarious (adj.) experienced imaginatively through another person—She had never seen the Himalayas but through the description of her friends she could experience its grandeur *vicariously*.

Vicissitude (n.) change of fortune—A business run on moral grounds may not survive the *vicissitudes* of the market.

Vignette (n.) picture; short literary sketch—The film is a series of *vignettes* about living with cancer.

Vindicate (v.) clear from blame; exonerate; justify or support—She will be completely *vindicated* by the evidence.

Vindictive (adj.) out for revenge; malicious—You are being *vindictive* for no apparent reason.

Virtuoso (n.) highly skilled artist—Ronald is a computer *virtuoso*.

Virulent (adj.) extremely poisonous; hostile; bitter—The disease is caused by a *virulent* bacterium.

Vitiate (adj.) spoil the effect of; make inoperative—The impact of the film was *vitiated* by poor acting.

Vitriolic (adj.) corrosive; sarcastic—His speech was *vitriolic*.

Vituperative (adj.) containing or characterized by verbal abuse—The discussion was in danger of becoming a *vituperative*, schoolboy argument.

Vociferous (adj.) clamorous; noisy—The decision was made over their *vociferous* objections.

Voluble (adj.) fluent; glib; talkative—*Voluble* consumer groups help build public opinion.

Voracious (adj.) ravenous—He has a *voracious* appetite.

Vulpine (adj.) like a fox; crafty—They were taken in by his *vulpine* charms.

W

Waft (v.) move gently by wind or breeze—The aroma of food cooking *wafted* out of the kitchen.

Waive (v.) to give up; to put off until later—Seeing his difficulty, the Principal *waived* part of the fees for the course.

Wan (adj.) lacking color; sickly pale—Her face became *wan* at the sight of blood.

Wanton (adj.) playfully mean or cruel; mischievous—They were accused of *wanton* cruelty toward animals.

Warrant (v.) justify; authorize—The punishment he received was not *warranted*

Whet (v.) to sharpen by rubbing; to stimulate—The ads are trying to *whet* the consumers' appetite.

Whimsical (adj.) fanciful; subject to erratic behaviour or unpredictable change—It is difficult to make plans with such a *whimsical* friend.

Wily (adj.) concealing; sly—He turned out to be a *wily* negotiator.

Winsome (adj.) charming; sweetly attractive—His *winsome* words moved the crowd to love him even more.

Wizened (adj.) shriveled; withered—The *wizened* face of the old man was covered by his hat.

Wrath (n.) violent or unrestrained anger; fury—I waited until my initial *wrath* had eased before voicing my complaint.

Wreak (v.) to give vent; to inflict—Gangs have been *wreaking* mayhem in the city.

Wrest (v.) to pull or force away by a violent twisting—He *wrested* the book out of her hands.

Wry (adj.) mocking; cynical—He has a *wry* sense of humour which offends people.

X

Xenophobia (n.) fear of foreigners—He was apprehensive of going abroad to study because of the stories of violence due to *xenophobia*.

Y

Yeoman (n.) one that performs great and loyal service—The Principal has done a *yeoman's* job in enhancing the reputation of this institute.

Yoke (n.) harness; collar; bondage—India was able to throw off the *yoke* of imperialism and embrace freedom.

Yore (n.) time past and especially long past—My favourite stories are about the kings, princes and princesses of *yore*.

Z

Zealot (n.) a believer, fanatic—The *zealots* on both sides of issue resorted to threats.

Zenith (n.) point directly overhead in the sky; highest point—The *zenith* of her career came when she became the CEO.

Zephyr (n.) a gentle wind; breeze—It was a beautiful day, with a *zephyr* adding to the pleasant chill.