

READING COMPREHENSION

Almost in every competitive exam, there is a section for Reading Comprehension. What is it? Why is it important? What are the common errors made by everyone? Just as the term says, Reading Comprehension refers to our ability to read and understand the context of the given text. This test evaluates our grammatical knowledge, vocabulary, ability to draw inferences and contextual knowledge.

Multiple choice question format is the most common type followed in most competitive exams. The candidates are to choose the best option out of all the choices given. Only one option is correct, and all others are used to trick the candidates. So, they should be careful in such cases.

Some Important Tips and Techniques

- A paragraph comprises three parts: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Typically, the opening line will provide an overview that will provide a foundation for adding information. Also, seek words, phrases, or paragraphs that transition from one topic to another.
- While answering specific questions, identify the keywords in the questions. Then, go back to the passage and find those keywords.
- Try to anticipate the author and predict future ideas and questions. If you're right, this reinforces your understanding.
- In the correct answer choice, every word must be completely true and within the scope of the passage. If you cannot justify every word in the answer choice, eliminate it.
- It is always recommended to stay away from minor details and concentrate on the major theme. When answering the questions, look for words like "all" and "never". They have a tendency to exaggerate or widen the scope of an answer option.
- Check if the material is organized chronologically, logically, functionally, spatially or hierarchically.

Last but not least, don't expect to feel excited. Expect the exact opposite! Most of the time, Reading Comprehension themes will bore you, and you should not let this deplete your energy. Maintain a neutral attitude toward the paragraph and avoid becoming mentally agitated by ambiguous content.

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *In the evenings, usually many friends came to visit father and he would relax after the tension of the day, and the house would resound with his tremendous laughter. His laugh became famous in Allahabad. Sometimes I would peep at him and his friends from behind a curtain trying to make out what these great big people said to each other. If I was caught in the act, I would be dragged out and, rather frightened, made to sit for a while on father's knee.*
2. *I admired father tremendously. He seemed to me the embodiment of strength, courage, and cleverness, far above all the other men I saw, and I treasured the hope that I would be rather like him when I grew up. But much as I admired him and loved him, I feared him also. His temper was indeed an awful thing, and even in after years, I do not think I ever came across anything to match it in its own line. But fortunately, he had a strong sense of humour and an iron will, and he could control himself as a ruler. As he grew older, his power of control grew, and it was very rare for him to indulge in anything like his old temper.*
3. *One of my earliest recollections is of this temper, for I was the victim of it. I must have been about five or six then. I noticed one day two fountain-pens on his office table and I looked at them with greed. I argued*

with myself that father could not require both at the same time, and so I helped myself to one of them. Later I found that a mighty search was being done for the lost pen and I grew frightened at what I had done, but I did not **confess**. The pen was discovered, and my guilt was proclaimed to the world. Father was very angry, and he gave me a tremendous thrashing.

4. I do not remember bearing any ill will toward my father because of this punishment. I think I must have felt that it was a just punishment, though perhaps overdone. But though my admiration and affection for him remained as strong as ever, fear formed a part of them. Not so with my mother. I had no fear, for I knew she would condone everything I did, and because of her excessive and indiscriminating love for me, I tried to dominate over her a little. I saw much more of her than I did of father, and she seemed nearer to me, so I would confide in her when I would not dream of doing so to father. She was petite and short of stature, and soon I was almost as tall as she was and felt more of an equal with her. I admired her beauty and loved her amazingly small and beautiful hands and feet.

[Source: Adapted from Jawaharlal Nehru's Autobiography]

- (i) According to the passage, why did the writer's father's friends visit him?
- (a) Because he was a respectable man (b) Because he was an ignorant
(c) Because he was a wealthy man (d) Because he was naive
- (ii) Which of the following is the correct reason behind the punishment Jawaharlal Nehru talked about?
- (a) One day, Jawaharlal Nehru stole two imported pens from his father's office table.
(b) One day, Jawaharlal Nehru broke two fountain pens from his father's office table.
(c) One day, Jawaharlal Nehru stole two fountain pens on his father's office table.
(d) One day, Jawaharlal Nehru stole three files on his father's office table.
- (iii) Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE about the writer's mother in the context of the passage?
- A. She was short in height.
B. She would punish the writer every day.
C. She has beautiful and small hands and feet.
D. She was tall.
- (a) Only A (b) B and D (c) A and D (d) A, B and C
- (iv) Which of the following styles has been adopted by the writer?
- (a) Narrative in second person (b) Narrative in third person
(c) Narrative in first person (d) Descriptive style
- (v) "His laugh became famous in Allahabad" means
- (a) the writer's father's friends would visit him, and the house would resound with his tremendous laughter.
(b) the writer's colleagues would visit him and play music.
(c) the writer's friends would visit him and play many games.
(d) the writer's brother's friends would visit him and study hard.
- (vi) Replace the underlined phrase with a word that means the same from para 3.
The president has publicly declared a state of emergency.
- (a) suppressed (b) proclaimed (c) issued (d) hidden
- (vii) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
I saw much more of her than I did of father, ...
- A. so I would confide in her
B. and she seemed nearer to me,
C. of doing so to father.
D. when I would not dream
- (a) DABC (b) ADBC (c) CAB C (d) BADC

(viii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as the word ‘embodiment’ as used in the passage?
(a) epitome (b) idea (c) realization (d) essence

(ix) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

I argued with myself (1) that father could not require (2) both at the same time, (3) and so I helps (4) myself to one of them (5).

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

(a) A (b) C (c) D (d) E

(x) Which of the following is opposite in meaning to ‘confess’ as used in para 3?

- (a) deny (b) acknowledge (c) profess (d) affirm

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

“It was the 4th of July, and the summer heat was as blistering as ever in New Mexico. Lilly-Ann, Daniela, and I – the three best friends – set out to go on a girly picnic as we would every year since we were nine years old.

I had done all my chores and packed the picnic basket the night before, so as soon as I brushed my teeth and had a coffee, I was ready to dress up and go have a good time with my besties. I took my beat-up Cherokee and sped down the street to meet up with Daniela; we would pick Lilly-Ann later.

Daniela and I shared the same birthday – February 27th, 1986. Our moms were also best friends from high school. They went to the same college and got married the same year. Everyone always laughed at how it all resembled a generic best-friends-for-life movie or novel.

It seemed like Daniela and I were destined to be best friends. Neither of us had siblings, so we became much like sisters to each other. We shared all interests and hobbies without exception.

We both joined the school’s female soccer team, and both played in the defense. But, most important of all, we were always there for each other in the toughest of situations, regardless of how preoccupied either of us might have been.

Our traditional spot for Independence Day picnic was on the bank of the Beaver River. Here, half a mile west from the town, it is always as cool as it gets in July in New Mexico. As we were riding the rocky backroad, my bike was screeching in unison with the fireworks that exploded in the clear sky from the early morning.

The meadow on our spot always inspired us to go play a little soccer, as we did this time as well. Then, we felt like we need to fresh up a little, so we went into the river. We even managed to catch a small catfish, but we let it go.

The ride, the soccer, and the swim made us hungry, and we sat down to have some lunch. We all always pack a little more food than we need for a picnic, so we always have something of a menu to choose from.

We all picked Lilly-Ann’s roasted chicken with pineapple and mashed potatoes. During and after the meal, we chattered and giggled non-stop as besties like us always would. Then suddenly, Daniela seized laughing and stared blankly into the water for a moment or two.

Then she turned her eyes at me and uttered: “Promise me we will always be best friends, just like our moms.” We were light-hearted teenage girls, somewhat airheads even. So, it was a pure shock to hear Daniela speak so earnestly for the first time since I had known her.

Stunned, without the slightest idea of what was going on, all I could mumble was a faint “I promise.”

(i) Which of the following lines from the passage shows that the narrator and her friends share a strong bond of friendship?

- (a) We both joined the school’s female soccer team.
(b) the three enemies
(c) We were always there for each other in the toughest of situations.
(d) hated each other

- (ii) Which of the following statements is true in the context of the passage?
- (a) Daniela and the narrator were very different from each other.
 (b) Lilly-Ann and the narrator share many things in common.
 (c) Daniela and Lilly-Ann shared several things in common.
 (d) Daniela and the narrator have many things in common.
- (iii) Which of the following days is celebrated with fireworks in the context of the passage?
- (a) Independence Day (b) Birthday
 (c) Anniversary (d) National Tourism Day
- (iv) Which of the following words describe the friends in the context of the passage?
- A. foodie B. cheerful
 C. quarrelsome D. depressing
 E. affectionate
- (a) A, B and C (b) B, C and D (c) A, B and E (d) A, C and D
- (v) Choose the best word from the third paragraph to fill in the blank.
 Up to the beginning of the 1970s, concerts had _____ more demonstrations than fully-fledged musical events.
- (a) prevented (b) resembled (c) coincided (d) duplicated
- (vi) "Promise me we will always be best friends, just like our moms." The line in the second last paragraph shows
- (a) Daniela's fear of losing her family.
 (b) Daniela's fear of losing her best friends.
 (c) Daniela's fear of losing her wealth.
 (d) Daniela's friendly nature.
- (vii) Correct the given sentence by replacing the underlined words with the correct option.
 Then, we felt like we need to fresh up a little, so we went over the river.
- (a) went above (b) go inside (c) went into (d) went along
- (viii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as the word 'blistering' as used in the para 1?
- (a) blazing (b) cool (c) freezing (d) intense
- (ix) 'Earnestly', as used in the passage, means
- (a) doubtfully (b) uncertainly (c) gravely (d) casually
- (x) Which of the following is opposite in meaning to 'unison' as used in para 6?
- (a) agreement (b) discord (c) conflict (d) argument

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The wagon train departed bright and early this morning. I was disappointed that I had to tell my friends goodbye, but I had chosen to remain here in Denver. By that point, we had already been travelling for several long months. I was sorry to leave St. Louis, but I heard there was gold in California. It was June when we had first left St. Louis, and it was October when we got to Denver. I had made the difficult decision that I would not be continuing onward with the rest of the families on the wagon train.

When we left St. Louis, we were extremely excited because we were planning on travelling all the way to the ocean. We would journey to California. But that was not to be for my family.

Almost immediately, we stumbled upon the first major problem of our trip. On our very first day on the road, a wheel flew right off of our wagon. The wheel was badly cracked, which meant we were unable to repair the damage ourselves. Since we were not terribly far from St. Louis at that point, John rode all the way back there on his horse. He returned to the wagon train with a brand new wheel; however, that took nearly an entire day while the other families waited.

After that, we struggled with yet another problem. There was an awful rainstorm, and with it came so much mud that the oxen pulling our wagons were unable to get the wagons moving again. We had to wait for the rain to stop completely and for the mud to dry before we could continue onward. Because of this, we lost an additional two days.

We were unbelievably exhausted, and it had been a mere two weeks, but we kept on travelling. Unfortunately, we then had to stop once more because the Brown family fell ill. We waited a few days for them to recover, but they eventually gave up and turned back.

Every single day, we faced very difficult work, but we still **persevered**. Nevertheless, by the time we arrived in Denver, it was just too much to handle. We had decided then that we were going to leave the wagon train. That night, we informed the wagon master of our plans.

The wagon master asked us to change our minds and told us, "We've overcome the worst, now." However, I knew our trip would certainly not be getting any easier. The mountains we had just crossed were only the beginning. It had already been such hard work to get where we were now, and I knew it would be even more difficult to reach the ocean in California. That is when we decided the best option was to remain here in Denver.

- (i) How long had the narrator and the company been travelling?
- (a) three months (b) four months
(c) more than four months (d) five months
- (ii) What do the obstacles faced by the narrator and the company symbolise?
- A. Ups and downs in life B. Hardships in the journey of life
C. Favourable factors D. Signs and signals of God
- (a) A and C (b) B and D (c) C and D (d) A and B
- (iii) Which of the following statements is true in the context of the passage?
- (a) The narrator's journey was smooth. (b) Problems were a part of the narrator's journey.
(c) The narrator's journey was fruitful. (d) The narrator was extremely excited.
- (iv) Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?
- (a) The travellers reached California two months before the target.
(b) The travellers were going to California.
(c) The wagon wheel badly cracked.
(d) There was an awful rainstorm.
- (v) What is the relation of the first paragraph to the last paragraph of the passage?
- (a) They provide an insight into the problems faced by the travellers.
(b) They relate the beginning and end of a journey.
(c) Both the paragraphs introduce the same idea.
(d) They introduce the main points in the passage.
- (vi) Replace the underlined word with a phrase that means the same from para 3.
We encountered a host of unforeseen problems during the renovation of our house.
(a) flew off (b) way back (c) stumbled upon (d) stay back
- (vii) Choose the correct option to arrange the given sentences in a most appropriate order so that it forms a meaningful sentence.
- When we left St. Louis, we
- A. We would journey to California.
B. because we were planning on travelling all the way to the ocean.
C. were extremely excited,
D. But that was not to be for my family.
- Almost immediately, we stumbled upon the first major problem of our trip.
- (a) ADBC (b) CDAB (c) ABCD (d) CBAD

- (viii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as the word 'awful' as used in the passage?
 (a) terrible (b) pleasant (c) lovely (d) pleasing
- (ix) Choose the correct spelling.
 (a) unbelievably (b) unbelievably (c) inbelievably (d) unbelievably
- (x) Which of the following is opposite in meaning to 'persevered' as used in the second last para?
 (a) gave up (b) discontinued (c) resisted (d) ceased

4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Approaching Grandma's, our family **anticipates** the grand holiday about to be rekindled once again. With our family and friends about to be reunited with each other, each family member is trying not to notice how long the last kilometer is taking. The trees along the road seem to crawl by slower as Dad pushes his foot harder. Inch by inch, second by second, we approach the long awaited destination.*

Finally when we arrive at Grandma's house, our long journey is over. We each take a huge breath as we step out onto the crispy snow that snaps beneath our boots. The air is fresh and creates a shiver down my spine. I make my way to the frost coated back door, illuminated by the green and red Christmas lights.

*As I open the door and step into a house full of cheek pinches and hugs, an array of Christmas odour **engulfs** me, and makes my mouth water. As I yell "HELLO", I hear voices laughing, talking, and asking who's at the door? In the next second "Millions" of relatives are giving me their greetings and gladly inviting us into the house. As my family and I are quickly made comfortable, I look around...*

Plates full of Christmas pastries, Christmas decorations, and Christmas music lightly penetrates the air as the family socializes with each other. The constant murmur of the voices serves as a background for the music. My cousins are running making their laps around the living room while playing tag and laughing to their hearts content.

*I hear a voice saying "My have you ever grown up!" I turn to my left and stand up to address my complimenter. Grandma, awoken from her heavenly sleep, stands slightly crouched with an antique smile painted gracefully across her face. I **reach out** and hug her frail body. We both sit down and talk about my family's prolonged journey to her house.*

The rest of the night carries on similar to this and to my surprise, supper is served. Everyone is seated at the large oak table with crazed looks upon their faces. Eager to devour whatever is set before them, each family member is tempted by the tantalizing smell of the vast amounts of goods presented to them. My mind goes blank... almost like a sudden amnesia, I start to dig into the delicious plate of delightful treasures, and then find myself in a daze laying on the couch, in what seems to be about an hour later.

I listen and watch the building excitement found in each of my cousins' faces as they think of savagely ripping radically at the smooth silky present paper. Santa is Coming! Santa is Coming!

Just then a loud voice yells, "Time to open presents, Santa is here!"

- (i) According to the passage, what happens when "Dad pushes his foot harder"?
 (a) The car stops. (b) The car speeds up.
 (c) Dad breaks a tree with his foot. (d) Dad injures his foot.
- (ii) What does para 3 display about the bonding in the family?
 (a) The family members don't like each other.
 (b) The family ignores each other.
 (c) There was a strong bond among the family members.
 (d) There was a formal bond among the family members.
- (iii) Which of the following statements is true in the context of the passage?
 (a) The narrator's cousins are playing badminton.
 (b) Finally, the narrator's long journey is over.
 (c) The gathering was arranged in the summers.
 (d) The narrator greets her cousins.

(iv) Why did the narrator's mind go blank?

- (a) Due to the sickening smell of the goods present in the house
- (b) Due to the alluring smell of flowers
- (c) Due to the alluring smell of food prepared by Grandma
- (d) Due to the alluring smell of the goods present in the house

(v) Which of the following best describes what the narrator is trying to point out through the second last paragraph of the passage?

- (a) The narrator's cousins were waiting for Grandma's permission to open the Christmas presents.
- (b) The narrator's cousins were waiting to sleep after the celebrations.
- (c) The narrator's cousins were waiting for the moment to open the Christmas presents.
- (d) The narrator's cousins were opening the Christmas presents with full excitement.

(vi) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

My cousins are running (1) making their laps around the living room (2) while playing tag (3) and laughing (4) with their hearts content (5).

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

- (a) B
- (b) C
- (c) D
- (d) E

(vii) Choose the correct spelling.

- (a) penetrates
- (b) penetrates
- (c) penetreites
- (d) penetratus

(viii) What does the phrase 'reach out' mean as used in the passage?

- (a) Stretch out one's legs
- (b) Stretch a cloth from both sides
- (c) Stretch out one's arm or hand
- (d) Reaching the destination

(ix) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'anticipates' as used in the passage?

- (a) expects
- (b) doubts
- (c) rekindles
- (d) reconsiders

(x) 'Engulfs', as used in the passage, means

- (a) envelops
- (b) uncover
- (c) neglects
- (d) ignores

5. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Everything had been totally different that Sunday morning, when the two boys had set out on their walk up the cool, pine-scented mountainside near the village where they lived. Near the top, Peter and Michael had climbed onto a rock to admire the view of the valley far below them.

That was when disaster had struck. On clambering down, Peter had tumbled awkwardly to the ground, his leg bent at a painful angle beneath him. Unable to move, he was forced to wait where he was, wrapped in Michael's jacket, while Michael had begun the long trek down the mountainside to fetch help.

*Michael looked down on the mountainside from the window of the helicopter. He felt increasingly helpless, as it looked totally different from the air and the network of tiny paths was mostly **obscured** from view by the thick covering of pine trees. To make matters worse, the light was fading fast and a thick blanket of mist was starting to form. Eventually the pilot and the three mountain rescue workers in the helicopter agreed that they would have to go back and continue the search for Michael's friend, Peter, on foot.*

*By seven o'clock that evening, they had left the helicopter in the village and gathered a mountain rescue team of fifteen men. Michael felt **disheartened** and scared for his friend's safety. Slowly they ascended the mountain, scouring the numerous paths for Peter. The only sounds were crunching footsteps and the crackle of static on the walkie-talkies that the rescue workers carried to talk to each other. The mountainside was an eerie place after nightfall and gradually Michael started to wonder whether they would ever find Peter at all.*

Suddenly Michael heard a voice come over one of the walkie-talkies, "We've got him. We're taking him down."

"I'm sorry," said Michael to his friend later in the warm safety of the hospital room, "I didn't realise it would take so long."

The doctors decided to keep Peter at the hospital for the night in case of complications with his leg.

Before leaving, Michael looked down at his friend and patted his shoulder as, silently, they both vowed never to go walking in the mountains again.

- (i) According to you, choose the option that displays the possibilities in case Peter is not found?
- A. Any wild animal could have harmed him. B. He could have died due to blood loss.
C. He could have been conscious and active. D. He could be enjoying himself alone.
(a) B and D (b) A and B (c) B and C (d) C and D
- (ii) According to the narrator, each of the following statements is true EXCEPT
- A. The boys went to the beach.
B. The boys went alone.
C. The disaster took place on a Sunday morning.
D. Michael felt guilty.
(a) option A. (b) option B. (c) option C. (d) option D.
- (iii) What does the passage say happened to Peter?
- (a) His leg has broken, and he was severely injured.
(b) His arm has broken.
(c) He was unconscious.
(d) He was a coward.
- (iv) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
The only sounds were crunching footsteps
- A. each other.
B. and the crackle of static on the walkie-talkies
C. carried to talk to
D. that the rescue workers
(a) ADCB (b) BACD (c) BDCA (d) DBCA
- (v) The narrator's tone in the final paragraph can best be described as of
- (a) proud (b) repentance (c) confidence (d) excited
- (vi) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.
On clambering down, (1) Peter had tumbles (2) awkwardly to the ground, (3) his leg bent at (4) a painful angle beneath him (5).
- A. 1 B. 2
C. 3 D. 4
E. 5
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
- (vii) Consider the following statements regarding the two boys as given in the above passage.
A. It was about to get dark.
B. Michael was afraid of losing his friend.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) Only A (b) Only B
(c) None is correct. (d) Both are correct.
- (viii) Choose the best word from the fourth paragraph to fill in the blank.
The police are _____ the area for the missing child.
(a) scouring (b) crunching (c) numerous (d) eerie

- (ix) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'obscured' as used in the passage?
 (a) exposed (b) uncovered (c) hidden (d) clear
- (x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'disheartened' as used in the passage?
 (a) courageous (b) frightened (c) nervous (d) panic-stricken

6. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Call it a blessing or a curse of Mother Nature, we have to breathe in over 10,000 litres of air in a day (more than four million litres in a year) to remain alive. By making it essential for life, God wanted us to keep the air we breathe clean. Everyone can see the food that is not clean and perhaps refrain from eating it, but one cannot stop breathing even if one can feel the air to be polluted.

5. *Several harmful and noxious substances can contaminate the air we breathe. Generally, much is said and written about outdoor air pollution, most of which is due to vehicular and industrial exhausts. Given the fact that most of us spend most of our time indoors, it is most important to recognise that the air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted. It can be a cause of ill-health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations*
10. *can assume significance in closed ill-ventilated places. The indoor air pollution can lead to allergic reactions and cause irritation to the skin, the eyes, and the nose. But as is logical to assume, the brunt of insult by pollutants is borne by the lungs. It can lead to the development of fresh breathing problems, especially in those who have allergic tendencies, or it can worsen the existing respiratory illnesses like asthma and bronchitis. There can be several sources of indoor air pollution. Tobacco smoke is one of the most*
15. *important air pollutants in closed places. "Passive smoking" or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) pollution can lead to all the harmful effects of tobacco smoking seen in the smokers in their non-smoking companions. ETS, as a health hazard, has been unequivocally proven and is also getting social recognition now. One can occasionally see signs displaying the all-important message: "Your smoking is injurious to my health" in offices and homes.*
20. *The children of smoking parents are among the worst affected persons. The exposure of young children to ETS leads to increased respiratory problems and hospital admissions as compared to non-exposed children. Several studies, including those done at the PGI, have shown an increased risk of lung cancer among women exposed to passive smoking. ETS also worsens the existing lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis. It may be responsible for the development of asthma in children.*
25. *Improving ventilation is an important preventive measure, besides trying to **eliminate** the source that may not always be feasible. Other indoor pollutants are toxic chemicals like cleansing agents, pesticides, paints, solvents, and in territoriality personal-care products, especially aerosols. Very old crumbling pipes, boilers, insulation or false roofing can also be important sources.*
28. *Asbestos is a hazardous product that can cause cancer in humans. It is important to realise that the air we breathe at home may not always be clean and we must try to eliminate the source of pollution. We should give due consideration to ventilation.*

(i) What does the writer mean by using the quote "Your smoking is injurious to my health"?

- (a) Smoking is safe for the non-smoking population who breathe in the fumes passed on by the 'smokers'.
 (b) Smoking is dangerous for the non-smoking population who breathe in the fumes passed on by the 'smokers'.
 (c) Smoking is dangerous for the 'smokers'.
 (d) Smoking is dangerous for everyone.

(ii) Rewrite the following sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with a word that means the same from lines 5-10.

Many industrial products give off environmentally unfriendly fumes.

- (a) contaminate (b) insulation (c) exhausts (d) noxious

- (iii) Which of the following states a reason for air being contaminated with noxious substances?
 A. the vehicular exhausts B. industrial exhausts
 C. water pollutants
 D. bonfire
 (a) A and B (b) B and D (c) C and D (d) A and D
- (iv) Why are the children of smoking parents more prone to 'hospital admissions'?
 (a) because exposure of such children to ETS leads to several heart problems
 (b) because exposure of such children to tobacco leads to several respiratory problems
 (c) because exposure of such children to ETS leads to several respiratory problems
 (d) because exposure of such children to ETS leads to several kidney problems
- (v) Which of the following is the reason why the indoor air we breathe in is also considered harmful?
 (a) This air contains air pollutants that are present in very low concentrations.
 (b) This air contains purities that are present in very low concentrations.
 (c) This air causes skin problems.
 (d) This air contains pure substances that cannot affect us.
- (vi) Choose the correct spelling.
 (a) hazarduous (b) hazardous (c) hazarduos (d) hazarduas
- (vii) Consider the following statements regarding smoking as given in the above passage.
 A. Your smoking is injurious to my health.
 B. There is an increased risk of throat cancer among women exposed to passive smoking.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 (a) Only A (b) Only B (c) Both are correct. (d) Both are incorrect.
- (viii) Choose the best word from the lines 15-20 to fill in the blank.
 He said the allegations against him were "absolutely and _____" untrue.
 (a) tendencies (b) encountered (c) exposed (d) unequivocally
- (ix) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'eliminate' as used in lines 25-30?
 (a) eradicate (b) territoriality (c) hazardous (d) ventilation
- (x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'worsens' as used in lines 20-28?
 (a) damage (b) improves (c) aggravate (d) impair

7. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Evolution has designated vultures to be the ultimate scavengers. Enormous wingspans allow them to circle in the air for hours. Their beaks, while rather horrifying, are weak by bird standards, made to scoop and eat flesh. However unappealing they may seem, vultures serve an important role in the ecological cycle: processing the dead bodies of animals.

5. *Only 20 years ago, India had plenty of vultures—flocks so enormous they darkened the skies. But by 1999, their numbers had dropped due to a mysterious kidney ailment. By 2008, 99.9 per cent of India's vultures were gone. It was finally discovered that they had been killed by a drug called diclofenac (a pain reliever along the lines of aspirin or ibuprofen). Indians revere their cows, and when a cow showed signs of pain, they treated it with*
10. *diclofenac. After the animal died, the vultures would eat the corpse. And though they boast perhaps the world's most efficient digestive system, vultures cannot digest the drug. India banned the use of diclofenac for veterinary use in 2006, but it's still widely used. The near-extinction of vultures has caused disease in the country, as rats and dogs moved in to take their place—spreading pathogens that would have otherwise been destroyed by the vultures.*

15. *Vultures need large ranges to scan for food and undisturbed areas in which to nest. They also need an abundance of prey species since they rely more on chance than their own hunting skills to eat. All of these things have been reduced by human activity. Meanwhile, there is a dramatic increase in secondary poisoning. Vultures feed on carcasses laced with poison, intended to kill jackals or other predatory carnivores. So, they are poisoned by the*

20. *lead in animals left behind by hunters.*

(i) What does the writer mean by saying that vultures' flock once "darkened the skies"?

- (a) A long time ago, America had plenty of vultures. Their enormous flocks made the sky appear dark.
- (b) A long time ago, enormous flocks of vultures and eagles made the sky appear dull.
- (c) A long time ago, India had a large number of bird population. These birds made the sky appear dark.
- (d) A long time ago, India had plenty of vultures. Their enormous flocks made the sky appear dark.

(ii) Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?

- (a) The number of vultures had dropped due to a mysterious kidney ailment.
- (b) By 2008, 99.9 per cent of India's vultures were gone.
- (c) Vultures would eat fresh meat.
- (d) Human activities led to the drop in the vulture population.

(iii) Choose the correct option to arrange the given sentences in a most appropriate order so that it forms a meaningful sentence.

Enormous wingspans allow them to circle in the air for hours. Their beaks,

- A. However unappealing they may seem,
- B. while rather horrifying, are weak by bird standards,
- C. vultures serve an important role in the ecological cycle:
- D. made to scoop and eat flesh.

processing the dead bodies of animals.

- (a) BDAC
- (b) CDDB
- (c) ADCB
- (d) BACD

(iv) How did the extinction of vultures promote the "spread of pathogens"?

- (a) After rats and dogs replaced eagles, they spread pathogens that the eagles would have otherwise destroyed.
- (b) After rats and dogs replaced vultures, they spread pathogens that the vultures would have otherwise destroyed.
- (c) After cats and dogs replaced vultures, they spread pathogens that the vultures would have otherwise destroyed.
- (d) After rats and dogs replaced vultures, they spread poisonous gases that the vultures would have otherwise destroyed.

(v) Which of the following shows that vultures play an important role in maintaining the ecological cycle?

- (a) Vultures help in soiling the dead bodies of animals.
- (b) Vultures help in processing the dead bodies of humans.
- (c) Vultures feed on carcasses laced with poison.
- (d) Vultures help in processing the dead bodies of animals.

- (vi) How does the writer justify the failure of the world's most efficient digestive systems, i.e. vultures?
- Despite feeding on small animals, vultures' digestive systems couldn't sustain the dreadful drug 'diclofenac'.
 - Despite feeding on grass and fruits, vultures' digestive systems couldn't sustain the dreadful drug 'diclofenac'.
 - Despite feeding on the deadly corpses (sometimes poisoned), vultures' digestive systems couldn't sustain the dreadful drug 'diclofenac'.
 - Despite feeding on the deadly corpses (sometimes poisoned), vultures' digestive system couldn't sustain the dreadful drug 'combiflame'.
- (vii) Replace the underlined phrase with a word that means the same from lines 10-15.
They buried the dead body in the churchyard.
- churchyard
 - pathogens
 - carcass
 - corpse
- (viii) Choose the best word from lines 15-20 to fill in the blank.
Hawks are _____ carnivores and pose a danger to rabbits and other pets.
- creatures
 - predatory
 - omnivores
 - herbivores
- (ix) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'revere' as used in lines 5-10?
- worship
 - despise
 - hate
 - disregard
- (x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'abundance' as used in lines 15-20?
- full
 - plenty
 - scarcity
 - bounty

8. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

- Are you bored of bananas, apples, and grapes and need a change? A nutrient-rich serving of kiwi may be just what you need. A serving of kiwi (2 kiwis) has twice the amount of vitamin C in an orange, as much potassium as in a banana, and the fibre of a bowl of whole grain cereal—all for less than 100 calories!*
- The fuzzy fruit is sky-high in both soluble and insoluble fibres both of which are essential for promoting heart health, regulating digestion, and lowering cholesterol levels—a winning trifecta! Kiwi fruit has also been considered a 'nutritional all-star' as Rutgers University researchers have found that the kiwi fruit has the best nutrient density of 21 commonly consumed fruits.*
- Along with vitamin C, kiwi fruit is rich in many bioactive compounds that have an antioxidant capacity to help protect against free radicals, harmful by-products produced in the body. If you want clean energy, think of kiwi fruit because it is rich in magnesium, a nutrient essential to convert food into energy.*
- Kiwi fruit also supply your eyes with protective lutein, a carotenoid that's concentrated in eye tissues and helps protect against harmful free radicals. Kiwi fruit is also packed with blood pressure-lowering potassium. In fact, a 100-gram serving of kiwi fruit—that's about one large kiwi—provides 15% of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) of potassium.*
- Kiwi fruit has been growing in New Zealand for over 100 years. Once the fruit gained popularity, other countries, including Italy, France, Chile, Japan, South Korea, and Spain started to grow it. At first, kiwis were referred to as Yang Tao or Chinese Gooseberry, but the name was ultimately changed to kiwi fruit so that everyone would know where the fruit came from.*
- A ripe kiwi fruit will be plump, smooth-skinned, and free of wrinkles, bruises, and punctures. After purchasing it, if you find that your kiwi is a little too firm, simply let it ripen at room temperature for three to five days. The firmer the fruit, the more tart it will taste. To speed up the ripening process, you can also place kiwis in a paper bag along with an apple or a banana. If you want to store the fruit longer, you should keep it in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.*

- (i) Which of the following shows that it is right to consider kiwi fruit a 'nutritional all-star'?
- A nutrient-rich serving of kiwi may be just what you need.
 - The researchers of Rutgers University have found that the kiwi fruit has the best nutrient density of 21 commonly consumed fruits.
 - Kiwi fruit has been growing in New Zealand for over 100 years.
 - A ripe kiwi fruit will be plump, smooth-skinned, and free of wrinkles, bruises, and punctures.
- (ii) "If you want clean energy, think of kiwi fruit..." means
- kiwi fruit is a rich source of magnesium, a nutrient required to convert food into energy.
 - kiwi fruit is a rich source of protein, a nutrient required to convert energy into food.
 - kiwi fruit is a poor source of magnesium which converts food into liquid.
 - kiwi fruit is a moderate source of iron which provides energy.
- (iii) Which of the following does not support the statement that "kiwi fruit is good for the eyes"?
- It provides the eyes with protective lutein, a carotenoid concentrated in eye tissues.
 - It helps in protecting against harmful free radicals.
 - Kiwi fruit is also packed with blood pressure-lowering potassium.
 - Kiwis were referred to as Yang Tao or Chinese Gooseberry.
- (a) A and D (b) B and C (c) A and C (d) C and D
- (iv) Which of the following two reasons state that kiwi is one of the richest sources of nutrients?
- A single serving of kiwi is a rich source of vitamin C, fibre, and potassium.
 - The fruit is sky-high in both soluble and insoluble fibres.
 - It has twice the amount of vitamin C as in orange and potassium as in a banana.
 - The firmer the fruit, the more tart it will taste.
- (a) A and C (b) A and D (c) B and C (d) C and D
- (v) How can one know if the kiwi fruit is ripe?
- If your kiwi fruit has rough skin wrinkles, it is ripe.
 - If your kiwi fruit is hard and has punctures, it is ripe.
 - If your kiwi fruit is plump and smooth-skinned and doesn't have wrinkles, bruises, and punctures, it is ripe.
 - If your kiwi fruit is plump and hard, it is ripe.
- (vi) Choose the correct spelling.
- (a) ripning (b) ripening (c) riepening (d) raipening
- (vii) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the underlined phrase as used in para 2?
- As we get older, the body's temperature controlling and maintaining mechanisms become less efficient.
- (a) regulating (b) promoting (c) protecting (d) concerning
- (viii) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.
- At first, kiwis were referred to (1) as Yang Tao or Chinese Gooseberry, but the name was (2) ultimately changed to (3) kiwi fruit so that much would know (4) where the fruit came from (5).
- A. 1 B. 2
C. 3 D. 4
E. 5
- (a) A (b) C (c) D (d) E
- (ix) Find out the word from paragraph 4, which is SIMILAR in meaning to 'protective'.
- (a) negligent (b) combative (c) inattentive (d) defensive
- (x) Find out the word from paragraph 6, which is OPPOSITE in meaning to 'plump'.
- (a) well-fed (b) chubby (c) skinny (d) fleshy

9. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *World Theatre Day is observed annually on March 27 with an aim to generate awareness about the importance of the theatre arts, including how the arts play an important role in the field of entertainment and the changes that theatre brings in life.*
2. *World Theatre Day was initiated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1962. On World Theatre Day, ITI circulates global celebrities' messages in more than 50 languages, based on the theme 'Theatre and a Culture of Peace'.*
3. *ITI is the world's largest performing arts organisation founded in 1948 by theatre and dance experts and UNESCO. ITI promotes UNESCO's goals of mutual understanding and peace, and advocates for the protection and promotion of cultural expression, regardless of age, gender, creed, or ethnicity.*
4. *Since 1962, World Theatre Day has been celebrated by ITI Centres, ITI Cooperating Members, theatre professionals, theatre organisations, theatre universities, and theatre lovers all over the world on the 27th of March. This day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form of theatre and acts as a wake-up call for governments, politicians, and institutions that have not yet recognised its value to the people and the individual, and have not yet realised its potential for economic growth.*
5. *The first World Theatre Day message was written by Jean Cocteau in 1962. His message was translated into 50 languages and sent to everyone across the world. ITI has more than 85 centres across the world to encourage colleges, schools, and theatre personalities to mark this day.*
6. *Carlos Celdran, from Cuba, was the speaker of the World Theatre Day message in 2019. He is an award-winning theatre personality, director, playwright, academician, and professor. Being a great inspiration, he continues to help others by working as a professor at a high-level institution in Cuba.*
7. *In this growing era of technology, where online streaming platforms are gaining momentum and giving users utmost comfort, one should not forget that theatre is special in its own way and should also be appreciated as we should never forget the roots.*

(i) Which of the following is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (a) Carlos Celdran was the speaker of the World Environment Day message in 2019.
- (b) World Theatre Day was initiated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1962.
- (c) ITI is the world's largest performing arts organisation.
- (d) Jean Cocteau's message was translated into 50 languages.

(ii) Which of the following shows who all have been celebrating World Theatre Day since 1962?

- A. ITI Centres
- B. ITI Cooperating Members
- C. Theatre professionals, theatre organisations, and theatre universities
- D. IT professionals
- E. Theatre lovers all over the world

(a) All options except A and C

(b) All options except B

(c) All options except D (d) All options except C

(iii) What should one not forget in this growing era of technology?

- (a) We must not forget the place theatre holds, as it is connected to our roots.
- (b) We must not forget the place movies holds.
- (c) We must not forget the theatre artists, as they mirror society.
- (d) We must not forget the place actors hold.

(iv) Which of the following proves that Carlos Celdran helped others?

- (a) He is working as a dean in an institution in Columbia to help others.
- (b) He is working as an administrator in Nigeria to help others.
- (c) He is working as a social worker in Cuba to help others.
- (d) He is working as a professor at a high-level institution in Cuba to help others.

(v) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.

ITI promotes UNESCO's goals of mutual understanding and peace,

- A. and advocates for the protection
B. creed, or ethnicity.
C. and promotion of cultural expression,
D. regardless of age, gender,
(a) DCAB (b) CADB (c) ACDB (d) ABCD

(vi) How does ITI contribute to World Theatre Day?

- (a) ITI encourages only theatre personalities to mark this day.
(b) ITI encourages colleges, schools, and theatre personalities to mark this day.
(c) ITI encourages the youth to celebrate this day.
(d) ITI discourages colleges and schools from marking this day.

(vii) Rewrite the following sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with a word that means the same from para 3.

She decided to publicly support a system that is fair to everyone.

- (a) maintain (b) manage (c) advocate (d) ethnicity

(viii) Choose one pair in which the words have the same relationship.

UNESCO: World peace

- (a) PWD: Education of poor (b) UNICEF: Malnutrition
(c) WHO: Poverty (d) ITI: Theatre

(ix) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'generate' as used in paragraph 1?

- (a) destroy (b) prevent (c) develop (d) avert

(x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'appreciated' as used in paragraph 7?

- (a) acknowledged (b) thanked (c) realised (d) criticised

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

*I did not give him very close attention. The fact is, I was more interested in his own adventures than in his high politics. I **reckoned** that Karolides and his affairs were not my business, leaving all that to him. So a lot that he said slipped clean out of my memory. I remember that he was very clear that the danger to Karolides would not begin till he had got to London, and would come from the very highest quarters, where there would be no thought of suspicion. He mentioned the name of a woman—Julia Czechenyi—as having something to do with the danger. She would be the decoy, I gathered, to get Karolides out of the care of his guards. He talked, too, about a Black Stone and a man that lisped in his speech, and he described very particularly somebody that he never referred to without a shudder—an old man with a young voice who could hood his eyes like a hawk.*

He spoke a good deal about death, too. He was mortally anxious about winning through with his job, but he didn't care a rush for his life. 'I reckon it's like going to sleep when you are pretty well tired out, and waking to find a summer day with the scent of hay coming in at the window. I used to thank God for such mornings way back in the Blue-Grass country, and I guess I'll thank Him when I wake up on the other side of Jordan.'

Next day, he was much more cheerful, and read the life of Stonewall Jackson much of the time. I went out to dinner with a mining engineer I had got to see on business, and came back about half-past ten in time for our game of chess before turning in.

— 'The Thirty-Nine Steps' by John Buchan

(i) How would Julia Czechenyi be a danger to Karolides?

- (a) Julia Czechenyi was a friend to Karolides.
(b) Julia Czechenyi might be a criminal.
(c) Julia Czechenyi might be used as bait to get Karolides out from the security.
(d) Julia Czechenyi was innocent, but Karolides wanted to punish him.

(ii) Which of the following is not right in the context of the passage?

- (a) Karolides and the narrator were close companions.
- (b) Julia Czechenyi was a decoy.
- (c) Karolides reads the life of Stonewall Jackson much of the time.
- (d) Karolides spoke a good deal about life.

(iii) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

'I reckon it's like (1) going to sleep when (2) you was pretty well tired out, (3) and waking to find a summer day with the scent (4) of hay coming in at the window (5).

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

(a) A (b) C (c) D (d) E

(iv) What does the narrator's greater interest in his companion's "adventures than in his high politics" suggest?

- (a) The narrator is a man of words.
- (b) The narrator is unresponsive to his companion.
- (c) The narrator is not a political man.
- (d) The narrator is an active member of society.

(v) The author's tone in the final paragraph can best be described as

- (a) optimistic
- (b) unwavering
- (c) pessimistic
- (d) satisfactory

(vi) "I reckon it's like going to sleep when you are pretty well tired out, and waking to find a summer day with the scent of hay coming in at the window."

What does the following line analogize?

- (a) The narrator is describing what he imagines the experience of death to be like.
- (b) The speaker is describing his fluctuating mood.
- (c) This is equivalent to the narrator's earlier mention of his companion's "high politics".
- (d) The narrator is describing what his companion imagines the experience of death to be like.

(vii) Choose the best word from para 1 to fill in the blank.

I heard a massive explosion and the ground _____ beneath me.

- (a) slipped
- (b) shuddered
- (c) fluctuated
- (d) activated

(viii) Choose the correct spelling.

- (a) lesped
- (b) lispied
- (c) lisped
- (d) lispad

(ix) 'Reckoned', as used in the passage, means

- (a) figured.
- (b) forgot.
- (c) miscalculated.
- (d) misunderstood.

(x) Which of the following is similar in meaning to 'anxious' as used in para 2?

- (a) convinced
- (b) brave
- (c) restless
- (d) composed

11. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Happy for all her maternal feelings was the day on which Mrs. Bennet got rid of her two most deserving daughters. With what delighted pride she afterwards visited Mrs. Bingley, and talked of Mrs. Darcy, may be guessed. I wish I could say, for the sake of her family, that the accomplishment of her earnest desire in the establishment of so many of her children produced so happy an effect as to make her a sensible, amiable, well-informed woman for the rest of her life; though perhaps it was lucky for her husband, who might not have relished domestic felicity in so unusual a form, that she still was occasionally nervous and invariably silly. Mr. Bennet missed his second daughter exceedingly; his affection for her drew him oftener from home than anything else could do. He delighted in going to Pemberley, especially when he was least expected.

Mr. Bingley and Jane remained at Netherfield only a twelvemonth. So near a vicinity to her mother and Meryton relations was not desirable even to his easy temper, or her affectionate heart. The darling wish of his sisters was then gratified; he bought an estate in a neighboring county to Derbyshire, and Jane and Elizabeth, in addition to every other source of happiness, were within thirty miles of each other.

Kitty, to her very material advantage, spent the chief of her time with her two elder sisters. In society so superior to what she had generally known, her improvement was great. She was not of so ungovernable a temper as Lydia; and, removed from the influence of Lydia's example, she became, by proper attention and management, less irritable, less ignorant, and less insipid. From the further disadvantage of Lydia's society she was of course carefully kept, and though Mrs. Wickham frequently invited her to come and stay with her, with the promise of balls and young men, her father would never consent to her going.

Mary was the only daughter who remained at home; and she was necessarily drawn from the pursuit of accomplishments by Mrs. Bennet's being quite unable to sit alone. Mary was obliged to mix more with the world, but she could still moralize over every morning visit; and as she was no longer mortified by comparisons between her sisters' beauty and her own, it was suspected by her father that she submitted to the change without much reluctance.

– adapted from 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen (1813)

- (i) What is the passage about?
- (a) It is about the life of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet after the marriage of their daughters.
 (b) It is about the intense friendship between Mr. Bingley and Darcy.
 (c) It is about the Bennet sisters' life.
 (d) It is about Mr. Bingley's sisters' life.
- (ii) Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?
- A. Jane and Elizabeth were really close to each other.
 B. Kitty was a good friend of Mrs. Wickham.
 C. Mr. Bingley and Darcy stay in Netherfield.
 D. Mary remained at home with Mrs. Bennet.
 E. Mr. Bennet missed Lydia very much.
- (a) A, B and C (b) B, D and E (c) A, C and D (d) A, B and D
- (iii) Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE about Mr. Bennet in the context of the passage?
- A. sensible B. careless
 C. concerned D. affectionate
 E. ignorant
- (a) A and D (b) B and E (c) B and C (d) D and E
- (iv) What does paragraph 3 show about Mr. Bingley?
- (a) He was a careless person. (b) He was a careless husband.
 (c) He loves his sisters immensely. (d) He was a friendly person.
- (v) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
- I wish I could say, for the sake of her family, that the accomplishment
- A. of so many of her children produced so happy
 B. well-informed woman for the rest of her life
 C. of her earnest desire in the establishment
 D. an effect as to make her a sensible, amiable,
- (a) CADB (b) AD BC (c) DABC (d) BADC

- (vi) Consider the following statements regarding the Bennet daughters as given in the above passage.
- A. Jane and Elizabeth became neighbors.
 B. Mr. Bingley bought an estate in a neighboring county to Derbyshire.

Choose the correct option.

- (a) Only A is correct. (b) Only B is correct.
 (c) Both the statements are incorrect. (d) A is the result of B.

- (vii) Choose one pair in which the words have the same relationship.

Kitty : Mrs. Wickham

- (a) Jane : Elizabeth (b) Mr. Bingley : Darcy
 (c) Mrs. Bennet : Lydia (d) Mr. Bennet : Elizabeth

- (viii) Choose a word from the final paragraph and fill in the blank.

If she knew I'd heard her crying, she might well have been _____.

- (a) moralize (b) mortified (c) composed (d) proud

- (ix) Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'felicity' as used in paragraph 1?

- (a) relished (b) accomplishments (c) unhappiness (d) bliss

- (x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'insipid' as used in the fourth paragraph?

- (a) unappealing (b) interesting (c) ingreecable (d) boring

12. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

He sounded the clacker till his arm ached, and at length his heart grew sympathetic with the birds' thwarted desires. They seemed, like himself, to be living in a world which did not want them. Why should he frighten them away? They took upon more and more the aspect of gentle friends and pensioners—the only friends he could claim as being in the least degree interested in him, for his aunt had often told him that she was not. He ceased his rattling, and they alighted anew.

"Poor little dears!" said Jude, aloud. "You shall have some dinner—you shall. There is enough for us all. Farmer Troutham can afford to let you have some. Eat, then my dear little birdies, and make a good meal!" They stayed and ate, inky spots on the nut-brown soil, and Jude enjoyed their appetite. A magic thread of fellow-feeling united his own life with theirs. Puny and sorry as those lives were, they much resembled his own. His clacker he had by this time thrown away from him, as being a mean and sordid instrument, offensive both to the birds and to himself as their friend. All at once he became conscious of a smart blow upon his buttocks, followed by a loud clack, which announced to his surprised senses that the clacker had been the instrument of offense used. The birds and Jude started up simultaneously, and the dazed eyes of the latter beheld the farmer in person, the great Troutham himself, his red face glaring down upon Jude's cowering frame, the clacker swinging in his hand.

"So it's 'Eat my dear birdies,' is it, young man? 'Eat, dear birdies,' indeed! I'll tickle your breeches, and see if you say, 'Eat, dear birdies' again in a hurry! And you've been idling at the schoolmaster's too, instead of coming here, ha'n't ye, hey? That's how you earn your six pence a day for keeping the rooks off my corn!"

— adapted from 'Jude the Obscure' by Thomas Hardy (1895)

- (i) According to the passage, what is the primary purpose of the clacker?

- (a) To kill the birds (b) To feed the birds
 (c) To entertain the birds (d) To scare the birds

- (ii) What is the irony in the passage?

- (a) On the one hand, Jude is talking to the birds; on the other hand, he is scaring them away.
 (b) On the one hand, Jude is scaring the birds away; on the other hand, he also sympathises with them.
 (c) On the one hand, Jude is feeding the birds; on the other hand, he is hitting them.
 (d) Jude is scared but happy to spend time with the birds.

(iii) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

He had put aside his clacker at this time, (1) believe it to be a cruel (2) and vile device, repugnant to both the birds (3) and himself as their friend. (4)

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

(a) A

(b) B

(c) C

(d) D

(iv) Which of the following is NOT true in the context of the passage?

(a) Jude considered the birds his little friends.

(b) Jude fed the birds well.

(c) Jude worked for Farmer Troutham.

(d) Farmer Troutham killed the birds.

(v) Who said the phrase "tickle your breeches"?

(a) Farmer Troutham

(b) Jude

(c) Jude's aunt

(d) A stranger

(vi) What is the tone of the narrator in the given passage?

A. sad

B. depressed

C. sympathetic

D. cruel

E. alone

(a) All options except A

(b) All options except B

(c) All options except D

(d) All options except C

(vii) In the line "That's how you earn your sixpence...", the word 'you' refers to _____.

(a) Jude's schoolmaster

(b) Jude

(c) Farmer Troutham

(d) Jude's aunt

(viii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as the word 'thwarted' as used in para 1?

(a) unfulfilled

(b) satisfied

(c) contented

(d) pleased

(ix) Choose the word which cannot be used with 'offensive'.

(a) remark

(b) comment

(c) crime

(d) friend

(x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to 'offensive' as used in the fourth paragraph?

(a) annoying

(b) abominable

(c) delightful

(d) disgusting

13. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

I was now, in the months of November and December, expecting my crop of barley and rice. The ground I had manured and dug up for them was not great; for, as I observed, my seed of each was not above the quantity of half a peck, for I had lost one whole crop by sowing in the dry season. But now my crop promised very well, when on a sudden I found I was in danger of losing it all again by enemies of several sorts, which it was scarcely possible to keep from it; as, first, the goats, and wild creatures which I called hares, who, tasting the sweetness of the blade, lay in it night and day, as soon as it came up, and eat it so close, that it could get no time to shoot up into stalk.

This I saw no remedy for but by making an enclosure about it with a hedge; which I did with a great deal of toil, and the more, because it required speed. However, as my arable land was but small, suited to my crop, I got it totally well fenced in about three weeks' time; and shooting some of the creatures in the daytime, I set my dog to guard it in the night, tying him up to a stake at the gate, where he would stand and bark all night long; so in a little time the enemies forsook the place, and the corn grew very strong and well, and began to ripen apace.

But as the beasts ruined me before, while my corn was in the blade, so the birds were as likely to ruin me now, when it was in the ear; for, going along by the place to see how it throve, I saw my little crop surrounded with fowls, of I know not how many sorts, who stood, as it were, watching till I should be gone. I immediately

let fly among them, for I always had my gun with me. I had no sooner shot, but there rose up a little cloud of fowls, which I had not seen at all, from among the corn itself.

This touched me sensibly, for I foresaw that in a few days they would devour all my hopes; that I should be starved, and never be able to raise a crop at all; and what to do I could not tell; however, I resolved not to lose my corn, if possible, though I should watch it night and day. In the first place, I went among it to see what damage was already done, and found they had spoiled a good deal of it; but that as it was yet too green for them, the loss was not so great but that the remainder was likely to be a good crop if it could be saved.

– adapted from 'The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe (1719)

(i) Which of the following lines from the passage reasons that it was the farmer's fault that he lost half of his crop?

- (a) I got it totally well fenced in about three weeks' time.
- (b) "...for I had lost one whole crop by sowing in the dry season."
- (c) But now, my crop promised very well.
- (d) I set my dog to guard it in the night.

(ii) If the farmer's crop were ruined, what could be the possible consequences?

- (a) He will be declared bankrupt.
- (b) He will starve to death.
- (c) He will become rich.
- (d) He will donate the crop to the needy.

(iii) The farmer decided to save the remaining crop. Which of the farmer's characteristics is displayed here?

- (a) sensible
- (b) silly
- (c) selfish
- (d) cruel

(iv) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.

This I saw no other way of

- A. resolving but by erecting a hedge
- B. around it, which I did with a great deal
- C. of effort, and all the more so
- D. because it was a rush job.

- (a) DABC
- (b) ADBC
- (c) CABC
- (d) ABCD

(v) Which of the following is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (a) The farmer didn't do anything to save his crop.
- (b) He made an enclosure around it with a hedge.
- (c) He shot some of the creatures in the daytime.
- (d) He set his dog to guard it in the night.

(vi) Replace the underlined word with a phrase that means the same from para 1.

His only thought is to protect the dog from infection.

- (a) set out
- (b) stay away
- (c) keep from
- (d) shoot up

(vii) Consider the following statements regarding the farmer's crop as given in the above passage.

- A. The farmer's crop was in danger.
- B. He became determined to save it.

How are these statements related?

- (a) Choice of yes or no
- (b) Cause and effect
- (c) Pros and cons
- (d) Ifs and buts

(viii) Choose the best word from the final paragraph to fill in the blank.

All the friends _____ more than half of the cake.

- (a) sensibly
- (b) devoured
- (c) starved
- (d) resolved

(ix) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

But now my crop was looking well, (1) and suddenly I was in danger of losing it all (2) to enemies of various kinds, (3) which I couldn't seem to keep away from it. (4)

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

(a) A

(b) B

(c) C

(d) D

(x) Which of the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'apace' as used in the second paragraph?

(a) briskly

(b) rapidly

(c) quickly

(d) slowly

14. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

In terms of the total energy consumed by different sectors, the largest consumer is understandably the industrial sector, which accounts for nearly half the total energy used in the country today. This is followed by the transport sector which consumes about 25%, the household sector about 14% and the agricultural sector about 9%. The last sector has shown a considerable increase in energy use over the last four decades. Among the primary fuels, the relative proportion of coal has decreased from the earlier 80% to 40%, and that of oil has gone up from 17% to 44% over the same period.

Total energy consumption in India today is equivalent to 291 million tons of oil, of which 26% comes from wood. On a per-capita basis, it works out to about 1 litre of oil per day, which is extremely low by international standards. The future energy demand depends upon the level of development and also on the people to be affected by it.

The energy disparity between the urban and the rural population is at present as wide as between nations on a worldwide scale. Apparently, there is a great need to provide energy in the rural areas and improve the national figures for energy consumption, limiting its use to those who are already getting the share in bulk.

With the projected population growth rate, improving the per capita energy consumption is a Herculean task as our coal reserves, and the capacity to import oil cannot be increased beyond a point. There is clearly no escape from the utilization of renewable energy sources in a big way if the gap between the desired levels of energy supply and available resources has to be kept at a minimum.

(i) According to the passage, the energy requirement of the future will be decided on the basis of which of the following?

A. Total energy already consumed by us in the past

B. Level of development of the oil industry

C. Profile of the affected people

(a) Only A

(b) Only B

(c) Only C

(d) Both B and C

(ii) Which of the following styles has been adopted by the author?

(a) Data-based, objective, positive, solution-oriented

(b) Data-based, but coloured by socialism

(c) Highly subjective with a bias for rural people

(d) Objective, descriptive, lacking-clarity

(iii) Which of the following shows the different sectors correctly consuming energy arranged in ascending order?

I. Agriculture

II. Household

III. Industrial

IV. Transport

(a) I, IV, II, III

(b) I, II, IV, III

(c) III, IV, II, I

(d) III, II, I, IV

- (iv) The author is laying greater emphasis on which of the following?
 A. Efficient use of energy
 B. Increasing national indices for energy consumption
 C. Controlling population growth
 (a) Only A (b) Only B (c) Only C (d) Both B and C
- (v) 'There is clearly no escape' means
 (a) There is also no solution to this.
 (b) There is a way out, but it is ambiguous.
 (c) There is a problem, but not without a solution.
 (d) There is hardly any alternative except.
- (vi) Which of the following has been suggested by the author as the best possible solution to overcome the energy crisis?
 (a) Exploration of oil reserves
 (b) Maximization of renewable sources
 (c) Importing large quantities of coal
 (d) Reducing the energy disparity between urban and rural areas
- (vii) 'The energy disparity between the urban and the rural population is at present as wide as between nations on a worldwide scale', the first sentence of third paragraph means
 (a) Disparity in urban and rural is observed in all nations.
 (b) In no other nation, such disparity is observed.
 (c) Developed countries consume more energy than developing countries.
 (d) Worldwide scale is different for rural and urban areas.
- (viii) The author feels that increasing per capita use of energy is
 (a) a matter of great difficulty (b) a routine matter
 (c) rather difficult, but not impossible (d) not easy but certainly achievable
- (ix) Choose the best word from the first paragraph to fill in the blank.
 The fire caused _____ damage to the building.
 (a) total (b) largest (c) understandably (d) considerable
- (x) Find out the word from paragraph 3, which is similar in meaning to 'a great difference'.
 (a) disparity (b) wide (c) improve (d) limiting

15. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The nationwide 21-day lockdown from March 25, 2020 suspended domestic flights, trains and inter-state buses, and instructed all Indians to stay at home. The government had already restricted foreign arrivals earlier in March 2020, first suspending tourist visas and visa-free travel for those holding Overseas Citizen of India cards, then prohibiting arrivals from COVID-19 hotspots, and finally cancelling all international flight landings from March 22, 2020, about 700 a week.

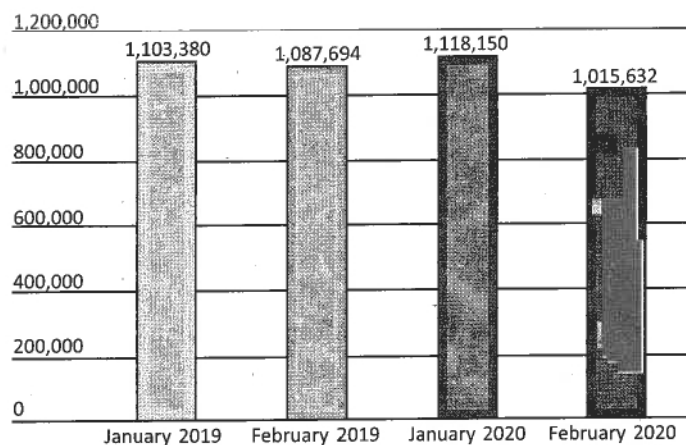
The government called for suspension of all hospitality services with exceptions only for those who were accommodating tourists and people stranded due to the lockdown, and those designated as quarantine facilities. Thus, foreign tourist arrivals in India, which saw a 9% decline in February 2020 (1.02 million) over January 2020 (1.12 million), and a 7% fall compared to February 2019 (1.09 million), have plummeted in March 2020. The Indian tourism and travel industry is likely to suffer a loss of 70% of its total workforce, said an April 2020 KPMG report.

Likewise, occupancies across hotels in India have crashed during March 2020, by over 40% in many cases; and cancellations are at an all-time high, said a March 23, 2020, report.

The United States and the United Kingdom together accounted for 24% of India's foreign tourist arrivals in February 2020. These two countries are among the worst affected by COVID-19, reporting over 600,000 cases (April 12, 2020), according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The Indian tourism and hospitality industry is staring at a potential job loss of around 38 million, which is 70% of the total workforce due to COVID-19. While every industry faces uncertainty over its future course with the unabated global advance of COVID-19, which has so far caused outbreaks in 185 countries, for this one the fears are more visceral. As those in the industry point out, information technology, banking/financial services and pharmaceuticals have no doubt felt the sting of the virus, but they are not as dependent on the physical mobility of people, and their comfort with the idea of travel, both of which have been casualties of the current crisis. Will it take nothing short of a vaccine, they wonder, for people to feel confident enough to undertake non-essential travel again?

Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India



- (i) In the line “ ... suspended domestic flights,” the word “suspended” DOES NOT refer to
- (a) stopped for some time
 - (b) not allowed to land
 - (c) prevented from operating
 - (d) not permitted to operate
- (ii) The April 2020 KPMG report shared that
- (a) there will be a fall in the tourists coming to India.
 - (b) a nation-wide lockdown will begin from 25 March 2020.
 - (c) the Indian tourism and hospitality industry is likely to witness a massive job loss.
 - (d) tourists from the USA and UK will increase.
- (iii) The only exception made by the government with regard to the suspension of the hospitality industry were
- (a) five-star hotels
 - (b) hotels with restaurants
 - (c) hotels in hill stations
 - (d) hotels catering to stranded people and designated as quarantine facilities
- (iv) Choose the option that lists the correct answers for the following:
1. In which year, the number of foreign tourists visiting India in January increased?
 2. In which year, the number of foreign tourists visiting India in February were more?
- (a) (1) 2020 (2) 2019
 - (b) (1) 2019 (2) 2020
 - (c) (1) 2020 (2) 2020
 - (d) (1) 2019 (2) 2019

- (v) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the factors that were directly responsible for job loss in the Indian tourism and travel industry due to COVID-19.

1. suspension of flights, trains and buses

4. restricted mobility of people

2. conversion of hotels to quarantine facilities

5. increased number of COVID-19 cases in the USA and UK

3. non-availability of skilled persons

6. high growth in the IT sector

- (a) 1 and 5 (b) 1 and 4 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 5 and 6
- (vi) The fall in the number of foreign tourist arrivals in India before the announcement of the lockdown indicates
- (a) downfall of the economy
(b) decreased quality of the services offered by the hospitality sector
(c) people's discomfort in travelling unless essential
(d) increased physical mobility of people
- (vii) The Indian travel and tourism industry "plummeted in March 2020" means that the industry
- (a) fell from its peak (b) witnessed a sudden growth
(c) was destroyed (d) could not recover
- (viii) Which of these countries accounted for 24% of foreign tourist arrivals in India in February 2020?
- (a) UAE and UK (b) USA and UK
(c) UAE and USA (d) UAE, USA and UK
- (ix) As per the KPMG report, 70% of the total workforce of Indian travel and tourism industry is likely to lose their jobs. This percentage is equal to almost _____ people.
- (a) 600,000 (b) 1,118,150 (c) 1,087,696 (d) 38,000,000
- (x) Probably _____ would provide the assurance to people to take up non-essential travel again.
- (a) medicine (b) a vaccine
(c) travel insurance (d) strict measures to maintain social distancing

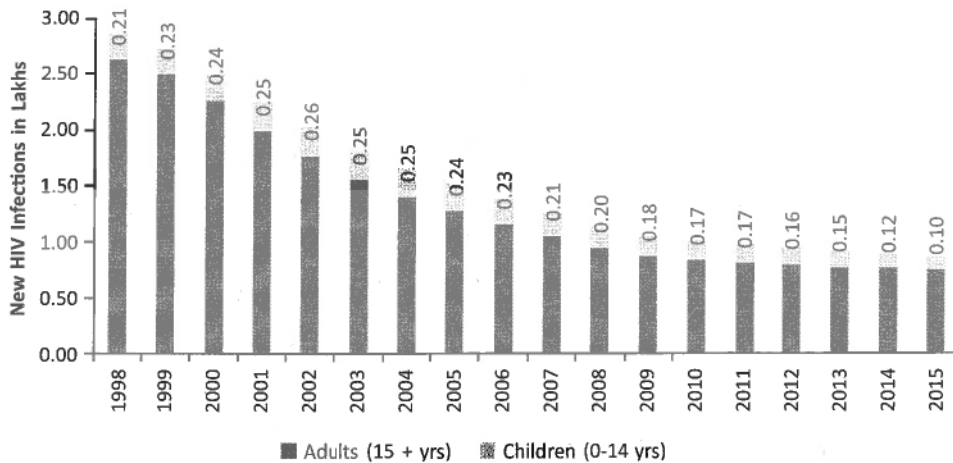
16. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

HIV infection in India was first detected in 1986 among female sex workers in Chennai. At the beginning of the epidemic, four southern states of India, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and the north-eastern states of Manipur and Nagaland were classified as high-prevalence states. Infections in the early days were mostly found in female sex workers and truck drivers but soon spread to housewives and the general population.

Over 90% of those infected with the virus were not aware of their status. Most diagnoses occurred at the late stages of the disease. While the number of voluntary counselling and testing centres is on the rise in both government and non-governmental settings in India, facilities have been underused because of (a) inaccurate perceptions of personal risk (b) a widespread belief that HIV is restricted to high-risk populations such as sex workers, drug users, and truck drivers and (c) the persistence of stigma surrounding HIV. Some available estimates of incidence have been carried out among the sex workers in Maharashtra (22.1 per 100 person-years) and drug users in Chennai (4.53%). But there has been a steady decline in the number of PLHIV (People Living With HIV/AIDS) in India since the 2.23 million figure reported in 2007.

As per the estimates of the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO), there are 2.12 million persons infected with HIV in India (NACO 2012). The adult HIV prevalence at the national level has continued its steady decline from an estimated peak of 0.38% in 2001–2003 through 0.34% in 2007 and 0.28% in 2012 to 0.26% in 2015. Also, there has been an encouraging decrease in the number of new infections since the peak of

3,00,000 per year in 1998 to less than 1,20,000 per year in 2012, a reduction of about 60%. Therefore, the HIV epidemic in India clearly shows signs of decline.



- (i) In the line "... inaccurate perceptions of personal risk", the word 'inaccurate' DOES NOT mean _____.
- (a) imprecise (b) incorrect (c) unreliable (d) accurate
- (ii) The position of HIV/AIDS in India DOES NOT reveal that
- (a) over 90% of those affected with the virus are unaware of it.
 (b) there were several southern and north-eastern states classified as high-prevalence states.
 (c) HIV has spread to only high-risk societies.
 (d) there had been a considerable decline in the number of PLHIV in India
- (iii) National Aids Control Organisation estimates clearly revealed that there were _____ infected with HIV in India.
- (a) 2 million persons (b) 1 million persons (c) 2.12 million persons (d) 3 million persons
- (iv) According to the survey, which year did not see a decline in the number of children affected by HIV from its previous year?
- (a) 2007 (b) 2001 (c) 2015 (d) 2003
- (v) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the group of people not studied for HIV.
1. sex workers in Maharashtra
 2. drug users in Chennai
 3. sex workers in Chennai
 4. drug suppliers in South Africa
 5. truck drivers
 6. auto drivers
- (a) (1) and (3) (b) (2) and (3) (c) (4) and (5) (d) (4) and (6)
- (vi) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'a mark of social disgrace.'
- (a) stigma (b) epidemic (c) infections (d) persistence
- (vii) Studies have shown that 90% of the infected people with the virus were
- (a) infected after spreading awareness. (b) unaware of their status.
 (c) well-aware of their status. (d) determined to know the status.

- (viii) According to the survey, which of the following is not a reason why counselling centres are underused?
- The persistence of stigma surrounding HIV
 - Belief that HIV is restricted to high-risk population only
 - Belief that HIV is communicable through touch
 - Inaccurate perceptions of personal risk
- (ix) According to the survey, pick out the correct combination based on the graph given.
- year 2010 - 0.80 lakh adults
 - year 2015 - 0.10 lakh adults
 - year 2000 - 1.78 lakh adults
 - year 2006 - 1.17 lakh adults
- (x) Which of the following is TRUE as per the available estimates of incidence?
- Carried out among the sex workers in Maharashtra and drug users in Chennai
 - There is an urgent need for HIV counselling.
 - HIV cases in India are increasing.
 - Infected people were well aware of their condition.

17. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

It is common knowledge that the root cause of our backwardness in most fields is illiteracy. Campaigns for the eradication of this drawback gathered momentum in the past four decades after independence. The results are, as expected, dramatic. However, while the percentage of literacy in India is going up, the number of illiterates has also been increasing, which is really incredible. Thus according to the 1991 census figures, there were 503 million illiterates in the country, 30 million more than in 1981. During the same period, literacy went up from 34 to 39 per cent.

*There is no need for any sophisticated technique to explain the cause of this paradox, as it is obviously the result of the rapid growth of the population. The rapid growth of the population has **outpaced** whatever little progress had been made in literacy. For instance, from 1971 to 1981, literacy increased at an annual average rate of 0.7%, while the country's population grew by 2.15% every year. In the following decade, the average rate of the annual increase in literacy was 0.95%, whereas the population increased by 2.85% every year during that decade. But population explosion is not entirely responsible for the growing number of illiterates. The apathy of most states failing to tackle the problem of adult literacy is also partly to blame. Till now, they have shown little awareness of the magnitude of the problem.*

Moreover, follow up measures to prevent neo-literates from relapsing into illiteracy is just as important as the initial adult literacy campaign. In this case, too, the state education authorities are negligent. No sufficient provisions have been made for 'continued education'. This can be done by setting up more rural libraries, adult schools and correspondence courses.

- (i) The term 'Neo-literate' as used in the passage, refers to a person who
- is not literate.
 - has newly become literate.
 - is a little literate.
 - is a literate with no school education.
- (ii) Which of the following statements is not true in the context of the passage?
- An effective check on population growth is the only solution for the attainment of full literacy.
 - The cause of the paradox mentioned in the passage can be explained by using sophisticated techniques.
 - Adequate number of libraries and adult schools are not available in our country.
- Only A
 - Only B
 - Only C
 - A and B
- (iii) Which of the following has been referred to as a paradox?
- The literacy percentage increases, and the number of illiterates decreases.
 - The literacy percentage increases in proportion to the rate of increase in population.
 - The literacy percentage and the number of illiterates are both increasing.
 - The government is sensitive to the problem only at the planning stage but not at the implementation stage.

(iv) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.

However, while the percentage ...

- A. is rising, the number of
B. of Indians who are literate
C. illiterates is also rising,
D. which is astonishing.
- (a) DABC (b) ADBC (c) CABC (d) BACD

(v) Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (a) Literacy campaign achieved desired results in the post-independence period.
(b) All the State governments have now fully realized the problem of illiteracy.
(c) Literacy campaigns in the pre-independence period were more fruitful than the later ones.
(d) Continued education programmes are now adequately funded.

(vi) Which of the following appears unbelievable, according to the passage?

- (a) Growing illiteracy is owing to the non-availability of reading facilities to rural masses.
(b) Sufficient provision for continued education has not been made.
(c) The increase in literacy percentage and also the increase in the number of illiterates
(d) Population explosion is the only reason for the increase in the number of illiterates.

(vii) Choose the best word from the last paragraph to fill in the blank.

The court ruled that the company was _____ in manufacturing, selling, and testing its product.

- (a) prevent (b) relapsing (c) negligent (d) sufficient

(viii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as the word 'outpaced' as used in the passage?

- (a) surpassed (b) nullified (c) ruled out (d) spoiled

(ix) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

There is no need for a (1) complicated technique to explain why (2) this contradiction exists, because it is (3) clearly the outcome of growth for population. (4)

- A. 1 B. 2
C. 3 D. 4
- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

(x) According to the passage, the problem could have been tackled by which one or more of the following measures?

- A. Checking the growth of the population
B. Making the adult literacy campaign more effective
C. Providing continued education to neo-literates
- (a) A and C (b) A and B (c) B and C (d) All of these

18. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills and the imparting of knowledge, judgement and wisdom, and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of.

Many educationalists consider it a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker, and education is an essential element in 'The Republic' (his most important work on philosophy and political theory, written around 360 B.C.). In it, he advocates some rather extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the

state, and differentiating children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less able. He believed that education should be holistic, including facts, skills, physical discipline, music and art. Plato believed that talent and intelligence is not distributed genetically and thus is be found in children born to all classes, although his proposed system of selective public education for an educated minority of the population does not really follow a democratic model.

Aristotle considered human nature, habit, and reason to be equally important forces to be cultivated in education, aiming to produce good and virtuous citizens. He proposed that teachers lead their students systematically and that repetition be used as a key tool to develop good habits, unlike Socrates' emphasis on questioning his listeners to bring out their own ideas. He emphasized the balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught, among which he explicitly mentions reading, writing, mathematics, music, physical education, literature, history, and a wide range of sciences, as well as play, which he also considered important.

During the Medieval period, the idea of Perennialism was first formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas in his work 'De Magistro'. Perennialism holds that one should teach those things deemed to be of everlasting importance to all people everywhere, namely principles and reasoning, not just facts (which are apt to change over time), and that one should teach first about people, not machines or techniques. It was originally religious in nature, and it was only much later that a theory of secular perennialism developed.

During the Renaissance, the French skeptic Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592) was one of the first to critically look at education. Unusually for his time, Montaigne was willing to question the conventional wisdom of the period, calling into question the whole edifice of the educational system and the implicit assumption that university-educated philosophers were necessarily wiser than uneducated farm workers, for example.

- (i) What is the difference between the approaches of Socrates and Aristotle?
- Aristotle felt the need for repetition to develop good habits in students; Socrates felt that students need to be constantly questioned.
 - Aristotle felt the need for rote learning; Socrates emphasized dialogic learning.
 - There was no difference.
 - Aristotle emphasized the importance of paying attention to human nature; Socrates emphasized science.
- (ii) Why do educationalists consider philosophy a 'weak and woolly' field?
- Its theoretical concepts are easily understood.
 - It is irrelevant to education.
 - It is not practically applicable.
 - None of the above.
- (iii) What do you understand by the term 'Perennialism', in the context of the given comprehension passage?
- It refers to something which is quite unnecessary.
 - It refers to something which is abstract and theoretical.
 - It refers to something which existed in the past and no longer exists now.
 - It refers to something which is of ceaseless importance.
- (iv) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

Human nature, habit, and reason, (1) according to Aristotle, is all (2) equally necessary forces to foster in education (3) in order to make decent and virtuous people. (4)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A. 1 | B. 2 | | |
| C. 3 | D. 4 | | |
| (a) A | (b) B | (c) C | (d) D |

- (v) Why did Aquinas propose a model of education which did not lay much emphasis on facts?
- (a) Facts are not important. (b) Facts do not lead to holistic education.
(c) Facts change with the changing times. (d) Facts are frozen in time.
- (vi) Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?
- (a) Plato advocates removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state.
(b) Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of all skills.
(c) Plato is the last important educational thinker.
(d) Plato believed that talent and intelligence is distributed genetically.
- (vii) Who played the most important role in education?
- (a) St. Thomas Aquinas (b) Ancient Greeks
(c) Aristotle (d) Plato
- (viii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as the word 'advocates' as used in the passage?
- (a) lawyer (b) opposes (c) demonstrates (d) supports
- (ix) Select the pair which has the same relationship.
- (a) judgement, wisdom (b) education, science
(c) practical, hot (d) habit, seldom
- (x) Choose the best meaning, which is similar in meaning to 'implicit assumption'.
- (a) an assumption that underlies a logical argument
(b) an assumption that underlies an illogical argument
(c) an assumption that underlies a limited argument
(d) an assumption that is based on lots of experience

19. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Internet banking is the term used for the new age banking system. Internet banking is also called online banking, and it is an outgrowth of PC banking. Internet banking uses the Internet as the delivery channel by which to conduct banking activity, for example, transferring funds, paying bills, viewing checking and savings account balances, paying mortgages and purchasing financial instruments and certificates of deposits. Internet banking is a result of the explored possibility of using internet applications in one of the various commerce domains. It is difficult to infer whether the internet tool has been applied for the convenience of bankers or for the customers' convenience. But ultimately, it contributes to increasing the efficiency of the banking operation as well providing more convenience to customers. Without even interacting with the bankers, customers **transact** from one corner of the country to another corner.*

*There are many advantages of online banking. It is convenient, it isn't bound by operational timings, there are no geographical barriers, and the services can be offered at a **minuscule** cost. Electronic banking has experienced explosive growth and has transformed traditional practices in banking.*

*Private Banks in India were the first to implement internet banking services in the banking industry. Due to late entry into the industry, Private Banks understood that establishing network in remote corners of the country is a very difficult task. It was clear to them that the only way to stay connected to the customers at any place and time is through internet applications. They took the internet applications as a weapon of competitive advantage to corner the great **monoliths** like the State Bank of India, Indian Bank, etc. Private Banks are pioneers in India to explore the versatility of internet applications in delivering services to customers. Several studies have attempted to assess the relative importance of B2B and B2C business domains. There is a wide difference in estimates of the volume of business transacted over the Internet and its components under B2C and B2B. However, most studies agree that the volume of transactions in the B2B domain far exceeds that in B2C. This is the expected result. There is also a growing opinion that the future of e-business lies in the B2B domain, as compared to B2C. This has several reasons, like low penetration of PCs to households, low bandwidth availability etc., in large part of the world. The success of B2C ventures depends largely on the*

shopping habits of people in different parts of the world. A survey sponsored jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industries and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services on e-commerce in India in 2010 made the following observations. 62% of PC owners and 75% of PC non-owners who have access to the Internet would not buy through the net as they were not sure of the product offered. The same study estimated the size of B2B business in India by the year 2011 to be varying between ₹1250 billion to ₹1500 billion. In a recent study done by Arthur Anderson, it has been estimated that 84% of total e-business revenue is generated from the B2B segment and the growth prospects in this segment are **substantial**. It has estimated the revenues to be anywhere between US \$ 8.1 trillion to over US \$ 21 trillion within the next three years (2014).

- (i) Which bank(s) is/are pioneer in India to explore the versatility of internet banking in serving customers?
- (a) State Bank of India (b) Indian Bank
(c) Public Sector Banks (d) Private Banks
- (ii) Which of the following is not an advantage of online banking?
- (a) It is convenient.
(b) It is bound by operational timings.
(c) The services can be offered at a minimum cost.
(d) There is no geographical barrier.
- (iii) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
It's convenient, it's not constrained ...
- A. and the services may be
B. by operational schedules, there are
C. provided at a low cost.
D. no geographical limitations,
- (a) BDAC (b) ADAC (c) CABD (d) BADC
- (iv) Which types of activities are performed by internet banking?
- (a) Paying bills
(b) Transferring funds
(c) Purchasing financial instruments and certificates of deposits
(d) All of these
- (v) What estimate was made by a Confederation of Indian Industries regarding the size of B2B business in India by the year 2011?
- (a) Between ₹250 billion to ₹500 billion (b) Between ₹1250 billion to ₹1500 billion
(c) Between ₹850 billion to ₹1050 billion (d) Between \$ 8.7 trillion to \$ 21 trillion
- (vi) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.
It was obvious to them (1) that the only way to stay in touch (2) with clients at any time and (3) through any location was to use internet applications. (4)
- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
- (vii) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'monoliths' as used in the passage.
- (a) large blocks of stone (b) monopoly
(c) large organizations (d) dwarfs
- (viii) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'transact' as used in the passage.
- (a) tranquilize (b) transcend (c) exceed (d) do business
- (ix) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'substantial' as used in the passage.
- (a) meagre (b) considerable (c) large (d) submissive
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'minuscule' as used in the passage.
- (a) small (b) minimum (c) minute (d) large

20. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Like most of my generation, I was brought up on the saying: 'Satan finds some mischief for idle hands to do.' Being a highly virtuous child, I believed all that I was told and acquired a conscience that has kept me working hard down to the present moment. But although my conscience has controlled my actions, my opinions have undergone a revolution. I think that there is far too much work done in the world, that immense harm is caused by the belief that work is virtuous, and that what needs to be preached in modern industrial countries is quite different from what always has been preached. Everyone knows the story of the traveller in Naples who saw twelve beggars lying in the sun and offered a lira to the laziest of them. Eleven of them jumped up to claim it, so he gave it to the twelfth. This traveller was on the right lines. But in countries that do not enjoy Mediterranean sunshine, idleness is more difficult, and a great public propaganda will be required to inaugurate it. After reading the following, I hope that the leaders of the Y.M.C.A. will start a campaign to induce good young men to do nothing. If so, I shall not have lived in vain.

But in all seriousness, I truly believe that a great deal of harm is being done in the modern world by belief in the virtuousness of work, and that the road to happiness and prosperity lies in an organized diminution of work.

First of all: what is work? Work is of two kinds: first, altering the position of matter at or near the earth's surface relatively to other such matter; second, telling other people to do so. The first kind is unpleasant and ill-paid; the second is pleasant and highly paid. The second kind is capable of indefinite extension: there are not only those who give orders but those who advise as to what orders should be given. Usually, two opposite kinds of advice are given simultaneously by two organized bodies of men; this is called politics. The skill required for this work is not knowledge of the subjects as to which advice is given but knowledge of the art of persuasive speaking and writing, i.e. advertising.

From the beginning of civilization until the Industrial Revolution, a man could, as a rule, produce by hard work little more than was required for the subsistence of himself and his family. The small surplus above bare necessities was not left to those who produced it but was appropriated by warriors and priests. Much that we take for granted about the desirability of work is derived from this system and, being pre-industrial, is not adapted to the modern world. Modern technology has made it possible for leisure, within limits, to be not the prerogative of small privileged classes but a right evenly distributed throughout the community. The morality of work is the morality of slaves, and the modern world has no need for slavery.

Obviously, in primitive communities, peasants left to themselves would not have parted with the slender surplus upon which the warriors and priests subsisted but would have either produced less or consumed more. At first, sheer force compelled them to produce and part with the surplus. Gradually, however, it was found possible to induce many of them to accept an ethic according to which it was their duty to work hard, although part of their work went to support others in idleness. The conception of duty, speaking historically, has been a means used by the holders of power to induce others to live for the interests of their masters rather than for their own. Of course, the holders of power conceal this fact from themselves by managing to believe that their interests are identical to the larger interests of humanity. Sometimes this is true; ancient Athenian slave-owners, for instance, employed part of their leisure in making a permanent contribution to civilization which would have been impossible under a just economic system. Leisure is essential to civilization, and in former times leisure for the few was only rendered possible by the labours of the many. But those labours were valuable, not because work is good, but because leisure is good. And with modern technology, it would be possible to distribute leisure justly without injury to civilization.

- (i) Which of the following best describes the relation between work, leisure, and civilization?
- (a) Leisure is what makes work valuable, and equitable distribution of leisure is vital to civilization.
 - (b) Leisure is important for civilization but not as important as work, and the latter is what makes the former possible.
 - (c) Leisure is vital to civilization, while work, as the product of an outdated social order, is irrelevant to modern civilization.
 - (d) Though leisure is important for civilization, it is not possible for all members of society to enjoy it, as some must do productive work.

- (ii) Which of the following correctly states the gist of this passage?
- (a) Historically, leisure has been the privilege of only a few people. But this will soon change as modern technology changes contemporary civilization.
 - (b) Historically, leisure has been the privilege of only a few people. But this is a relic of a pre-industrial society and should have no place in modern civilization.
 - (c) Historically, work has been unfairly emphasized over leisure. But this is a relic of a pre-industrial society and should have no place in modern civilization.
 - (d) Historically, work has been unfairly emphasized over leisure. But this will soon change as modern technology changes contemporary civilization.
- (iii) What is the point of the anecdote of the twelve beggars?
- (a) The laziest beggar was so lazy that he wasn't even interested in making money.
 - (b) Though the laziest beggar was not actually very lazy, he got the reward because he did not attempt to claim it.
 - (c) The laziest beggar was so lazy that he did not even make an effort to prove that he was lazy.
 - (d) The laziest beggar, unlike the others, did not care about material rewards, so he did not attempt to claim the lira.
- (iv) What is the relation of the first paragraph to the rest of the passage?
- (a) It provides a rather roundabout way of getting to the main point of the passage.
 - (b) It provides a slightly tongue-in-cheek introduction to the serious topic of the passage.
 - (c) It introduces the topic of the passage by using a proverb and anecdote that states the opposite.
 - (d) It introduces, in brief, all the main points that the author goes on to discuss in the rest of the passage.

- (v) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

I honestly believe that belief in the virtues of work (1) cause a tremendous deal of harm in (2) the current society and that the path to happiness and prosperity (3) lies in a systematic reduction of work. (4)

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A. 1 | B. 2 | C. 3 | D. 4 |
| (a) A | (b) B | (c) C | (d) D |

- (vi) The author is likely to disapprove of which of the following?
- (a) A rich politician who works long hours
 - (b) A poor labourer who refuses to do any work
 - (c) A philosopher who does not do any work
 - (d) An artist who works only in intervals

- (vii) Choose the best word from the first paragraph to fill in the blank.

He had a guilty _____ about his desires.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| (a) mischief | (b) virtuous | (c) immense | (d) conscience |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|

- (viii) Find out the word from paragraph 3, which is similar in meaning to 'an excess of production or supply'.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) relatively | (b) indefinite | (c) surplus | (d) subsistence |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|

- (ix) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'mischief' as used in the passage.

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| (a) fault | (b) obedience | (c) prank | (d) injury |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|

- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'economic' as used in the passage.

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| (a) money-making | (b) productive | (c) industrial | (d) unprofitable |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|

21. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Economists, ethicists and business experts persuade us that honesty is the best policy, but their evidence is weak. We hoped to find data that would support their theories and thus, perhaps, encourage higher standards of business behaviour. To our surprise, their pet theories failed to stand up. Treachery, we found, can pay. There is no compelling economic reason to tell the truth or keep one's word. Punishment for the treacherous in the real world is neither swift nor sure.

*Honesty is, in fact, primarily a moral choice. Business people do tell themselves that, in the long run, they will do well by doing good. But there is little factual or logical basis for this conviction. Without values, without a basic preference of right over wrong, trust based on such **delusion** would crumble in the face of temptation. Most of us choose virtue because we want to believe in ourselves and because others respect and believe us. And due to this, we should be happy. We can be proud of a system in which people are honest because they want to be, not because they have to be. Materially, too, trust based on morality provides great advantages. It allows us to join in great and exciting enterprises that we could never undertake if we relied on economic incentives alone.*

Economists tell us that trust is enforced in the market place through retaliation and reputation. If you violate a trust, your victim is apt to seek revenge and others are likely to stop doing business with you, at least under favourable terms. A man or woman with a reputation for fair dealing will prosper. Therefore, profit maximisers are honest. This sounds plausible enough until you look for concrete examples. Cases that apparently demonstrate the awful consequences of trust turn out to be few and weak, while evidence that treachery can pay seems compelling.

- (i) What did the author find out about the theory that honesty is the best policy?
- (a) It is a useless theory. (b) It is correct on many occasions.
(c) It is correct for all businessmen. (d) It is correct only occasionally.
- (ii) Which of the following is the same in meaning as “persuade” as used in the passage?
- (a) Try to convince (b) Cheat
(c) Motivate (d) Give assurance
- (iii) Why do businessmen, according to economists, remain honest? Because dishonest businessmen
- (a) are flogged in the market place. (b) are always prosecuted.
(c) can make more money. (d) cannot stay in business for long.
- (iv) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
Economists claim that punishment and reputation
- A. are used to enforce trust in the marketplace,
B. and if you break trust, your victim will likely
C. seek retribution, and others will cease doing
D. business with you, at least on favourable terms.
- (a) DABC (b) ABCD (c) CABD (d) BACD
- (v) Which is the material advantage which the author sees in being honest? It permits one to
- (a) undertake activities which may not be economically attractive.
(b) be honest for the sake of honesty alone.
(c) make a lot of profit in various areas.
(d) None of these
- (vi) Which of the following is false according to the passage?
- (a) People are generally honest because it pays in the long run.
(b) Virtuous behaviour earns the self respect of others.
(c) Economists believe that all businessmen are dishonest.
(d) Generally people are honest earning self-respect.
- (vii) The phrase ‘stand up’ as used in the passage means
- (a) hold up (b) get up (c) supported (d) get established
- (viii) Which of the following best describes what the author is trying to point out through the last sentence of the passage ‘Cases that compelling?’
- (a) Economists predict correctly. (b) The consequences of dishonesty
(c) The contradictions in the real world (d) Theories do not seem to be true.

(ix) Choose the correct spelling.

- (a) treachary (b) primerily (c) retaliation (d) plisable

(x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'delusion' as used in the passage.

- (a) rationality (b) modifying (c) seldom (d) fantasy

22. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The basic concept of photography has been around since about the 5th century BCE. It wasn't until an Iraqi scientist developed something called the camera obscura in the 11th century that the art was born. Photography, as we know it today, began in the late 1830s in France. Joseph Nicéphore Niépce used a portable camera obscura to **expose** a pewter plate coated with bitumen to light. This is the first recorded image that did not fade quickly. Niépce's success led to a number of other experiments, and photography progressed very rapidly. Daguerreotypes, emulsion plates, and wet plates were developed almost simultaneously in the mid-to-late 1800s.*

In the 1870s, photography took another huge leap forward. Richard Maddox improved on a previous invention to make dry gelatine plates that were nearly equal to wet plates in speed and quality. Photography was only for professionals and the very rich until George Eastman started a company called Kodak in the 1880s.

Eastman created a flexible roll film that did not require constantly changing the solid plates. This allowed him to develop a self-contained box camera that held 100 film exposures. The camera had a small single lens with no focusing adjustment. The consumer would take pictures and send the camera back to the factory for the film to be developed and prints made, much like modern disposable cameras. This was the first camera inexpensive enough for the average person to afford. The film was still large in comparison to today's 35mm film. It was not until the late 1940s that 35mm film became cheap enough for the majority of consumers to use.

Around 1930, Henri-Cartier Bresson and other photographers began to use small 35mm cameras to capture images of life as it occurred rather than staged portraits. When World War II started in 1939, many photojournalists adopted this style. At the same time, 35mm cameras were becoming popular; Polaroid introduced the Model 95. Model 95 used a secret chemical process to develop the film inside the camera in less than a minute. This new camera was fairly expensive, but the novelty of instant images caught the public's attention.

In the 1950s, Asahi (which later became Pentax) introduced the Asahiflex and Nikon introduced its Nikon F camera. These were both Single-Lens Reflex (SLR)-type cameras, and the Nikon F allowed for interchangeable lenses and other accessories. For the next 30 years, SLR-style cameras remained the camera of choice.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, compact cameras that were capable of making image control decisions on their own were introduced. These "point and shoot" cameras calculated shutter speed, aperture and focus, leaving photographers free to concentrate on composition.

*The **automatic** cameras became immensely popular with casual photographers. Professionals and serious amateurs continued to prefer to make their own adjustments and enjoyed the image control available with SLR cameras.*

(i) "Something called camera obscura was developed around 11th century" was NOT made by

- (a) an Indian scientist. (b) an English scientist.
(c) an Iraqi scientist. (d) both (a) and (b)

(ii) "...but the novelty of instant images caught the public's attention." Pick the option in which the meaning of 'novelty' is NOT the same as it is in the passage.

- (a) It came from the days when a vintage car was a novelty.
(b) He bought chocolate novelties for Christmas.
(c) The movie included a few novelty songs.
(d) The shop sells gifts and other novelties.

- (iii) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the beginning and the progression of the first Modern photography.
1. 1830 in France
 2. Company Kodak in 1880's
 3. mid-to-late 1800s
 4. took huge leap in 1870s
- (a) 1, 4, 3, 2 (b) 3, 4, 2, 1 (c) 1, 3, 4, 2 (d) 2, 4, 1, 3
- (iv) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.
- Many like modern disposable cameras, (1) the consumer would take images and (2) then return the camera to the factory (3) to have the film developed and prints created. (4)
- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
- (v) Choose the correct spelling.
- (a) photograpy (b) simultaneously (c) adjustmant (d) amateurs
- (vi) Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word "expose."
- (a) Political scandals exposed the family in the newspapers today.
 - (b) The scientist experimented on the upper part of the shelf to expose the stains.
 - (c) He worked hard to expose him as a traitor.
 - (d) He damaged his arm so badly in the accident that the bone was exposed.
- (vii) Pick the option that correctly states what DID NOT happen in the world of photography.
- (a) It did not happen after 5th century.
 - (b) It did not happen until an Iraqi scientist developed a camera.
 - (c) It wasn't accepted in many countries.
 - (d) It happened before 5th century.
- (viii) Choose the best word from the first paragraph to fill in the blank.
- The plaster on the walls has been removed to _____ the original bricks underneath.
- (a) developed (b) born (c) expose (d) progressed
- (ix) Find out the word from paragraph 3, which is similar in meaning to 'intended to be thrown away after use'.
- (a) flexible (b) exposures (c) inexpensive (d) disposable
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'automatic' as used in the passage.
- (a) manual (b) temporary (c) conscious (d) deliberate

23. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *Several years ago, I was given, as a gift, a remote session with a bibliotherapist at the London headquarters of the School of Life. I have to admit that at first, I didn't really like the idea of being given a reading "prescription." I've generally preferred to mimic Virginia Woolf's passionate commitment to serendipity in my personal reading discoveries, delighting not only in the books themselves but in the randomly meaningful nature of how I came upon them (on the bus after a breakup or in a backpackers' hostel in Damascus). But the session was a gift, and I found myself unexpectedly enjoying the initial questionnaire about my reading habits that the bibliotherapist, Ella Berthoud, sent me.*
2. *We had some satisfying back-and-forths over e-mail, and when she sent the final reading prescription, it was filled with gems, none of which I'd previously read— "The Guide," by RK Narayan, a lovely story about a man who starts his working life as a tourist guide at a train station in Malgudi, India, but then goes through many other occupations before finding his unexpected destiny as a spiritual guide. She had picked it because she hoped it might leave me feeling "strangely enlightened." "The Gospel According*

to Jesus Christ” by José Saramago, “Henderson the Rain King” by Saul Bellow, and “Siddhartha” by Hermann Hesse, were among other **prescribed** works of fiction, and some nonfiction, too, such as “The Case for God” by Karen Armstrong, and “Sum” by the neuroscientist David Eagleman, a “short and wonderful book about possible afterlives.”

3. I worked my way through the books on the list over the next couple of years, at my own pace—interspersed with my own “discoveries”—and while I am fortunate enough to have my ability to withstand terrible grief untested. A book may be a **stimulant** or a sedative or an irritant or a **soporific**. The point is that it must do something to you, and you ought to know what it is. Today, bibliotherapy takes many different forms, from literature courses run for prison inmates to reading circles for elderly people suffering from dementia. Sometimes it can simply mean one-on-one or group sessions for “lapsed” readers who want to find their way back to an enjoyment of books.
4. For all **avid** readers, who have been self-medicating with great books their entire lives, it comes as no surprise that reading books can be good for your mental health and your relationships with others, but exactly why and how is now becoming clearer, thanks to new research on reading’s effects on the brain. A 2011 study published in the *Annual Review of Psychology*, based on analysis of MRI brain scans of participants, showed that when people read about an experience, they display stimulation within the same neurological regions as when they go through that experience themselves.
 - (i) The narrator did not like the idea of a reading prescription initially due to –
 - (a) her not being used to reading.
 - (b) her fear of losing interest.
 - (c) her dislike for the bibliotherapist.
 - (d) the fact that she preferred making reading discoveries.
 - (ii) “I was given, as a gift, a remote session...” Pick the option in which the meaning of ‘remote’ is NOT the same as it is in the passage.
 - (a) She is doing her research about some remote villages of India.
 - (b) My mother likes to keep the remote in her hand while watching TV.
 - (c) I don’t have even a remote idea what he might do next.
 - (d) The accident happened in my remote past.
 - (iii) The narrator says, ‘...she had a passionate commitment to her personal discoveries...’ If it were the opposite of ‘discovery’, it would be
 - (a) concealment.
 - (b) occupation.
 - (c) enlightenment.
 - (d) stimulant.
 - (iv) Which of these was NOT one of the authors that the bibliotherapist suggested?
 - (a) Jose Saramago
 - (b) Saul Bellow
 - (c) Virginia Woolf
 - (d) Karen Armstrong
 - (v) According to the passage, the fact that the narrator supports bibliotherapy suggests that the narrator is –
 - (a) a first time reader.
 - (b) stressed.
 - (c) a reading enthusiast.
 - (d) highly selective.
 - (vi) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence. It should come as no surprise to any avid readers
 - A. with others, but owing to recent research on reading’s impact
 - B. on the brain, why and how is finally becoming clearer.
 - C. who have spent their lives self-medicating with great books
 - D. that reading books may be good for your mental health and relationships
 - (a) CDAB
 - (b) ABCD
 - (c) CABD
 - (d) BACD

(vii) Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word 'avid'.

- (a) He was intensely eager, indeed avid for wealth.
- (b) Her father had been an avid and patient traveller.
- (c) I could crack the code easily and it will prove that I study avidly.
- (d) The suppliers too are competing in an avid manner.

(viii) Choose the correct word which cannot be used with 'prescribed'.

- (a) format
- (b) response
- (c) period
- (d) medicine

(ix) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'stimulant' as used in the passage.

- (a) drug
- (b) motive
- (c) block
- (d) energizer

(x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'soporific' as used in the passage.

- (a) narcotic
- (b) sedative
- (c) stimulant
- (d) bore

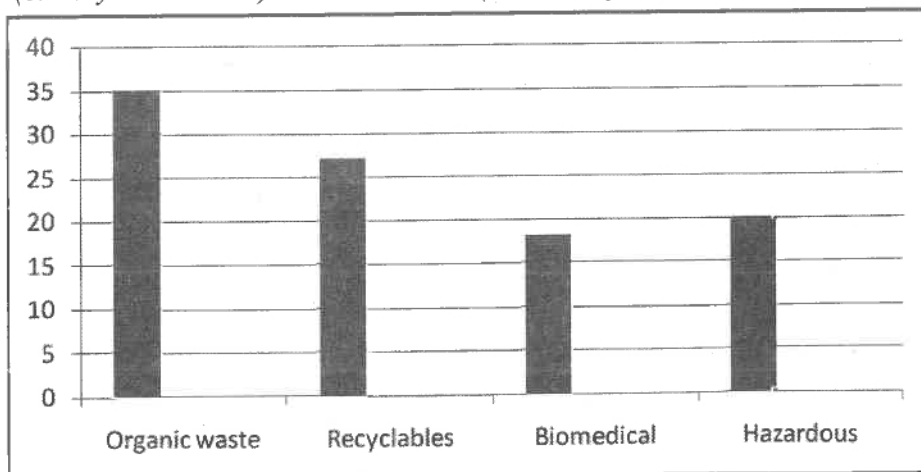
4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *Waste management comprises of a collective activity of segregation, collection, transportation, recycling and disposal of waste. Improper waste management is one of the main causes of environmental pollution. In India, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is responsible for regulating and managing waste.*

India generates 62 million tonnes of waste every year, of which less than 60% is collected and around 15% is processed with landfills. Ranking third in terms of greenhouse gas emissions in India, and increasing pressure from the public, the Government of India revised the Solid Waste Management after 16 years. This paper proposes an institutional framework that will address this grave environmental and public health concern and bring about a systemic change in the sector.

2. *The Census Department categorises urban India into six tiers, based on population. According to the 2011 census report, there are three megacities holding a population of 10 million or more, 53 urban agglomerations with a population of one million or above, and 468 towns with a population of 100,000 and above.*

The generated waste can be divided into three major categories: Organic (all kinds of biodegradable waste), dry (or recyclable waste) and biomedical (or sanitary and hazardous waste).



3. *A waste audit was conducted across 500 households of Hyderabad, a city with a population of 3.6 million. The residents were divided into three segments based on income levels: low, middle and high. The specific target segments for the waste audit were "middle" and "high" income categories. The waste, as per division, recorded as organic, recyclables and hazardous waste. The organic waste came up to 35% of the*

total waste, the waste which can be recycled is E-waste plastic and others contributed up to 28% while the hazardous waste mixture came up to 20%, and biomedical waste came up to 17%. About 60 % of the plastic waste is recycled in India.

4. It is the need of the hour to introduce waste management system due to the following issues.

- domestic waste thrown on streets
- trade waste on roads / streets
- construction waste left unattended
- biomedical wastes disposed into municipal waste stream
- industrial waste often disposed of in open areas

In waste management, segregation of recyclable waste was not done properly at the source. The initial waste collection was not done at place of generation. Design and location of municipal waste storage depots were inappropriate, resulting in littering of garbage. Street sweeping is not done every day. Waste transportation is done in open vehicles. Waste processing is **partially** practised in 35 ULBs only. The final disposal is done through crude dumping. Waste pickers collect recyclables from municipal bins and dumpsites and litter the waste causing insanitary conditions.

(i) Pick the option that lists statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.

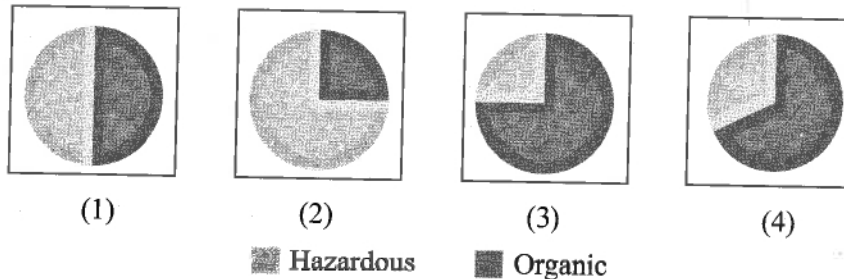
1. Various measures have been adopted in previous years to tackle waste.
2. Waste management has been ignored for many years.
3. India came in top 2 rankers for gas emissions.
4. Waste is not considered a public health concern.

- (a) 1 & 2 (b) 3 & 4 (c) 2 & 3 (d) 1 & 3

(ii) The word 'hazardous', as used in paragraph 3, means the same as

- (a) predictable. (b) dangerous. (c) large amount. (d) safe.

(iii) Based on the graphical chart in the passage, choose the option that correctly states the depiction of hazardous and organic waste.



- (a) Option (1) (b) Option (2) (c) Option (3) (d) Option (4)

(iv) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

This article provides an institutional framework (1) to addressing this serious environmental (2) and public health issue and bringing (3) about systemic change in the industry. (4)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
 (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

(v) Based on the given graphical chart, pick the option that is correct in context with waste segregation.

- (a) The waste that can be reused is in the lowest percentage.
- (b) There is a little increase in the case of organic waste as compared to biomedical waste.
- (c) Organic waste is not of a great percentage.
- (d) The waste that can be dangerous is 1/5th of the total waste.

(vi) In the context, 'It is the need of the hour to introduce waste management system', reveals that government is _____.

- (a) ignorant (b) responsible (c) concerned (d) imaginative

- (vii) Which of the following statements is NOT substantiated by information in paragraph 4?
- (a) Nobody is there to take care of construction work.
 - (b) Separation of recyclable waste was not done properly.
 - (c) Water transport was done in closed vehicles with proper arrangement.
 - (d) Domestic waste is thrown on the streets.

- (viii) Choose the best word from the first paragraph to fill in the blank.

The situation is very _____ and appears to be deteriorating.

- (a) systemic (b) collective (c) grave (d) collection

- (ix) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'partially' as used in the passage.

- (a) in some measure (b) completely (c) totally (d) wholly

- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'disposal' as used in the passage.

- (a) junking (b) scrapping (c) discarding (d) retention

25. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *When I am explaining how a fruit bat does something, is my audience picturing an actual fruit bat, or some generic image of a bat? Does it matter? Bats are not a monolithic group. They make up a fifth of the roughly 6,400 species of mammals on the planet. With over 1,400 currently described species, the bats are the second most speciose group of mammals, second only to rodents. Winged, nocturnal, and warm-blooded, bats have been extraordinarily successful at surviving and diversifying. They are found almost everywhere you might look, and in some places, such as certain islands, they are the only native terrestrial mammals.*
2. *How did this diversity of bats arise? Bats are estimated to have emerged around 64 million years ago, around the same time, many other groups of mammals expanded, thanks to the fall of dinosaurs. They were fully flighted and probably capable of basic echolocation around 53 million years ago. Flight and echolocation are thought to have served as the key innovations that allowed bats to hunt at night, to escape predators, and to minimize competition with other animals.*
3. *The ability to fly also meant bats could move to new habitats, where they might adapt and **evolve** differences due to isolation. In some cases, as in the evolution of the flying foxes, bats lost the ability to echolocate. Those species now rely more on vision and the sense of smell to navigate their world.*
4. *The ability to take advantage of new and different food items is also thought to be the key in driving bat diversification, particularly among the New World leaf-nosed bats. A change in the shape of the jaw and skull enabled some to reach into longer flowers for nectars, while in others, it provided a stronger bite to get through tough fruit rinds. Such adaptations led to some of the strange and **elaborate** bat faces we see today. Even variation in the shape of the leaf nose could make a difference in the ability to direct noises and locate prey more precisely.*

(Source: Natural History Magazine)

- (i) "...to escape predators, and to minimize competition with other animals." Pick the option in which the meaning of 'escape(ed)' is NOT the same as it is in the passage.
- (a) The dog tried to escape the approaching cat.
 - (b) Reading books is my escape from the problems of life.
 - (c) She escaped the accident by a small margin.
 - (d) Bats try to escape from their predators as much as they can.

- (ii) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of information provided in the passage.
1. There are over 1,400 species of bats that have been described currently.
 2. The ability to locate their prey easily depends on the variation in the shape of the leaf nose.
 3. The shape of the jaw enabled some bats to reach into longer fruits.
 4. Bats can move to new habitats because of their ability to fly.
 5. Bats can be found anywhere and everywhere.
- (a) 1, 5, 4, 3, 2 (b) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (c) 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 (d) 1, 3, 5, 2, 4
- (iii) The writer says, "Bats are estimated to have emerged around 64 million years ago." Having emerged means
- (a) to get into a deep slumber. (b) to live in some cave.
(c) to appear or come out from somewhere. (d) to be always available.
- (iv) According to the passage, the fact that the bats can take advantage of the new and different food items, shows that they are
- (a) smart. (b) diversified. (c) flexible. (d) innovative.
- (v) Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word 'elaborate'.
- (a) That ritual was very elaborate.
(b) The students requested the teacher to elaborate the topic taught.
(c) They wore elaborate costumes at the party.
(d) After the result, he tried to elaborate from his father.
- (vi) Pick the option that correctly states what the writer DID NOT say about the diversity of bats.
- (a) One-fifth of the total mammal population is bats.
(b) After rodents, it is the second most speciose group of mammals.
(c) The bats can be found everywhere.
(d) Bats use the power of levitation to fly.
- (vii) The writer's article is
- (a) passive. (b) extensive. (c) active. (d) underrated.
- (viii) Pick the option that correctly lists the keywords that can be used to describe the bats based on the passage.
1. talented 2. diverse 3. adaptable
 4. nosey 5. rooted
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 4 and 5
- (ix) Choose the best word from the second paragraph to fill in the blank.
There was a _____ in support for the party at the last election.
- (a) arise (b) emerged (c) fall (d) echolocation
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'evolve' as used in the passage.
- (a) develop (b) grow (c) progress (d) diminish

26. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *Chief Seattle was a leader of the Suquamish Tribe and was a figure of great authority who was widely respected. The United States wanted to clear the land of Indian title to allow for settlement via a new transcontinental railroad. This made the tribe very angry, but Chief Seattle agreed to sell the lands the tribes lived on. In 1860, Chief Seattle wrote this letter to President Franklin Pierce in response to his request to purchase land from his tribe.*
2. *The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. He also sends words of friendship and goodwill. 'We will consider your offer because we know that if we do not sell, the white men may come with guns and take our land... You can buy the land but how can you buy its warmth... Every piece*

of this land is sacred to my people... We are the part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers, So, when the President expresses his wish to buy the land, he asks much of us.

3. The white man's dead forget the country of their birth when they go to walk among the stars. Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the red man. The **shining** water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is **sacred**, and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.
4. Even the white, whose God walks and talks with him as a friend to friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers, after all; we shall see. One thing we know, which the white man may one day discover—our God is the same God. Care for our land as we've cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you take it.
 - (i) Chief Seattle's statement, "We will consider your offer because we know that if we do not sell, the white men may come with guns and take our land." was intended to
 - (a) emphasize on the fact that he was very comfortable with his current life.
 - (b) inform the readers that the white men would use force to take away their land from them.
 - (c) tell the readers that the white men were very understanding.
 - (d) showcase his expertise in letter writing.
 - (ii) "We will consider your offer..." Pick the option in which the meaning of 'consider(s)' is NOT the same as it is in the passage.
 - (a) He considers everyone to be his equal.
 - (b) "You can never consider anyone to be your confidant."
 - (c) The old man considered his granddaughter, thoughtfully.
 - (d) The company considers the request for a raise in salary very sincerely.
 - (iii) Chief Seattle says, "Even the white, whose God walks and talks with him as a friend to friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny." NOT BEING exempt means.
 - (a) to feel uncomfortable.
 - (b) to be in some bondage.
 - (c) to be treated in an unkind manner.
 - (d) to be free.
 - (iv) Which option describes Chief Seattle's feelings by the end of his letter to the President?
 - (a) Chief Seattle was ready to give away his land happily.
 - (b) Chief Seattle was looking forward to shifting to the new dwellings.
 - (c) Chief Seattle told the white men to take care of the land the way they have done all these years.
 - (d) Chief Seattle expressed his desire to meet the President.
 - (v) What was the difference between the reaction of Chief Seattle and the people of his tribe when they were asked to sell their land to the white?
 - (a) Both of them agreed to sell the land happily.
 - (b) Chief Seattle was ready but the people of his tribe got angry with the thought of selling their land.
 - (c) Chief Seattle was sad while the people of his tribe were excited.
 - (d) They both decided to meet the President personally and discuss it.
 - (vi) According to the passage, the fact that Chief Seattle accepted the President's proposal to buy their land, shows that he was
 - (a) amenable.
 - (b) nervous.
 - (c) complacent.
 - (d) arrogant.
 - (vii) Chief Seattle wrote, "The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land." What does the phrase 'send word' means?
 - (a) to send someone your words
 - (b) to send someone a message
 - (c) to send someone an e-mail
 - (d) to send someone a postcard

- (viii) Chief Seattle says, "The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father." What does this reflect about the people of his tribe?
- (a) The people of his tribe were very philosophical.
 (b) Even the ancestors of Chief Seattle lived proudly on this land.
 (c) The people of the tribe were very understanding.
 (d) The people of the tribe preached the water flowing on that land.
- (ix) Choose the correct word which cannot be used with 'shining'.
- (a) armour (b) star (c) trees (d) water
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'sacred' as used in the passage.
- (a) holy (b) cursed (c) blessed (d) sanctified

27. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *When I was a boy, there were many things that existed on earth for me. Of course, music was always important, the chief household deity of a family, musical by tradition. The central hall of our house was given over to the making of musical instruments for which my father and his father before him were famous.*
2. *Music vibrated there constantly, sometimes harmoniously and sometimes discordantly, quality of the very air of our house. I was only a child, perhaps four years old, when my father began waking me at four o'clock every morning to go down to the hall with him and take lessons from him on the tanpura, the harmonium, the sitar and even the tabla.*
3. *He could play them all and wished to see for which I had an aptitude.*
4. *I would display an aptitude that was never in question. My father taught me all the ragas, the ruginis and tested my knowledge with rapid, persistent questioning in his unmusical grating voice.*
5. *My father could see it clearly — I was a musician, not a maker, but a performer of music; that is what he saw.*
6. *There was a time when I cared more passionately for marbles than for music. How I loved my mother's sweetmeats too — rather more than I did the nondescript, mumbling woman who made them.*
7. *Then, when I was older, there was a time when only the cinema mattered. I saw four, five, as many as six cinema shows a week, creeping out of my room at night barefoot, for silence, with money stolen from my father or mother or anyone clutched in my hand, then racing through the night in time for the last show. Meena Kumari and Nargis were to me the queens of heaven.*
8. *But all fell away from me, all disappeared into the shadows, on the side, when I met my ustad and began to play for him. He took the place of my mother's sweet halwa, the cinema heroines, marbles, the stolen money, all the pleasures and riches I had so far contrived to extract from the hard stones of existence in my father's house in the music lane. I found such satisfaction that I no longer wished for anything else.*

(adapted from "The Accompanist" by Anita Desai)

- (i) The expression "all disappeared into the shadow" refers to the time until when the narrator
- (a) was a child. (b) was not introduced to his ustad.
 (c) was in high school. (d) became a music maestro himself.
- (ii) The line "There was a time when I cared more passionately for marbles than for music. How I loved my mother's sweetmeats too." —reveals that the narrator was
- (a) playful. (b) childish. (c) mature. (d) music lover.
- (iii) Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence "Meena Kumari and Nargis were to me the queens of heaven."
- (a) hyperbole (b) simile (c) metaphor (d) personification

- (iv) Choose the option that lists the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract.
1. Music was the chief household deity of a family, musical by tradition.
 2. The author's father woke her/him at four o'clock every morning to practice musical instruments.
 3. The narrator was a singer and not a maker.
 4. The narrator's father could play all the instruments.
 5. The passage has been taken from the adapted version from "The Companion" by Anita Desai.
- (a) 1 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 3 and 5 (d) 4 and 5
- (v) Pick the option that states correctly how did the narrator manage to see 5-6 movies every week?
1. He crept away barefoot.
 2. He stole money.
 3. He woke up early morning and arranged for money.
 4. He bunked his school.
 5. He raced to catch the last show.
- (a) 1, 2 and 5 (b) 2, 4 and 5 (c) 1, 3 and 5 (d) 2, 3 and 4
- (vi) Choose the incorrect spelling.
- (a) deity (b) harmoniously (c) passionately (d) disappeared
- (vii) According to the narrator, as a boy, what were the "many other things that existed"?
- (a) He was excessively fond of cinema.
 - (b) He even stole money from his parents or anyone to see movies of Meena Kumari and Sadhana, stealthily at night.
 - (c) He cared more for marbles, was fond of his mother's sweetmeats and was excessively fond of cinema.
 - (d) He was fond of his mother's sweetmeats.
- (viii) The word opposite to 'discordantly', as used in paragraph 2 is
- (a) harmoniously. (b) tearful. (c) pleasing. (d) harmonise.
- (ix) Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the last paragraph.
1. annoying 2. humorous 3. satisfying
 4. excited 5. demanding 6. content
- (a) 1 and 4 (b) 1 and 5 (c) 3 and 6 (d) 2 and 3
- (x) Choose the best word from the first four paragraphs to fill in the blank.
There have been _____ rumours that the principal might take early retirement.
- (a) display (b) aptitude (c) rapid (d) persistent

28. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

The Old Familiar Faces (by Charles Lamb)

*I have had playmates, I have had companions,
In my days of childhood, in my joyful school days—
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.*

*I have been laughing, I have been carousing,
Drinking late, sitting late, with my bosom cronies—
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.*

*I had a love once, fairest among women;
Closed are her doors on me, I must not see her—
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.*

*I have a friend, a kinder friend has no man;
Like an ingrate, I left my friend abruptly;
Left him, to muse on the old familiar faces.*

*Ghost-like, I paced round the haunts of my childhood,
Earth seem'd a desert, I was bound to traverse,
Seeking to find the old familiar faces.*

*Friend of my bosom, thou more than a brother,
Why were not thou born in my father's dwelling?
So might we talk of the old familiar faces—*

*How some they have died, and some they have left me,
And some are taken from me; all are departed—
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.*

- (i) Based on your understanding of the poem, pick the option that clearly states how the poet seems to pass his time now.
- Going around the world like a ghost seeking the happiness of his childhood
 - Looking desperately for the old familiar faces
 - Moaning for his lost happy days
 - both (a) and (b)
- (ii) Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence “*Ghost-like, I paced round...*”.
- metonymy
 - simile
 - metaphor
 - pun
- (iii) Choose the term which best matches the following lines.
- I had a love once, fairest among women;
Closed are her doors on me, I must not see her...*
- childish behaviour
 - betrayal
 - affection
 - possessiveness
- (iv) What is the refrain of the poem, and what feelings does it arouse in you?
- “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces” is the refrain and makes us feel sorry for the poet.
 - “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces” is a deeply moving refrain that fills us with sympathy and compassion for the poet.
 - “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces,” is the refrain, and it makes us angry because the poet is crying over spilt milk.
 - The refrain, “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces,” is regret for being left alone.
- (v) The author has used an archaic English word “thou”. Which of the following is NOT an archaic English word?
- betwixt
 - whence
 - ere
 - thrice
- (vi) The word similar to “revelling”, as used in stanza 2 is
- enjoying.
 - carousing.
 - participating in drinking bouts.
 - indulging in the fun.
- (vii) The line “*And some are taken from me; all are departed*” evokes the feeling of
- happiness and relaxation.
 - inspiration.
 - sadness and nostalgia.
 - loneliness and betrayal.
- (viii) The poem, “The Old Familiar Faces” is
- an ode.
 - an elegy.
 - a sonnet.
 - a haiku.
- (ix) This poem was written in which of the following eras?
- Romantic
 - Modern
 - Victorian
 - Elizabethan

(x) What is the theme of this poem?

(a) Love and attachment

(b) Remembrance of the old days

(c) Old and new faces

(d) Old days were awesome.

29. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The difference between effectively and ineffectively pursuing happiness may all be in how we go about it. Research suggests that people who strive to feel happy all of the time may suffer disappointment, and people who pursue happiness, as if it were the only thing that matters may, ironically, chase happiness away. But these are not the only ways you can go about pursuing happiness. Another approach involves what I call “prioritizing positivity”: deliberately organizing your day-to-day life so that it contains situations that naturally give rise to positive emotions. This way of pursuing happiness involves carving out time in your daily routine to do things that you genuinely love, whether it be writing, gardening or connecting with loved ones. This way of pursuing happiness means proactively putting yourself in contexts that spontaneously trigger positive emotions.

One reason is that prioritizing positivity involves monitoring one’s daily itinerary, not one’s moment-to-moment emotional experience. As research has revealed, the mere act of monitoring one’s happiness from one second to the next may get in the way of positive emotions. In contrast, we thought a more effective strategy would be “situation selection,” which involves approaching (or avoiding) situations that naturally trigger certain emotions. Going for a walk with your partner after dinner is one way you might use situation selection to experience a feeling of tranquility. The tendency to prioritize positivity draws upon this strategy.

We also predicted that prioritizing positivity would predict greater happiness and fewer symptoms of depression because of its relevance to daily life. The “highs” we get from one-time events like going on a vacation or winning a prize wear off over time. As a result, effectively pursuing happiness may require engaging regularly in behaviours that promote happiness. By its nature, prioritizing positivity increases the chance that we will weave these positive behaviours into our daily lives rather than just maintaining a general desire for happiness or expecting it to come from a few isolated events.

The science on the deliberate pursuit of happiness is young, so any prescriptions for happiness must be offered with the caveat that the research is still evolving and conclusions might be subject to change. I do have some speculations, based on my research, about how people might more effectively pursue happiness. First, let go of extreme ways of relating to your happiness. Don’t set the unrealistic goal of feeling positive emotions all—or even most—of the time. Second, reflect on the activities that give you joy or contentment. This thought experiment should be highly personalized. Finally, once you think of a couple of activities, schedule them into your upcoming week.

The pursuit of happiness is not easy. If people attempt it with unrealistic expectations and too much attention, they risk sabotaging it. But this doesn’t mean you should give up on trying to be happy. It may be more effective to adjust your daily routine so that it includes activities that naturally spark interest or contentment. Seeking happiness, although a delicate art, may still be a worthwhile pursuit.

(i) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

Life does not have to be perfect in order to be happy. (1)	Pursuit of happiness is not a chase but a realization. —Y Q Baba (2)	Now and then it’s good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy. —Robert Brault (3)	Happiness is not having what you want. It’s wanting what you have. —Hazrat Ali Ibn Abu (4)
---	--	---	--

(a) Option (1)

(b) Option (2)

(c) Option (3)

(d) Option (4)

- (ii) Which of the descriptions are apt about pursuit of happiness in the following context—
 “Seeking happiness, although a delicate art, may still be a worthwhile pursuit.”?
- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. meditative | 2. difficult | 3. worthy |
| 4. stiff | 5. discoverable | 6. priority |
- (a) 1 and 5 (b) 3 and 6 (c) 3 and 5 (d) 1 and 6
- (iii) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for this passage?
- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Ideas About Happiness | (b) Smiling Through it All |
| (c) The Happiness Quotient | (d) The Pursuit of Happiness |
- (iv) The phrase “prioritizing positivity” refers to
- shelling out time from daily routine.
 - situation selection.
 - experiencing tranquility.
 - organizing daily life according to positive emotional triggers.
- (v) Select the option that makes the correct use of “trigger” as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.
- Pierre lifted the pistol and threatened the girl with the finger on the _____.
 - Try acupuncture to ease the pain _____.
 - Lack of sleep or too much sleep can _____ a migraine.
 - Push the plunger and pull the _____.
- (vi) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.
- Because the science of the conscious pursuit of pleasure (1) is still in its early stages, any prescriptions at happiness (2) must be accompanied by the caveat that the research (3) is still in progress and that conclusions may change. (4)
- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A. 1 | B. 2 | C. 3 | D. 4 |
| (a) A | (b) B | (c) C | (d) D |
- (vii) The author uses a lot of words with positive connotations in the passage. Which of the following is NOT a positive word?
- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| (a) caveat | (b) contentment | (c) worthwhile | (d) tranquility |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
- (viii) What does the author mean when he says, “the ‘highs’ we get”?
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) happiness and excitement | (b) tiredness and weariness |
| (c) consistent pursuit | (d) fear of failure |
- (ix) Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of ‘speculations’ as used in the passage.
- a theory formed by a person
 - an investment made by a person
 - the declaration about something
 - a prediction
 - a rumour
- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 1 and 5 | (b) 2 and 5 | (c) 1 and 3 | (d) 2 and 3 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word ‘depression’ as used in the passage.
- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| (a) despair | (b) sadness | (c) melancholy | (d) happiness |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|

30. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Globalization is the way to open businesses, improve technological growth, economy, etc. at the international level for all countries. It is the way in which manufacturers and producers of the products or goods sell their products globally without any restriction. It provides huge profits to the businessmen as they get low cost labour in poor countries easily. It provides a big opportunity to the companies to deal with the worldwide market.

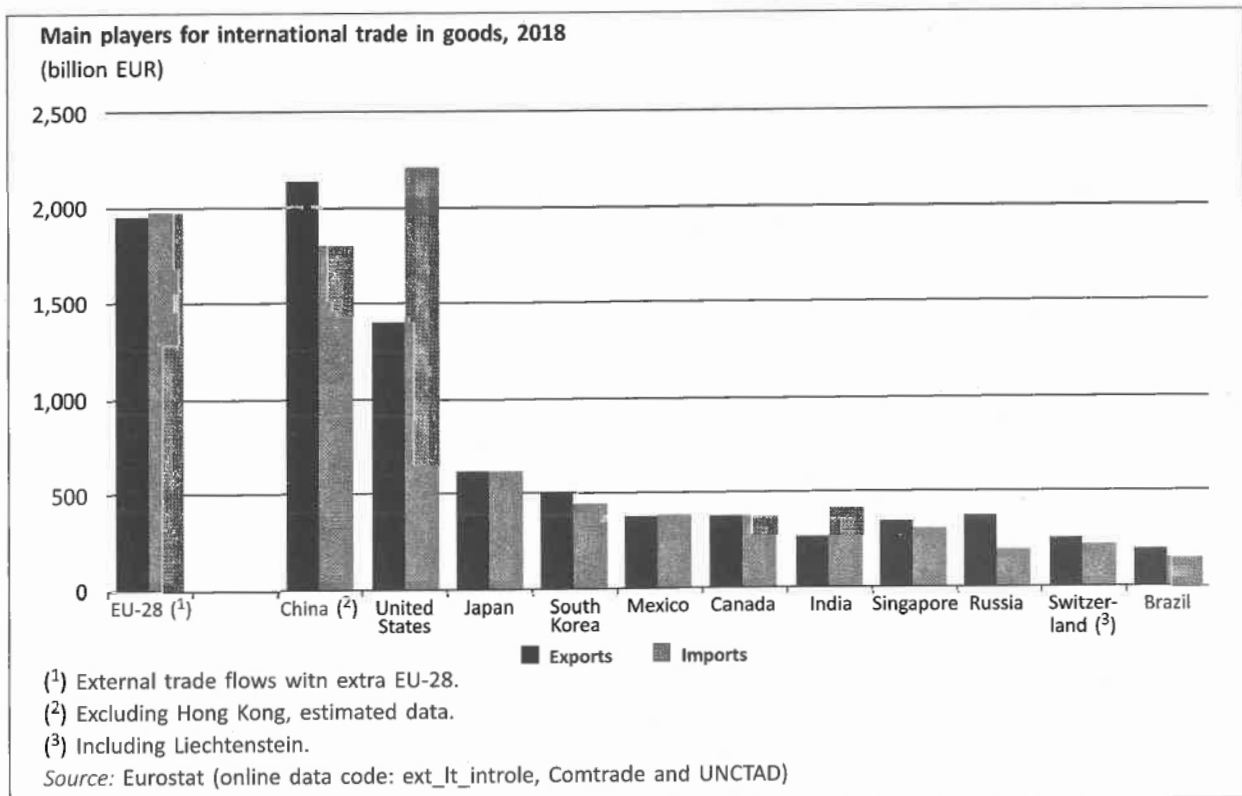
Globalization helps to consider the whole world as a single market. Traders are extending their areas of business by treating the world as a global village. Earlier, till the 1990s, there was a restriction on importing certain products which were already manufactured in India like agricultural products, engineering goods, food items and toiletries. However, during the 1990s, there was a pressure from the rich countries on the poor and developing countries to allow them to spread their businesses by opening their markets. In India, the globalization and liberalization have been a bonanza for the consumers, however, a loss to the small-scale Indian producers.

Globalization has had some very positive effects on the Indian consumer in all sectors of society. It has affected the Indian students and education sector to a great extent by making study books and a lot of information available over the internet. Collaboration of foreign universities with the Indian universities has brought about a huge change in the field of education.

Globalization of trade in the agricultural sector has brought varieties of quality seeds which have disease resistance property. However, it is not good for the poor Indian farmers because the seeds and agricultural technologies are costly. It has brought about a huge revolution in the employment sector by the spread of businesses like handloom, carpet, artisan carving, ceramic, jewellery and glassware, etc.

With globalization's strong momentum running up against powerful headwinds, it is important to recognize that market integration is still limited in absolute terms. The foreign operations of multinational firms around the world generate only about 9% of global output. Exports of goods and services add up to 29% of world GDP, but even that figure comes down to about 20% if we adjust for output that crosses borders more than once. Managers surveyed across six countries in 2017 estimated these international production and trade metrics at 37% and 41%, respectively.

We cannot **predict** with confidence whether the coming year will bring a higher or a lower level of globalization. But we can safely say that international flows and the constraints that borders and distance impose upon them will both continue to matter. So, the biggest winners regardless of whether globalization goes up or down, are likely to be companies that embrace globalization's complexity rather than purely local or global visions of their business environments.



- (i) In the line “...international... constraints that borders...”, the word ‘constraint’ DOES NOT refer to
 (a) limitations (b) stiffness of manner (c) boundaries (d) financial limitations
- (ii) The observations about market integration state that
 (a) managers estimated trade metrics of 9% annually.
 (b) export of goods and services add up to 29% of world GDP.
 (c) foreign operations around the world generate 37% of global output.
 (d) globalization’s momentum is still weak.
- (iii) One of the features key to globalization is its –
 (a) positive effect on Indian consumer in most sectors of economy.
 (b) affordable quality of seeds and agricultural technology.
 (c) limitation of businesses to some global professions.
 (d) bifurcation of the global market.
- (iv) Choose the option that lists the correct answers for the following:
 (1) Ravi used to produce TV capacitors with 20 workers under him in 1992. In 2000, only 7 workers worked for him and many factories have closed down.
 (2) Sushila has a diploma in Insurance and Finance. She could not get a job until 1995, but in 1998, she saw a vacancy advertisement of an international insurance company office in the nearby market complex, recruiting people with a degree or diploma in insurance.
 (a) (1) has benefitted from globalization and (2) has lost heavily.
 (b) (1) has suffered loss from globalization and (2) has gained benefit.
 (c) Both (1) and (2) have suffered due to globalization.
 (d) Both (1) and (2) have benefitted from globalization.
- (v) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent traits of globalization.
 1. improves technological growth and economy
 2. puts restrictions on the sale of global products
 3. limits the number of companies dealing in the worldwide market
 4. causes rise in the cost of labour
 5. bifurcates market into various small markets
 6. bonanza for consumers but a loss to small scale producers
 (a) 2 and 4 (b) 1 and 4 (c) 3 and 6 (d) 1 and 6
- (vi) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
 Globalization has had some extremely beneficial ...
 A. great deal of information available over the internet.
 B. and the education sector by making study books and a
 C. since it has had a significant impact on Indian students
 D. effects on the Indian consumer in many sectors of society
 (a) DCBA (b) ABCD (c) CABD (d) BACD
- (vii) The ‘global village’ concept of globalization points towards the fact that
 (a) there is rapid development of cultural diversity.
 (b) information sector has had a boost.
 (c) there is independent business development.
 (d) the areas of business are shrinking into a compact whole.
- (viii) According to Eurostat’s figures, the import-export ratio is varying the most in which country?
 (a) China (b) Brazil (c) United States (d) Japan

(ix) Choose the best word from the fifth paragraph to fill in the blank.

The new development will _____ 1,500 new jobs.

- (a) against (b) generate (c) recognize (d) adjust

(x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'predict' as used in the passage.

- (a) disbelieve (b) forecast (c) foresee (d) anticipate

31. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

All around me, I see people romanticising the "old times". The old times were good, they were peaceful; the old times were happy, they were simpler. My mother would tell tales of the old times, when world was simpler, people were kinder, there was no social platform to make you feel bad about yourself, and the technology wasn't sucking everyone in people in old times still appreciated the nature around them, children played outside, greed wasn't so blunt, cities were not overpopulated, and skirts were just a fashion; not a subject of debate.

*She intricately **painted** a picture of a world that was much better than the one I lived in. Sitting on the counter-top of our marbled kitchen slab, I listened avidly to many stories of her 'old times'. That was a good time too.*

It's amazingly bemusing how time just passes us by, it flies for sure, but we crawl in the moment, burdened by the yearning for the past, never realising that this moment is all we have and it is soon going to wither. By the time fog clears, we forget the lesson we've learnt. We again yearn for the simpler times, but in the world that is so fast paced, how is one supposed to hold onto a moment anyway? I think you just need to live in it. It is destined to become a memory so why not make sure that your old times were good?

*I still remember my grandparent's house in the capital. It had a long balcony that faced a park, a tall banyan tree stood at a distance, towering even the third floor of the nearest flats. I have many good memories from that time, but, and this is **peculiar**, curiously, I remember the smells the most vividly. Sunlight against the leaves on a summer afternoon, the chilly breeze of a spring's evening, the dairy shop and the milk canister and even the token machines that dispelled milk, my grandfather's cigarette's smoke, the main park after it had rained, the markets in the evening, the smell of certain houses we went past when my grandfather took me out for a walk, all these smells constitute my childhood.*

I always loved the idea of going back to those "old times". That was until one day I smelled the similar smells around my own house, and noticed that there was a similar tall tree, not banyan though, towering even the third floor of the flats in front of ours, it's leaves rusting beautifully along the breeze of a spring evening. The epiphany tip-toed right into my heart. How have I not noticed this tree before? I've been letting time pass me by again. At least this time, I am well aware to value it.

(i) Which of the characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context: "I listened avidly to many stories of her 'old times'"?

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. indifferent | 2. curious | 3. determined |
| 4. optimistic | 5. eager | 6. tireless |
| (a) (1) and (6) | (b) (2) and (5) | (c) (1) and (4) (d) (3) and (6) |

(ii) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (a) Fast-paced living (b) Whispers of the little ones
(c) Milk Cannisters (d) How time passes us by

(iii) The phrase "burdened by the yearning for the past" refers to the burden that can

- (a) hurt one's back. (b) ruin one's life.
(c) distract someone from what's more important. (d) cause pressure on a person.

(iv) Select the option that makes the correct use of "painted", as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.

- (a) It took all day but she still _____ that new sketch of hers.
(b) Upon inspection of the house, I was horrified to find that it was all _____ wrong.
(c) He was even more antagonistic that his mother _____ him to be.
(d) I know you have never _____ with water colours before, so I got you some to try.

- (v) The phrase 'sudden realisation' means the same as -
 (a) epiphany (b) acknowledge (c) wary (d) all of the above

(vi) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

It's remarkable how quickly time passes us by; (1) it flies, indeed, but we cling to the present, (2) burdened by nostalgia, never comprehending that this is (3) all we had and that it will soon pass us by. (4)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
 (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

(vii) Choose an appropriate adjective to describe the author's mother.

- (a) playful (b) loving (c) snobby (d) cruel

(viii) Which of the following was NOT a reason that made old times better in the author's eyes?

- (a) no overpopulation (b) no obvious and toxic greed
 (c) no public parks (d) no debate over anyone's way of clothing

(ix) "By the time fog clears, we forget the lesson we've learned." What lesson is being mentioned here?

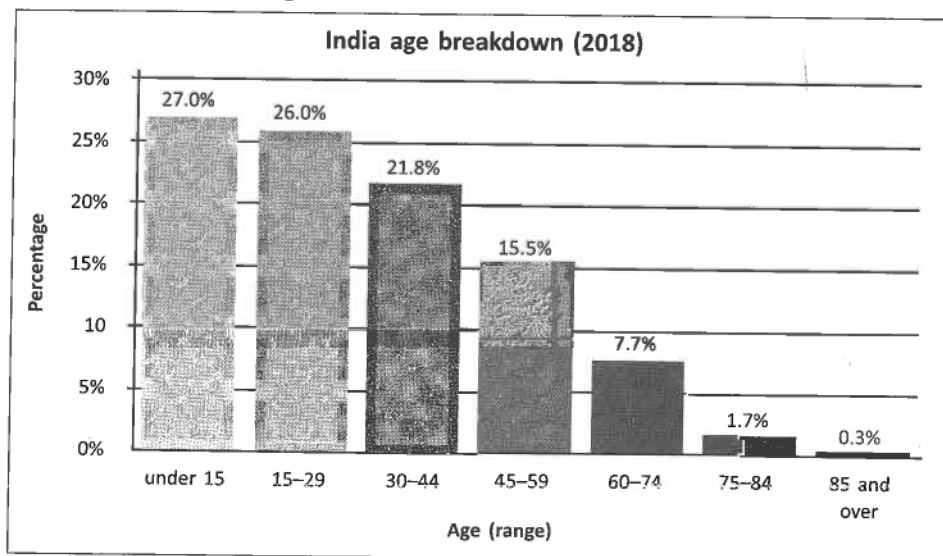
- (a) that life goes on
 (b) that personality matters more than looks
 (c) that time waits for none
 (d) that life waits for those who keep moving

(x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'peculiar' as used in the passage.

- (a) strange (b) unusual (c) odd (d) normal

32. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The graph below illustrates India's age distribution in 2018.



The above graph illustrates India's age breakdown in the year 2018. It extends from under 15 age group to that of 85 and over, and skims over, 7 different age ranges. Doing so, the graph provides a sneak into India's age distribution for the given year. It is well known that India is a young and an able nation, a country that had provided skilled personnel to many first-world countries and top tech and otherwise industries. But how old is this rich and dense population?

Apparently, under 15 age group is the one with the highest number of nationals, at 27%. Whereas, the range of 15-29 is the second highest as it constitutes of 26% of nation's population. Next up is the range of 30-44 which accounts for 21.8% of the total population. Together these three groups made up for more than half of the population of India. Age group of 45-59 years had 15.5% nationals fall into it. While, there were only 7.7%

of 60-74 years old people. Only 1.7% of the remaining individuals shared the age range of 75-84 and the rest 0.3% were either 85 or above.

Looking at the data, it is clear that most of the population constitutes of teens and young adults. This could provide India a scope for growth led by the young generation in the coming years. Having more in the working class, in the coming years, could **propel** India's growth upwards and help it harness the mentality and strength of the youngsters giving the nation and its workings a fresher perspective it needs to catch up with the first world nations.

- (i) In the line "...provided skilled personnel," the word "skilled" DOES NOT refer to
(a) professional (b) literate (c) able (d) obnoxious
- (ii) Encyclopaedia Britannica, through the above graph, shares that—
(a) under 18 age group is the one with the highest number of nationals.
(b) having more in the working class, in the coming years, could hinder India's growth.
(c) most of the population constitutes of teens and young adults.
(d) the graph provides a sneak into India's gender distribution for the given year.
- (iii) Choose the option that lists the correct answers for the following:
1. Jeevan is an adult whose age group accounts for 21.8% of the total population.
2. Maira is a young-adult whose age group constitutes 26% of the nation's population.
Which age groups do these two belong to?
(a) Jeevan – 45–59, Maira – 15–29 (b) Jeevan – 30–44, Maira – 15–29
(c) Jeevan – 15–29, Maira – 60–74 (d) Jeevan – 60–74, Maira – Under 15
- (iv) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.
In the next years, having more people in the ...
A. providing the country and its workings the fresh
B. working class might accelerate India's progress upwards
C. and help it harness the attitude and vigour of the youth,
D. perspective they need to catch up with first-world nations.
(a) DCBA (b) ABCD (c) CABD (d) BCAD
- (v) According to the data above, having more teen and young adults in the population means that –
(a) the nation is a beginner at many fronts, including technological and financial.
(b) there is scope for growth led by these youngsters who can harness a newer mentality.
(c) for India, it is difficult to propel growth-wise.
(d) india needs to catch up with the first-world nations soon.
- (vi) Which of the following does NOT mean the same as word 'propel'?
(a) dip (b) rise (c) lift (d) push forward
- (vii) 'India is a young and an able nation.' What does, young, NOT mean here?
(a) energetic (b) comprised of a large number of young citizens
(c) spirited (d) beginner
- (viii) '...it needs to catch up with the first world nations' means that –
(a) India is not a first world nation yet. (b) India is less capable.
(c) India is unaware. (d) India does not have potential.
- (ix) Choose the best word from the last paragraph to fill in the blank.
I'm afraid that problem is beyond the _____ of my lecture.
(a) scope (b) provide (c) led (d) propel
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'propel' as used in the passage.
(a) thrust (b) hurl (c) stop (d) shoot

33. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

In these trying times, when buying ordinary foodstuff can burn a hole in our pockets, comes the news that can actually help us save some hard cash when we go out to shop the next time. According to a Stanford University study, a first of its kind in the world, there is no evidence to suggest that there are more nutritional benefits from expensive organic food than those grown by **conventional** methods. The researchers add that there is no difference in protein and fat content between organic and conventional milk and even the vitamin count is similar in both types. The only benefit is that organic foods are not **contaminated** with pesticides, but then, before you chew on that plate of organic okra with roti made from organic wheat, they are not 100% pesticide-free either. In India, organic food has been growing at 20–22% and the export market is valued at 1,000 crore. Obviously, the study is not good news for that sector and for people who are big on organic food.

In India, eating organic food is more of a style statement than due to health worries because the stuff is expensive. But people who can do indulge in not only organic vegetables but even organic eggs laid by 'happy hens', who are allowed to roam around freely, whereas 'unhappy hens' are kept in coops. Then there are companies that have installed music channels in their cowsheds and the milk from those sheds is sold at a marked-up price since it has more nutritional value because the animals are happy thanks to liling 24 × 7 music. We don't know yet of any farmer using music to improve his crop quality, but then you never know: plants are known to respond to music.

Why such pickiness about food? These days, the huge number of TV shows and articles that we see and read on food provide bread and butter for the specialists. But instead of decoding food, its sources and what has gone into growing it, isn't it much better to enjoy what's on the plate?

- (i) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

You don't have to cook fancy or complicated masterpieces - just good food from fresh ingredients. —Julia Child (1)	For the organic food, the less it's designed, the better it is. —Philippe Starck (2)	To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art. —Francois De La Rochefoucauld (3)	Eating organic is not a trend. It's a return to tradition. —The Farmacy (4)
--	--	--	---

- (a) Option (1) (b) Option (2) (c) Option (3) (d) Option (4)

- (ii) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.

Then some companies have placed (1) music channels in their cowsheds, (2) and the milk from those sheds are sold (3) at a higher price because it has better nutritious value. (4)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

- (iii) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (a) Organic Food is the Best Food. (b) Not Organic, Not Food
(c) The Expensive, the Better (d) Food is Food!

- (iv) The phrase 'style statement' do not refer to the group of people who

- (a) are unaware of trends. (b) follow latest fashion.
(c) follow new trends. (d) are quite well-off.

- (v) Select the option that makes the correct use of the term 'conventional', as used in the passage.

- (a) Her mother is a respectable woman who has _____ opinions to live life.
(b) Some of the _____ practices for growing grains are still prevalent.
(c) The government will not use _____ weapons for this strategy.
(d) The write-up challenges the _____ wisdom of the companies they are engaged in.

- (vi) The author has used a satirical way to present the misconception that 'the organic food is more beneficial for health'. Which word describes the tone of the paragraph aptly?
 (a) humorous (b) mocking (c) pessimistic (d) gloomy
- (vii) What does the author mean when he uses the idiom 'burn a hole in pocket'?
 (a) to spend money as soon as possible (b) to use resources wisely
 (c) to burn the money easily (d) to spend money lavishly
- (viii) Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'contaminated', as used in the passage.
 1. adulterated 2. for adults 3. containing
 4. not healthy 5. polluted
 (a) (1) and (4) (b) (2) and (3) (c) (3) and (5) (d) (4) and (5)
- (ix) What is the message conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?
 (a) Enjoy food which is 'enough for survival'.
 (b) Buy food items in bulk.
 (c) Do not fall prey to the business of 'organic food industry'.
 (d) Purchase food made with conventional methods only.
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'conventional' as used in the passage.
 (a) straight (b) plain (c) new (d) usual

34. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *Ever since I can remember, I always felt I was stupid, really stupid. I lost my father when I was three. Since I was a sick child, a polio victim, I lived with my grandmother in Mumbai so I could avail of the metro's advanced medical facilities. I remember being on the streets all day, playing or lazing around.*
2. *When I turned ten, my mother and my sister came to live in Mumbai too. My sister was a bright student, always securing high grades. She and my mother encouraged me to study, but I just could not bring myself to concentrate on any subject. I would get bored and feel sleepy when forced to open my books. After innumerable lectures on the importance of studying had failed, mother tried threats as well, but nothing worked, I truly believed I was stupid; no matter how much I worked, it wouldn't help.*
4. *I had failed sixth grade and had to repeat the year; Aditi had topped the class and was the brightest student of the seventh grade too. I flinched at little Aditi as I saw her walk towards me. 'Hi,' she said. 'Hi,' I replied, but not with much **enthusiasm**; I wanted her to leave. I continued to eat my chips. Ignoring my coldness, she sat down next to me. For five minutes neither of us spoke and then she asked, 'Is Devika your real sister?' 'Yes, she is,' I answered.*
5. *'So how come she doesn't teach you so that you too can do well? she asked. I peered at her, wondering if she was making fun of me, but all I could see on her face was **earnestness**. No, she is not trying to tease me, I decided. This time, I answered a little more warmly, 'She tries to, but I don't like studying.' 'Why not? I'm sure you can get good grades too,' she said **emphatically**. 'No, I can't. I have no brains. God forgot to give me brains, health or beauty. He gave me nothing.' With the gentlest tone that she could muster, she said, 'I can prove it to you that you are not stupid. Give me one chance, I will teach you to study.'*
6. *Though I was softening from inside, I still held on to my low self-esteem. 'You'll be wasting your time. I cannot study, I am neither as bright as you are nor as lucky as my sister,' I said. 'Let me try and help you, please. I will show you the right way to study. You just have to cooperate with me. Will you try?' Her belief in me proved more powerful than my doubts about myself. She won and I relented.*

(i) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

<p>I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs, but how high he bounces when he hits the bottom. —George S. Patton</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently. —Henry Ford</p> <p>(2)</p>	<p>Procrastination makes easy things hard, hard things harder. —Mason Cooley</p> <p>(3)</p>	<p>The day you take complete responsibility for yourself, the day you stop making any excuses, that's the day you start to the top. — O.J. Simpson</p> <p>(4)</p>
---	---	---	---

(a) option 1

(b) option 2

(c) option 3

(d) option 4

(ii) Choose the correct option and arrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence.

After countless lectures on the significance ...

A. of studying had failed, my mother tried threats,

B. but nothing worked, and I began to believe

C. I was stupid; no matter how

D. hard I tried, nothing would help.

(a) ABCD

(b) DCBA

(c) CABD

(d) BACD

(iii) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?

(a) time and tide waits for none.

(b) Where there is a will there is a way.

(c) a stitch in time saves nine.

(d) Don't cry over spilt milk.

(iv) The term "held on to my low self-esteem" refers to

(a) lack of will.

(b) lack of confidence.

(c) feeling of incompetence.

(d) feeling of outrage.

(v) Select the option that would make the usage of "enthusiasm", as used in the passage

(a) The student had an _____ for science.

(b) He did not have an equal _____ for all sports.

(c) Loaded with pastry, he was soon headed off to the park with his typical youthful _____.

(d) "I love you too," Yancey mimicked with equal _____ and kissed her on the cheek.

(vi) "God forgot to give me brains, health or beauty. He gave me nothing." Which one of the words given below does not agree with this statement?

(a) joyful

(b) disappointment

(c) pessimistic

(d) disgruntled

(vii) Choose the correct word which cannot be used with 'advanced'.

(a) degree

(b) technology

(c) weather

(d) training

(viii) What is the antonym of the word "emphatically"?

(a) assuredly

(b) unequivocally

(c) hesitantly

(d) undoubtedly

(ix) Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'earnestness', as used in the passage.

1. serious in intention

2. reluctance to perform

3. to be disinterested

4. careless and bored

5. sincere and enthusiastic

(a) (1) and 4

(b) (3) and (4)

(c) (2) and (5)

(d) (1) and (5)

(x) What is the message the author tries to convey through this passage?

(a) Friends can support.

(b) impact of peer support

(c) non-judgemental peer

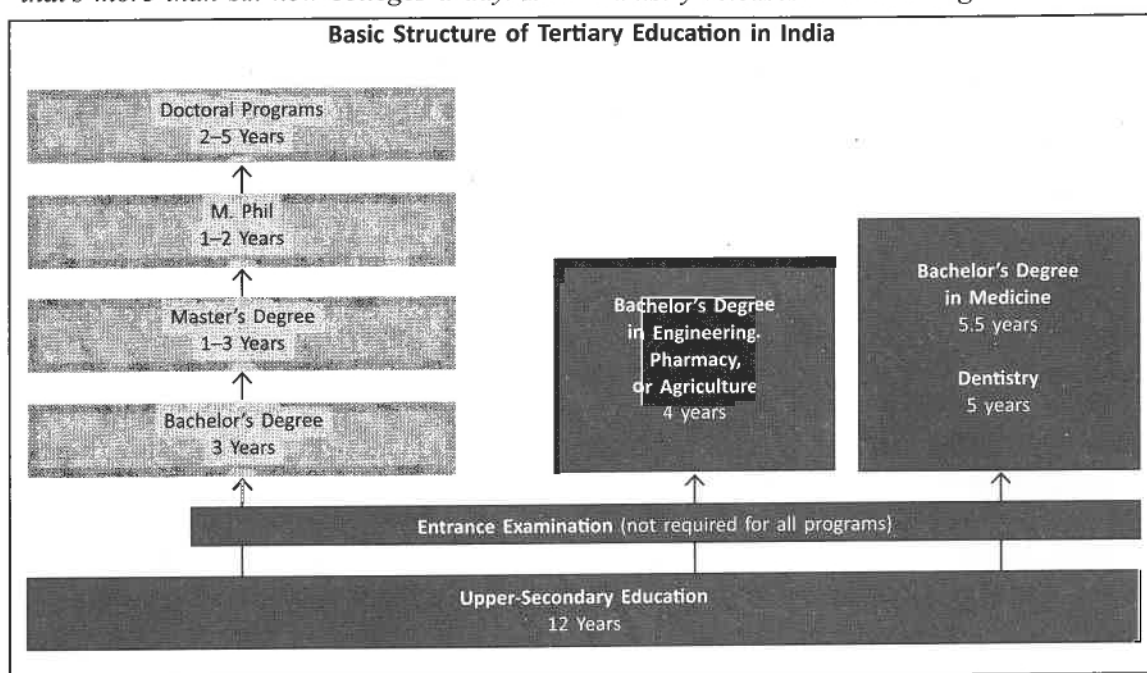
(d) peer pressure

35. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The tertiary degree structure of India's education system is largely **patterened** after the British system. At its core, it's a three-tiered structure comprising bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and pre-doctoral (master of philosophy) and doctoral programs. The third level institutions train specialists who give form and shape to the development process.

The overwhelming majority of India's students—79.4 percent—are enrolled in undergraduate programs. Enrolments in postgraduate programs are rising fast but so far make up only a small fraction of overall enrolments. HRD Ministry releases All India Higher Education Survey. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education of Indian has registered an increase from 24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17 according to the latest All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) released by HRD Ministry.

Over the past two decades, the tertiary student population increased sixfold, from 5.7 million in 1996 to an estimated 36.6 million in 2017-18. The number of universities, likewise, grew from 190 in 1990-91 to 903 in 2017-18, while the number of colleges exploded: 18,000 new colleges were established between 2008 and 2016 alone—that's more than six new colleges a day. HRD Ministry releases All India Higher Education Survey.



Types of Higher Education Institutions

There are five types of institutions with degree-granting authority:

Central Universities—(Union Universities) are established, overseen and funded by mostly through UGC grants. There are presently, 40 central universities directly under the MHRD.

State Universities—There were 370 state universities as of 2017- eligible for UGC grants, but not all of them receive such grants, instead deriving funding from state governments, tuition fees, and other sources.

Private Universities—These are privately owned institutions, established by federal or state legislation and referred to as “state private universities.” Private universities are said to operate like de facto for-profit institutions.

Deemed-to-be-Universities—(124 institutions) institutions of high quality, public or private, federal government grants equal standing with universities via executive order based on the advice of the UGC.

Institutions of National Importance (INIs) (91)—“These institutions serve as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state.” INIs are specialized, highly selective elite institutions that receive special central government funding.

- (i) In the phrase “At its core, it’s a three-tiered structure...” the word “core” does not refer to
 (a) the central part of something. (b) most essential part of something.
 (c) the innermost part of something. (d) on the exterior part of something.
- (ii) One of the elements that is important to tertiary education is: that
 (a) third level institutions train specialists who give form and shape to the development process.
 (b) the number increasing from 5.7 million in 1996 to an estimated 36.6 million in 2017-18 is adequate.
 (c) the overwhelming majority of India’s students enrolled in undergraduate programs marks development.
 (d) third level institutions are not required for the development of a country.
- (iii) Choose the option that lists the correct answers for the following:
 1. Nitin, a student of pure science at the upper secondary level, wishes to enrol for higher education; what are the professional streams of tertiary education at his disposal?
 2. Rashi a student of science with mathematics at the upper secondary level wishes to enrol for higher education, what are the professional streams at her disposal?
 (a) 1. engineering and 2. agriculture
 (b) 1. medicine or allied and 2. engineering
 (c) 1. any undergraduate. course and 2. Any undergraduate. course
 (d) 1. dentistry and 2. agriculture
- (iv) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of tertiary education.
 1. promotes development 2. increases institutional incomes
 3. closing the urban rural divide 4. commercialisation of higher education
 4. showcases a failed system 6. creates skilled and trained professionals
 (a) 1, 3 & 6 (b) 1, 2, & 4 (c) 2, 3 & 6 (d) 1, 3 & 4
- (v) Spot the error by choosing the correct option.
 Similarly, the number of universities increases (1) from 190 in 1990-91 to 903 in 2017-18, while the number of colleges (2) increased dramatically: 18,000 new institutions were founded (3) between 2008 and 2016, an average of more than six per day. (4)
 A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
 (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
- (vi) “To operate as de facto-for profit institutions” suggest which one of the following is apt?
 (a) conforming to set rules
 (b) which refers to things that happen according to law.
 (c) describes practices that exist in reality, even though they are not officially recognized by laws
 (d) according to rightful entitlement or claim
- (vii) What does it mean to say, “play a pivotal role” in education?
 (a) play a negligent role (b) play an insignificant role
 (c) be a non-participant (d) play a vanguard role
- (viii) One group of institutions is part of an “elite” category. What is the word that means opposite of the word elite?
 (a) cultured (b) polished (c) mediocre (d) par-excellence
- (ix) Choose the incorrect spelling.
 (a) doctoral (b) overwhelming (c) tertiary (d) tuition
- (x) ‘largely patterned’ which part of speech is “patterned”?
 (a) adverb (b) adjective (c) verb (d) none of the above

36. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Concussions are brain injuries that occur when a person receives a blow to the head, face, or neck. Although most people who suffer a concussion experience initial bouts of dizziness, nausea, and drowsiness, these symptoms often disappear after a few days. However, the long-term effects of concussions are less understood and far more severe. Recent studies suggest that people who suffer multiple concussions are at significant risk for developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). This degenerative brain disorder causes a variety of dangerous mental and emotional problems to arise weeks, months, or even years after the initial injury. These psychological problems can include depression, anxiety, memory loss, inability to concentrate, and aggression. In extreme cases, people suffering from CTE have even committed suicide or homicide. The majority of people who develop these issues are athletes who participate in popular high-impact sports, especially football. Although both new sports regulations and improvements in helmet technology can help protect players, the sports media and fans bear some responsibility for reducing the incidence of these devastating injuries. Improvements in diagnostic technology have provided **substantial** evidence to link severe—and often fatal—psychological disorders to the head injuries players receive while on the field. Recent autopsies performed on the brains of football players who have committed suicide have shown advanced cases of CTE in every single victim.

In response to the growing understanding of this danger, the National Football League (NFL) has revised its safety regulations. Players who have suffered a head injury on the field must undergo a ‘concussion sideline assessment’—a series of mental and physical fitness tests—before being allowed back in the game. In an effort to diminish the amount of head and neck injuries on the field, NFL officials have begun enforcing stricter penalty calls for helmet-to-helmet contact, leading with the head, and hitting a defenceless player. Furthermore, as of 2010, if a player’s helmet is accidentally wrenched from his head during play, the ball is immediately whistled dead. There is hope that these new regulations, coupled with advances in helmet design, will reduce the number of concussions player endure and thus curb the number of CTE cases.

Efforts by the NFL and other professional sports leagues are certainly **laudable**; indeed, we should **commend** every attempt to protect the mental and physical health of players. However, new regulations at the professional level cannot protect amateur players, especially young people. Fatal cases of CTE have been reported in victims as young as 21. With appropriate equipment and form, tackling need not be dangerous. Proper tackling form—using the arms and shoulders to aim for a player’s midsection rather than leading with the top of the head—should be taught at an early age. Youth, high school, and college leagues should also adopt safety rules even more stringent than the NFL’s. Furthermore, at an early age, athletes should be educated about the serious dangers of head injuries.

Perhaps the most important factor in reducing the number of traumatic brain injuries lies not with the players, the coaches, or the administrators but with the media and fans. Sports media producers have become accustomed to showcasing the most aggressive tackles and the most intense plays. NFL broadcasts often replay especially violent collisions while the commentators marvel at the physical prowess of the players involved. Some sports programs even feature weekly countdowns of the hardest hits. When the media **exalts** such hazardous behaviour, professionals are rewarded for injuring each other on the field, and amateurs become more likely to try to imitate their favourite NFL athletes. Announcers, commentators, television producers, and sportswriters should engage in a collective effort to cease glorifying brutal plays. In turn, fans should stop expecting their favourite players to put their lives on the line for the purposes of entertainment. Players must stop being encouraged to trade their careers, health, happiness, and their lives for the sake of a game.

- (i) The author believes that
- NFL officials have not thoroughly implemented stricter safety regulations.
 - fans share some of the blame for athletes’ injuries.
 - doctors need to do more research about the potential long-term effects of CTE.
 - young people should not be encouraged to play football due to CTE risks.

- (ii) According to the author, each of the following statements is true EXCEPT which one?
- (a) Tackling itself is not dangerous; however, players who use improper tackling form may suffer injury.
 - (b) Scientists have established a link between players who shoot themselves and others and the onset of CTE.
 - (c) NFL officials have done nothing to address the problem of CTE.
 - (d) Athletes who are praised for exceptionally brutal hits are likely to continue engaging in such dangerous behaviour.
- (iii) According to the author, which of the following contribute(s) to an increase in incidences of CTE in amateur players?
- I. fewer safety regulations than professional players
 - II. a lack of education geared to youth players about the dangers of head injuries
 - III. a desire to emulate professionals
- (a) I only (b) II only (c) I and II only (d) I, II, and III
- (iv) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for 'laudable'?
- (a) praiseworthy (b) determined (c) blameworthy (d) satisfactory
- (v) The author's tone in the final paragraph can best be described as
- (a) apologetic (b) depressed (c) solemn (d) hopeless
- (vi) As used in the final paragraph, which is the best antonym for 'exalts'?
- (a) misrepresents (b) praises (c) reports (d) criticizes
- (vii) In the final paragraph, the author writes, 'Players must stop being encouraged to trade their careers, health, happiness, and their lives for the sake of a game.' Which of the following literary devices is used in this quotation?
- (a) Irony (b) Climax (c) Hyperbole (d) Apostrophe
- (viii) Choose the best word from the first paragraph to fill in the blank.
- There has been a _____ increase in the number of female students in recent years.
- (a) receives (b) suffer (c) significant (d) initial
- (ix) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'substantial' as used in the passage.
- (a) considerable (b) weighty (c) sizeable (d) expensive
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'commend' as used in the passage.
- (a) compliment (b) congratulate (c) cheer (d) blame

37. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

When another old cave is discovered in the south of France, it is not usually news. Rather, it is an ordinary event. Such discoveries are so frequent these days that hardly anybody pays heed to them. However, when the Lascaux cave complex was discovered in 1940, the world was amazed. Painted directly on its walls were hundreds of scenes showing how people lived thousands of years ago. The scenes show people hunting animals, such as bison or wild cats. Other images depict birds and, most noticeably, horses, which appear in more than 300 wall images, by far outnumbering all other animals.

Early artists drawing these animals accomplished a monumental and difficult task. They did not limit themselves to the easily accessible walls but carried their painting materials to spaces that required climbing steep walls or crawling into narrow passages in the Lascaux complex. Unfortunately, the paintings have been exposed to the destructive action of water and temperature changes, which easily wear the images away. Because the Lascaux caves have many entrances, air movement has also damaged the images inside. Although they are not out in the open air, where natural light would have destroyed them long ago, many of the images have deteriorated and are barely recognizable. To prevent further damage, the site was closed to tourists in 1963, 23 years after it was discovered.

- (i) Which title best summarizes the main idea of the passage?
- (a) Wild Animals in Art (b) Hidden Prehistoric Paintings
(c) Exploring Caves Respectfully (d) Determining the Age of French Caves
- (ii) In line 3, the words 'pays heed to' are closest in meaning to _____.
- (a) discovers (b) watches (c) notices (d) buys
- (iii) Based on the passage, what is probably true about the south of France?
- (a) It is home to rare animals. (b) It has a large number of caves.
(c) It is known for horse-racing events. (d) It has attracted many famous artists.
- (iv) According to the passage, which animals appear most often on the cave walls?
- (a) Birds (b) Bison (c) Horses (d) Wild cats
- (v) In the first paragraph, the word 'depict' is closest in meaning to _____.
- (a) show (b) hunt (c) count (d) draw
- (vi) Why was painting inside the Lascaux complex a difficult task?
- (a) It was completely dark inside. (b) The caves were full of wild animals.
(c) Painting materials were hard to find. (d) Many painting spaces were difficult to reach.
- (vii) In the second line of the second paragraph, the word 'They' refers to _____.
- (a) walls (b) artists (c) animals (d) materials
- (viii) According to the passage, all of the following have caused damage to the paintings EXCEPT _____.
- (a) temperature changes (b) air movement (c) water (d) light
- (ix) What does the passage say happened at the Lascaux caves in 1963?
- (a) Visitors were prohibited from entering. (b) A new lighting system was installed.
(c) Another part was discovered. (d) A new entrance was created.
- (x) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'deteriorated' as used in the passage.
- (a) worsened (b) declined (c) improved (d) decayed

38. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

*India's banking sector may be getting ready for a wave of consolidation as the country tries to build institutions of world-class proportions. Four big state-run banks – State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India – have already begun an exercise to identify takeover targets to gain access to franchises that would **augment** their capabilities, said three top bankers familiar with the move. The top managements of the four banks are in the process of preparing a blueprint that would explain the rationale for absorbing one or two entities, said the people cited above, none of whom wanted to be named. Employees at these state-run banks are engaged in the exercise after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley gave the lenders the go-ahead to decide how they would strategise to remain relevant in the emerging economic scenario.*

*'We are hearing from the corridors of the finance ministry that there is seriousness on consolidation of banks,' said an executive from one of the top four banks. 'The sense we are getting is that first there could be a merger of at least one SBI associate bank with SBI to **kick off** the consolidation process.' Although no names of likely **acquisition** targets are being discussed at these four banks, the key conditions for a smaller bank will be regional, technological and cultural advantages. For instance, a bank such as Bank of Baroda, which does not have a presence in the East, may prefer one from that part of the country. State-run banks have weakened over the years as governments have treated them as an organ of the administration and used them to push their social agenda. Meanwhile, lenders in neighbouring China have acquired scale while those in India are **puny** by comparison, giving them little clout in global markets.*

The economic downturn, with growth having almost halved from the peak, has exposed the fault lines in the system. The parlous financial position of the government has left banks capital starved - the allocation for this year is tiny compared with the amount needed to meet Basel III standards. And, to access capital from the market, the state-run banks need a strategy to turn more profitable. Currently, they are labouring under bad debt on account of companies finding it difficult to repay loans because of the slump.

'Government has made it clear that they will not give any capital,' said one of the bankers. 'Banks that have the capital and the capability to raise capital could look at acquisitions,' he said while adding, 'Nothing has reached the drawing board. Banks are only doing all kinds of permutations and combinations.'

To be sure, state-run bank consolidation has been discussed for nearly a decade, but little progress has been made, except for shotgun weddings that were aimed at rescuing ventures in poor shape. Inertia among banks, cultural issues and fears of trade union unrest held up any such move. That may now change with the new government.

'There have been some suggestions for consolidation of public sector banks,' Jaitley said in his July 10 Budget speech. 'Government, in principle, agrees to consider these suggestions.'

A committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India under former Axis Bank Chairman P.J. Nayak had suggested that the health of state run banks was poor. To strengthen them, the report said it would be better 'either to privatise these banks and allow their future solvency to be subject to market competition, including through mergers; or to design a radically new governance structure for these banks which would better ensure their ability to compete successfully, in order that repeated claims for capital support from the government, unconnected with market returns, are avoided.'

The market share of the public sector banks is forecast to decline from 80% in 2000 to just over 60% in 2025, Nayak had said. They stack up poorly in many respects against non-state institutions. For instance, the net profit per employee at the new private sector banks was about four times that of the SBI Group in the year ended March 2013.

- (i) Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?
- (a) Four big state-run banks have begun to identify takeover targets.
 - (b) The finance minister has given a free hand to state-run banks to make their own strategy for the banking business.
 - (c) The four big state-run banks have already decided the names of some small banks likely to be taken over
 - (d) According to the P.J. Nayak Committee report, the state-run banks were not performing well.
- (ii) Why have banks turned capital-starved?
- (a) Because of excessive loans sanctioned to malafide customers
 - (b) Because of the bad monetary policy of the RBI
 - (c) Because of the excessive payments towards government-sponsored schemes without appropriate provision for them
 - (d) Because of the dangerous financial position of the government
- (iii) Which of the following is possibly the most appropriate title for the passage?
- (a) Policy Paralysis of the Central Government
 - (b) The Economic Downturn
 - (c) Union Budget 2014: A Review
 - (d) Consolidation of Banks
- (iv) Which of the following statements regarding the consolidation of state-run banks is/are true?
- (a) Efforts for consolidation of state-run banks have been on for the past decade, but nothing remarkable has come out as yet.
 - (b) The consolidation of state-run banks is a complex task, and it will take some more years for its completion.
 - (c) Banks are doing all kinds of permutations and combinations, but the result is cipher.
 - (d) Only (a) and b)

- (v) What does the phrase 'kick off' mean as used in the passage?
 (a) Discontinue (b) Breakdown (c) Smash (d) Begin
- (vi) Under the current scenario, what do state-run banks need to do to access capital from the market?
 (a) They need to float public shares.
 (b) They need a strategy to earn more profit.
 (c) They should increase the lending rate to attract depositors.
 (d) They should announce handsome returns to depositors.
- (vii) Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Acquisition

- (a) redemption (b) forfeit (c) possession (d) dearth
- (viii) Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Parlous

- (a) harmful (b) strong (c) critical (d) powerful
- (ix) Choose the word/group of words that is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Puny

- (a) trivial (b) strong (c) inferior (d) tiny
- (x) Choose the word/group of words that is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Augment

- (a) reinforce (b) strengthen (c) magnify (d) curtail

39. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Rahul, a young householder, used to study the scriptures every day under a guru. One day the guru was explaining the following passage from the Upanishads.

*'No husband is loved by his wife for his own sake, but it is all for the sake of the self. No sons are loved by their fathers for their sake, but it is all for the sake of the self that the sons become **dear** to him.'*

*At that stage, Rahul intervened and said, 'Sir, in my case, both my parents and my wife love me so dearly for my own sake that if I am delayed by a few minutes in reaching home, they get highly **agitated** and if something happens to me they will die.' Guruji said, 'You shall learn the truth of it tomorrow when you see the result of a test I am going to hold. Before going to bed tonight, you must swallow this herbal powder. As a result, you will lie as if dead tomorrow morning, but you will be able to hear all that is spoken in your presence. After a few hours, when the effect of this medicine wears off, you will become normal and get up. You will see the fun.'*

*Rahul did as instructed, and in the morning, his wife and parents found him 'dead'-lying **motionless** without any pulse or heartbeat. The guruji asked for a jar full of water and said, 'I shall draw out all the bad destiny responsible for your son's death into this water. One of you will have to drink this water. The one who drinks will die immediately, while Rahul will be restored to life. Tell me, who among you is prepared to die for him? Both the parents **refused**, saying, 'We are old and helping each other mutually. If one dies, the other will not have anybody to help. So our drinking the water is out of the question.' Rahul's young wife also said, 'I am very young and have not seen anything of this world yet. When such old people, who have seen life in its **fullness**, do not want to die, how can you expect me to volunteer for death?'*

A brighter idea flashed into the mind of the father, who told the guruji, 'Sir, you are a renunciate and have no relatives to mourn your death. Why don't you drink the water yourself? We will conduct your funeral in a grand manner.'

- (i) The contents of the passage prove that
- what the Upanishad states appears to be true.
 - Rahul's initial understanding of his family members was true.
 - the guru did not have any miraculous power.
 - the guru did not have a thorough knowledge of scriptures.
- (ii) After experimenting as per the guru's plan, Rahul realised that
- his parents would do anything for his sake.
 - his wife would readily sacrifice for his welfare.
 - the guru's prediction had proved to be wrong.
 - one loves oneself more than one loves anyone else.
- (iii) What, according to the passage, was the essence of the Upanishad passage?
- Sons are loved by their fathers for the sake of themselves.
 - Relatives are dear to us because we love them.
 - Most human beings are not selfish.
 - Every person's actions are to gratify himself or herself.
- (iv) The guru wanted a jar of water to
- drink from as he was very thirsty.
 - extract the bad elements responsible for Rahul's death.
 - give it to Rahul's parents to drink from.
 - sprinkle it on Rahul's dead body to bring him to life.
- (v) Which of the following was proposed by Rahul's father to the guru?
- He may be given the enchanted water to drink.
 - Rahul's wife was the most appropriate person to drink the magical water.
 - Rahul should be brought back to life without the death of anybody else.
 - The guru himself should participate in Rahul's grand funeral.

Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

(vi) **refused**

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| (a) denied | (b) accepted | (c) declined | (d) defused |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|

(vii) **fullness**

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| (a) plenty | (b) abundance | (c) bounty | (d) lack |
|------------|---------------|------------|----------|

(viii) **agitated**

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| (a) roused | (b) troubled | (c) excited | (d) angered |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|

Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

(ix) **dear**

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| (a) respected | (b) valued | (c) love | (d) enemy |
|---------------|------------|----------|-----------|

(x) **motionless**

- | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|----------------|
| (a) dead | (b) moving | (c) free | (d) stationary |
|----------|------------|----------|----------------|

40. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

*A long time ago, on a big tree in the lap of the mountain, lived a bird named Sindhuka. It was a **rather** special bird because its droppings turned into gold as soon as they hit the ground. One day, a hunter came to the tree in search of prey, and he saw Sindhuka's droppings hit the ground and turn into gold. The hunter was struck with wonder. He thought, 'I have been hunting birds and small animals since I was a boy, but in all my 80 years, I have never seen such a miraculous creature. He decided that he had to catch the bird somehow. He climbed the tree and **skillfully** set a trap for the bird. The bird, quite unaware of the danger it was in, stayed on the tree and sang merrily. But it was soon caught in the hunter's trap. The hunter immediately seized it*

and shoved it into a cage. The hunter took the bird home joyfully. But as he had time to think over his good fortune later, he suddenly realised, 'If the king comes to know of this wonder, he will certainly take away the bird from me, and he might even punish me for keeping such a rare treasure all to myself. So it would be safer and more honourable if I were to go to the king and present the unique bird to him.'

The next day, the hunter took the bird to the king and presented it to him in court with great **reverence**. The king was delighted to receive such an unusual and rare gift. He told his courtiers to keep the bird safe and feed it with the best bird food available. The king's prime minister, though, was **reluctant** to accept the bird. He said, 'O Rajah, how can you believe the word of a foolish hunter to accept this bird? Has anyone in our kingdom ever seen a bird dropping gold? The hunter must be either crazy or telling lies. I think it is best that you **release** the bird from the cage.' After a little thought, the king felt that his prime minister's words were correct. So he ordered the bird to be released. But as soon as the door of the cage was thrown open, the bird flew out, perched itself on a nearby doorway and defecated. To everyone's surprise, the dropping immediately turned into gold. The king mourned his loss.

- (i) Which of the following is possibly the most appropriate title for the story?
- (a) The Skilled Hunter (b) The King and His Prime Minister
(c) The King's Defeat (d) The Bird with the Gold Dropping
- (ii) Which of the following emotions made the hunter gift the bird to the king?
- (a) respect (b) joy (c) pride (d) fear
- (iii) Which of the following is true according to the story?
- (a) Birds like Sindhuka were very common in the area near the mountain.
(b) Sindhuka remained caged for the rest of its life.
(c) Sindhuka was unaware of the trap laid by the hunter.
(d) The king, when told to not accept the bird, did not listen to his prime minister.
- (iv) Why was the king's prime minister reluctant to accept the bird?
- (a) He believed that the hunter was lying.
(b) He knew that the hunter was greedy.
(c) He believed that the bird would bring bad luck to the king.
(d) His sources had informed him that the hunter was crazy.
- (v) How did the hunter find Sindhuka?
- (a) He had read stories about the bird and had set traps at various locations in the city.
(b) He followed the bird's droppings.
(c) He was on the lookout for a prey when he chanced upon it.
(d) People from the city had informed him about the bird's whereabouts.

Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

- (vi) **rather**
- (a) regular (b) quite (c) instead (d) although
- (vii) **release**
- (a) free (b) vacate (c) join (d) disclose
- (viii) **reverence**
- (a) hope (b) detail (c) astonishment (d) respect

Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

- (ix) **reluctant**
- (a) true (b) clever (c) keen (d) hesitant
- (x) **skillfully**
- (a) awkwardly (b) quickly (c) readily (d) deftly

41. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

There's the crush of traffic outside and the air is still with the heat of summer and the aroma of baking. At the junction of Perambur's Paper Mills Road and Foxen Street, at the cusp of the slowly-vanishing world of Anglo India, is Ajantha Bakers.

A mosaic-tiled stairway leads to the bakery on the first floor, overlooking tin-roofed garages and tiled houses that have risen and slept under the warm blanket of comfort this aroma exudes. Ajantha Bakers has been part of this Anglo-Indian stronghold since 1972, baking wedding cakes, pound cakes and marzipan-rich, chewy Easter eggs.

But, during the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, it is hot cross buns — soft, slightly spiced and tinged in nostalgia — that sell by the thousands. Says KS Subhash, managing director, 'When my father KT Sekhar started the bakery, he had plenty of Anglo-Indian friends and customers. They still form the backbone of our clientèle, and it is their recipes that we largely use, whether in our butter cakes or whole-wheat bread. Our Easter eggs and bunnies made of marzipan and chocolates are ready at least two weeks ahead of the festival. For the hot cross buns, which are eggless, we use the best spices blended with raisins. That flavour is unmistakable, and we bake about 25,000 buns. They sell out within a few hours.'

Ajantha Bakers sells its buns on Thursday, 'so they keep fresh' on Good Friday when they are traditionally eaten. 'Priced at Rs. 65 for a pack of five, the buns are retailed at our 14 outlets and ordered in bulk by churches.'

Choose your flavour

In Britain, where it first originated, hot cross buns have been celebrated in a nursery rhyme and sold in supermarkets throughout the year.

The bar at The Bell Inn, Essex, has buns from every Good Friday since 1906 suspended as buntings. Belief is that hot cross buns hung in kitchens prevent fires, and the faith behind them would never let them go mouldy. Hot cross buns have also been mixed with unusual flavours such as Earl Grey tea, rum-soaked sultanas and potato-bread dough.

*In Chennai, though, it is the standard recipe that is followed. At the iconic Buhari Hotel on Anna Salai, hot cross buns will be available from Thursday. The hotel that has stood here since 1951 has had an in-house bakery since the 1960s. Above the roar of traffic and customers **tucking** into plates of biryani on a busy Friday afternoon, Nawaz Buhari, managing director, says, 'The egg-free recipe for hot cross buns that we follow comes from the Vietnamese bakers who worked here when we started out.' While the famed McRennett will stock hot cross buns priced at Rs. 40 for a pack of four from tomorrow. Hotels such as ITC Grand Chola and Hyatt Regency already have trays laden with Good Friday and Easter goodies at their **gourmet** shops.*

Family tradition

*Harry MacLure, editor, *Anglos in the Wind*, says of his childhood in Tiruchi, 'It was a tradition at home — the air used to be filled with the spiced aroma of hot cross buns baking, but now we just buy it off store shelves. We look forward to breaking the fast with this simple **delicacy** and a coconut milk-rice gruel with coconut chutney.'*

Lenten treat

Hot cross buns have long been a symbol of spring and fertility. According to pagan legend, oxen were sacrificed, and their horns symbolically emblazoned on freshly baked bread. The words 'bun' and 'Easter' are derived from the Anglo Saxon lexicon meaning 'sacred ox' and 'Eostre', the goddess of spring. The four quadrants made by the cross on the bread are said to have represented the phases of the moon. The modern version of the hot cross bun is a British invention that came with Europe opening up to trade with the East. Spices and salt started to cost less, and the sweet-savoury bun with a pasty white cross on its brown top became a Good Friday baker's treat. The cross came to symbolise Christ's passion and death, and the spices,

the mixture with which his body was **embalmed**. So popular and wholesome were the buns that they were baked through the year, and Queen Elizabeth I had to issue a royal **decree** to stop their year-round baking so that their religious symbolism wouldn't be lost.

- (i) Consider the following statements regarding the Ajantha Bakers as given in the above passage:
- (i) It is situated in Perambur.
(ii) It has been part of the Anglo-Indian stronghold since 1872.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both are correct (d) None is correct
- (ii) Where did hot cross buns come from?
- (a) Britain (b) Perambur (c) USA (d) Spain
- (iii) Which of the following statement regarding Ajantha Bakers is incorrect?
- (a) They are famous for chewy Easter eggs.
(b) They are famous for wedding cakes.
(c) Hot cross buns are ordered in bulk by churches.
(d) It is famous for only hot cross buns.
- (iv) What is 'Eostre' in context with the pagan legend as described in the passage?
- (a) horns (b) bread (c) goddess (d) moon
- (v) From where did the egg-free recipe for hot cross buns come?
- (a) India (b) Vietnam (c) China (d) Burma
- (vi) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'tucking' as used in the passage.
- (a) spread (b) enfold (c) push (d) seam
- (vii) Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word 'gourmet' as used in the passage.
- (a) connoisseur (b) critic (c) gourmand (d) destitute
- (viii) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'delicacy' as used in the passage.
- (a) inelegance (b) coarseness (c) heaviness (d) elegance
- (ix) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'embalmed' as used in the passage.
- (a) wrapped (b) squandered (c) wasted (d) neglected
- (x) Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'decree' as used in the passage.
- (a) word (b) rap (c) directive (d) verdict

42. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The cardboard shows me how it was
When the two girl cousins went paddling,
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,
And she the big girl — some twelve years or so.
All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother's, that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.
Some twenty-thirty-years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. 'See Betty
And Dolly,' she'd say, 'and look how they
Dressed us for the beach.' The sea holiday*

*Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss.*

*Now she's been dead nearly as many years
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance
There is nothing to say at all.
Its silence silences.*

- (i) What does the word 'cardboard' refer to?
(a) a photo frame (b) a piece of paper (c) a photograph (d) a painting
- (ii) What does the expression 'went paddling' suggest?
(a) The cousins went walking in the shallow waters of the sea.
(b) The cousins were rowing a boat in the sea.
(c) The cousins went sightseeing at sea.
(d) The cousins were posing for a photograph in the sea.
- (iii) The expression, 'stood still to smile' is an example of
(a) assonance. (b) alliteration. (c) metaphor. (d) simile.
- (iv) The phrase 'some twelve years or so' in the extract denotes
(a) the time when the photograph was taken.
(b) the age of the cousins.
(c) the time it took the poet to find the photograph.
(d) the age of the poet's mother.
- (v) Who could be 'they' in the line '..... and look how they / Dressed us for the beach ' '?
(a) the poet's parents (b) the mother's and cousin's parents
(c) the mother's cousins (d) the three cousins in the photograph
- (vi) What does the poet imply by saying, 'mine is her laughter' ?
(a) The poet's mother is dead, so she cannot hear her laughter anymore.
(b) The poet's mother does not laugh anymore.
(c) The poet does not like to meet her mother.
(d) The poet's mother does not talk to the poet anymore.
- (vii) Identify the poetic device used in the expression 'laboured ease of loss'.
(a) paradox (b) oxymoron (c) hyperbole (d) alliteration
- (viii) What is the tone of the poet in the line 'A sweet face, My mother's, that was before I was born.' ?
(a) regret (b) happiness (c) pain (d) nostalgia
- (ix) Which of these words does NOT mean the same as 'transient' ?
(a) transitory (b) short-lived (c) transcendental (d) fleeting
- (x) Identify the poetic device used in the expression 'terribly transient feet' ?
(a) transferred epithet (b) synecdoche (c) hyperbole (d) paradox

43. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The Laburnum top is silent, quite still
In the afternoon yellow September sunlight,
A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.

Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.
Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,*

*She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up
 Of chitterings, and a tremor of wings, and trillings —
 The whole tree trembles and thrills.
 It is the engine of her family.
 She stokes it full, then flirts out to a branch-end
 Showing her barred face identity mask
 Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
 She launches away, towards the infinite
 And the laburnum subsides to empty.*

- (i) The above extract represents
- the imagery of the laburnum tree on a September afternoon.
 - the contrast between the state of the laburnum tree before and after the coming of the goldfinch.
 - the movements of the goldfinch on the laburnum tree.
 - the sounds made by the goldfinch on the laburnum tree.
- (ii) Which of these poetic devices has NOT been used in the above extract?
- onomatopoeia
 - alliteration
 - personification
 - assonance
- (iii) The poet uses the expression 'a few leaves yellowing'. Which of these seasons is indicated by the quoted expression?
- Spring
 - Winter
 - Autumn
 - Summer
- (iv) The entry of the goldfinch into the laburnum tree
- makes the tree lively.
 - startles the other inhabitants of the tree.
 - makes the tree shed a few leaves.
 - makes the tree turn yellow.
- (v) The expression 'a machine starts up' is used to refer to
- the sound made by the goldfinch's family.
 - the sound made by the other birds in the laburnum tree.
 - the sound made by the rustling of leaves by the movements of the goldfinch.
 - the sound made by the leaves falling from the laburnum tree.
- (vi) Identify the poetic device used in the line 'Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt'.
- metaphor
 - simile
 - personification
 - oxymoron
- (vii) Words that are pronounced in the same manner as the sound that they describe are called onomatopoeic words. Which of these words is NOT an example of onomatopoeia?
- chirrup
 - chitterings
 - trillings
 - tremor
- (viii) What does the expression 'She enters the thickness' mean?
- the thick branches of the laburnum tree
 - the strong nest of the goldfinch
 - the dense branches and leaves of the laburnum tree
 - the loud sound made by the family of the goldfinch
- (ix) The word 'infinite' in the line, 'She launches away, towards the infinite' indicates
- the treetop
 - the sky
 - the branch end
 - the nest
- (x) What effect does the last line create?
- It creates the contrast between the liveliness of the tree and its silence.
 - It creates the contrast between the change of seasons.
 - It creates an opportunity to plant more laburnum trees.
 - It creates the scene for the arrival of new bird species on the tree.

44. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Driving from my parent's home in Cochin last Friday morning, I saw
My mother beside me, doze open mouthed,
her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain
that she was as old as she looked, but soon
put that thought away, and looked out at Young Trees
sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, but after the airport's
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her wan pale
face as a late winter's moon, and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
and all I did was smile and smile and smile....*

- (i) Who wrote this poem 'My Mother at Sixty-Two'?
- (a) Kamala Das (b) Rabindranath Tagore (c) Sarojini Naidu (d) Ruskin Bond
- (ii) What is the theme of this poem?
- (a) Aspiration (b) Ageing (c) Sickness (d) Helplessness
- (iii) The poet described her mother
- (a) as lively as a kid. (b) as old as a mountain.
(c) as tired as a tourist. (d) as lifeless as a dead body.
- (iv) The poet has visited her mother
- (a) to get her treated. (b) to help her with some special task.
(c) on vacation. (d) to celebrate her birthday.
- (v) In the given extract, 'doze, open mouthed' suggests that the mother of the poet
- (a) has opened her mouth to say something. (b) has slept in the car.
(c) is singing. (d) is suffering from a disease.
- (vi) The line 'ashen like that of a corpse' is an example of
- (a) simile. (b) satire. (c) metaphor. (d) irony.
- (vii) '... and realised with pain ...' evoke the feeling in the poet
- (a) whether she would visit her mother again.
(b) whether she would be able to see her mother again.
(c) whether she would be able to spend quality time with her father.
(d) whether she would be able to see her father again.
- (viii) The expression 'put that thought away' clearly suggests that the poet was
- (a) happy. (b) calm and quiet. (c) scared and in pain. (d) horrified.
- (ix) The literary device used by the poet in the following line 'she was as old as she looked' is
- (a) satire. (b) metaphor. (c) irony. (d) simile.
- (x) The expression 'wan, pale as a winter's moon' symbolizes
- (a) frail health. (b) death. (c) a healthy person. (d) a patient.

45. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
for once on the face of the earth,*

*let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.*

*It would be an **exotic moment**
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.*

*Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.*

*Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.*

*What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.*

Life is what it is about...

*If we were not so **single-minded**
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.*

*Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.*

*Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.*

- (i) What does the expression 'count to twelve' suggest?
- (a) Randomly count to number twelve.
 - (b) Number twelve represents time, i.e. twelve hours of the day or twelve months of the year.
 - (c) Twelve number is the poet's favourite.
 - (d) Number twelve has been chosen by the poet.
- (ii) Keeping still and quiet symbolizes
- (a) peace of mind when we would be able to find a solution to our problems.
 - (b) the ability to find a solution to our problems.
 - (c) introspective behaviour.
 - (d) peace of mind to study calmly.

- (iii) The expression 'let's not speak in any language' refers to
 (a) not talking as it leads to misunderstandings.
 (b) talking in only one language as it is easily understandable.
 (c) not talking in any language as communication leads to disputes, reasoning and quarrels.
 (d) keeping quiet whether it creates chaos or misunderstanding.
- (iv) The expression 'the face of the Earth' suggests
 (a) different states on the surface of the earth.
 (b) different people on the surface of the earth.
 (c) different continents on the surface of the earth.
 (d) different countries on the surface of the earth.
- (v) The phrase 'exotic moment' refers to
 (a) the moment of quietness and unity.
 (b) the moment of war and hatred.
 (c) the moment of peace and universal brotherhood.
 (d) the moment of selfishness.
- (vi) In the extract, 'without rush, without engines' suggests that there
 (a) won't be any kind of noise around.
 (b) won't be any sound of a rush of life, any hustle-bustle and noise of engines.
 (c) won't be any disturbing sound around.
 (d) won't be any sound of music, any kind of noise of any vehicle.
- (vii) The expression 'sudden strangeness' symbolizes
 (a) a strange kind of togetherness between families.
 (b) a strange kind of brotherhood among all the people.
 (c) a strange kind of war that is full of destruction.
 (d) a strange kind of togetherness and brotherhood otherwise not possible in a busy world.
- (viii) Name the literary device used by the poet in the following expressions:
 'without rush, without engines', 'we would' and 'sudden strangeness'
 (a) alliteration (b) satire (c) metaphor (d) irony
- (ix) The word 'single-minded' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to
 (a) committed. (b) focused. (c) determined. (d) unconvinced.
- (x) The phrase 'sadness of never understanding ourselves' reveals that man
 (a) doesn't have time to introspect his emotional needs and their consequences.
 (b) doesn't have time to ponder over his own responsibilities.
 (c) doesn't have time for his family and friends.
 (d) is never worried about the consequences of his doings.

46. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
 Its loveliness increases; it will never
 Pass into nothingness; but will keep
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
 Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
 Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
 Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth*

*Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
 From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
 Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon
 For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
 With the green world they live in; and clear rills
 That for themselves a cooling covert make
 'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
 Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms:
 And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
 We have imagined for the mighty dead;
 All lovely tales that we have heard or read:
 An endless fountain of immortal drink,
 Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.*

- (i) The statement 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever' signifies that
 (a) everything around is beautiful.
 (b) everything can become beautiful if we want.
 (c) a beautiful thing is a source of never-ending joy.
 (d) one gets joy in looking at beautiful things.
- (ii) The expression 'pass into nothingness' means
 (a) the loveliness of the beautiful things will never come to an end.
 (b) the loveliness can go into nothingness.
 (c) everything around is mesmerizing.
 (d) nothing can defeat beauty.
- (iii) For the poet, beauty is like
 (a) an enjoyable and amazing world. (b) humanity and compassion.
 (c) humanity and love. (d) a beautiful shady tree.
- (iv) Under the beautiful shady tree, all the creatures can sleep peacefully and
 (a) enjoy playing. (b) enjoy good health. (c) eat together. (d) none of these
- (v) It is the beauty which fills us with
 (a) the spirit to live. (b) courage and determination.
 (c) pride and strength. (d) enough wealth.
- (vi) Beauty escapes us from _____ around us.
 (a) bad memories (b) happy moments and kind people
 (c) sad moments and cruel people (d) happiness
- (vii) The phrase 'inhuman dearth' refers to
 (a) an enjoyable and amazing world. (b) humanity and compassion.
 (c) humanity and love. (d) the men who lack nobility and good qualities.
- (viii) The phrase 'clear rills' signifies
 (a) transparent streams of water. (b) not to be interrupted.
 (c) a clear view of nature. (d) a clear idea of things.

- (ix) The expression 'grandeur of the dooms' evokes the feeling of
 (a) a fast-moving world and have no time to understand.
 (b) the magnificence associated with our ancestors.
 (c) despair because of ignoring beautiful things.
 (d) uncertainty of life.
- (x) The literary device used in the line 'That for themselves a cooling covert make' is
 (a) personification. (b) alliteration. (c) simile. (d) metaphor.

47. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The little old house was out with a little new shed
 In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
 A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,
 It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
 But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
 The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.
 The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
 Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
 At having the landscape marred with the artless paint
 Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong
 Offered for sale wild berries in wooden quarts,
 Or crook-necked golden squash with silver warts,
 Or beauty rest in a beautiful mountain scene,
 You have the money, but if you want to be mean,
 Why keep your money (this crossly) and go along.
 The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint
 So much as the trusting sorrow of what is unsaid:
 Here far from the city we make our roadside stand
 And ask for some city money to feel in hand
 To try if it will not make our being expand,
 And give us the life of the moving-pictures' promise
 That the party in power is said to be keeping from us.
 It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
 Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
 To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
 Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
 While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
 Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
 That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
 And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
 Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.
 Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
 The thought of so much childish longing in vain,*

*The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,
Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass,
Just one to inquire what a farmer's prices are.*

*And one did stop, but only to plow up grass
In using the yard to back and turn around;
And another to ask the way to where it was bound;
And another to ask could they sell it a gallon of gas
They couldn't (this crossly); they had none, didn't it see?
No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.*

*And then next day as I come back into the sane,
I wonder how I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.*

- i) Where was the stand located?
- (a) on a busy road (b) on an extended portion of an old house
(c) inside an old house (d) in the market
- ii) Find out the poetic device in the line '... too pathetically pled'.
- (a) simile (b) metaphor (c) irony (d) alliteration
- iii) What wouldn't be fair to say?
- (a) to call these poor people beggars (b) to call these poor people rich
(c) to ignore these poor people (d) to abuse these rich people
- (iv) What was the thought of the people going to the city?
- (a) They focused on their journey.
(b) They focused on their money transactions and destinations.
(c) They were thinking about their family and friends.
(d) They thought of earning more.
- (v) The rich people complained about the scenic beauty of the
- (a) landscape. (b) roads. (c) house. (d) jungle.
- (vi) What is the purpose of putting up the roadside stand by the poor people?
- (a) To sell their things at a high price
(b) To become rich
(c) To attract the roadside people to sell their things
(d) To distract the passers-by
- (vii) Who is the 'party in power'?
- (a) The rich people (b) The ruling party (c) The political party (d) The judge
- (viii) Who are the greedy good-doers?
- (a) common people and other social workers (b) politicians and other social workers
(c) politicians and soldiers (d) judges and social workers

- (ix) The poet dreams if he could banish the sorrow and suffering of the toiling and deprived masses. Which characteristic of the poet is played in this statement?
 (a) greedy (b) honest (c) pride (d) compassionate
- (x) Name the poem.
 (a) A Thing of Beauty (b) Keeping Quiet
 (c) A Roadside Stand (d) My Mother at Sixty-six

48. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
 Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
 They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
 They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.*

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
 Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
 The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
 Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

*When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
 Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
 The tigers in the panel that she made
 Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.*

- (i) What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza of this poem?
 (a) aabb (b) abab (c) aaab (d) abbb
- (ii) The phrase 'bright topaz denizens' refers to
 (a) precious gems. (b) bright coloured dwellers of the forest.
 (c) topaz coloured embroidery. (d) Aunt's wedding band.
- (iii) The lady's fingers are trembling with the
 (a) fear of her uncle. (b) fear of her husband.
 (c) fear of her father. (d) fear of her tigers.
- (iv) Why does Aunt Jennifer find the ivory needle hard to pull?
 (a) Aunt Jennifer does not know how to knit.
 (b) Aunt Jennifer is not interested in doing so.
 (c) Aunt Jennifer is not happy.
 (d) Her fingers are so tired of working all her life endlessly.
- (v) Aunt Jennifer is still burdened by
 (a) the weight of the ring. (b) the weight of the wool.
 (c) the memories of her husband. (d) the old age.
- (vi) The literary device used in the line 'Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool' is
 (a) personification. (b) metaphor. (c) alliteration. (d) simile.
- (vii) Pick the word that best describes the qualities of tigers.
 (a) Valour (b) Cowardice (c) Timidity (d) Fearful
- (viii) '...ordeals she was mastered by.' The phrase 'mastered by' refers to
 (a) sick of. (b) scared of. (c) averse to. (d) suppressed by.
- (ix) What aspect of society is mentioned in the poem?
 (a) Corruption (b) Unfairness (c) Patriarchy (d) Empathy

- (x) Pick the option that describes the relationship between Aunt Jennifer and her tiger's personalities.
- (a) They are adjoined. (b) They are similar.
 (c) They are completely opposite. (d) They are not related.

49. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*I leant upon a coppice gate
 When Frost was spectre-grey,
 And Winter's dregs made desolate
 The weakening eye of day.
 The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
 Like strings of broken lyres,
 And all mankind that haunted night
 Had sought their household fires.*

*The land's sharp features seemed to be
 The Century's corpse outleant,
 His crypt the cloudy canopy,
 The wind his death-lament.
 The ancient pulse of germ and birth
 Was shrunken hard and dry,
 And every spirit upon earth
 Seemed fervourless as I.*

*At once a voice arose among
 The bleak twigs overhead
 In a full-hearted evensong
 Of joy illimited;
 An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
 In blast-beruffled plume,
 Had chosen thus to fling his soul
 Upon the growing gloom.
 So little cause for carolings
 Of such ecstatic sound
 Was written on terrestrial things
 Afar or nigh around,
 That I could think there trembled through
 His happy good-night air
 Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
 And I was unaware.*

- (i) Which of the following establishes the setting of 'The Darkling Thrush'?
- (a) 'A coppice gate' (b) 'frost was spectre-grey'
 (c) 'household fires' (d) 'strings of broken lyres'
- (ii) 'Spectre-grey' foreshadows which of the following moments in the poem?
- (a) 'Some blessed hope' (b) 'the century's corpse outleant'
 (c) 'shrunken hard and dry' (d) 'little cause for carolings'

- (iii) Which of the following best expresses why Hardy personifies Frost in the first stanza?
- To suggest that the natural world works actively upon the human world
 - To suggest that frost is malicious
 - To imply that the speaker follows a pagan understanding of natural gods
 - To introduce a character named Frost
- (iv) Which of the following is an example of hyperbole?
- 'Every spirit upon earth/ seemed fervourless as I.'
 - 'All mankind that haunted nigh/ had sought their household fires.'
 - 'So little cause for carolings/ of such ecstatic sound'
 - 'At once a voice arose among/ the bleak twigs'
- (v) Which of the following best expresses the tone of the speaker in 'The Darkling Thrush'?
- Joyous, optimistic
 - Disappointed, unhinged
 - Cynical, indifferent
 - Pessimistic, despairing
- (vi) Which of the following best expresses the meaning of 'outleant' in line 10?
- Revived
 - Leaning out
 - On display
 - Escaped
- (vii) Which of the following is NOT an example of alliteration?
- 'in blast-beruffled plume'
 - 'the Century's corpse outleant'
 - 'his crypt the cloudy canopy'
 - 'winter's dregs made desolate'
- (viii) What is the significance of the metaphor to 'strings of broken lyres'?
- It suggests that classical poetry is no longer important.
 - It suggests that poetry is also dying.
 - It suggests that song is the only way to bring the world back to life.
 - It suggests that the speaker is distrustful of poetry.
- (ix) Which of the following best describes why Hardy may have written the thrush as 'frail, gaunt, and small'?
- The malicious natural world always betrays heavenly ideals.
 - The thrush ultimately fails to break through the gloom of the poem.
 - The speaker cannot perceive what the thrush really looks like.
 - The thrush's song, and not its body, is what carries a possibility of hope.
- (x) Which of the following is NOT an example of visual imagery?
- 'Weakening eye of day'
 - 'The bleak twigs overhead'
 - 'The cloudy canopy'
 - 'Wind his death-lament'
- (xi) What does 'a full-hearted evensong' allude to?
- Greco-Roman Music
 - Archetypal Birdsong
 - Popular Music
 - Christian Church
- (xii) Which of the following best approximates the meaning of the 'pulse of germ and birth' in line 13?
- The cycle of potential and birth
 - The cycle of sickness and healing
 - The cycle of decay and rejuvenation
 - The cycle of sadness and joy
- (xiii) Which of the following is an example of onomatopoeia?
- 'dregs made desolate'
 - 'cause for carolings'
 - 'such ecstatic sound'
 - 'blast-beruffled'
- (xiv) What is being compared in lines 8-9?
- The land and a resurrection
 - The land and a grave
 - The land and a corpse
 - The land and a funeral

(xv) Which of the following best expresses the speaker's attitude towards rural places?

(a) Yearning

(b) Mourning

(c) Frustration

(d) Indifference

50. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

*When I see birches bend to left and right
Across the lines of straighter darker trees,
I like to think some boy's been swinging them.
But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay
As ice-storms do. Often you must have seen them
Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
After a rain. They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.
Soon the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells
Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust—
Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away
You'd think the inner dome of heaven had fallen.
They are dragged to the withered bracken by the load,
And they seem not to break; though once they are bowed
So low for long, they never right themselves:
You may see their trunks arching in the woods
Years afterwards, trailing their leaves on the ground
Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair
Before them over their heads to dry in the sun.
But I was going to say when Truth broke in
With all her matter-of-fact about the ice-storm
I should prefer to have some boy bend them
As he went out and in to fetch the cows—
Some boy too far from town to learn baseball,
Whose only play was what he found himself,
Summer or winter, and could play alone.
One by one he subdued his father's trees
By riding them down over and over again
Until he took the stiffness out of them,
And not one but hung limp, not one was left
For him to conquer. He learned all there was
To learn about not launching out too soon
And so not carrying the tree away
Clear to the ground. He always kept his poise
To the top branches, climbing carefully
With the same pains you use to fill a cup
Up to the brim, and even above the brim.
Then he flung outward, feet first, with a swish,*

*Kicking his way down through the air to the ground.
 So was I once myself a swinger of birches.
 And so I dream of going back to be.
 It's when I'm weary of considerations,
 And life is too much like a pathless wood
 Where your face burns and tickles with the cobwebs
 Broken across it, and one eye is weeping
 From a twig's having lashed across it open.
 I'd like to get away from earth awhile
 And then come back to it and begin over.
 May no fate willfully misunderstand me
 And half grant what I wish and snatch me away
 Not to return. Earth's the right place for love:
 I don't know where it's likely to go better.
 I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree,
 And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk
 Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more,
 But dipped its top and set me down again.
 That would be good both going and coming back.
 One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.*

- (i) What two different actions involving the birch trees does the speaker contemplate?
- (a) The trees being climbed by children and the trees being cut down by lumberjacks
 (b) The trees being bent by a young boy and the trees being bent by an ice storm
 (c) The trees having their leaves knocked off like "shed crystal shells" and the trees being "bowed/So low for long, they never right themselves"
 (d) The trees being painted by artists and planted by farmers
- (ii) The poem centres around the act
- (a) of swinging from birches
 (b) of playing in a birch forest
 (c) of dreaming about birches
 (d) of bending birch trees
- (iii) The poem is written in blank verse with a particular emphasis on the _____ by Robert Frost.
 (a) 'Sound of Taste' (b) 'Sound of Sense' (c) 'Sound of Sight' (d) 'Sound of Touch'
- (iv) The 'straighter darker trees' represent
- (a) fact and fancy.
 (b) normality and the boring nature of everyday life.
 (c) huge trees and foliage.
 (d) the speaker's authoritarian father.
- (v) The trunks of the birch lie arched in the forest are compared to what?
- (a) Like an arch in monument.
 (b) Elephants' trunk
 (c) Like the girls sitting on their hands and knees to dry their hair in sun
 (d) Like an arched bow
- (vi) 'I like to think some boy's been swinging them'....What does the expression 'like to think' suggest?
- (a) the speaker's imagination
 (b) the speaker's philosophy of life
 (c) the speaker's dream
 (d) the speaker's certainty or conviction

- (vii) What is 'inner dome of heaven' compared to?
 (a) Broken birch (b) Broken ice (c) Broken glass (d) None of the above
- (viii) _____ is symbolic of confusions in life.
 (a) Cobwebs (b) Truth (c) Considerations (d) Pain
- (ix) 'One eye is weeping' is which type of imagery?
 (a) Tactile imagery (b) Visual imagery (c) Kinesthetic imagery (d) Auditory imagery
- (x) 'I like to think some boy's been swinging them'....The repetition of 's' sounds in the third line of the poem is
 (a) sibilance. (b) simile. (c) onomatopoeia. (d) personification.

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|
| 1. | (i) (a) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (c) | (v) (a) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (d) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (d) | (x) (a) |
| 2. | (i) (c) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (c) | (v) (b) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (c) | (x) (b) |
| 3. | (i) (c) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (a) | (v) (b) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (d) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (d) | (x) (a) |
| 4. | (i) (a) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (d) | (v) (c) | (vi) (d) | (vii) (a) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (a) | (x) (a) |
| 5. | (i) (b) | (ii) (a) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (c) | (v) (b) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (d) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (c) | (x) (a) |
| 6. | (i) (b) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (c) | (v) (a) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (a) | (viii) (d) | (ix) (a) | (x) (b) |
| 7. | (i) (d) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (b) | (v) (d) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (d) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (a) | (x) (c) |
| 8. | (i) (b) | (ii) (a) | (iii) (d) | (iv) (a) | (v) (c) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (a) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (d) | (x) (c) |
| 9. | (i) (a) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (d) | (v) (c) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (d) | (ix) (c) | (x) (d) |
| 10. | (i) (c) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (c) | (v) (a) | (vi) (d) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (a) | (x) (c) |
| 11. | (i) (c) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (c) | (v) (a) | (vi) (d) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (d) | (x) (b) |
| 12. | (i) (d) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (d) | (v) (a) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (d) | (x) (c) |
| 13. | (i) (b) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (d) | (v) (a) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (c) | (x) (d) |
| 14. | (i) (d) | (ii) (a) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (a) | (v) (d) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (d) | (x) (a) |
| 15. | (i) (b) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (d) | (iv) (a) | (v) (b) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (a) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (d) | (x) (b) |
| 16. | (i) (d) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (b) | (v) (d) | (vi) (a) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (d) | (x) (a) |
| 17. | (i) (b) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (d) | (v) (a) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (d) | (x) (c) |
| 18. | (i) (a) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (d) | (iv) (b) | (v) (c) | (vi) (a) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (d) | (ix) (a) | (x) (a) |
| 19. | (i) (d) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (d) | (v) (b) | (vi) (d) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (d) | (ix) (a) | (x) (d) |
| 20. | (i) (a) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (b) | (v) (b) | (vi) (a) | (vii) (d) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (b) | (x) (d) |
| 21. | (i) (d) | (ii) (a) | (iii) (d) | (iv) (b) | (v) (a) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (d) | (viii) (d) | (ix) (c) | (x) (a) |
| 22. | (i) (d) | (ii) (a) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (a) | (v) (d) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (d) | (x) (a) |
| 23. | (i) (d) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (c) | (v) (c) | (vi) (a) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (d) | (x) (c) |
| 24. | (i) (c) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (d) | (iv) (b) | (v) (d) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (a) | (x) (d) |
| 25. | (i) (b) | (ii) (a) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (b) | (v) (c) | (vi) (d) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (c) | (x) (d) |
| 26. | (i) (b) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (c) | (v) (b) | (vi) (a) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (c) | (x) (b) |
| 27. | (i) (b) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (c) | (v) (a) | (vi) (c) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (c) | (x) (d) |
| 28. | (i) (d) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (b) | (iv) (d) | (v) (d) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (c) | (viii) (b) | (ix) (a) | (x) (b) |
| 29. | (i) (c) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (d) | (iv) (d) | (v) (c) | (vi) (b) | (vii) (a) | (viii) (a) | (ix) (c) | (x) (d) |
| 30. | (i) (c) | (ii) (b) | (iii) (a) | (iv) (b) | (v) (d) | (vi) (a) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (b) | (x) (a) |
| 31. | (i) (b) | (ii) (d) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (c) | (v) (a) | (vi) (d) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (c) | (x) (d) |

32. (i) (d) (ii) (c) (iii) (b) (iv) (d) (v) (b) (vi) (a) (vii) (d) (viii) (a) (ix) (a) (x) (c)
33. (i) (c) (ii) (c) (iii) (d) (iv) (a) (v) (b) (vi) (b) (vii) (d) (viii) (c) (ix) (a) (x) (c)
34. (i) (d) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (c) (v) (b) (vi) (a) (vii) (c) (viii) (c) (ix) (d) (x) (c)
35. (i) (d) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (a) (v) (a) (vi) (c) (vii) (d) (viii) (c) (ix) (b) (x) (b)
36. (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (d) (iv) (a) (v) (c) (vi) (d) (vii) (b) (viii) (c) (ix) (a) (x) (d)
37. (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (b) (iv) (c) (v) (a) (vi) (d) (vii) (b) (viii) (d) (ix) (a) (x) (c)
38. (i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (d) (iv) (a) (v) (d) (vi) (b) (vii) (c) (viii) (a) (ix) (b) (x) (d)
39. (i) (a) (ii) (d) (iii) (d) (iv) (b) (v) (d) (vi) (b) (vii) (d) (viii) (c) (ix) (d) (x) (a)
40. (i) (d) (ii) (d) (iii) (c) (iv) (a) (v) (c) (vi) (b) (vii) (a) (viii) (d) (ix) (c) (x) (a)
41. (i) (a) (ii) (a) (iii) (d) (iv) (c) (v) (b) (vi) (a) (vii) (d) (viii) (d) (ix) (a) (x) (c)
42. (i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (d) (v) (c) (vi) (a) (vii) (b) (viii) (d) (ix) (c) (x) (a)
43. (i) (b) (ii) (d) (iii) (c) (iv) (a) (v) (a) (vi) (b) (vii) (d) (viii) (c) (ix) (b) (x) (a)
44. (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (d) (iv) (c) (v) (b) (vi) (a) (vii) (b) (viii) (c) (ix) (d) (x) (a)
45. (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (c) (iv) (d) (v) (c) (vi) (b) (vii) (d) (viii) (a) (ix) (d) (x) (a)
46. (i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (d) (iv) (b) (v) (a) (vi) (c) (vii) (d) (viii) (a) (ix) (b) (x) (b)
47. (i) (b) (ii) (d) (iii) (a) (iv) (b) (v) (a) (vi) (c) (vii) (b) (viii) (b) (ix) (d) (x) (c)
48. (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (b) (iv) (d) (v) (a) (vi) (c) (vii) (d) (viii) (b) (ix) (b) (x) (c)
49. (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (a) (iv) (a) (v) (d) (vi) (c) (vii) (b) (viii) (b) (ix) (d) (x) (d)
- (xi) (d) (xii) (a) (xiii) (d) (xiv) (c) (xv) (b)
50. (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (b) (v) (c) (vi) (a) (vii) (c) (viii) (a) (ix) (c) (x) (a)