

Comprehension

1. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally. Food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption. The increasing wastage also results in land degradation by about 45%, mainly due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and excessive groundwater extraction. The energy pent over wasted food results in about 5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide production every year. Decay also leads to harmful emissions of other gases in the atmosphere. Reducing the loss and wastage of food in forms is critical to complete the cycle of food efficiency and food sustainability. Which of the following statements best reflect the most logical and rational inferences that can be made from the passage? (2024)

1. The current methods of food distribution are solely responsible for the loss and wastage of food.
2. Land productivity is adversely affected by the prevailing trend of food loss and wastage.
3. Reduction in the loss and wastage of food results in lesser carbon footprint.
4. Post-harvest technologies to prevent or reduce the loss and wastage of food are not available.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2 and 4

Ans : (b)

Explanation

- **The current methods of food distribution are solely responsible for the loss and wastage of food:** The passage mentions that food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from agricultural production to household consumption. It does not single out food distribution as the sole cause. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Land productivity is adversely affected by the prevailing trend of food loss and wastage:** The passage states that the increasing wastage results in land degradation by about 45%, indicating an adverse effect on land productivity due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and excessive groundwater extraction. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- **Reduction in the loss and wastage of food results in a lesser carbon footprint:** The passage mentions that wasted food leads to the production of about 5 billion Tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Therefore, reducing food loss and wastage would indeed reduce the carbon footprint. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

- **Post-harvest technologies to prevent or reduce the loss and wastage of food are not available:** The passage does not mention anything about the availability or unavailability of post-harvest technologies. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

2. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: (2024)

1. The food distribution mechanism needs to be reimagined and made effective to reduce the loss and wastage of food.
2. Ensuring the reduction of wastage and loss of food is a social and moral responsibility of all citizens.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (a)

Explanation

The passage highlights that food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption. Although it does not explicitly state that the food distribution mechanism needs to be reimagined, it implies that improvements in the supply chain could help reduce food loss and wastage. **So, Statement 1 is correct.** The passage does not directly mention social or moral responsibilities of citizens. However, addressing food loss and wastage involves various stakeholders, including individuals, suggesting that everyone has a role to play in reducing wastage. **So, Statement 2 is not correct. Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

3. As inflation rises, even governments previously committed to budget discipline are spending freely to help households. Higher interest rates announced by central banks are supposed to help produce modest fiscal austerity, because to maintain stable debts while paying

more to borrow, governments must cut spending or raise taxes. Without the fiscal backup, monetary policy eventually loses traction. Higher interest rates become inflationary, not disinflationary, because they simply lead governments to borrow more to pay rising debt-service costs. The risk of monetary unmooring is greater when public debt rises, because interest rates become more important to budget deficits.

Which of the following statements best reflects/reflect the most logical and rational inference/inferences that can be made from the passage? (2024)

1. Central banks cannot bring down inflation without budgetary backing.
2. The effects of monetary policy depend on the fiscal policies pursued by the government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (b)

Explanation

The passage does not say that central banks cannot bring down inflation without budgetary backing. It is possible that raising interest rates alone could be effective in some cases.

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

The passage suggests that monetary policy (raising interest rates) is less effective in controlling inflation if it is not accompanied by fiscal policy (cutting spending or raising taxes). This implies that the effects of monetary policy depend on the fiscal policies pursued by the government. **So, Statement 2 is correct. Hence, Option (b) is correct.**

4. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: (2024)

1. Fiscal policies of governments are solely responsible for higher prices.
2. Higher prices do not affect the long-term government bonds.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (d)

Explanation

The passage discusses the relationship between **fiscal and monetary policies in the context of inflation**. It suggests that fiscal policies (such as government spending) need to complement monetary policies (like higher interest rates) to control inflation. It mentions that "the fiscal policies of

governments have been a major factor in driving up prices". However, it does not state that fiscal policies are solely responsible for higher prices. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The passage does not address the impact of higher prices on long-term government bonds directly. However, it does mention that higher interest rates, which are used to combat inflation, increase the cost of borrowing for governments, potentially leading to higher debt-service costs. This implies that higher prices (inflation) and associated higher interest rates could affect long-term government bonds. **So, Statement 2 is not correct. Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

5. Today, if we consider cities such as New York, London and Paris as some of the most iconic cities in the world, it is because plans carrying heavy systems approach were imposed on their precincts. The backbone of the systems theory is the process of translating social, spatial and cultural desirables into mathematical models using computing, statistics, optimization and an algorithmic way of formulating and solving problems. The early universities of the West which began to train professionals in planning, spawned some of the most ingenious planners, who were experts in these domains. This was because these very subjects were absorbed into the planning curriculum that had its roots in the social sciences, geography and architecture. Planning in India, and its education differ from the West. (2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Curriculum for urban planning courses should have diverse and interdisciplinary approach.
- (b) In India, city administration is under bureaucracy which lacks formal training in urban planning and management.
- (c) In India, the management of urban areas is a local affair with a chronic problem of insufficient funds. difficult.
- (d) With high density of population and widespread poverty in our urban areas, planned development in them is very

Ans : (a)

Explanation

The passage highlights that the success of iconic cities like New York, London, and Paris is partly due to the interdisciplinary approach in their urban planning education, incorporating subjects from social sciences, geography, architecture, and systems theory. This suggests that a diverse and interdisciplinary curriculum is beneficial for urban

planning. The passage highlights the success of Western cities credited to a “systems approach” using diverse disciplines like social sciences, geography, and architecture. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

6. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: **(2024)**

1. India needs a new generation of urban professionals with knowledge relevant to modern urban practice.
2. Indian universities at present have no capacity or potential to impart training in systems approach.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (a)

Explanation

The passage suggests that the planning education in India differs from the West, and that the early universities in the West were able to produce “some of the most ingenious planners, who were experts” in domains like computing, statistics, optimization, etc. **This implies that India may need to develop a new generation of urban professionals with knowledge and skills relevant to modern urban planning practices.** The passage suggests that successful cities like New York, London, and Paris have benefited from an interdisciplinary approach in urban planning education, including **systems theory and other relevant disciplines**. It implies that India could benefit from a similar approach to train urban professionals who are equipped with modern urban practices. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The passage **does not explicitly state** that Indian universities have no capacity or potential to impart training in the systems approach. It simply contrasts the planning education in India with that of the West, without making any definitive claims about the current capabilities of Indian universities. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

7. Not every voice on the Internet commands the same kind of audience. When anonymous private entities with high capital can pay for more space for their opinions, they are effectively buying a louder voice. If political discourse in the digital sphere is a matter of outshining one’s opponent till the election is won, then the quality of politics suffers. The focus of social media is restricted to the promotion of content that generates more user engagement, regardless of how inflammatory the content may be. **(2024)**

Which one of the following statements best reflects the central idea of the above passage?

- (a) Constructed as a marketplace of views, social media ensures instant access to information.
- (b) Social media are not ideal or moral institutions but the products built by companies to make profits.
- (c) Social media have been created to strengthen democracies.
- (d) In today’s world, social media are inevitable for well-informed social life.

Ans : (b)

Explanation

- The central idea of the above passage is that social media platforms are not an ideal or moral institution, but rather products built by companies to generate profits, which can have negative consequences for the quality of political discourse and democratic processes.
- **Social media are not ideal or moral institutions but the products built by companies to make profits:** This statement aligns well with the central idea of the passage. It emphasizes that social media platforms are driven by profit motives and the influence of capital can distort the quality of political discourse.
- **Constructed as a marketplace of views, social media ensures instant access to information:** This statement **does not directly address** the central idea of the passage, which is about the influence of capital on online discourse and the prioritization of engagement over quality in political discourse. It focuses more on the accessibility of information rather than the dominance of voices due to capital.
- **Social media have been created to strengthen democracies:** This statement is not supported by the passage, which discusses the negative impacts of capital influence and prioritization of engagement over quality, rather than the creation of social media to strengthen democracies.
- **In today’s world, social media are inevitable for well-informed social life.** This statement is not directly related to the central idea discussed in the passage, which is more about the influence of capital and the impact on political discourse quality.

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

8. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: **(2024)**

1. Internet is not inclusive enough.
2. Internet can adversely affect the quality of politics in a country.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (c)

Explanation

- **Internet is not inclusive enough:** The passage discusses how anonymous entities with high capital can dominate online discourse, effectively buying louder voices. This implies that the internet may not be inclusive enough because those with financial resources can overshadow others, potentially limiting diverse voices and viewpoints. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Internet can adversely affect the quality of politics in a country:** The passage highlights that political discourse in the digital sphere can prioritize outshining opponents and generating user engagement over substantive political discourse. This focus on engagement, often driven by inflammatory content, can indeed adversely affect the quality of politics by reducing it to competition for attention rather than meaningful debate. **So, Statement 2 is correct. Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

9. By the time children reach class 8, the bulk of them tend to be in the age range of 13 years to 15 years. But in our country, about a quarter of children in class 8 struggle with reading simple texts and more than half are still unable to do basic arithmetic operations like division. Every year about 25 million young boys and girls from elementary school move into the life matrix for them beyond compulsory schooling. They cannot enter the workforce at least in the organized sector till they are 18. For many families, these children are the first from their families ever to get this far in school. Parents and children expect that such 'graduates' from school will go on to high school and college. Hardly anyone wants to go back to agriculture. On the other hand, abilities in terms of academic competencies are far lower than they should be even based on curricular expectations of class 8. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

(2024)

1. For effective school education, parents have greater role than the governments.
2. School curriculum that conforms to today's requirements and is uniform for the entire country may address the issues brought out.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (b)

Explanation

- For effective school education, parents have greater role than the governments:
 - The passage does not mention anything about the relative roles of parents and governments in effective school education. It focuses on the academic competencies of children in class 8 and their expectations beyond **compulsory schooling**. There is no discussion about the responsibilities of parents versus the government in this regard. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **School curriculum that conforms to today's requirements and is uniform for the entire country may address the issues brought out:** The passage states that "about a quarter of children in class 8 struggle with reading simple texts and more than half are still unable to do basic arithmetic operations like division", despite having reached class 8. This suggests that the current school curriculum may not be adequately addressing the learning needs of children. The passage also mentions that "abilities in terms of academic competencies are far lower than they should be even based on curricular expectations of class 8". This implies that the school curriculum may need to be re-evaluated and aligned with the current requirements to address the issues highlighted. **So, Statement 2 is Correct. Hence, Option (b) is correct.**
10. Which one of the following statements best reflects the central idea conveyed by the passage? **(2024)**
- (a) Total eradication of poverty in the country will resolve the issue of under-performance of our school-children.
 - (b) Monetary incentives to parents and teachers is a strategy to improve the children's academic performance.
 - (c) Public policy should ensure that competencies and achievements of young people are aligned with their expectations.
 - (d) India is not going to take advantage of the demographic dividend unless some school pass-outs go back to agriculture

Ans : (c)

Explanation

The central idea conveyed is that there is a **mismatch between the academic competencies of students and their expectations** beyond compulsory schooling. The passage suggests that public policy should address this gap to ensure the competencies and achievements of young people are aligned with their aspirations. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

11. We take it for granted now that science has a social responsibility. The idea would not have occurred to Newton or Galileo. They thought of science as an account of the world as it is, and the only responsibility that they acknowledged was to tell the truth. The idea that science is a social enterprise is modern, and it begins at the industrial revolution. We are surprised that we cannot trace a social sense further back, because we nurse the illusion that the industrial revolution ended golden age.

(2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the thinking of the author about the science?

- (A) Science must value the commitment of the scientists.
(B) Science is a product of civilized society and must be used for the promotion of scientific awareness in people.
(C) Industrial revolution was made possible by the advancements in science.
(D) Science must pursue truth but be responsible for social welfare.

Ans : (d)

Explanation

The passage highlights the contrast between the historical view of science as simply seeking truth and the modern view that includes social responsibility. The passage suggests that the author believes science should not only pursue the truth, but also be responsible for social welfare, as the author is "surprised that we cannot trace a social sense further back" in the history of science. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

12. The history of science is the real history of mankind." In this striking epigram, a nineteenth century writer links science with its background. Like most epigrams, its power lies in emphasizing by contrast an aspect of truth which may be easily overlooked. In this case, it is easy to overlook the relations between science and mankind, and to treat the former as some abstract third party, which can sometimes be praised for its beneficial influences, but frequently and conveniently blamed for the horrors of war. Science and mankind cannot be divorced from time to time at men's convenience. Yet we have seen that, in spite of countless opportunities of improvement, the opening years of the present period of civilization have been dominated by international conflict. Is this the inevitable result of the progress of science or does the fault lie elsewhere? (2024)

Which of the following is/are emphatically conveyed by the author of the passage?

1. Without science, mankind could not have continued to exist till today.

2. It is the science that will ultimately determine the destiny of mankind.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (b)

Explanation

- **Without science, mankind could not have continued to exist till today:** The passage does not make any such claim. While it states that "the history of science is the real history of mankind", it does not imply that mankind could not have continued to exist without science. The passage is more focused on the relationship between science and mankind, rather than making an absolute statement about the necessity of science for human existence. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **It is the science that will ultimately determine the destiny of mankind:** The passage emphasizes the close relationship between science and mankind, suggesting that science cannot be separated from human progress and conflicts. It does imply that science plays a crucial role in shaping the future of mankind. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

13. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: (2024)

1. The horrors of modern life are the inevitable result of the progress of science.
2. The aspect of truth likely to be overlooked is that science is what man has made it.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (b)

Explanation

- **The horrors of modern life are the inevitable result of the progress of science:** The passage raises a question about whether the "international conflict" that has dominated the "opening years of the present period of civilization" is the "inevitable result of the progress of science or does the fault lie elsewhere." This suggests the author is not making a definitive claim that the horrors of modern life are the inevitable result of scientific progress. The passage is exploring this question rather than asserting it as a fact. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The aspect of truth likely to be overlooked is that science is what man has made it:** The passage states that the epigram "links science with its background" and that

“science and mankind cannot be divorced from time to time at men’s convenience.” This suggests the author believes the relationship between science and mankind is an important aspect of truth that may be overlooked. The passage implies that **science is not an abstract entity, but is shaped by and connected to human society. So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

14. Only with long experience and opening of his wares on many a beach where his language is not spoken, will the merchant come to know the worth of what he carries, and what is parochial and what is universal in his choice. Such delicate goods as justice, love and honour, courtesy, and indeed all the things we care for, are valid everywhere but they are variously moulded and often differently handled, and sometimes nearly unrecognizable if you meet them in a foreign land, and the art of learning fundamental common values is perhaps the greatest gain of travel to those who wish to live at ease among their fellows. When we meet other people while we travel, we learn to differentiate between (2024)
- imagination and understanding
 - communities and nationalities
 - local values and universal values
 - friends and foes

Ans : (c)

Explanation

The passage uses the metaphor of a merchant to illustrate how travel broadens your perspective on values. Just like a merchant learns the true worth of his wares by traveling to different markets, a traveler learns to distinguish between values that are specific to a particular culture (local) and those that seem to hold some importance across cultures (universal).

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

15. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: (2024)
- Travel leads to an understanding of humans.
 - Travel helps those who wish to learn fundamental common values.
 - A person with long experience in travel can resolve differences amongst people.

Which of the assumptions given above are valid?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Ans : (a)

Explanation

- The passage discusses how the merchant, through long experience and travel, comes to understand what is parochial and what is universal in his wares, implying a broader understanding of human values and behavior. This makes the assumption valid. So, Statement 1 is correct.
- The passage explicitly states that the greatest gain of travel for those who wish to live at ease among their fellows is learning fundamental common values. This makes this assumption valid. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- While the passage suggests that travel leads to a better understanding of common values and differences, it does not explicitly state that this experience enables a person to resolve differences among people. This assumption goes beyond what the passage directly conveys. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

16. Conventional classrooms, by emphasizing fixed duration over learning effectiveness, resign themselves to variable outcomes. The tyranny of the classroom is that every learner is subjected to the same set of lectures in the same way for the same duration. In the end, a few learners shine, some survive, and the rest are left behind. After the fixed duration, the classroom model moves on, with not a thought spared for those left behind. This is how we end up with 10 percent employability in our graduates after a decade and half of formal education. Repeating the same ineffectual script in the realm of skill education will not produce different results.

Which of the following statements best reflects/reflect the most logical and rational inference/inferences that can be made from the passage? (2024)

- In conventional classroom learning, the central goal is duration of learning rather than attainment of competency.
- Conventional classrooms encourage one-size-fits-all approach and stamp out all differentiation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (c)

Explanation

- The passage clearly states that conventional classrooms “emphasize fixed duration over learning effectiveness” and subject “every learner to the same set of lectures in the same way for the same duration.” This suggests that the focus is on the duration of learning rather than the actual attainment of competency. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

- Additionally, the passage mentions that this “tyranny of the classroom” results in a few learners shining, some surviving, and the rest being left behind. This implies that conventional classrooms follow a one-size-fits-all approach and do not accommodate differentiation in learning needs and outcomes. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

- 17.** Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: **(2024)**

1. As a large number of workers in our country employed are in unorganized sector, India does not need to change its present conventional classroom system of education.
2. Even with its present conventional classroom system of education, India produces sufficient number of skilled workers to fully realize the benefits of demographic dividend.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (d)

Explanation

- The passage criticizes the conventional classroom system for producing variable outcomes and leaving many students behind, leading to low employability. It suggests that the current system is ineffective in preparing students for the workforce, implying a need for change. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The passage explicitly states that the current system results in only 10 percent employability after many years of formal education, indicating a significant gap in the production of skilled workers. This implies that the present system does not produce a sufficient number of skilled workers to fully realize the benefits of demographic dividend. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

- 18.** When a child reaches adolescence, there is apt to be a conflict between the parents and the child, since the latter considers himself to be by now quite capable of managing his own affairs, while the former are filled with parental solicitude, which is often a disguise for love of power. Parents consider, usually, that the various moral problems which arise in adolescence are peculiarly their province. The options they express, however, are so dogmatic that the young seldom confide in them, and usually go their own way in secret.

Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: **(2024)**

1. The adolescent does not feel comfortable with his parents. because they tend to be dominating and assertive.
2. The adolescent of modern times does not have much respect for parents.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (A) 1 only (B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (a)

Explanation

- The passage describes a conflict between parents and adolescents, with parents being filled with “parental solicitude” which is often a disguise for a “love of power.” It also mentions that the parents’ opinions are so dogmatic that adolescents seldom confide in them and usually go their own way in secret. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The passage does not explicitly state or imply that adolescents lack respect for their parents. It highlights the conflict and the secretive behavior of adolescents due to the dogmatic and assertive nature of parents, but it does not mention respect or lack thereof. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

- 19.** Which one of the following statements best reflects the central idea of the above passage? **(2024)**

- (a) Parents in general may not be of much help when children are on their way to becoming adults.
- (b) When children reach adolescence, involvement of parents in their lives is unnecessary.
- (c) Modern-day nuclear families are not capable of bringing up children properly.
- (d) In modern societies, adolescents tend to be stubborn, disobedient and careless.

Ans : (a)

Explanation

The central idea of the passage revolves around the dynamics and conflicts between parents and adolescents during the latter’s journey towards adulthood. This suggests that parents may not be helpful during this transitional phase. While the passage discusses conflict and lack of confiding due to parental dogmatism, it doesn’t conclude that parents are generally unhelpful. It focuses more on the nature of conflict and the dynamics of adolescence. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

20. When an international team of scientists pumped a carbon dioxide and water mix into underground basalt rocks, basic chemistry took over. The acidic mixture dissolved rocks' calcium and magnesium and formed limestone. Basically, carbon dioxide is converted into stone, exclaimed the scientists. (2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical, rational and practical suggestion implied by the passage?

- (a) It is a cheap and practical method to produce limestone at commercial level for building purposes.
- (b) This can be used as one of the methods of carbon sequestration.
- (c) Basalt rock can be made a good source of calcium and magnesium minerals by this method.
- (d) Good rock-dissolving acid can be produced by mixing carbon dioxide and water.

Ans : (b)

Explanation

The passage discusses an innovative method where carbon dioxide and water are used to convert basalt rocks into limestone through a chemical reaction. By converting carbon dioxide into solid limestone, it helps remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, contributing to efforts against climate change. The scientists exclaimed that "carbon dioxide is converted into stone" through this process.

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

21. Geographers analyzed 175 satellite images of ocean colour, which is an indicator of phytoplankton productivity at the ocean's surface, and found that giant icebergs are responsible for storing up to 20 percent of carbon in the Southern Ocean. The researchers discovered that melting water from giant icebergs which contains iron and other nutrients, supports hitherto unexpectedly high levels of phytoplankton growth. (2024)

Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- 1. Giant icebergs have a bearing on primary productivity and food chains of the Southern Ocean.
- 2. Melting of giant icebergs can produce climate change effects and impact world fisheries.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (a)

Explanation

- The passage states that the researchers found that melting water from giant icebergs, which contains iron and other

nutrients, supports "hitherto unexpectedly high levels of phytoplankton growth" in the Southern Ocean. This directly supports the assumption that giant icebergs have a bearing on primary productivity (phytoplankton growth) in the Southern Ocean, which forms the basis of the food chain. So, Statement 1 is correct.

- However, the passage does not mention anything about the melting of giant icebergs producing climate change effects or impacting world fisheries. So, Statement 2 is not correct.

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

22. Evolution has endowed caterpillars that feed on corn with a unique ability, they can induce the plant to turn off its defence against insect predators. This helps caterpillars to eat more and grow faster. The agent that causes this effect is the caterpillar's faeces or frass. The find could throw new light on compounds associated with plant response to pathogens like fungi or bacteria. (2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical, rational and practical message conveyed by the passage?

- (a) Farmers can use caterpillars to feed on weeds in their crop fields/ plantations.
- (b) This finding can help in the development of clinically useful antimicrobial compounds.
- (c) This finding can help in the development of organic, ecologically sustainable pesticides.
- (d) Caterpillars can be genetically modified to be predators of the other plant pests

Ans : (c)

Explanation

The key point is that the caterpillar frass disrupts the corn plant's defense system against insects. If scientists can understand the specific compounds involved, they might be able to develop new pesticides that mimic this effect and target specific insect pests while being less harmful to the environment compared to traditional pesticides. This aligns with the concept of organic and ecologically sustainable pest control methods.

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

23. In a robust democracy, reality, howsoever inconvenient it may be, finds its expression both in the speech of political leaders and the other social forms of assertion. The existence of the real has to be transparent, both through its circulation in and by the media as well as its argumentative articulation in deliberative democracy. A normatively responsible media through its communication

effect has the responsibility to circulate the content of reality without distortion. (2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the above passage?

- (a) Responsible media should not distort the real in an ideal democracy.
- (b) Fake news seems inherent in the life of an ideal democracy.
- (c) There should not be any kind of restrictions on the freedom of expression in an ideal democracy.
- (d) Irresponsible media and political leaders cannot be effectively controlled in an ideal democracy.

Ans : (a)

Explanation

The core idea of the passage revolves around the significance of a responsible media in a democracy. It argues that for a democracy to function well, reality needs to be transparently presented through media and public discourse. The passage states that in a "robust democracy, reality, howsoever inconvenient it may be, finds its expression both in the speech of political leaders and the other social forms of assertion." The passage emphasizes that a "normatively responsible media through its communication effect has the responsibility to circulate the content of reality without distortion." Hence, Option (a) is correct.

24. Now-a-days there is a growing trend to use interconnected home devices. As consumers increasingly network their homes, the connected home device manufacturers and service providers will seek to overcome "thin profit margins by gathering more of our personal data with or without our agreement- turning the home into a corporate store front". Corporate marketers will have powerful incentives to observe consumer behaviour to understand the buying needs and preferences of the device owners. (2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical, rational and practical message implied by the passage?

- (a) Knowledge of consumer behaviour leads to more capital expenditure in manufacturing sector.
- (b) Knowledge of consumer behaviour stimulates the growth of commerce and trade and thus helps in the overall economic development of the country.
- (c) Interconnected devices give a lot of comfort to home users and improve the overall quality of life.
- (d) Interconnected devices can be at security risk and home users may have privacy risk.

Ans : (d)

Explanation

The passage discusses the implications of interconnected home devices, particularly focusing on the collection of personal data by manufacturers and service providers. Hence, Option (d) is correct.

25. Green growth involves rethinking growth strategies with regard to the impacts on environmental sustainability and the environmental resources available to poor and vulnerable groups. In rethinking growth, we need to focus on the current reality of a resource-constrained world. Resource intensive and, in particular energy intensive processes will need to make way for more efficient and resource frugal development strategies if we are to avoid an economic dead end or a world in which only a small elite is able to enjoy affluence in the midst of a sea of poverty. (2024)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the above passage?

- (a) Environmental sustainability is inimical to our objective of achieving a high rate of GDP growth.
- (b) Poverty eradication is not possible without a rapid economic growth and the consequent environmental degradation.
- (c) Maintaining high environmental standards is now a prerequisite for achieving a steady, sufficient and inclusive growth.
- (d) With large populations, rampant poverty and limited resources of today's world, environmental degradation cannot be prevented and inequalities are inevitable.

Ans : (c)

Explanation

The passage discusses the concept of green growth, which involves rethinking growth strategies to consider environmental sustainability and the equitable distribution of environmental resources. It emphasizes the need for more efficient and resource-frugal development strategies to avoid economic stagnation and to ensure that affluence is not limited to a small elite amidst widespread poverty. The passage emphasizes the need to focus on the current reality of a resource-constrained world, implying that maintaining environmental sustainability is crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. Hence, Option (c) is correct.

26. Unlike religion and science, poetry does not posit or expect any belief in absolute truths. Those forces or individuals who claim to have absolute truths in their grasp tend to turn dictatorial and tyrannical. Truth usually does not admit any contradictions or imperfections. It is unitarian. It is, therefore, not of much use for poetry.

Poetry abides by the plurality of life and existence. Perhaps poetry follows reality, which is plural, anachronistic, full of Contradictions. Against the tyranny of truth, poetry remains a partisan of democratic reality. Against the arrogance of power, wealth and hierarchy, poetry proposes both humility and defiance.

Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the above passage?.

(2024)

- (a) It is the poetry, not science or religion, which recognizes and accepts imperfections in humans.
- (b) Truth is revealed through science or religion and poetry is anathema to truth.
- (c) Poetry is romantic, imaginary and is about feeling whereas science and religion are about truth.
- (d) In a world of violence, tyranny and bigotry, poetry is a form of dynamic resistance

Correct Answer : A

Explanation

The Passage mentions that “poetry does not posit or expect any belief in absolute truths” and “it abides by the plurality of life and existence”. This implies that poetry, unlike science or religion, which often seek absolute truths, recognizes and accepts the imperfections and contradictions inherent in humans. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

27. The flower was not invented to please us. It flaunted its petals and spread its perfume to attract an insect. The insect carries the pollen from flower to flower so that pollen is not carried away by wind and thus not wasted. What we call a flower’s beauty is merely a byproduct and a human invention. The perfume is not there to please us, it pleases us because it is there and we have been conditioned to it.

Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

(2024)

- 1. The author of the passage believes that flowers creations of are Nature’s luxury.
- 2. The author of the passage does not believe in the usefulness of flowers except as things of beauty.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : (d)

Explanation

- The passage describes how flowers flaunt their petals and spread perfume to attract insects for pollination. It

emphasizes that what humans perceive as a flower’s beauty (petals and perfume) is actually a by-product of its evolutionary function in nature—to attract pollinators. The passage does not explicitly state that flowers are Nature’s luxury but rather emphasizes their functional role in pollination. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

- The passage does suggest that the beauty of flowers, including their perfume, is a byproduct and not specifically designed to please humans. However, it also acknowledges the functional role of flowers in pollination, which is crucial for plant reproduction. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

Directions for the following 3 (three) items:

Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

PASSAGE – 1

We often hear about conflicts among different States in India over river waters. Of the 20 major river systems, 14 are already water-stressed; 75% of the population lives in water-stressed regions, a third of whom live in water-scarce areas. Climate change, the demands of rising population and the need for agriculture to keep pace, and increased rate of urbanization and industrialization will exacerbate water stress. According to the Constitution of India, water is a State subject and not that of the Union, except for regulation of inter-State rivers. Key to ensuring balance between competing demands of various stakeholders is a basin-based approach to allocate water amongst constituent regions and States. Allocating fair share of water to them requires assessments based on objective criteria, such as specificities of the river basin, size of dependent population, existing water use and demand, efficiency of use, projected future use, etc. while ensuring the environmental needs of the river and aquifers.

28. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most rational, practical and immediate action required to ensure fair and equitable allocation of water to different stakeholders?

(2023)

- (a) A national, pragmatic, legal and policy framework for water allocation should be made.
- (b) All river systems of the country should be linked and huge aquifers created.
- (c) Water channels between regions of water surplus and regions of water deficit should be created.
- (d) To mitigate water crisis, water demand of sectors such as agriculture and industry should be reduced.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage discusses the need for a comprehensive framework for water allocation in India. This statement in the given option proposes a national policy for water allocation, which is the most plausible solution because it aligns with the passage's mention of the need for balance and objective criteria for water allocation. Additionally, since water regulation for inter-State rivers is a Union matter, it is reasonable to propose a national policy. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** It proposes linking all river systems or creating aquifers which is not explicitly mentioned in the passage and may not be a practical solution. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** It proposes increasing water use efficiency which is not mentioned in the passage and may not address the complexities involved in the issue, such as the need for a basin-based approach and specific criteria for water allocation. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** It proposes reducing water demand only. However, the passage highlights the need for a balanced approach considering several factors, including existing water use and demand, use efficiency, and projected future use. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

More than half of Indian women and almost a quarter of Indian men of working age suffer from anaemia. According to studies, they are anywhere from 5 - 15% less productive than they could be, as a result thereof. India also has the largest tuberculosis burden in the world, costing 170 million workdays to the country annually. But what is just as important as lost productivity now is lost potential in the future. It is becoming increasingly clear that on many measures of cognitive ability, malnourished Indian children perform two or three times worse than their adequately nourished peers. For an economy that will be more dependent on highly skilled workers, this poses a significant challenge. And it is one that really should be addressed given India's demographic outlook.

29. Which one of the following statements best reflects what is implied by the passage? (2023)
- (a) Education system must be strengthened in rural areas.
 - (b) Large scale and effective implementation of skill development programme is the need of the hour.
 - (c) For economic development, health and nutrition of only skilled workers needs special attention.
 - (d) For rapid economic growth as envisaged by us, attention should be paid to health and nutrition of the people.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage doesn't mention or indicate anything about education or the rural area, despite the fact that education may be incidentally related to the topic covered in the passage. It focuses on matters of diet and health that have an impact on mental and physical performance. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This statement has no direct connection to the problems raised in the passage. Instead of skill development, the main emphasis is on health and nutritional issues and how these affect performance and cognitive capacities. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This is somewhat true because the passage implies that workers' productivity and cognitive capacities, which are essential for economic development, are impacted by their health and nutrition, whether they are skilled or not. The passage does not, however, imply that only skilled workers require particular consideration in this regard. Malnourished children and people in general who are working age are mentioned. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Attention should be given to the health and nutrition of the populace to achieve the rapid economic growth that is envisioned. The passage talks on how diseases like anaemia and tuberculosis affect productivity, how hunger affects children's cognitive development, and the requirements of a future economy that will depend more and more on highly skilled individuals. The inference is that improving India's health and diet is essential for the country's economic development. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 3

In India, a majority of farmers are marginal and small, less educated and possess low adaptive capabilities to climate change, perhaps because of credit and other constraints. So, one cannot expect autonomous adaptation to climate change. Even if it was possible, it would not be sufficient to offset losses from climate change. To deal with this, adaptation to climate change is paramount, alongside a fast mitigation response. Another solution is to have a planned or policy-driven adaptation, which would require the government to come up with policy recommendations. Perception is a necessary pre-requisite for adaptation. Whether farmers are adapting agricultural practices to climate change depends on whether they perceive it or not. However, this is not always enough for adaptation. It is important how a farmer perceives the risks associated with climate change.

30. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the author of the passage? (2023)

- (a) Adaptation to climate change and mitigation response are basically the responsibilities of the government.
- (b) Climate change causes a change in government policies regarding land use patterns in the country.
- (c) Risk perceptions of farmers are important for motivating them for taking adaptation decisions.
- (d) Since mitigation is not possible, governments should come up with policies for quick response to climate change.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Although the passage implies that government engagement may be advantageous, it does not explicitly indicate that these are the only duties of the government. Additionally, deemed significant are the farmers' perspectives and methods of adapting. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage says nothing about how climate change is forcing government policies, notably those governing land use patterns, to change. The adaptation to climate change and potential policy interventions to facilitate that adaptation are the author's main concerns. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author emphasizes how farmers perceive the hazards of climate change is crucial for adaptation. The author does note, however, that adaptation cannot be achieved just by perception. Moreover, it is important to note, nevertheless, that the author emphasizes that perception alone is insufficient for adaptation and makes the case that the government may need to implement planned or policy-driven adaptation initiatives. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** It is not stated in the paragraph that mitigation is impossible. It discusses the need for quick mitigation action in addition to the necessity of adaptation. As a result, this statement does not accurately reflect the author's point of view. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 1

The emissions humans put into the atmosphere now will affect the climate in the middle of the century and onwards. Technological change, meanwhile, could make a future transition away from fossil fuels cheap or it might not, leaving the world with a terrible choice between sharply reducing emissions at huge cost or suffering through the effects of

unabated warming. Businesses that do not hedge against the threat of uncertain outcomes fail. The world cannot afford such recklessness on climate change.

31. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crucial message conveyed by the author of the passage? (2023)

- (a) Businesses that cause emissions may need to close down or pay for pollution in future.
- (b) The only solution is technological development related to the issues of climate change.
- (c) Waiting to deal with carbon emissions until technology improves is not a wise strategy.
- (d) Since future technological change is uncertain, new industries should be based on renewable energy sources.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Passage does mention about business failing if they fail to cope with the abrupt climate change but does not mention about payment/fine for polluting environment. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage clearly mentions the role of technology in mitigating the effect of climate change but is uncertain about the cost at which it may come. If the technology is costly, it won't be widely accepted and utilized as the statement says that technological development is the only way to deal with climate change which is extreme. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Because this statement indicates the practical approach of reducing emission to be taken besides the development of new technology which goes with the sentiments of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** This assertion conveys a specific solution to the problem which is nowhere mentioned in the passage. Passage does not make it clear that businesses are willing to switch to renewable sources of energy. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

Environmental problems cause health problems. Substantial changes in lifestyle can reduce environmental or health problems, but this idea appears almost impossible to adopt. With environmental problems, individual efforts can be perceived as having a negligible effect and therefore lead to inertia. With health, on the other hand, individual choices can make the difference between life and death, literally. And yet, barring a few, there seems to be the same collective lethargy towards making their choices.

32. Which one of the following statements best implies the most rational assumption that can be made from the passage? (2023)

- (a) We are likely to spend more money on cure than prevention.
- (b) It is the job of the government to solve our environmental and public health problems.
- (c) Health can be protected even if environmental problems go on unattended.
- (d) Loss of traditional lifestyle and the influence of western values led to some unhealthy ways of living.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This assumption is not directly supported by the passage. The passage discusses how environmental problems are interconnected with health problems and how individual efforts to address these issues might be perceived. It doesn't explicitly mention resource allocation or financial priorities to cure and prevention. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Passage doesn't mention the role of government in dealing with environmental and health problems. Whereas a section notices the collective laziness towards making choices, it does not state that it is the government's work to deal with natural and human wellbeing issues. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As mentioned in the passage, "with environmental problems, individual efforts can be perceived as having a negligible effect and therefore lead to inertia. With health, on the other hand, individual choices can make the difference between life and death". Thus, the preceding statement clearly states that environmental problems cannot be addressed with individual efforts, but this individual effort can surely address health issues. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** Passage mentions that change in lifestyle can reduce environmental and health problems, but it does not indicate the role of western lifestyle being responsible for this problem. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 3

Many people are not eating the right food. For some, it is simply a decision to stick with food they enjoy but which is not too healthy. This is leading to an increase in non-communicable diseases. This in turn leads to major burden

on our health-care systems that have the potential to derail the economic progress which is essential for the poor to improve their lives. For others, it is about limited access to nutritious food or a lack of affordability, leading to monotonous diets that do not provide the daily nutrients for them to develop fully. Part of the reason nutrition is under threat worldwide is that our food systems are not properly responding to nutritional needs. Somewhere along that long road from farm to fork, there are serious detours taking place.

33. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage? (2023)

- (a) The scheme of Universal Basic Income should be implemented worldwide as a way of poverty alleviation.
- (b) We must place food-based nutrition at the centre of our policy debate.
- (c) Nutritional status of food should be improved by creating appropriate genetically modified crops.
- (d) Using modern food processing technologies, we must fortify food items with required nutrient elements.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This statement doesn't reflect the essence of the passage. Passage discusses the importance of nutritious food in our daily life and its impact on our health and economy. There is no mention of Universal Basic Income as a measure to deal with nutrition deficient diet in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This statement is more accurate and gives the crux of the passage. The passage discusses the importance of nutrition-based diet, its affordability and accessibility in dealing with health issues and economic progress. As per the passage nutrition based policy is the need of time to tackle the problem of non-communicable disease. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** This assertion doesn't reflect the core of the passage. Although genetic modification of food can be a solution to nutrition deficiency, there is no specific mention of genetic modification of food in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The given statement can be one of the solutions to address the challenge of nutrition deficiency, but this method has nowhere been mentioned in passage therefore it cannot be seen to reflect the crux of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

34. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be drawn from the passage? (2023)

- (a) The home range of elephants needs to be a vast area of rich biodiversity.
- (b) Elephants are the keystone species and they benefit the biodiversity.
- (c) Rich biodiversity cannot be maintained in the forests without the presence of elephants.
- (d) Elephants are capable of regenerating forests with species as per their requirement.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This statement doesn't confirm the core theme of the passage. There is no mention about the extent and range of elephant's habitat. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This statement reflects the core message of the passage. A keystone species is a type of species that has a very big impact on its surroundings and an elephant, being one of them, creates conducive conditions of growth for other species. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** Passage doesn't say anything about the absence of an elephant in the biodiversity rather it mentions about the benefit of elephant's presence in the biodiversity. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Passage does convey that elephants help to regenerate the biodiversity but not according to their requirement. They invariably help to regenerate the forest. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 1

In India, the segregation of municipal waste at source is rare. Recycling is mostly with the informal sector. More than three-fourths of the municipal budget goes into collection and transportation, which leaves very little for processing/resource recovery and disposal. Where does waste-to-energy fit into all this? Ideally it fits in the chain after segregation (between wet waste and the rest), collection, recycling, and before getting to the landfill. Which technology is most appropriate in converting waste to energy depends on what is in the waste (that is biodegradable versus non-biodegradable component) and its calorific value. The biodegradable component of India's municipal solid waste is a little over 50 per cent, and biomethanation offers a major solution for processing this.

35. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made : (2023)

1. Collection, processing and segregation of municipal waste should be with government agencies.
2. Resource recovery and recycling require technological inputs that can be best handled by private sector enterprises.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation

- **Statement 1:** The passage nowhere mentions the role of government to be played in the process of waste collection and segregation rather it points towards the dearth in municipal budget leaving very little for processing and disposal. **Hence, it is not correct.**
 - **Statement 2:** This passage does reflect about the role of new technology while converting waste to energy but there is no indication about the role of private sector to be played in resource recovery and recycling of the waste material. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**
36. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage? (2023)
- (a) Generation of energy from municipal solid waste is inexpensive.
 - (b) Biomethanation is the most ideal way of generating energy from municipal solid waste.
 - (c) Segregation of municipal solid waste is the first step in ensuring the success of waste-to-energy plants.
 - (d) The biodegradable component of India's municipal solid waste is not adequate to provide energy from waste efficiently/effectively.

Ans: (c)

Explanation

- **Option (a):** This passage doesn't reflect the cost involved in energy generation from municipal waste. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This passage does mentions about the bio-methanation as one of the processes to convert waste into energy in the following sentence, "the biodegradable component of India's municipal solid waste is a little over 50 percent, and bio-methanation offers a major solution for processing this." But this does not reflect that it is the most ideal process to do so. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** This assertion reflects the crux of the passage. The line of the passage, “where does waste-to-energy fit into all this? Ideally it fits in the chain after segregation (between wet waste and rest), collection, recycling, and before getting to the landfill” expresses the core theme of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** Here, the passage does discuss about the amount of energy generated from waste as given, “which technology is most appropriate in converting waste to energy depends on what is in the waste (that is biodegradable versus non-biodegradable component) and its calorific value” but it does not specify the adequacy of the biodegradable waste to provide energy. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

There is a claim that organic farming is inherently safer and healthier. The reality is that because the organic farming industry is still young and not well-regulated in India, farmers and consumers, alike, are not only confused about what products are best for them, but sometimes use products in ways that could harm them as well. For example, since organic fertilizers are difficult to obtain on a large scale in India, farmers often use farmyard manure, which may contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals. Certain plant sprays, such as Datura flower and leaf spray, have an element called atropine. If it is not applied in the right dose, it can act on the nervous system of the consumer. Unfortunately, how much and when to use it are not well-researched or regulated issues.

37. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made : (2023)

1. Organic farming is inherently unsafe for both farmers and consumers.
2. Farmers and consumers need to be educated about eco-friendly food.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- **Statement 1:** This statement is not correct because here the passage clearly signifies that, “the reality is that because the organic farming industry is still young and not well-regulated in India, farmers and consumers, alike, are not only confused about what products are best for them, but sometimes use products in ways that could harm them as well.” Hence, it proves that it is not inherently unsafe for farmers and consumers. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 2:** This assumption is correct as it reflects the core of the passage that farmer and consumers are confused about what product are best for them, hence if they are educated and made aware about the benefits and method of organic farming, then the possible harm can be avoided. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

38. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical, rational and practical message conveyed by the author of the passage? (2023)

- (a) In India, organic farming should not be promoted as a substitute for conventional farming.
- (b) There are no safe organic alternatives to chemical fertilizers.
- (c) In India, farmers need to be guided and helped to make their organic farming sustainable.
- (d) The aim of organic farming should not be to generate huge profits as there is still no global market for its products.

Ans (c)

Explanation

- **Option (a):** There is no mention about the substitution of conventional farming by organic farming in the passage. Rather, this passage indicates the possible harm due to inappropriate use of organic manure. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This assertion doesn't conform to the theme of the passage. The author has not mentioned anywhere that there is no safe organic alternative to chemical fertilizer, rather it states that organic fertilizers are difficult to obtain on a large scale in India. This means that there are natural, safe alternatives to chemical fertilizers that can be used. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This statement is the most logical answer to the passage. The author states that, “because the organic farming industry is still young and not well-regulated in India, farmers and consumers, alike, are confused about it” which indicates the lack of knowledge about the practice of organic farming, it further states that there is dearth of expertise regarding the use of organic fertilizer. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** This passage nowhere talks about the business avenues of organic farming. **Hence, it is not correct.**

PASSAGE – 3

Food consumption patterns have changed substantially in India over the past few decades. This has resulted in the disappearance of many nutritious foods such as millets. While food grain production has increased over five times since

independence, it has not sufficiently addressed the issue of malnutrition. For long, the agriculture sector focussed on increasing food production particularly staples, which led to lower production and consumption of indigenous traditional crops/grains, fruits and other vegetables, impacting food and nutrition security in the process. Further, intensive, monoculture agriculture practices can perpetuate the food and nutrition security problem by degrading the quality of land, water and food derived through them.

39. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made : (2023)

1. To implement the Sustainable Development Goals and to achieve zero-hunger goal, monoculture agriculture practices are inevitable even if they do not address malnutrition.
2. Dependence on a few crops has negative consequences for human health and the ecosystem.
3. Government policies regarding food planning need to incorporate nutritional security.
4. For the present monoculture agriculture practices, farmers receive subsidies in various ways and government offers remunerative prices for grains and therefore they do not tend to consider crop diversity.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- **Statement 1:** This is incorrect as the passage doesn't support or say that monoculture is unavoidable. Rather it indicates the harmful effect of monoculture agriculture on human health and environment. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** This statement reflects the core theme of the passage. The author states, "disappearance of many nutritious foods such as millets." Also, "for long, the agriculture sector focused on increasing food production, particularly staples.... Further, intensive, monoculture agriculture practices can perpetuate the food" shows that dependence on few crops can be detrimental for human as well as environmental health. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** This statement also conforms to the main theme of the passage. The passage clearly states, "while food grain production has increased over five times since independence, it has not sufficiently addressed the issue of malnutrition" which implies that the government should take steps to incorporate nutritional security. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 4:** Although the statement can be taken to be true, the passage doesn't mention in anyway about the subsidy given by the government to be the reason for the practice of monoculture agriculture. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 1

Scientists studied the vernal window — transition period from winter to the growing season. They found that warmer winters with less snow resulted in a longer lag time between spring events and a more protracted vernal window. This change in the spring timetable has ecological, social and economic consequences —for agriculture, fisheries and tourism. As the ice melts earlier, the birds don't return, causing a delay, or lengthening in springtime ecological events.

40. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made : (2023)

1. Global warming is causing spring to come early and for longer durations.
2. Early spring and longer period of spring is not good for bird populations.

Which of the above assumptions is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation

- **Statement 1:** Vernal window is the transition period between winter to spring. Scientists found it to be protracting, i.e, larger than vernal window. But nowhere has global warming been mentioned as a reason. Also, a more protracted vernal window implies that the transition period is getting longer and nowhere is the early spring indicated Rather, it indicates a longer lag time between spring events. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Birds, specially migratory in nature may be impacted due to early spring as the ice melts earlier and they may not return, leading to delay in ecological events. But the delay specifically related to population of the birds isn't clear. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

A global analysis of nitrogen use efficiency —a measure of the amount of nitrogen a plant takes in to grow versus what is left behind as pollution —says that using too much

fertilizers will lead to increased pollution of waterways and the air. Currently, the global average for nitrogen use efficiency is approximately 0.4, meaning 40 per cent of the total nitrogen added to cropland goes into the harvested crop while 60 per cent is lost to the environment, says a study. More than half of the world's population is nourished by food grown with fertilizers containing synthetic nitrogen, which is needed to produce high crop yields. Plants take the nitrogen they need to grow, and the excess is left in the ground, water and air. This results in significant emissions of nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse and ozone depleting gas, and other forms of nitrogen pollution, including eutrophication of lakes and rivers and contamination of river water.

41. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical, rational and crucial message implied by the passage? (2023)
- An enhanced efficiency of use of nitrogen is imperative for both food production and environment.
 - Production of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers cannot be stopped as it will adversely affect global food security.
 - Alternatives to crops that require excess of nitrogen should be identified and cultivated.
 - Conventional agriculture using synthetic fertilizers should be replaced with agroforestry, agroecosystems and organic farming.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage focuses on the use of nitrogen in plants and its leakage due to inefficient usage. The theme is to correct the inappropriate use of nitrogen fertilizer so that its negative impact can be eliminated. Thus, the most rational message in the passage is that an enhanced efficiency of use of nitrogen is imperative for both food production and environment. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** Here, the passage clearly mentions the use of synthetic nitrogen for producing crops, but it doesn't prove the fact that global food security is completely dependent on synthetic nitrogen. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The given passage nowhere talks about the cultivation of crops that use excess nitrogen. Rather, it says that plants take nitrogen they need to grow and release the excess of nitrogen in the soil and air. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage doesn't talk about replacing conventional agriculture with agroforestry or organic farming. It basically talks about the damage due to excess use of nitrogen. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Along with sustainable lifestyles, climate justice is regarded as a significant principle in environmental parlance. Both the principles have bearings on political and economic choices of the nation. So far, in our climate change summits or compacts, both the principles have eluded consensus among nations. Justice, in the judicial sense, is well defined. However, in the context of climate change, it has scientific as well as socio-political connotations. The crucial question in the next few years will be how resources, technologies and regulations are used to support the victims of climate change. Justice in climate is not confined to actions relating to mitigation, but includes the wider notion of support for adaptation to climate change and compensation for loss and damage.

42. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical, rational and crucial message conveyed by the passage? (2023)
- Climate justice should be ingrained in detail in the rules of all the new climate compacts/agreements.
 - Environmental resources are unevenly distributed and exploited across the globe.
 - There is an impending issue of dealing with a huge number of climate change victims/climate refugees.
 - Climate change in all its connotations is mostly due to developed countries and therefore their share of burden should be more.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The most rational message conveyed by the passage is regarding ambiguities in term of justice related to climate change which is debatable. So, people don't agree on what justice means in any existing agreements. Hence, climate justice should be ingrained in detail in the rules of all the new climate compacts/agreements. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** The given statement highlights the fact that natural resources and elements of the environment are not equally available or accessible in different regions around the world. The passage does not talk about the distribution and exploitation of environmental resources. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This statement talks about issues of climate change victims whereas the central idea of the passage is climate justice. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage nowhere mentions that the climate change is mostly due to developed countries or that their share of burden should be more. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

43. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the author of the passage? (2023)

- (a) Food yielding trees should replace other trees in rural and tribal areas and community owned lands.
- (b) Food security cannot be ensured in India with the present practice of conventional agriculture.
- (c) Wastelands and degraded areas in India should be converted into agroforestry systems to help the poor.
- (d) Agroecosystems should be developed in addition to or along with conventional agriculture.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage discusses why sourcing food from non-agricultural land is important. This means that sources like forests, wetlands and pastures are important for making sure that we have enough food when there are shortages or gaps in production. They also help to support our rural and tribal agricultural system. However, the passage doesn't recommend replacing non-food producing trees with trees that yield food. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Passage nowhere indicates that food security can't be ensured with present practice of conventional agriculture rather it suggest that food from forest and wetland can supplement crop production gap during crop failure since the productivity of the tree is often more resilient to adverse weather condition. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This statement does reflect that sourcing food from non-agriculture land can supplement the crop production gap and ensure that rural and tribal community sustain themselves during adverse condition, but it nowhere mentions about converting wasteland into agroforestry system. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As stated in the passage, "sourcing food from non-agricultural lands (uncultivated systems such as forests, wetlands, pastures, etc.) in addition to agricultural lands enables a systemic approach to food consumption." Thus, the preceding statement clearly conveys the importance of agroecosystem. Agroecosystem based agriculture practice is sustainable as well as ensure the overall food security of the Country. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

While awareness on use/misuse and abuse of antibiotics is common knowledge, as is the impact of dosing poultry with antibiotics, the environmental impact of antibiotics-manufacturing companies not treating their waste has scarcely been discussed at any length or seriousness thus

far. Pollution from antibiotics factories is fuelling the rise of drug-resistant infections. The occurrence of drug-resistant bacteria surrounding the pharma manufacturing plants is well known.

44. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and practical message conveyed by the passage? (2023)

- (a) It is necessary to put proper effluent treatment protocols in place.
- (b) It is necessary to promote environmental awareness among people.
- (c) Spread of drug-resistant bacteria cannot be done away with, as it is inherent in modern medical care.
- (d) Pharma-manufacturing companies should be set up in remote rural areas, away from crowded towns and cities.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Passage indicates about the harmful effect of untreated waste from pharma company by stating, "the environmental impact of antibiotics-manufacturing companies not treating their waste has scarcely been discussed at any length or seriousness thus far and pollution from antibiotics factories is fueling the rise of drug-resistant infections." Thus, it becomes important to put proper effluent treatment protocols in place. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** Passage talks about how the environmental impact of antibiotics-manufacturing companies not treating their waste has scarcely been discussed. But promoting environmental awareness alone may not address the issue. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage nowhere mentions that it is impossible to get rid of drug-resistant bacteria. This statement is extreme, rather it indicates that if the waste of pharma company is treated and antibiotics are used properly then we can get control over these bacteria. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage does talk about the ill effect of pharma companies in its surrounding area, but it nowhere mentions that these companies should be placed in remote areas. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 3

Benefits of good quality school education accrue only when students complete and leave school after having acquired the gateway skills. Like one learns to walk before running, similarly

one picks up advanced skills only after picking the basic foundational skills. The advent of the knowledge economy poses new challenges, and one of the severe consequences of having an uneducated workforce will be our inability to keep pace with the global economy. Without a strong learning foundation at the primary level, there can be no improvement in higher education or skill development.

45. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage? (2023)
- (a) To become a global power, India needs to invest in universal quality education.
 - (b) India is unable to become a global power because it is not focussing or promoting knowledge economy.
 - (c) Our education system should focus more on imparting skills during higher education.
 - (d) Parents of many school children are illiterate and are unaware of the benefits of quality education.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This assertion reflects the core crux of the passage as mentioned in the given statement, “the advent of the knowledge economy poses new challenges, and one of the severe consequences of having an uneducated workforce will be our inability to keep pace with the global economy” clearly indicates that to become a global power, the Country needs to invest in quality education. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** This passage does reflect that if any country wants to become a global power it needs to have an educated workforce. This passage nowhere mentions that India is not focusing on promoting knowledge economy. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This passage clearly indicates the importance of basic education over higher education in the line, “like one learns to walk before running, similarly one picks up advanced skills only after picking the basic foundational skills.” **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As mentioned in the passage, “without a strong learning foundation at the primary level, there can be no improvement in higher education or skill development.” Thus, it clearly indicates that quality education is important to acquire higher skills. Moreover, it does not mention the illiteracy of parents affecting the quality of education. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 1

The paradox of choice is illustrated by the story of Buridan’s ass. Jean Buridan, the 14th century philosopher, wrote about

free will and the inability to choose due to numerous choices and uncertainties. In the story, a donkey stands between two equally appealing stacks of hay. Unable to decide which to eat, it starves to death. Changes in technology and innovations such as smart phones and tablets only exacerbate our glut of choices. Constant connectivity and overconsumption of real-time data and social media can leave little room for self-reflection and rest, making decisions more difficult. Life is about choices. Many people are overwhelmed with attractive life choices, yet find themselves unhappy and anxious.

46. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical message implied by the above passage? (2023)
- (a) Modern technology enfeebls societal structure and makes life difficult.
 - (b) Modern life is full of uncertainties and endless difficult choices.
 - (c) We are influenced by the opinion of others and have no courage to follow our own convictions.
 - (d) In our lives, having too few choices may not be a good thing, but having too many can be equally as difficult.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Passage talks about the impact of modern technology in our daily life by stating that, “changes in technology and innovations such as smart phones and tablets only exacerbate our glut of choices. Constant connectivity and overconsumption of real-time data and social media can leave little room for self-reflection and rest, making decisions more difficult”. But it doesn’t make any direct indication that this technology makes our society weak and life difficult. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage talks about how modern technology and gadgets make our life unhappy and anxious, but it nowhere mentions about uncertainties of modern life. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Passage discusses the difficulty in making choices due to numerous choices, but it nowhere mentions the influence of others’ opinions on our decision or the lack of courage to follow one’s own conviction. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The line as given in the passage, “Life is about choices. Many people are overwhelmed with attractive life choices yet find themselves unhappy and anxious” conveys that sometimes having too many choices leaves us confused and makes our life complex and difficult. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

Household finance in India is unique. We have a tendency to invest heavily in physical assets such as gold and property. Steps to encourage the financialization of savings are critical. A populace accustomed to traditional processes will not simply jump into financialization. Hurdles to change include onerous bureaucracy, a scepticism of organized financial institutions, a lack of basic information about which of the myriad services and providers is best for each family, and how (and even if) one can make the transition between them if necessary.

47. Regarding the financialization of household savings, which of the following statements best reflect the solutions that are implied by the passage? (2023)

1. A flexible environment is needed to develop solutions.
2. Households need customised solutions.
3. Innovations in financial technology are required.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage clearly talks about the rigid bureaucracy becoming a hurdle for organized financial institutions which requires a flexible environment to deal with the same. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Passage mentions about the uniqueness of Indian household finance as stated, “a lack of basic information about which of the myriad services and providers is best for each family.” The passage indicates the need for customized solutions. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** Although financial technology innovations can help improve access to information and services, it is not stated in the passage that they are a direct solution. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 3

Pharmaceutical patents grant protection to the patentee for the duration of the patent term. The patentees enjoy the liberty to determine the prices of medicines, which is time-limited to the period of monopoly, but could be unaffordable to the public. Such patent protection offered to the patentees is believed to benefit the public over the longer term through innovations and research and development (R&D), although it comes at a cost, in the nature of higher prices for the patented medicine. The patent regime and price protection — through a legally validated high price for the medicine during

the currency of the patent — provide the patentee with a legitimate mechanism to get returns on the costs incurred in innovation and research.

48. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made : (2023)

1. Patent protection given to patentees puts a huge burden on public's purchasing power in accessing patented medicines.
2. Dependence on other countries for pharmaceutical products is a huge burden for developing and poor countries.
3. Providing medicines to the public at affordable prices is a key goal during the public health policy design in many countries.
4. Governments need to find an appropriate balance between the rights of patentees and the requirements of the patients.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 1 and 4 |
| (c) 3 and 4 | (d) 2 and 3 |

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Passage clearly indicates in the line, “Pharmaceutical patents grant protection to the patentee for the duration of the patent term. The patentees enjoy the liberty to determine the price of medicines, which is time-limited to the period of monopoly but could be unaffordable to the public.” Thus, the preceding statement is in synchronization with the given option. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage nowhere mentions the dependence of developing countries on other countries for pharmaceutical products. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The given statement is genuine, but this passage doesn't mention the public health policy rather it focuses on the pros and cons of patented medicine. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 4:** This passage does reflect the need of government intervention in deciding the price of patented medicine because most of the patented medicine is unaffordable for the patient as these high prices benefit in the long terms as the money earned is further invested in research and development. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 4

India should ensure the growth of the digital economy while keeping personal data of citizens secure and protected.

No one will innovate in a surveillance-oriented environment or in a place where an individual's personal information is compromised. The ultimate control of data must reside with the individuals who generate it; they should be enabled to use, restrict or monetise it as they wish. Therefore, data protection laws should enable the right kind of innovation — one that is user-centric and privacy protecting.

49. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made: (2023)

1. Protection of privacy is not just a right, but it has value to the economy.
2. There is a fundamental link between privacy and innovation.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** This statement reflects the theme of the passage that data carry a monetary value with it and the individual who generates it should have the ultimate right to use, restrict or monetize as they wish. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** In the line, "No one will innovate in a surveillance-oriented environment or in a place where an individual's personal information is compromised, and data protection laws should enable the right kind of innovation." Hence, the passage clearly establishes a relation between privacy and innovation. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Directions for the following 3 (three) items :

Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

PASSAGE – 1

In India, while the unemployment rate is a frequently used measure of poor performance of the economy, under conditions of rising school and college enrolment, it paints an inaccurate picture. The reported unemployment rate is dominated by the experience of younger Indians who face higher employment challenges and exhibit greater willingness to wait for the right job than their older peers. The unemployment challenge is greater for people with secondary or higher education, and rising education levels inflate unemployment challenges.

50. Which one of the following statements most likely reflects as to what the author of the passage intends to say? (2023)

- (a) Enrolment in schools and colleges is high but there is no quality education.
- (b) Unemployment must be seen as a function of rising education and aspirations of young Indians.
- (c) There are no labour-intensive industries to accommodate the huge number of unemployed people.
- (d) The education system should be properly designed so as to enable the educated people to be self-employed.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage makes no mention of educational standards. Instead, it emphasizes how increasing school and college enrolment may skew the unemployment rate. The author's intended message isn't reflected in this statement. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This alternative fits the passage nicely. According to the author, younger, more educated Indians confront greater employment obstacles because of higher education levels. Consequently, unemployment is linked to young Indians' rising ambitions and level of education. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** This statement is wrong because the paragraph makes no mention of the presence or absence of labor-intensive businesses. This statement misrepresents the author's intended meaning. **Hence it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage does not explore the structure of the educational system or the idea of self-employment, hence option (d) is incorrect. As a result, this choice does not accurately convey the author's point of view. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE - 2

"Science by itself is not enough, there must be a force and discipline outside the sciences to coordinate them and point to a goal. It is not possible to run a course aright when the goal itself has not been rightly placed. What science needs is philosophy —the analysis of scientific method and the coordination of scientific purposes and results; without this, any science must be superficial. Government suffers, precisely like science, for lack of philosophy. Philosophy bears to science the same relationship which statesmanship bears to politics : movement guided by total knowledge and perspective, as against aimless and individual seeking. Just as the pursuit

of knowledge becomes scholasticism when divorced from the actual needs of men and life, so the pursuit of politics becomes a destructive bedlam when divorced from science and philosophy.”

51. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most rational, logical and practical message conveyed by the passage? (2023)
- (a) Modern statesmen need to be well trained in scientific methods and philosophical thinking to enable them to have a better perspective of their roles, responsibilities and goals.
 - (b) It is not desirable to have Governments managed by empirical statesmen unless well mixed with others who are grounded in learning and reflect wisdom.
 - (c) As the statesmen/bureaucrats are the products of a society, it is desirable to have a system of education in a society that focuses on training its citizens in scientific method and philosophical thinking from a very early age.
 - (d) It is desirable that all scientists need to be philosophers as well to make their work goal-oriented and thus purposeful and useful to the society.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This assertion advocates educating today's leaders in philosophical and scientific thinking, which is ideal yet impractical. The passage emphasizes the need for governance to be more than just an empirical system devoid of moral principles. Philosophy and scientific aptitude are essential components of good government. But it says nothing about how to do it. There hasn't been a direct or indirect reference to the necessity of training statesmen. This can also be accomplished by direction, outside consulting, etc. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage compares the relationship between politics and philosophy and science, supported by perspective and understanding of the actual societal needs. "...so, the pursuit of politics," in this sentence when separated from science and philosophy, politics "becomes a destructive bedlam," indicating that it is undesirable to create a political system without these foundations. In other words, it is preferable to have a mix of persons in politics who are both empirical politicians and men of insight and foresight. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** This assertion indicates that the training of the statesmen/bureaucrats should begin at early age which is not mentioned in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This assertion reflects the theme of passage to some extent that the scientists need to be more

philosophical in their approach to fulfil their social responsibility, but it nowhere mentions that all scientists need to learn philosophy which makes it a bit extreme. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE - 3

"The last end of the state is not to dominate men, nor to restrain them by fear; rather it is so to free each man from fear that he may live and act with full security and without injury to himself or his neighbour. The end of the state, I repeat, is not to make rational beings into brute beasts and machines. It is to enable their bodies and their minds to function safely. It is to lead men to live by, and to exercise, a free reason; that they may not waste their strength in hatred, anger and guile, nor act unfairly toward one another."

52. Based on the above passage, which one of the following terms best expresses the ultimate goal of the state? (2023)
- (a) Personal safety
 - (b) Health of body and mind
 - (c) Communal harmony
 - (d) Liberty

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This passage does reflect about the personal security of a man in the line, "the last end of the state is not to dominate men, nor to restrain them by fear; rather it is so to free each man from fear that he may live and act with full security and without injury to himself or his Neighbour." But the core theme of the passage is about the importance of freedom and liberty. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** In the line, "The end of the state, I repeat, is not to make rational beings into brute beasts and machines. It is to enable their bodies and their minds to function safely. It is to lead men to live by, and to exercise, a free reason; that they may not waste their strength in hatred, anger and guile, nor act unfairly toward one another." The author does talk about the need for personal safety in terms of physical as well as mental health, but these goals can only be achieved under a free environment and state. Hence, this option also doesn't indicate the ultimate goal of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As mentioned in the passage, "It is to lead men to live by, and to exercise, a free reason; that they may not waste their strength in hatred, anger and guile, nor act unfairly toward one another." But this is just one of the goals that the author wants to achieve through liberty. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (d):** This option defines the core theme of the passage. Here, the author clearly explains, “the last end of the state is not to dominate men, nor to restrain them by fear; rather it is so to free each man from fear that he may live and act with full security and without injury to himself or his neighbor.” The purpose of the State and the role played by it in the overall development of human beings. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Directions for the following items:

Read the following passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

PASSAGE – 1

The main threat to maintaining progress in human development comes from the increasingly evident unsustainability of production and consumption patterns. Current production models rely heavily on fossil fuels. We now know that this is unsustainable because the resources are finite. The close link between economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions needs to be served for human development to become truly sustainable. Some developed countries have begun to alleviate the worst effects by expanding recycling and investing in public transport and infrastructure. But most developing countries are hampered by the high costs and low availability of clean energy sources. Developed countries need to support developing countries’ transition to sustainable human development. (2022)

- 53.** Unsustainability in production pattern is due to which of the following?

1. Heavy dependence on fossil fuels
2. Limited availability of resources
3. Expansion of recycling

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage directly mentions that current production models rely heavily on fossil fuels. Therefore, according to the author, heavy dependence on fossil fuels is one of the reasons for unsustainability in production patterns. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Again, it is directly mentioned in the passage that resources are finite, i.e., there is limited availability of resources. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 3:** According to the passage, some developed countries have begun to alleviate the worst effects by expanding recycling. It means that ‘expansion of recycling’ is a solution and not the reason for unsustainability in production patterns. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

- 54.** Consider the following statements:

Developed countries can support developing countries’ transition to sustainable human development by

1. making clean energy sources available at low cost
2. providing loans for improving their public transport at nominal interest rates
3. encouraging them to change their production and consumption patterns

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 1 and 2 only |
| (c) 2 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** It is directly mentioned in the passage that most developing countries are hampered by the high cost and low availability of clean energy sources. And the developed countries need to support developing countries’ transition to sustainable human development. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, “most developing countries are hampered by the high costs and low availability of clean energy sources.” Here, the author nowhere mentions about providing loans at nominal interest rates. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As the author states that, “most developing countries are hampered by the high cost and low availability of clean energy sources” so they need help here only in transition to sustainable human development. And encouraging them to change their production and consumption pattern is an area where developed countries can help, but the passage does not state this. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 2

Unless the forces and tendencies which are responsible for destroying the country’s environment are checked in the near future and afforestation of denuded areas is taken up on a massive scale, the harshness of the climatic conditions and soil erosion by wind and water will increase to such an extent that agriculture, which is the mainstay of our people, will gradually become impossible. The desert countries of the world and our own desert areas in Rajasthan are a grim

reminder of the consequences of large-scale deforestation. Pockets of desert-like landscape are now appearing in other parts of the country including the Sutlej-Ganga Plains and Deccan Plateau. Where only a few decades back there used to be lush green forests with perennial streams and springs, there is only brown earth, bare of vegetation, without any water in the streams and springs except in the rainy season. (2022)

55. According to the passage given above, deforestation and denudation will ultimately lead to which of the following?

1. Depletion of soil resource
2. Shortage of land for the common man
3. Lack of water for cultivation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage directly mentions about soil erosion and that desert-like landscape around the world including our own Rajasthan is a grim reminder of the consequences of large-scale deforestation. Other parts of the country including Sutlej-Ganga plains and Deccan plateau are becoming pockets of deserts. The passage directly asserts that deforestation and denudation will ultimately lead to depletion of soil resource. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage does not mention anything about 'shortage of land for common man', either directly or indirectly. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** It is clear from the part of the passage which mentions, "where only a few decades back there used to be lush green forests with perennial streams and springs, there is only brown earth, bare of vegetation, without any water in the streams and springs except in the rainy season." This statement clearly states that, lack of water for cultivation is a result of deforestation and denudation. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 3

"In simple matters like shoe-making, we think only a specially trained person will serve our purpose, but in politics, we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes knows how to administer a State. When we are ill, is a guarantee of specific preparation and technical competence—we do not ask for the handsomest physician, or the most eloquent one: well then, when the whole State is ill should we not look for the service and guidance of the wisest and the best?"

56. Which one of the following statements best reflects the message of the author of the passage? (2022)

- (a) We assume that in a democracy, any politician is qualified to administer a State.
- (b) Politicians should be selected from those trained in administration.
- (c) We need to devise a method of barring incompetence from public office.
- (d) As voters select their administrators, the eligibility of politicians to administer a State cannot be questioned.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As clearly stated in the passage, "but in politics, we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes knows how to administer a State." Here, the preceding statement clearly concludes that people are under assumption that electoral qualifications are automatically equivalent to administrative qualifications, but again, it's just an assumption of qualifications (to administer a state), which is not always true. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** In the passage, author's message is all about competency and training (examples of shoemaker as well as physician validates it). As stated in the last line of the passage, "when the whole State is ill should we not look for the service and guidance of the wisest and the best?" **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author in the passage nowhere talks about "barring incompetence." He majorly focused on being competent and eligible. "Barring" is aloof from the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This statement, as perceived, is wrong because the author emphasizes particularly on competence and eligibility. The last line of the passage is significant in this regard, "when the whole State is ill should we not look for the service and guidance of the wisest and the best?" It clearly indicates that when the state is ill (or dilapidated), best and wisest should come for its rescue. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 4

The poverty line is quite unsatisfactory when it comes to grasping the extent of poverty in India. It is not only because of its extremely narrow definition of 'who is poor' and the debatable methodology used to count the poor, but also because of a more fundamental assumption underlying it. It exclusively relies on the notion of poverty as insufficient income or insufficient purchasing power. One can better categorize it by calling it income poverty. If poverty is ultimately about deprivations affecting human well-being, then income poverty

is only one aspect of it. Poverty of a life, in our view, lies not merely in the impoverished state in which the person actually lives, but also in the lack of real opportunity given by social constraints as well as personal circumstances—to choose other types of living. Even the relevance of low incomes, meagre possessions, and other aspects of what are standardly seen as economic poverty relate ultimately to their role in curtailing capabilities, i.e., their role in severely restricting the choices people have to lead variable and valued lives. (2022)

57. Why is the methodology adopted in India to count the 'poor' debatable?

- (a) There is some confusion regarding what should constitute the 'poverty line'.
- (b) There are wide diversities in the condition of the rural and urban poor.
- (c) There is no uniform global standard for measuring income poverty.
- (d) It is based on the proposition of poverty as meagre income or buying capacity.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author in the passage only indicates that the methodology used to determine poverty is inadequate and narrow. He is trying to point that poverty is about restricted choices and lack of real opportunity, which is beyond income poverty. Moreover, the aspect of "confusion" is not discussed anywhere in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The 'condition of urban and rural poor' is not mentioned in the passage. The author emphasizes on poverty, but not with respect to urban or rural poor. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This option is beyond the domain of the passage. Author does not mention, directly or indirectly, anything about "uniform global standards of measuring poverty." **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This option conveys the vital message being stressed by the author in the given passage. This whole passage is about other aspects of poverty apart from income poverty. Poverty line concept exclusively relies on insufficient income or insufficient purchasing power, but lack of real opportunities, curtailed capabilities and restricted choices are the aspects which are not looked upon. Also, the poverty of life i.e., repercussions of being poor (like social constraints) are not considered. Another argument in support is from the statement – "extremely narrow definition of 'who is poor'." **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

58. Why is income poverty only one measure of counting the 'poor'?

- (a) It talks of only one kind of deprivation ignoring all others.
- (b) Other deprivations in a human life have nothing to do with lack of purchasing power.
- (c) Income poverty is not a permanent condition, it changes from time to time.
- (d) Income poverty restricts human choices only at a point of time.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, "if poverty is ultimately about deprivations affecting human well-being, then income poverty is only one aspect of it." This statement of the passage clearly indicates that income poverty is only one aspect of poverty, other being poverty of life etc. Only one kind of deprivation, i.e., income is under consideration, rest all deprivations i.e., deprivations of opportunity, choice and type of living are not considered for evaluation of poverty. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** Deprivations of income (lack of purchasing power) ultimately curtails their capabilities as well as their other opportunities as we can readout from this statement of passage, "even the relevance of low incomes, meagre possessions, and other aspects of what are standardly seen as economic poverty relate ultimately to their role in curtailing capabilities, i.e., their role in severely restricting the choices people have to lead variable and valued lives." **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** There is no mention in the passage about the temporary or permanent nature of the income poverty. So, the options is beyond the scope of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The author didn't mention anything regarding the time-frame (or point of time) while elaborating the income poverty and its consequences of choice restrictions as well as lack of opportunities. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

59. What does the author mean by 'poverty of a life'?

- (a) All deprivations in a human life which stem not only from lack of income but lack of real opportunities
- (b) Impoverished state of poor people in rural and urban areas
- (c) Missed opportunities in diverse personal circumstances
- (d) Material as well as non-material deprivations in a human life which restrict human choices permanently.

Ans: (a)

- **Option (a):** This option is the best relevant statement. As stated in the passage, “poverty of a life, in our view, lies not merely in the impoverished state in which the person actually lives, but also in the lack of real opportunity.” This statement clearly justifies the given option, i.e., deprivations of human life are not merely because of the lack of income but also due to lack of opportunities. Though ‘all deprivations’ seems extreme, but then author made an argument about deprivations based on lack of income as well as opportunities. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** Since there is no mention about poor people in rural and urban areas in the passage, either directly or indirectly, it goes beyond the scope of it. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** “Missed opportunities” as well as “diverse personal circumstances” are nowhere mentioned in passage. It goes beyond the domain of it. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This option talks about “restricting human choices permanently”, but in reality, nothing can restrict choices permanently. In fact, a poor person is always hopeful, as well as poverty alleviation schemes are also optimistic about the emancipation. The word “Permanently” makes it an extreme statement. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

In some places in the world, the productivity of staples such as rice and wheat has reached a plateau. Neither new strains nor fancy agrochemicals are raising the yields. Nor is there much unfarmed land left that is suitable to be brought under the plough. If global temperature continues to rise, some places will become unsuitable for farming. Application of technology can help overcome these problems. Agricultural technology is changing fast. Much of this change is brought about by affluent farmers in the West/Americas. Techniques developed in the West are being adapted in some places to make tropical crops more productive. Technology is of little use if it is not adapted. In the developing world, that applies as much to existing farming techniques as it does to the latest advances in genetic modification. Extending to the smallholders and subsistence farmers of Africa and Asia the best of today's agricultural practices, in such simple matters as how much fertilizers to apply and when, would lead to a greatly increased availability of food for humanity. So would things like better roads and storage facilities, to allow for the carriage of surpluses to markets and reduce wastage. (2022)

2. Agricultural technology is not adapted in developing countries.

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, “much of this change is brought about by affluent farmers in the West/Americas.” This statement clearly signifies that, though majority of change is brought about by West, but it is not ‘confined’ to West only. Developed world has a sizeable hold over agricultural technology development but, here, it can be safely assumed that agricultural technology development is also happening in developing world. So, the assumption made in this statement is incorrect. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, “techniques developed in the West are being adapted in some places to make tropical crops more productive.” This statement is significant for our safe assumption that agricultural technology developed in west are being used in tropical areas also (which are in general areas of developing countries). Also, author has given suggestions about better agricultural practices to be adapted. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

- 61.** Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Poor countries need to bring about change in their existing farming techniques.
2. Developed countries have better infrastructure and they waste less food.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Since the author has mentioned in the passage that ‘global temperature rise’ and ‘land shortage’ would have negative effects on agriculture, particularly poor and developing countries are affected, and their food security will be on stakes. Also, the author has mentioned in a statement, “technology is of little use if it is not adapted.” It supports the assumption made in the statement, though the word “poor countries” is not mentioned anywhere in the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** This assumption goes beyond the scope of the passage, the words “infrastructure” of developed

countries and “food wastage” of developed countries are nowhere used in the passage. The only comparison which is being done in the passage is about “agricultural techniques/technology” of developed and developing countries. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

62. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Growing enough food for future generation will be a challenge.
2. Corporate farming is a viable option for food security in poor countries.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** In accordance with the passage, “extending to the smallholders and subsistence farmers of Africa and Asia the best of today’s agricultural practices, in such simple matters as how much fertilizers to apply and when, would lead to a greatly increased availability of food for humanity.” This statement clarifies that adapting few better practices will lead to increased supply and growing food is not challenging. Also, there is no mention of future generations in passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** There is no mention of “corporate farming” in the passage. It goes beyond the scope of the passage. Also “corporate farming” is more about economic benefits and securities but, in this passage agricultural technology for rising temperature, arable land shortage and food security are emphasized. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 6

Natural selection cannot anticipate future environments on the earth. Therefore, the set of existing organisms can never be fully prepared for environmental catastrophes that await life. An outcome of this is the extinction of those species which cannot overcome environmental adversity. This failure to survive, in modern terms, can be attributed to the genomes which are unable to withstand geological vagaries or biological mishaps (infections, diseases and so on). In biological evolution on the earth, extinction of species has been a major feature. The earth may presently have up to ten million species, yet more than 90% of species that have ever lived on the earth are now extinct. Once again, the creationist doctrines fail to satisfactorily address why a divine creator will firstly bother

to create millions of species and then allow them to perish. The Darwinian explanation for extinct life is once again simple, elegant and at once convincing organisms go extinct as a function of environmental or biological assaults for which their inheritance deems them ill-equipped. Therefore, the so-called Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all. Evolution happens-this is a fact. The mechanism of evolution (Darwin proposed natural selection) is amply supported by scientific data. Indeed, to date no single zoological, botanical, geological, paleontological, genetic or physical evidence has refuted either of the central two main Darwinian ideas. If religion is not taken into consideration, Darwinian laws are acceptable just like the laws proposed by Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and Einstein-sets of natural laws that explain natural phenomena in the universe. **(2022)**

63. According to the passage, natural selection cannot anticipate future environments on the earth as

1. species not fully prepared to face the environmental changes that await them will face extinction
2. all the existing species would get extinct as their genomes will not withstand biological mishaps
3. inability of the genome to withstand environmental changes would result in extinction
4. extinction of species is a common feature

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2 and 4

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, “therefore, the set of existing organisms can never be fully prepared for environmental catastrophes that await life. An outcome of this is the extinction of those species which cannot overcome environmental adversity.” These lines states that few organisms which are not prepared for the environmental adversity and challenges will have to face extinction, if unprepared. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** It is clearly mentioned in the passage that only those species which cannot overcome environmental adversity and are not prepared for the environmental catastrophes will face extinction. According to author, those genomes which can withstand biological mishaps will survive. It is also mentioned in the passage that more than 90% of species that have ever lived on the earth are now extinct, it means that 10% are still surviving because of their capability to withstand the environmental mishaps. The phrase “all the existing species” is incorrect. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, “this failure to survive, in modern terms, can be attributed to the genomes which are unable to withstand geological vagaries or biological mishaps infections, diseases and so on.” This statement clearly justifies the given statement – when genomes are unable to withstand biological mishaps, extinction are the consequence. **Hence, it is correct.**
 - **Statement 4:** It is clearly mentioned in passage that extinction is a major which can be read as ‘common’ feature. As stated by the lines, “in biological evolution on the earth, extinction of species has been a major feature.” **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**
64. The passage suggests that Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all because
- (a) it does not satisfy the creationist doctrine
 - (b) extinction is a function of environment and biological assaults
 - (c) there are no evidences to refute it
 - (d) existence of organisms is attributed to a creator

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As mentioned in the passage, “the creationist doctrines fail to satisfactorily address why a divine creator will firstly bother to create millions of species and then allow them to perish.” From this statement it can be concluded that “creationist doctrine” is unable to explain evolution. So it is out of question that Darwinian Theory does or does not satisfy the creationist doctrine. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, “the Darwinian explanation for extinct life is once again simple, elegant and at once convincing – organisms go extinct as a function of environmental or biological assaults for which their inheritance deems them ill-equipped. Therefore, the so-called Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all.” The statement is correct, but it is not the answer to our question: Why Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all? **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As mentioned in the passage, “therefore, the so-called Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all. Evolution happens-this is a fact.” Here, the author argues that the Darwinian Theory is not a theory at all, but rather accepted as a natural law explaining natural phenomenon in the universe as mentioned in the last line of the passage, “if religion is not taken into consideration, Darwinian laws are acceptable just like the laws proposed by Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and Einstein-sets of natural laws that explain natural phenomena in the universe.” **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (d):** It is mentioned in the passage, “once again, the creationist doctrines fail to satisfactorily address why a divine creator will firstly bother to create millions of species and then allow them to perish.” Hence, creationist doctrines fail to justify extinction as well as evolution. So, the given statement is wrong. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

65. With reference to the passage, the following assumptions have been made:
1. Only species that have the ability to overcome environmental catastrophes will survive and perpetuate.
 2. More than 90% of the species on the earth are in the danger of getting extinct due to drastic changes in the environment.
 3. Darwin’s theory explains all the natural phenomena.
- Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** It is clearly mentioned in the passage, “an outcome of this is the extinction of those species which cannot overcome environmental adversity. This failure to survive, in modern terms, can be attributed to the genomes which are unable to withstand geological vagaries or biological mishaps infections, diseases and so on.” Hence, we can conclude that those species which have ability to withstand biological mishaps and environmental catastrophes will survive. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Author only provides data for past, more than 90% of species that have ever lived on the earth are now extinct. But no such future prediction or prediction about the present species is made by the author. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** Darwin’s theory does not explain all the natural phenomenon. As mentioned in passage, “Darwinian laws are acceptable just like the laws proposed by Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and Einstein-sets of natural laws that explain natural phenomena in the universe.” There are numerous laws explaining natural phenomenon, Darwin’s theory is among one of them. Darwin’s theory only explain the phenomenon of natural selection. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 7

With steady economic growth, higher literacy and increasing skill levels, the number of Indian middle-class families has gone

up exponentially. Direct results of the affluence have been changes in dietary patterns and energy consumption levels. People have moved to a higher protein-based diet like milk products, fish and meat, all of which need significantly more water to produce than cereal-based diets. Increasing use of electronic and electric machines/gadgets and motor vehicles needs more and more energy and generation of energy needs water. (2022)

66. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) People should be persuaded to continue with the mainly Indian traditional cereal-based diets.
- (b) India needs to focus on developing agricultural productivity and capacity for more energy generation in the coming years.
- (c) Modern technological developments result in the change of cultural and social behaviour of the people.
- (d) Water management practices in India need to change dramatically in the coming years.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** No such persuasion is made in the passage about continuing traditional Indian cereal-based diets. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Agricultural Productivity or increase in energy generation are not mentioned in the passage. These are suggestions for the problems discussed in passage. These suggestions may sound correct but, author did not mention anything about the suggestions or way forward. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Author did not talk about cultural or social behavioural changes. It is beyond the scope of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** It is the best among the given option. Author has emphasised on the increase in water requirement, which may in turn may divert our attention towards the water management practices and strategies, though not 'dramatically' but indeed at a faster pace. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 8

For two or three generations past, ever-increasing number of individuals have been living as workers merely, not as human beings. An excessive amount of labour is rule today in every circle of society, with the result that man's spiritual element cannot thrive. He finds it very difficult to spend his little leisure in serious activities. He does not want to think; or he cannot even if he wants to. He seeks not Self-improvement, but

entertainment which would enable him to be mentally idle and to forget his usual activities. Therefore, the so-called culture of our age is dependent more on cinema than on theatre, more on newspapers, magazines and crime stories than on serious literature. (2022)

67. The passage is based on the idea that

- (a) man should not work hard
- (b) the great evil of our age is overstrain
- (c) man cannot think well
- (d) man cannot care for his spiritual welfare

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Author is talking about excessive work and its negative consequences which can be understood from these lines of passage, "an excessive amount of labour is rule today in every circle of society, with the result that man's spiritual element cannot thrive. He finds it very difficult to spend his little leisure in serious activities." Author is not suggesting anything to abstain hard work but another way out, which is pointing towards work and life balance. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Author is emphasizing on excessive work, "an excessive amount of labour is rule today" and its negative consequences, "man's spiritual element cannot thrive", "he seeks not self-improvement, but entertainment which would enable him to be mentally idle and to forget his usual activities." Positive conclusion can be made about this option. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, there is no mention about man's thinking ability. Author is mainly concerned about the lack of leisure time and work stress in a man's life. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, due to excessive work and lack of time, man's spiritual element cannot thrive. Due to excessive work, man do not seek self-improvement these days but, rather they seek entertainment. Conclusively, work overburden disturbs spiritual element but, that doesn't mean that man cannot care, man is capable of doing that. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

68. Man does not seek self-improvement because he

- (a) is not intellectually capable
- (b) has no time to do so
- (c) is distracted by materialism
- (d) loves amusement and is mentally idle

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, author does not question man's intellectual capability. Rather, author's perception is that work-life imbalance is the problem. Overstressed with work and lack of time is the real issue for a man and even though he can use his intellectual capability he chooses not to do so, because he is already overburdened. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, "he finds it very difficult to spend his little leisure in serious activities. He does not want to think; or he cannot even if he wants to. He seeks not self-improvement, but entertainment." Thus, it can be concluded that due to lack of time, man is unable to give some time for self-improvement. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** "Materialism" is beyond the scope of the passage. It is lack of time due to excessive work; man is not seeking self-improvement but, idealism and entertainment. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the given passage, man is working excessively and is too busy to seek self-improvement. According to the author, man wants to be mentally idle to forget his usual activities, not because he loves to be mentally idle. His love for amusement is a direct result of overburden of work and lack of time. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 9

The demographic dividend, which has begun in India and is expected to last another few decades, is a great window of opportunity. The demographic dividend is basically a swelling in the working age population, which conversely means that the relative ratio of very young and very old will, for a while, be on the decline. From the experience of Ireland and China, we know that this can be a source of energy and an engine of economic growth. The demographic dividend tends to raise a nation's savings rate since in any nation, it is the working age population that is the main saver. And since the savings rate is an important driver of growth, this should help elevate our growth rate. However, the benefits of demographic dividend depend on the quality of the working age population. And this implies bringing back the importance of education, acquisition of skills and human capital. (2022)

69. Which of the following would invariably happen in a country, when the demographic dividend has begun to operate?
1. The number of illiterate people will decrease.
 2. The ratio of very old and very young will decrease for a while.
 3. Population growth rate will quickly stabilize.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Illiteracy can be reduced when government is active about the cause and running multiple schemes and programme to achieve the same on the grass root. Going by common understanding we can say that illiteracy rate has no link with the operation of demographic dividend. Also, it is not mentioned in the passage that illiterate people will decrease when demographic dividend begins to operate. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the given information in the passage, "the demographic dividend is basically a swelling in the working age population, which conversely means that the relative ratio of very young and very old will, for a while, be on the decline." Conclusively, it can be said that ratio of very young and very old will decrease for a while when the demographic dividend begins to operate. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, there is no discussion of any relationship between the demographic dividend and stabilization of population growth rate. It cannot be concluded that with operation of demographic dividend population growth rate will stabilize. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

70. With reference to the passage, which of the following inferences can be drawn?

1. Demographic dividend is an essential condition for a country to rapidly increase its economic growth rate.
2. Promotion of higher education is an essential condition for a country for its rapid economic growth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As given in the passage, "from the experience of Ireland and China, we know that this can be a source of energy and an engine of economic growth." It means, demographic dividend can provide a push for economic growth but, it does not mean that it is essential for a country's economic growth. Countries can economically grow even without demographic dividend. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Author emphasizes on importance of skill and education, "however, the benefits of demographic dividend depend on the quality of the working age population. And

this implies bringing back the importance of education, acquisition of skills and human capital.” It is nowhere mentioned in the passage that higher education is ‘essential condition’ for economic growth of a country. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 10

In an economic organization, allowing mankind to benefit by the productivity of machines should lead to a very good life of leisure, and much leisure is apt to be tedious except to those who have intelligent activities and interests. If a leisured population is to be happy, it must be an educated population, and must be educated with a view to enjoyment as well as to the direct usefulness of technical knowledge. (2022)

71. Which of the following statements best reflects the underlying tone of the passage?

- (a) Only an educated population can best make use of the benefits of economic progress.
- (b) All economic development should be aimed at the creation of leisure.
- (c) An increase in the educated population of a country leads to an increase in the happiness of its people.
- (d) Use of machines should be encouraged in order to create a large leisured population.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, leisured population is happy, when it is educated. But much leisure is tedious without intelligent activities and interests. So, it is clear that educated population can make best use of benefits of economic progress. Though, the word ‘only’ is extreme, but still this is the best available option when compared to other three options. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, author has clearly conveyed that “much leisure is apt to be tedious”, also, if leisured population is to be happy it must be an educated population. Secondly, ‘all economic development should lead to creation of leisure’, this statement should be perceived as an exaggeration, because it can’t be always true and as per the given passage, it cannot be safely assumed. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “if a leisured population is to be happy, it must be an educated population.” From this particular statement it can be safely concluded that leisured population is happy when it is educated, because it can utilise the time for various intelligent activities etc., but same can’t be concluded for uneducated population. Author has emphasized the link between usage of leisure

time and happiness for educated population, but it would be incorrect to establish similar link between increased education and happiness. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (d):** As per the given passage, the author is pointing towards the happiness of leisured population due to mechanization. Much leisure is tedious. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 11

If presents bring less thrill now that we are grown up, perhaps it is because we have too much already, or perhaps it is because we have lost the fullness of the joy of giving and with it the fullness of the joy of receiving. Children’s fears are poignant, their miseries are acute, but they do not look too forward nor too far backward. Their joys are clear and complete, because they have not yet learnt always to add ‘but’ to every proposition. Perhaps we are too cautious, too anxious, too sceptical. Perhaps some of our cares would shrink if we thought less about them and entered with more single-minded enjoyment into the happiness that come our way. (2022)

72. With reference to the passage, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It is not possible for adults to feel thrilled by presents.
- (b) There can be more than one reason why adults feel less thrilled by presents.
- (c) The author does not know why adults feel less thrilled by presents.
- (d) Adults have less capacity to feel the joy of loving or being loved.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the given passage, “if presents bring less thrill now that we are grown up, perhaps it is because we have too much already, or perhaps it is because we have lost the fullness of the joy of giving and with it the fullness of the joy of receiving.” Author is conveying that adults are too much occupied with their own thoughts of being cautious, anxious or sceptical. It is possible for adults to feel thrilled by presents, if they think less and being single minded for the coming enjoyment. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the given passage, there are many reasons due to which adults feel less thrilled by presents, same can be concluded from these statements by author – “perhaps we are too cautious, too anxious, too sceptical”, “looking too forward or looking too backward” and “because we have too much already, or perhaps it is because we have lost the fullness of the joy of giving and with it the fullness of the joy of receiving.” **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (c):** As per the information given in the passage, as well as, discussed in option (b), author elaborated the reasons for the given cause in the statement. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This statement goes beyond the scope of the passage. Author doesn't talk about "capacity." Interestingly, author emphasized on the reasons that why adults don't feel thrilled about the presents. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

73. The author of the passage is against

- (a) worrying too much about the past and future
- (b) being in the habit of thinking about presents
- (c) not being thrilled by new things
- (d) giving and receiving joy only partially

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the given passage, author is concerned about habit of worrying. This can be safely concluded from these statements of the passage, "children's fears are poignant, their miseries are acute, but they do not look too forward nor too far backward" and "perhaps some of our cares would shrink if we thought less about them and entered with more single-minded enjoyment into the happiness that come our way." **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, the author is supporting the argument for thinking about the present and enjoying it to the fullest. The author argues that adults, like children, must not look forward or far backward. The focus should be on enjoyment of happiness that comes our way. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the given passage, there are many reasons due to which adults feel less thrilled by presents, same can be concluded from these statements by author, "perhaps we are too cautious, too anxious, too sceptical", "looking too forward or looking too backward" and "because we have too much already, or perhaps it is because we have lost the fullness of the joy of giving and with it the fullness of the joy of receiving." It does not mean that they are not thrilled but they feel less thrilled as compared due to these particular reasons. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Author is against giving and taking joy only partially, but the main concern of author is about over worrying. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 12

The majority of people who fail to accumulate money sufficient for their needs, are generally, easily influenced by

the opinions of others. They permit the newspapers and the gossiping neighbours to do their thinking for them. Opinions are the cheapest commodities on the earth. Everyone has a flock of opinions ready to be wished upon by anyone who will accept them. If you are influenced by opinions when you reach decisions, you will not succeed in any undertaking. **(2022)**

74. Which one of the following is implied by the passage?

- (a) Most of the people do not accumulate money for their needs.
- (b) Most of the people never fail to accumulate money for their needs.
- (c) There are people who fail to accumulate money for their needs.
- (d) There is no need to accumulate money.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, the author is referring to those who are unable to accumulate money for their needs. Author did not specify the proportion of people unable to accumulate the money for their needs. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** In this statement it is assumed that most of the people 'always' succeed in accumulating wealth, which according to the passage is untrue. As the author clearly mentions in the first line of the passage that majority of people fail to accumulate wealth. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, "the majority of people who fail to accumulate money sufficient for their needs, are generally, easily influenced by the opinions of others." In this statement author talks about those who are not able to accumulate money for their needs. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, money is needed for basic needs. It is not said by author that money is not needed. As clearly stated in the lines, "the majority of people who fail to accumulate money sufficient for their needs, are generally, easily influenced by the opinions of others." **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

75. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (a) People should not be influenced by the opinions of others.
- (b) People should accumulate as much money as they can.
- (c) People should neither give nor accept the opinions.
- (d) People will succeed in any undertaking if they do not accept any opinion at all.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the conclusion of the passage, “if you are influenced by opinions when you reach decisions, you will not succeed in any undertaking.” Author clarifies here that; one should not be influenced by the opinions of others. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the given passage, “majority of people who fail to accumulate money sufficient for their needs.” Here, author clarifies that one should have sufficient money for their needs. But author does not mention anything like accumulating more and more money as they can. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “opinions are the cheapest commodities on the earth.” Author clarifies that one should not be influenced by opinion of others. Though, author does not say that people should altogether stop giving or taking opinions, rather it appears that the author is making a case against untoward advice. Generally, there can be people who can give genuine and helpful advice. This is an extreme statement. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, “if you are influenced by opinions when you reach decisions, you will not succeed in any undertaking.” Author clarifies that, if one is influenced by other’s opinions, one will not succeed. But it can’t be safely assumed vice versa that one will succeed and that too in any undertaking if one does not accept any opinions at all. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 13

“The social order is a sacred right which is the basis of all other rights. Nevertheless, this right does not come from nature, and must therefore be founded on conventions.”

76. With reference to the above passage which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Conventions are the sources of rights of man.
2. Rights of man can be exercised only when there is a social order.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As mentioned in the passage, “all other rights. Nevertheless, this right does not come from nature, and must therefore be founded on conventions.” The context of the introductory line, “the social order is a sacred right which is the basis of all other rights” is to clarify

that one can’t enjoy any right if there is no established social order, which is to be founded on conventions. Therefore, conventions are source of rights of man. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, “the right of social order is the basis of all other rights.” From this we can safely assume that the rights of man can be exercised only when there is a social order. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 14

To encourage research is one of the functions of a university. Contemporary universities have encouraged research, not only in those cases where research is necessary, but on all sorts of entirely unprofitable subjects as well. Scientific research is probably never completely valueless. However silly and insignificant it may seem, however mechanical and unintelligent the labours of the researchers, there is always a chance that the results may be of value to the investigator of talent, who can use the facts collected for him by uninspired but industrious researchers as the basis of some fruitful generalization. But where research is not original, but consists in the mere rearrangement of existing materials, where its objects is not scientific but literary or historical, then there is a risk of the whole business becoming merely futile. **(2022)**

77. The author’s assumption about scientific research is that

- (a) It is never very valuable
- (b) It is sometimes very valuable
- (c) It is never without some value
- (d) It is always very valuable

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author has emphasized about the value of scientific research in these lines of passage, “scientific research is probably never completely valueless.” It can be safely concluded that, research is valuable. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author has clearly mentioned in the passage that scientific research is always valuable. No matter how insignificant, mechanical, and unintelligent it may seem, there is always a chance that the result may be of value to the investigator of talent. However, the research although is never without some value, it might not be ‘very valuable’ at times. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author has emphasized that the research is always valuable. The degree of the research’s value might vary but according to the author any research which is original is never without some value to a talented investigator. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (d):** As per the given passage, author has clearly mentioned that research becomes useless and futile when it is copied. As clearly mentioned in the lines, “but where research is not original, but consists in the mere rearrangement of existing materials, where its objects is not scientific but literary or historical, then there is a risk of the whole business becoming merely futile.” Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

78. According to the author

- (a) not many research results can be of value to an intelligent investigator
- (b) a research result is always valuable to an intelligent investigator
- (c) any research result can be of value to an intelligent investigator
- (d) a research result must always be of some value to an intelligent investigator

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Author has highlighted the value of research. The argument about value of research can be concluded from this statement of the passage “there is always a chance that the results may be of value to the investigator of talent.” Here, the author is implying that there is a high likelihood that study findings will be valuable but makes no mention of how many of these findings will be valuable. Hence, it is not correct.
- **Option (b):** As author has mentioned about futile research too, it is wrong to assume that research is always valuable. It can be clarified from the passage with these lines, “but where research is not original, but consists in the mere rearrangement of existing materials, where its objects is not scientific but literary or historical, then there is a risk of the whole business becoming merely futile.” Hence, it is not correct.
- **Option (c):** As explained in the passage, “scientific research is probably never completely valueless. However silly and insignificant it may seem, however mechanical and unintelligent the labours of the researchers, there is always a chance that the results may be of value to the investigator of talent, who can use the facts collected for him by uninspired but industrious researchers as the basis of some fruitful generalization.” Therefore, it can be concluded that any research result can be valuable to an intelligent investigator. Hence, it is correct.
- **Option (d):** As given in the passage, it is not a mandate that a research result must always be of some value to an intelligent investigator. As provided by the author, probability of futile research can’t be totally denied. Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

How best can the problems of floods and droughts be addressed so that the losses are minimal and the system becomes resilient? In this context, one important point that needs to be noted is that India gets ‘too much’ water (about 75% of annual precipitation) during 120 days (June to September) and ‘too little’ for the remaining 245 days. This skewed water availability has to be managed and regulated for its consumption throughout the year. (2022)

79. Which one of the following best reflects the practical, rational and lasting solutions?

- (a) Constructing huge concrete storage tanks and canals across the country
- (b) Changing the cropping patterns and farming practices
- (c) Interlinking of rivers across the country
- (d) Buffer stocking of water through dams and recharging aquifers

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** “Constructing huge concrete storage tanks and canals across the country”, might not be the best available rational and practical solution. Constructing huge concrete storage tank and canals would require large amount of capital. Also, a huge chunk of land has to be acquired for the construction purpose. And other issues of seismicity, deforestation, etc., must be considered for such massive constructions. Hence, it is not correct.
- **Option (b):** “Changing cropping patterns and farming practices” would not be sufficient to utilise and regulate the excess water, it may save or manage a meagre quantity, but not the excess as being elaborated by the author. Hence, it is not correct.
- **Option (c):** Apart from those issues discussed in the above options, other issues like, sustainability, environmental problems arising out of interlinking as well as the difficulty to complete river interlinking given the complex Indian topography, this solution is not practical and rational. Hence, it is not correct.
- **Option (d):** Buffer stocking of water through dams and recharging aquifers would be the most practical and rational solution available because water is stored in dams, as well as aquifers are recharged. Both these solutions will make sure that sufficient water, including ground water, is available during lean season for the usage. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

PASSAGE – 16

Researchers simulated street lighting on artificial grassland plots containing pea-aphids, sap-sucking insects, at night. These were exposed to two different types of light – a white light similar to newer commercial LED lights and an amber light similar to sodium street lamps. The low intensity amber light was shown to inhibit, rather than induce, flowering in a wild plant of the pea family which is a source of food for the pea-aphids in grasslands. The number of aphids was also significantly suppressed under the light treatment due to the limited amount of food available. (2021)

80. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the most critical inference** that can be made from the passage given above?

- Low intensity light has more adverse effect on the plants as compared to high intensity light.
- Light pollution can have a permanent adverse impact on an ecosystem.
- White light is better for the flowering of plants as compared to the light of other colours.
- Proper intensity of light in an ecosystem is important not only for plants but for animals too.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Option (a):** As per the statement given in the passage, “the low intensity amber light was shown to inhibit, rather than induce, flowering in a wild plant.” It explains that low intensity light has effects on flowering, but it cannot be concluded that low intensity light has more adverse effects on the plants as compared to high intensity light. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Option (b):** As per the passage, the author has emphasized on the permanent adverse impact of light pollution on the ecosystem. As mentioned in the passage, “the number of aphids was also significantly suppressed under the light treatment due to the limited amount of food available.” **Hence, it is correct.**
- Option (c):** With reference to the information given in the passage, it cannot be assumed that white light is better for the flowering of plants as compared to the other lights. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Option (d):** The given statement could have been correct in the broader perspective, but as per the passage this is not the most critical inference that can be drawn from the passage. Also, given option (b) is much wider in scope because it takes into account the whole ecosystem. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 17

Approximately 80 percent of all flowering plant species are pollinated by animals, including birds and mammals, but the main pollinators are insects. Pollination is responsible for providing us with a wide variety of food, as well as many plant-derived medicines. At least one-third of the world’s agricultural crops depend upon pollination. Bees are the most dominant taxa when it comes to pollination and they are crucial to more than four hundred crops. Pollination is an essential service that is the result of intricate relationship between plants and animals, and the reduction or loss of either affects the survival of both. Effective pollination requires resources, such as refuges of pristine natural vegetation. (2021)

81. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

- Sustainable production of India’s cereal food grains is impossible without the diversity of pollinating animals.
- Monoculture of horticultural crops hampers the survival of insects.
- Pollinators become scarce in cultivated areas devoid of natural vegetation.
- Diversity in insects induces diversity of plants.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- 1 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 3 and 4 only

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1:** Here in this statement, the passage nowhere talks about the Indian cereal food grain’s sustainable production. Moreover, the use of word ‘impossible’ makes it an extreme statement. Thus, it cannot be an assumption drawn from the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Statement 2:** As per the passage, it would be inappropriate to assume that the monoculture of horticultural crops hampers the survival of insects. The passage did not mention anything about hampering agricultural diversity due to monoculture practices which in turn reduce pollinators. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Statement 3:** As per the passage, “pollination is an essential service that is the result of an intricate relationship between plants and animals, and the reduction or loss of either affects the survival of both. Effective pollination requires resources, such as refuges of pristine natural vegetation.” Hence, it can be assumed that pollinators become scarce in cultivated areas devoid of natural vegetation. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 4:** Further, with reference to the explanation given in statement 3, it can be assumed that diversity in insects induces diversity of plants. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 18

A study conducted on the impacts of climate change over the Cauvery basin of Tamil Nadu using regional climate models showed an increasing trend for maximum and minimum temperatures, and a decrease in the number of rainy days. These climatic shifts will have an impact on the hydrological cycles in the region, lead to more run-off and less recharge, and affect the groundwater tables. Further, there has been an increase in the frequency of droughts in the State. This has driven farmers to increase dependency on groundwater resources to secure their crops. (2021)

82. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the crux** of the passage given above?
- (a) Development of regional climate models helps in choosing climate-smart agricultural practices.
 - (b) Heavy dependence on groundwater resources can be reduced by adopting dry-land cropping systems.
 - (c) Climate changes increase the criticality of water resources while simultaneously threatening it.
 - (d) Climate changes cause the farmers to adopt unsustainable livelihoods and risky coping strategies.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** In the passage, anything specific about climate-smart agricultural practices is not mentioned. Also, the passage revolves mainly around the climate change and its effects on water availability for agriculture. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, the author refers to the dependence on groundwater resources by the farmers, but it is due to the repercussions of the climate change. Also, the author did not suggest anything about adoption of dry-land cropping systems or any other specific scientific methods for irrigation. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, “these climatic shifts will have an impact on the hydrological cycles in the region, leading to more run off and less recharge of water eventually affecting the groundwater tables.” From the preceding statement it can be concluded that climate change will increase the criticality of water resources while simultaneously threatening it. This is the main context, as well as the subtle message of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 4:** Though this statement is partially correct (if ‘unsustainable irrigation practices’ was used in place of ‘unsustainable livelihoods’). However, the passage does not talk about adopting unsustainable livelihoods and risky coping strategies by the farmers. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 19

Researchers were able to use stem cells to gauge the neurotoxic effects of the environmental pollutant Bisphenol A (BPA). They used a combination of biochemical and cell-based assays to examine the gene expression profile during the differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells upon treatment with BPA, a compound known to cause heart diseases, diabetes, and developmental abnormalities in humans. They were able to detect and measure BPA toxicity towards the proper specification of primary germ layers, such as endoderm and ectoderm, and the establishment of neural progenitor cells. (2021)

83. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:
1. BPA may alter embryonic development in vivo.
 2. Biochemical and cell-based assays are useful in finding out treatments for pollution-induced diseases.
 3. Embryonic stem cells could serve as a model to evaluate the physiological effects of environmental pollutants.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, Bisphenol A (BPA) is a compound known to cause heart diseases, diabetes and other developmental abnormalities in humans. Thus, it can easily be assumed that Bisphenol A (BPA) may alter embryonic development in vivo from the term ‘developmental abnormalities’ of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, biochemical and cell-based assays are used to examine the gene expression profile during differentiation in embryonic stem cells upon treatment with Bisphenol A (BPA). But it can’t surely be concluded that they are useful in finding the treatments for pollution-induced diseases because it is used for BPA. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, “researchers were able to use stem cells to gauge the neurotoxic effects of the

environmental pollutant Bisphenol A (BPA).” Thus, it can be assumed that embryonic stem cells could serve as a model to evaluate the physiological effects of environmental pollutants (such as BPA). **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 20

Fig trees (genus *Ficus*) are considered sacred in India, East Asia and Africa and are common in agricultural and urban landscapes where other large trees are absent. In natural forests, fig trees provide food for wildlife when other resources are scarce and support a high density and diversity of frugivores (fruit-eating animals). If frugivorous birds and bats continue to visit to fig trees located in sites with high human disturbances, sacred fig trees may promote frugivore abundance. Under favourable microclimate, plenty of seedlings of other tree species would grow around fig trees. (2021)

84. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumption have been made:

1. Fig trees can often be keystone species in natural forests.
2. Fig trees can grow where other large woody species cannot grow.
3. Sacred trees can have a role in biodiversity conservation.
4. Fig trees have a role in the seed dispersal of other tree species.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, the author has emphasized the importance of fig trees as, these provide food for wildlife when other resources are scarce and support a high density and diversity of frugivores. This is similar to the role played by the keystone species. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Fig trees can grow even when other large trees are absent. However, it does not mean that only fig trees can grow and others cannot. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, “under favorable microclimate, plenty of seedlings of other tree species would grow around fig trees.” This implies fig trees play a role in biodiversity conservation. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** The passage mentions, “if frugivorous birds and bats continue to visit fig trees located in sites with high human disturbance, sacred fig trees may promote frugivore

abundance.” This preceding statement justifies that fig trees have a role in seed dispersal because fig trees promote frugivore abundance, and these are the animals that play a role in the seed dispersal. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 21

At the heart of agroecology is the idea that agroecosystems should mimic the biodiversity levels and functioning of natural ecosystems. Such agricultural mimics, like their natural models, can be productive, pest-resistant, nutrient conserving, and resilient to shocks and stresses. In ecosystems there is no ‘waste’, nutrients are recycled indefinitely. Agroecology aims at closing nutrient loops, i.e., returning all nutrients that come out of the soil back to the soil such as through application of farmyard manure. It also harnesses natural processes to control pests and build soil fertility i.e., through intercropping. Agroecological practices include integrating trees with livestock and crops. (2021)

85. Consider the following:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cover crops | 2. Fertigation |
| 3. Hydroponics | 4. Mixed farming |
| 5. Polyculture | 6. Vertical farming |

Which of the above farming practices can be compatible with agroecology, as implied by the passage?

- (a) 1, 4 and 5 only (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 6 only (d) 4 and 6 only

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “agroecological practices include integrating trees with livestock and crops.” Therefore, it will include mixed farming, cover cropping and polyculture. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, “at the heart of agroecology is the idea that agroecosystems should mimic the biodiversity levels and functioning of natural ecosystem.” But fertigation and hydroponics are artificial methods. Therefore, they are incompatible with agroecological systems. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As explained above, artificial methods are incompatible with agroecological systems. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, “agroecology aims at closing nutrient loops, i.e., returning all nutrients that come out of the soil back to the soil such as through application of farmyard manure.” So, vertical farming (same as hydroponics) is soil-less farming and hence not compatible with agroecology. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 22

Computers increasingly deal not just with abstract data like credit card details and databases, but also with the real world of physical objects and vulnerable human bodies. A modern car is a computer on wheels; an aeroplane is a computer on wings. The arrival of the “Internet of Things” will see computers baked into everything from road signs and MRI scanners to prosthetics and insulin pumps. There is little evidence that these gadgets will be any more trustworthy than their desktop counterparts. Hackers have already proved that they can take remote control of internet connected cars and pacemakers. (2021)

86. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the most critical inference** that can be made from the passage given above?
- Computers are not completely safe.
 - Companies producing the software do not take cyber security seriously.
 - Stringent data security laws are needed.
 - The present trend of communication technologies will affect our lives in future.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Option (a):** As per the passage, “there is little evidence that these gadgets will be any more trustworthy than their desktop counterparts. Hackers have already proved that they can take remote control of internet connected cars and pacemakers.” Thus, the author is skeptical about the safety (hacking) of computers. **Hence, it is correct.**
- Option (b):** As per the passage, the author highlights hacking and vulnerabilities, but it is not clearly mentioned in the passage that companies do not take cyber security seriously. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Option (c):** As per the passage, vulnerabilities and security issues are highlighted. Stringent data security laws are, indeed, the need of the hour but not the critical inference of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Option (d):** The present trend of technologies will affect our lives in future, but author is clearly concerned about the safety and the vulnerabilities of the cyber sphere. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 23

A social and physical environment riddled with poverty, inequities, unhygienic and insanitary conditions generates the risk of infectious diseases. Hygiene has different levels: personal, domestic and community hygiene. There is no doubt

that personal cleanliness brings down the rate of infectious diseases. But the entry of the market into this domain has created a false sense of security that gets conditioned and reinforced by the onslaught of advertisements. Experience in Western Europe shows that along with personal hygiene, general improvements in environmental conditions and components like clean water, sanitation and food security have brought down infant/child death/infections rates considerably. The obsession with hand hygiene also brings in the persisting influence of the market on personal health, overriding or marginalizing the negative impact on ecology and the emergence of resistant germs. (2021)

87. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:
- People who are obsessed with personal hygiene tend to ignore the community hygiene.
 - Emergence of multi-drug resistant germs can be prevented by personal cleanliness.
 - Entry of the market in the domain of hygiene increases the risk of infectious diseases.
 - Scientific and micro-level interventions are not sufficient to bring down the burden of infectious diseases.
 - It is community hygiene implemented through public health measures that is really effective in the battle against infectious diseases.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1:** As per the passage there are different levels of hygiene, i.e., personal, domestic and community hygiene. Here, the passage nowhere mentions that the people who are obsessed with personal hygiene tend to ignore the community one. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Statement 2:** As per the passage, though personal cleanliness brings down the rate of infectious diseases, resistant germs (including multi-drug resistant germs) can be emerged as a result of the obsession with hand hygiene and persisting influence of market on the personal health. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Statement 3:** As per the passage, “the entry of the market into this domain has created a false sense of security that gets conditioned and reinforced by the onslaught of advertisements.” However, it cannot be assumed that it will increase the risk of infectious diseases. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 4:** In accordance with the passage, "there is no doubt that personal cleanliness brings down the rate of infectious diseases. But the entry of the market into this domain has created a false sense of security that gets conditioned and reinforced by the onslaught of advertisements". Thus, implying that the scientific and microlevel interventions are not sufficient to bring down the burden of infectious diseases. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 5:** As per the passage, "experience in Western Europe shows that along with personal hygiene, general improvements in environmental conditions and components like clean water, sanitation and food security have brought down infant/child death/infections rates considerably." It is clear from the preceding statement that community hygiene implemented through public health measures (such as clean water, sanitation and food security) is really effective in the battle against infectious diseases. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 24

India faces a challenging immediate future in energy and climate policy-making. The problems are multiple: sputtering fossil fuel production capability; limited access to electricity and modern cooking fuel for the poorest; rising fuel imports in an unstable global energy context; continued electricity pricing and governance challenges leading to its costly deficits or surplus supply; and not least, growing environmental contestation around land, water and air. But all is not bleak: growing energy efficiency programmes; integrated urbanisation and transport policy discussions; inroads to enhancing energy access and security; and bold renewable energy initiatives, even if not fully conceptualized, suggest the promise of transformation. **(2021)**

88. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the critical message** conveyed by the passage given above?
- India's energy decision-making process is ever more complex and interconnected.
 - India's energy and climate policy is heavily tuned to sustainable development goals.
 - India's energy and climate actions are not compatible with its broader social, economic and environmental goals.
 - India's energy decision-making process is straightforward supply-oriented and ignores the demand side.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As mentioned in the passage, "the problems are multiple: sputtering fossil fuel production capability; limited access to electricity and modern cooking fuel for the poorest; rising fuel imports in an unstable global energy context." This statement explains the complexities involved in the India's energy decision-making process and their interconnections. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, the author is highlighting the policy making process and the complexities involved. Heavy tuning of policy to sustainable development goals is neither directly nor indirectly mentioned in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Though the passage talks about the social, economic, and environmental goals being important, the main theme of the passage revolves around the complexities in policy-making and decision-making and not about India's actions being incompatible. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, it is evident that the policy and decision-making process is complex due to the factors such as import deficit, saturated production capabilities, etc. Also, the author clearly mentions about the supply-side fluctuations by mentioning 'sputtering fossil fuel production capabilities.' Therefore, India's energy decision-making process is not straightforward and surely it doesn't ignore demand side aspects. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 25

There are reports that some of the antibiotics sold in the market are fed to poultry and other livestock as growth promoters. Overusing these substances can create superbugs, pathogens that are resistant to multiple drugs and could be passed along humans. Mindful of that, some farming companies have stopped using the drugs to make chickens gain weight faster. Since Denmark banned antibiotic growth promoters in the 1990s, the major pork exporters says it is producing more pigs – and the animals get fewer diseases. **(2021)**

89. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the critical message** conveyed by the passage given above?
- People should avoid consuming the products of animal farming.
 - Foods of animal origin should be replaced with foods of plant origin.
 - Using antibiotics on animals should be banned.
 - Antibiotics should only be used to treat diseases.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author does not suggest any food preferences for the people. Rather, the passage highlights the ill-effects of using antibiotics as growth promoters for poultry and other livestock. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Similarly, this option is concerned regarding the food preferences based on the origin of food. However, the passage does not suggest any preference of food and replacing animal origin food with plant origin food is not discussed either. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, it is not advocated to ban the use of antibiotics on animals. Although the author is sceptic about its use as growth promoters due to its harmful impacts. However, totally banning the use of antibiotics is incorrect as per the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Antibiotics should only be used to treat diseases. Author has given a subtle message with this clear example of Denmark, “Denmark banned antibiotic growth promoters in the 1990s, the major pork exporters say it is producing more pigs – and the animals get fewer diseases.” **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 26

Policy makers and media have placed the blame for skyrocketing food prices on a variety of factors, including high fuel prices, bad weather in key food producing countries, and the diversion of land to non-food production. Increased emphasis, however, has been placed on a surge in demand for food from the most populous emerging economies. It seems highly probable that mass consumption in these countries could be well poised to create a food crisis. (2021)

90. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:
1. Oil producing countries are one of the reasons for high food prices.
 2. If there is a food crisis in the world in the near future, it will be in the emerging economies.

Which of the above statements is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, high fuel prices is one of the crucial factors resulting in the surge of food prices. Moreover, it is nowhere mentioned in the passage that oil producing countries are straight forwardly responsible for the increase in food prices. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, author warns that due to the tendency of mass consumption in emerging economies, food crisis may be nearby. Conclusively, emerging economies are a reason for food crisis and not its only victim (as given in statement 2) because food-crisis, if occurred, will be a transnational phenomenon because of the globalised reasons, such as high fuel prices, bad weather, land diversion for non-food purposes, etc. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 27

A central message of modern development economics is the importance of income growth, by which is meant growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In theory, rising GDP creates employment and investment opportunities. As incomes grow in a country where the level of GDP was once low, households, communities, and governments are increasingly able to set aside some funds for the production of things that make for a good life. Today GDP has assumed such a significant place in the development lexicon, that if someone mentions “economic growth”, we know they mean growth in GDP. (2021)

91. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:
1. Rising GDP is essential for a country to be a developed country.
 2. Rising GDP guarantees a reasonable distribution of income to all households.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, rising GDP creates employment and investment opportunities. Also, governments are increasingly able to set aside some funds for the production of things that make for a good life. Thus, clarifying that rising GDP is important, but it is not the only essential criteria for a developed country. Income redistribution is also an important aspect of it. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, rising GDP may have many positive outcomes, but there is no such thing mentioned about the guarantee of distribution in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 28

With respect to what are called denominations of religion, if everyone is left to be a judge of his own religion, there is

no such things as religion that is wrong; but if they are to be a judge of each other's religion, there is no such thing as a religion that is right, and therefore all the world is right or all the world is wrong in the matter of religion. (2021)

92. What is the **most logical assumption** that can be made from the passage given above?

- (a) No man can live without adhering to some religious denomination.
- (b) It is the duty of everyone to propagate one's religious denomination.
- (c) Religious denominations tend to ignore the unity of man.
- (d) Men do not understand their own religious denomination.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The given statement is extreme in the context mentioned in the passage. It cannot be concluded from the passage that man cannot live without adhering to some religious denomination. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author in the passage highlights the interpretation of the religion. But the author nowhere talks about the propagation of one's own religious denomination. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, when a man perceives his own religion as right and all other religions as wrong, it can be assumed that men are not united by any common morals, values or principles. Thus, religious denominations somewhere tend to ignore the unity of man. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, men do understand their own religion, but they don't understand other religious denominations. Thus, they may perceive the things in other religions as wrong. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 29

It is certain, that seditions, wars, and contempt or breach of the laws are not so much to be imputed to the wickedness of the subjects, as to the bad state of a dominion. For men are not born fit for citizenship but must be made so. Besides, men's natural passions are everywhere the same; and if wickedness more prevails, and more offences are committed in one commonwealth than in another, it is certain that the former has neither enough pursued the end of unity, nor framed its laws with sufficient forethought; and that, therefore, it has failed in making quite good its right as a commonwealth. (2021)

93. Which among the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the passage given above?

- (a) Seditions, wars, and breach of the laws are inevitable in every dominion.
- (b) It is not the people, but the sovereign who is responsible for all the problems of any dominion.
- (c) That dominion is the best which pursues the aim of unity and has laws for good citizenship.
- (d) It is impossible for men to establish a good dominion.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, sedition, war, and breach of laws are inevitable only for dominion with bad state but, not every dominion. Also, the word, "every" makes it an extreme statement. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, the author puts the responsibility on sovereign as well as wicked subjects too. Thus, it cannot be stated that the sovereign is solely accountable for all the problems of any dominion. Therefore, it is not the most rational inference to be drawn from the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage clearly mentions that if there is more wickedness/offences in one commonwealth than in another, it is certain that the former has neither enough pursued the end of unity, nor framed its laws with sufficient forethought. Thus, the dominion is best which pursues the aim of unity and has laws for good citizenship. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** The use of word 'impossible' make this statement extreme and further it is skeptical about the ability of men to establish a good dominion. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option(c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 30

Inequality violates a basic democratic norm: the equal standing of citizens. Equality is a relation that obtains between persons in respect of some fundamental characteristic that they share in common. Equality is, morally speaking, a default principle. Therefore, persons should not be discriminated on grounds such as race, caste, gender, ethnicity, disability, or class. These features of human condition are morally irrelevant. The idea that one should treat persons with respect not only because some of these persons some special features or talent, for example skilled cricketers, gifted musicians, or literary giants, but because persons are human being, is by now part of commonsense morality. (2021)

94. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Equality is a prerequisite for people to participate in the multiple transactions of society from a position of confidence.
2. Occurrence of inequality is detrimental to the survival of democracy.
3. Equal standing of all citizens is an idea that cannot actually be realised even in a democracy.
4. Right to equality should be incorporated into our values and day-to-day political vocabulary.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 4 only (d) 3 and 4 only

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, the author highlights the removal of inequalities. Thus, it can be concluded that equality is a prerequisite for people to participate in the multiple transactions of society from a position of confidence because when inequality is removed, people have a confident position in society. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, inequality violates the basic norm of democracy. But it is not logical to conclude that violation of only a single norm would threaten the whole democracy and is detrimental for it. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, the author highlights the removal of inequalities and efforts have to be made in this regard to make it a reality. Thus, it is possible and the word 'impossible' makes this statement incorrect. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 4:** The author in the passage talks about the idea of removal of inequality and treat people as equals because they are human beings, and not someone with special features. Thus, right to equality should be a part of our value system. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 31

Aristocratic government ruins itself by limiting too narrowly the circle within which power is confined; oligarchic government ruins itself by the incautious scramble for immediate wealth. But even democracy ruins itself by excess of democracy. Its basic principle is the equal right of all to hold office and determine public policy. This is, at first glance, a delightful arrangement; it becomes disastrous because the people are not properly equipped by education to select the best rulers and the wisest

courses. The people have no understanding and only repeat what their rulers are pleased to tell them. Such a democracy is tyranny or autocracy. – Plato

(2021)

95. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the crux** of the passage given above?

- (a) Human societies experiment with different forms of governments.
(b) Any form of government tends to deteriorate by excess of its basic principle.
(c) Education of all citizens ensures a perfect, functional and sustainable democracy.
(d) Having a government is a necessary evil because tyranny is inherent in any form of government.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, although it is true that human societies experiment with different forms of governments, but it is not the most important message which the author is conveying. Thus, it does not reflect the crux of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author has clearly explained that excess of the basic principle of any form of government can lead to deterioration. For this, the author has presented an example of democracy, and highlighted that excess of its principle of providing equal right to hold public office and determine public policy can lead to tyranny or autocracy. This is the best crux of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** As the author is not advocating democracy or any other form of the government, we cannot conclude anything about democracy or otherwise. Also, this statement avoids the first part of the passage about aristocracy and oligarchy. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, author has highlighted that any form of government can be tyrannical, but author does not support any form of government. It goes beyond the scope of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 32

Nothing can exist in a natural state which can be called good or bad by common assent, since every man who is in natural state consults only his own advantage, and determines what is good or bad according to his own fancy and insofar as he has regard for his own advantage alone, and holds himself responsible to no one save himself by any law; and therefore sin cannot be conceived in a natural state, but only a civil state, which is decreed by common consent what is good or bad, and each one holds himself responsible to the state. (2021)

96. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the central idea** of the passage given above?

- (a) The conceptions of what is right or wrong exist due to the formation of a state.
- (b) Unless a ruling authority decides as to what is right or wrong, no man would be morally right.
- (c) Man is inherently immoral and selfish in a natural state.
- (d) The idea of what is right or wrong is necessary for the survival of human species.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, "sin cannot be conceived in a natural state, but only a civil state, which is decreed by common consent what is good or bad, and each one holds himself responsible to the state." With reference to this statement the author is trying to clarify that what is right or wrong exists due to formation of the state. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** Further, in the passage, the author highlights that right and wrong has to be consensually decided, and not by 'ruling authority.' **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, the author talks about man being selfish, "since every man who is in natural state consults only his own advantage." But nowhere in the passage it is mentioned that man is immoral. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, "every man who is in natural state consults only his advantage and determines what is good or bad according to his fancy." However, the author does not link this idea of right and wrong to the survival of human species. The author here just tried to highlights the concept of sin and a civil state. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 33

In the immediate future, we will see the increasing commodification of many new technologies – artificial intelligence and robotics, 3D manufacturing, custom made biological and pharmaceutical products, lethal autonomous weapons and driverless cars. This will pose conundrums. The moral question of how a driverless car will decide between hitting jaywalker and swerving and damaging the car has often been debated. The answer is both simple-save the human life-and complex. At which angle should the car swerve-just enough to save the jaywalker or more than enough? If the driverless car is in Dublin, who would take the decision? The Irish Government, or the car's original code writer in California, or a software programmer in Hyderabad to whom maintenance is outsourced? If different national jurisdictions

have different fine print on prioritizing a human life, how will it affect insurance and investment decisions, including transnational ones? **(2021)**

97. Which of the following statements **best reflect the rational, plausible, and practical implications** that can be derived from the passage given above?

- 1. Too much globalization is not in the best interests of any country.
- 2. Modern technologies are increasingly blurring the economic borders.
- 3. Innovation and capital have impinged on the domain of the state.
- 4. Public policy of every country should focus on developing its own supply chains.
- 5. Geopolitics will have to reconcile to many ambiguities and uncertainties.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, the author refers to conundrums posed by the modern technology. But he does not mention anything specifically about globalization. Thus, this is not the rational implication given by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** In the passage, the author is concerned about the boundaries by stating, "if the driverless car is in Dublin, who would take the decision? The Irish Government, or the car's original code writer in California, or a software programmer in Hyderabad to whom maintenance is outsourced?." Thus, it is clearly indicated that modern technologies are increasingly blurring the economic borders. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As explained in the statement above, it is clearly indicated that the author is concerned about the transnational boundaries as well as the domain of the state. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** Here, the passage nowhere talks about the supply chains and its development. Moreover, the word "every" in the statement makes it extreme. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 5:** As per the passage, "if different national jurisdictions have different fine print on prioritizing a human life, how will it affect insurance and investment decisions, including transnational ones?." Thus, states (and geopolitics) have to reconcile with these ambiguities and uncertainties. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 34

The resolution of bankruptcy cases of Indian banks under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code should help bring non-performing assets (NPA) situation under some control. Despite the slow pace of resolution by the National Company Law Tribunal, the Code can be helpful in cleaning up bank books in future credit cycles. The recapitalisation of public sector banks too can help increase the capital cushion of banks and induce them to lend more and boost economic activity. But bad debt resolution and recapitalisation are only a part of the solution as they, by themselves, can do very little to rein in reckless lending that has pushed the Indian banking system to its current sorry state. Unless there are systemic reforms that address the problem of unsustainable lending, future credit cycles will continue to stress the banking system. (2021)

98. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the most logical, rational and practical suggestion implied** by the passage given above?

- (a) Lending by the banks should be closely monitored and regulated by the central Government.
- (b) Interest rates should be kept low so as to induce banks to lend more, promote credit growth and thereby boost economic activity.
- (c) Merger of many banks into a few large banks alone in the long-term solution to make them viable and prevent their bad performance.
- (d) Indian banking system requires structural reforms as a long-term solution for bad loans problem.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “unless there are systemic reforms that address the problem of unsustainable lending, future credit cycles will continue to stress the banking system.” The author highlights the systematic reforms. It means, reforms beyond just monitoring. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, “the recapitalization of public sector banks too can help increase the capital cushion of banks and induce them to lend more and boost economic activity.” The author mentions recapitalization, but nothing is mentioned about low interest rates to lend more. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, reforms are mentioned, but nothing is mentioned regarding merger of banks as a solution for bad performance. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, “unless there are systematic reforms that address the problem of unsustainable lending, future credit cycles will continue to stress the banking

system.” Thus, the author clearly highlights the structural reforms for the issue of bad loans (NPA's). **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 35

In India, the objective of macroeconomics policy is to enhance the economic welfare of the people, and any one wing of such macro policy, monetary or fiscal, cannot independently work without active support of another. (2021)

99. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the corollary** to the passage given above?

- (a) The central bank cannot work independently of the Government.
- (b) Government should regulate financial markets and institutions closely.
- (c) Market economy is not compatible with the socialist policies of the Government.
- (d) Financial sector reforms are required for enhancing the economic welfare of the people.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “any one wing of such macro policy, monetary or fiscal, cannot independently work without the active support of another.” As we know, the monetary policy is the Central Bank's domain, while the government deals with the fiscal policy. Therefore, option (a) is the best corollary for the given passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** Though the statement might be right and logical but nothing is clearly mentioned about regulation of markets in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The given statement is incorrect and extreme. India, an example of mixed economy, is a classic case to counter the argument made in this statement. In India, market economy and socialist policies (such as government owned businesses – PSU's) both works together. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** In the given passage, the author highlights the macroeconomic policy but not financial sector reforms for economic welfare. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 36

The best universities like Harvard and MIT, despite having the luxury of having some truly excellent teachers on their payroll, are increasingly embracing the “flipped classroom” format, where students listen to video lectures at home, and spend class time applying their knowledge, solving problems,

discussing examples, etc. Professors guide that discussion and fill in wherever necessary, explaining those bits that seem to be eluding the students and throwing in advanced ideas that happen to be topical. These universities have made their video lectures available free for anyone in the world. They are also encouraging colleges and universities all over the world to integrate these online courses into their own pedagogy, picking the pieces that are appropriate for their needs and building a package around them. (2021)

100. Which one of the following statements *best reflects the central idea* of the passage given above?

- (a) Efficacy of universities would be better in online mode of conducting classroom tuition as compared conventional method.
- (b) Availability of higher education can be made easier and cheaper without diluting the content.
- (c) We need not invest much in infrastructure related to higher education and yet develop better human and social capital.
- (d) Private sector institutions in higher education as well as coaching institutes can take advantage of this opportunity and thrive well.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “flipped classroom” concept is a mix of online as well as conventional method classes. Though, efficacy was good when online mode was clubbed with the conventional method. But no comparison between online mode and conventional mode is made by the author. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, “these universities have made their video lectures available free for anyone in the world. They are also encouraging colleges and universities all over the world to integrate these online courses into their own pedagogy.” Thus, it can be concluded that video lectures from these universities are free and available without any cost, and these universities have a high reputation, with best of the content. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “they are also encouraging colleges and universities all over the world to integrate these online courses into their own pedagogy, picking the pieces that are appropriate for their needs and building a package around them.” As we can conclude from these lines, infrastructure will be needed to integrate these online courses. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** There is nothing mentioned about private sector institutions or coaching institutes in the passage. However, if high quality education is freely available for everyone, growth of coaching institutes would be rather inhibited. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Our cities are extremely vulnerable to climate change because of large concentrations of populations and poor infrastructure. Moreover, population densities are increasing in them but we have not yet developed the systems to address climate change impacts. Our cities contribute to 65 percent of the GDP, but there are not enough facilities to cater to the needs of the people. It is important to address the issues of air quality, transport, etc., that are vital to identifying sustainable solutions. We need to involve citizens in city planning and create an ecosystem that meets the needs of people. (2021)

101. Which among the following is the *most logical and rational inference* that can be made from the passage given above?

- (a) Our cities need to have well-defined administrative set-up with sufficient autonomy.
- (b) Ever increasing population densities is a hindrance in our efforts to achieve sustainable development.
- (c) To maintain and develop our cities we need to adopt sustainability related interventions.
- (d) Public-Private Partnership mode of development is the viable long-term solution for the infrastructure and sustainability problems of India.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** There is no direct mention of “administrative setup” in the passage. Only having well-defined administrative setup for cities would not help. According to the author, our systems are not yet developed to address climate change. Thus, citizens should be involved in the planning and needs of people must be addressed. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, “moreover, population densities are increasing in them but we have not yet developed the systems to address climate change impacts. Our cities contribute 65 percent of the GDP, but there are not enough facilities to cater to the needs of the people.” The author is more concerned about the needs of people and slow pace to cater their needs. The author did not blame increasing populations as a hurdle in sustainable development, rather author highlighted the vulnerability of the larger population due to poor infrastructure and other facilities. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “it is important to address the issues of air quality, transport, etc., that are vital to identifying sustainable solutions. We need to involve citizens in city planning and create an ecosystem that meets the needs of people.” Thus, the need for sustainability is justified. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (d):** As per the passage, the author talks about public involvement in decision making, “we need to involve citizens in city planning and create an ecosystem that meets the needs of people.” There is no mention of public-private partnership by the author. However, the author highlighted the poor infrastructure issues, which maybe a viable solution for the problem. But this is not the most logical and rational inference. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 38

Can a democracy avoid being a welfare state for long? Why cannot mass welfare be left entirely to the markets? There is a built-in tension between markets and democracy. Markets do not work on a one-person-one-vote principle as democracies do. What one gets out of the market place depends on one’s endowments, skills, purchasing power and the forces of demand and supply. Markets reward individual initiative and skill, and may also lift many from the bottom rungs of society, but some people never get the opportunity to develop skills that markets demand; they are simply too poor and too handicapped; or skill formation takes too long. By creating jobs, markets may be able to help even unskilled people, but capitalism has always witnessed bursts of unemployment. **(2021)**

102. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Modern democracies rely on the market forces to enable them to be welfare states.
2. Markets ensure sufficient economic growth necessary for democracies to be effective.
3. Government programmes are needed for those left behind in economic growth.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, given that, “why can’t mass welfare be left entirely to the markets? There is a built-in tension between markets and democracy.” Hence, it can be concluded that there is a built-in tension between markets and democracy. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The last lines of the passage provide hints for this statement. It is mentioned in the passage that “some people never get the opportunity to develop skills that markets demand” and that “capitalism has always witnessed bursts of unemployment.” Therefore, it can be concluded that efficient democracies are nearly impossible when the market is strong. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 3:** As mentioned in the passage, “markets reward individual initiative and skill, and may also lift many from the bottom rungs of society, but some people never get the opportunity to develop skills that markets demand; they are simply too poor and too handicapped, or skill formation takes too long.” Thus, the government programs are required for such people who never get any opportunity. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 39

In our schools, we teach our children all that is there to know about physics, maths and history and what-have you. But do we teach them about the bitter caste divide that plagues the country, about the spectre of famine that stalks large part of our land, about gender sensitivity, about the possibility of atheism as a choice, etc.? Equally important, do we teach them to ask question, or do we teach them only to passively receive our wisdom? From the cocooned world of school, suddenly, the adolescent finds himself/herself in the unfettered world of university. Here he/she is swept up in a turmoil of ideas and influences and ideologies. For someone who has been discouraged from asking questions and forming an opinion, this transition can be painful. **(2021)**

103. Which one of the following *best reflects the central idea* of the passage given above?

- (a) School curriculum is not compatible with the expectations of children and parents.
- (b) Emphasis on academic achievements does give time for development of personality and skills.
- (c) Preparing the children to be better citizens should be the responsibility of the education system.
- (d) To be a better citizen, the present world order demands societal and life-coping skills in addition to academic content.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Here, the passage nowhere talks about the expectations of the parents or children. The author in the passage emphasizes on the importance of asking questions, the absence of which can cause various turmoils in the transitional phases of the adolescent’s life. Thus, this statement doesn’t reflect the central idea of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the given passage, the author did not mention of time frame or similar thing. It goes beyond the scope of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** The author in the passage is showing concerns about how children will be made better citizens. But the author specifically did not mention whose responsibility it is. Therefore, it is partially correct. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** In the passage, the author clearly signifies that to be a better citizen, it is important to come out from the cocooned world of school learning as the present world demands societal and life-coping skills in addition to academic content. Thus, this statement explicitly mentions the central idea of the passage. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 40

Medieval merchants risked the hazards of the Silk Road to reach the markets of China; Portuguese caravels in the 15th century sailed beyond the bounds of the known world, searching less for knowledge than for gold and spices. Historically, the driver for opening frontiers has always been the search for resources. Science and curiosity are weaker drivers. The only way to open up space, whether the space of solar system or interstellar space is to create an economic engine and that engine is resource extraction. **(2021)**

104. Which one of the following statements **best sums up** the passage given above?
- (a) Wealth generation is the primary motive for any human endeavour.
 - (b) Space, whether space in solar system or interstellar space, will govern our future economy.
 - (c) Human beings are motivated to explore new frontiers principally by economic considerations.
 - (d) Wealth generation is based on the risk-taking behaviour of some men.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the given statement of passage, “historically, the driver for opening frontiers has always been the search for resources. Science and curiosity are weaker drivers.” Thus, it can be concluded that, though, wealth generation is a strong motive, but it is not the primary motive. At times, science and knowledge are also the primary motives. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, it is given that “the only way to open up space, whether the space of solar system or interstellar space is to create an economic engine and that engine is resource extraction.” It is only a suggestion by the author, and nothing substantial can be clearly concluded about space (solar system or interstellar space) governing economy. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “historically, the driver for opening frontiers has always been the search for resources.” Therefore, it can be clearly concluded that human beings are enthusiastic to explore frontiers driven by economic motives, as well as, for resources. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, “merchants risked the hazards of the Silk Road.” Risks involved in exploration as well as risks taken by merchants are highlighted. But it is not correct to conclude that wealth generation is based on risk taking behaviors of men. Wealth generation may, or may not, be based on risk taking capacity. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 41

“..... most people would agree that telling deliberate lies is wrong, except perhaps in certain special situations where more harm will be done by telling the truth. Even the most truthful people probably tell a good many more lies that might be regarded as semantic lies; their use of words contains some measure of falsehood, more or less deliberate.” **(2021)**

105. The idea which the first part of the passage mention is
- (a) agreement about telling lies.
 - (b) disagreement about telling lies.
 - (c) disagreement about telling the truth.
 - (d) disagreement about the harm in telling the truth.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Since the given passage is in continuation of the first part, we have to assume the theme of the passage. As the given part of the passage talks about the harm of telling the truth in every situation, we can safely assume that the first part of the passage could be about agreement to tell truth. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, author agrees about telling lies in some situations where telling truth causes more harm. It can be seen from the following lines “in certain special situations where more harm will be done by telling the truth.” **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As explained in option (a), passage can be about telling the truth. Passage is more about agreement in telling lies in only those situations where more harm is caused by telling the truth. But nothing can be safely assumed about ‘disagreement about telling the truth.’ **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, the harms of telling truth are focused, “perhaps in certain special situations where more harm will be done by telling the truth”, in the given part. Therefore, it can be safely assumed that the first part

could have been about 'disagreement about harm in telling the truth.' **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

106. Which one of the following habits is found more often in good people?

- (a) Mixing up the true and false
- (b) Intentional mixing up of truth with the false
- (c) Falsification of facts
- (d) Complete concealment of truth

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, author talks about people telling lies to curb the harm when they tell the truth. So, people mix truth with lies. However, it cannot be surely said in terms of the good people's habits. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, "even the most truthful people probably tell a good many more lies that might be regarded as semantic lies; their use of words contains some measure of falsehood, more or less deliberate." It can be concluded that good people deliberately mix false with truth. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, the author does not support falsification of facts, but occasional inclusion of lies in truth. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As given in the passage, the passage does not favor concealing the truth. The phrase 'measure of falsehood', in the last part of the passage, reflects that concealing truth only up to certain extent rather than complete concealment. As stated in the given lines, "even the most truthful people probably tell a good many more lies that might be regarded as semantic lies; their use of words contains some measure of falsehood, more or less deliberate." Thus, it clarifies that concealment of truth is not favored. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 42

In India, over the last decade or so, labour has been departing agriculture, but is only going to construction and unregistered manufacturing which are not markedly better jobs. Services, where labour tends to be most productive, are not generating the additional jobs the country needs. India will need 24 million or so jobs over the next decade. The new sector, e-commerce, can at best close only half the jobs gap. Only those sectors that drive domestic demand such as health and education can comfortably fill the other half. **(2020)**

107. Which one of the following is **best implied** in the passage?

- (a) Strong measures need to be taken to reduce the rural to urban migration of labour.
- (b) The working condition in construction and unregistered manufacturing needs to be improved.
- (c) Service sector has been reducing the problem of unemployment.
- (d) Increased social sector spending is imperative for large-scale job creation.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage emphasises the employment situation in India and the jobs created among different sectors, but it does not discuss rural to urban migration; rather, it broadly highlights the contemporary job deficit and offers suggestions for betterment. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As mentioned in the passage, "construction and unregistered manufacturing are not markedly better jobs." Indeed, the author is concerned about the working conditions. However, no suggestions for improvement of the working conditions in the construction and manufacturing sectors are given in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** It is clearly mentioned in the passage that "services are not generating the additional jobs that the country needs." Thus, it is evident that services cannot reduce the unemployment problems because sufficient additional jobs are not created in this sector. Thus, it is not the best implication of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As mentioned in the passage, "sectors such as health and education can comfortably fill the other half jobs gap." In the given statement, the importance of increased spending for social sectors (including health and education) is highlighted, which in turn can create ample necessary jobs. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 43

In India, the current focus on the right to privacy is based on some new realities of the digital age. A right is a substantive right only if it works in all situations, and for everyone. A right to free expression for an individual about her exploitation, for instance, is meaningless without actual availability of security that guarantees that private force cannot be used to thwart this right. The role of the State, therefore, is not just to abstain from preventing rightful free expression, but also to actively ensure that private parties are not able to block it. **(2020)**

108. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. State should have some institutions to ensure its appropriate role in a digital society.
2. State should ensure that private parties do not violate the citizens' right to privacy.
3. Digital economy is not compatible with the idea of not violating the citizens' privacy.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 only

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As mentioned in the passage, "the State should abstain from preventing rightful free expression and also to actively ensure that private parties are not able to block it." States' institutions can ensure the State's role in the fair implementation of right to free expression without any deterrence. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** It is clearly mentioned in the passage that "the State must actively ensure that private parties are not able to block the exercise of rights (i.e., right to free expression) by the citizens." Hence, it is the role of the State, and its institutions, to ensure the resolution for the obstacles during the exercise of the rights. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The right to privacy and right to free expression is emphasized in the passage and it is also discussed in the context of digital world. But the idea of 'digital economy and its compatibility with the citizen's privacy' is not discussed. Rather, the violation of the rights is the bigger concern in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 44

One of the biggest ironies around water is that it comes from rivers and other wetlands. Yet it is seen as divorced from them. While water is used as a resource, public policy does not always grasp that it is a part of the natural ecosystem. Efforts at engineering water systems are thus efforts at augmenting water supply rather than strengthening the capacities of ecological systems. (2020)

109. Which one of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Rivers and other wetlands should be protected under Ramsar Convention.
(b) Engineering water systems should be modernized and further augmented.

(c) Wetlands need to be reinforced as more than just open sources of water.

(d) Water supply should not be free of cost so as to prevent its misuse or overuse.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Though the segregation of water resources and the natural ecosystems is discussed in the passage, there is no direct or indirect discussion about the Ramsar Convention. Rather, the passage specifically emphasises the compatible public policy for water resources. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** This statement is contradicting the message conveyed by the passage. Though passage mentions about the efforts for engineering water systems, the passage is more concerned about the segregation of water, as a resource, from the natural ecosystems. So, augmentation of the engineering water systems would further alienate the water from natural ecosystems. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As mentioned in the passage, "one of the biggest ironies, around water is that it comes from rivers and other wetlands. Yet it is seen as divorced from them. While water is used as a resource, public policy does not always grasp that it is a part of the natural ecosystem." Rivers and wetlands are seen as sources of water but not as a part of natural ecosystems. In the given statement, it is suggested that wetlands should be considered as a part of natural ecosystems and not just open sources of water. So, a solution is given for the problem mentioned in the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** The given statement may seem correct, but the context of the passage revolves around segregation of water, as a resource, from natural ecosystems. Any deterring measures to curb misuse of water are not directly suggested (or favoured) in the passage. Instead, a broader concern regarding wetlands and natural ecosystems is emphasized. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 45

Asset allocation is the most important investment decision we will ever make, and sadly, most of us do not give that decision the importance it deserves. We are adamant about seeking predictability with our future. We tend to think of investing in risky assets as extremely volatile and value eroding. We also dislike fluctuating returns and the loss of control of investment. We think our money is best left idle, unproductive but safe. There is no asset that is risk-free. We could lose our jobs, our homes can lose value, our banks can go bankrupt,

our bonds can default, the government can collapse and companies we chose fondly may cease to exist. But we cannot live life assuming that all these extreme events are waiting to happen, and all at the same time. All these extreme forms of risks we know will not manifest at the same time. (2020)

110. Which one of the following statements **best implies** the suggestion given by the author of the passage?
- Distribute your wealth across different kinds of assets so that your risks would be minimized.
 - Risk-taking behaviour should be a necessary component of your personality if you want to generate wealth.
 - While making investments, find a trustworthy asset management organization which would manage your wealth for you.
 - You should know that investing your money is a risky business.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “asset allocation is the most important investment decision that one would ever make.” Asset allocation and investment in the diverse assets could minimise the risk because it is not possible that all the extreme forms of the risks we know will manifest at the same time. Hence, this is the best suggestion given by the author in the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As mentioned in the passage, “no asset is risk-free.” Hence, the passage positively supports the risk-taking behaviour. Also, the passage does not limit itself to risk-taking for wealth generation. Thus, this option is correct due to its own merits. But this is not the best suggestion given by the author. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Though importance of asset allocation is highlighted, the passage does not discuss anything about asset management organisation. This option is correct due to its own merits, but the broader context of the passage is about ‘risk taking and investment decisions.’ Thus, this is not the best suggestion given by the author. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As mentioned in the passage, “we tend to think of investing in risky assets as extremely volatile and value eroding. We also dislike fluctuating returns and the loss of control of investment. We think our money is best left idle, unproductive but safe.” So, this option is correct due to its own merits, but option (a) seems to be more appropriate answer because option (d) is only concerned about risks of investing the money. The context of the best suggestion, option (a), is more diverse and it is regarding the risk-taking behaviour and risk minimising. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Although most of the Genetically Modified (GM) crops cultivated now are genetically engineered for a single trait, in future, crops genetically engineered for more than one trait will be the norm. Thus, biotechnology’s role in agriculture and the regulation of the same cannot be understood solely in the context of the current generation of GM crops. Instead, there is a need to take a comprehensive look, taking into account various aspects, including socio-economic impacts, so that the potential of the technology can be harnessed while minimizing negative impacts. Given the importance of biotechnology in developing varieties that can help in climate change mitigation and adaptation, not using biotechnology as a part of the climate change action plan cannot be an option. Domestic regulation of biotechnology cannot be viewed in isolation of trade policy and obligations under various international treaties and conventions. (2020)

111. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- Biotechnology regulation is an evolving process.
- Participation of people is needed in policy decisions regarding biotechnology regulation.
- Biotechnology regulation should take into account socio-economic aspects in decision-making.
- Wider involvement of political executive in biotechnology regulation improves its effectiveness in dealing with the country’s trade policies and international obligations.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 1, 2 and 4 only | (b) 1 and 3 only |
| (c) 2, 3 and 4 only | (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 |

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As mentioned in the passage, “regulation cannot be understood solely in the context of the current generation of GM crops” and “although most of the Genetically Modified (GM) crops cultivated now is genetically engineered for a single trait, in future, crops genetically engineered for more than one trait will be the norm.” It is also mentioned that “domestic regulation of biotechnology cannot be viewed in isolation of trade policy.” It means regulatory laws and rules, including trade rules, should be framed to accommodate the still developing technology and the relevant international conventions. Thus, it can be assumed that the biotechnology regulation is still an evolving process. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage does not discuss anything about the participation of people in policy decisions regarding

biotechnology regulation. Also, people are not much aware about the complexities involved in the biotechnology regulation and expert knowledge is mandatory for the biotechnology related policy decisions. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 3:** With respect to regulation, the passage suggests that “instead, there is a need to take a comprehensive look, taking into account various aspects, including socio-economic impacts.” New technological developments can resolve the societal problems and fulfil the contemporary needs. Also, purchasing capacity, affordability and other economic aspects are significant for a middle-income country like India. Thus, the passage advocates that socio-economic aspects should be considered for regulation of technology. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** As mentioned in the passage, “domestic regulation of biotechnology cannot be viewed in isolation of trade policy and obligations.” But nothing is established in the passage, if the regulation will improve the effectiveness in dealing with country’s trade policies and obligations with wider involvement of the political executive. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

112. Which one of the following statements **best implies the crux** of the passage?

- Precautionary principle is not given importance in current debate on developing GM crops.
- Biotechnology is not currently used in climate change mitigation and adaptation mechanisms.
- Biotechnology’s role is not confined to the current priorities of developing GM crops.
- The negative impacts of biotechnology are not properly understood.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The precautionary principle enables the decision-makers to adopt precautionary measures when the scientific evidence about an economic or human health hazard is uncertain, and the stakes are high. The precautionary principle is given the due importance, and it can be understood from the passage. The passage highlights about ‘regulation,’ ‘socio-economic aspects,’ ‘minimizing negative impacts,’ ‘conventions’ etc. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As mentioned in the passage, “importance of biotechnology in developing varieties that can help in

climate change mitigation and adaptation.” The passage highlights the importance of biotechnology in climate change mitigation, as well as reminds us that not using biotechnology as a part of climate change action plan cannot be an option. So, it is necessary to acknowledge biotechnology as a part of climate change mitigation.

Hence, it is not correct.

- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “crops genetically engineered for more than one trait will be the norm (in future).” Also, the best crux of the passage is about the evolving nature of biotechnology, as well as the futuristic usefulness (in climate change mitigation and adaptation) of the biotechnology. It is not confined to the current priorities of developing GM crops only. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As mentioned in the passage, “technology can be harnessed while minimising negative impacts.” It can be concluded that, though, negative impacts of the technology are there, they can be minimised. And negative impacts can only be minimised, if the consequences are studied and understood in detail by the experts. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 47

Private investment in general is volatile. Foreign private investment is more volatile because the available investment avenues are significantly greater (i.e., the entire world). Therefore, the responsibility of providing employment cannot be left to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The current FDI inflows are volatile over time and across sectors and regions, which is a necessary consequence of their search for the highest returns. The adverse consequences are unstable employment and an accentuation of income and regional inequalities. A probable positive consequence of foreign investment is the inflow of new technology and its subsequent diffusion. However, the technology diffusion is not at all certain because the existing state of physical and human capital in India may prove inadequate for the diffusion. **(2020)**

113. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- Relying on foreign investment in the long run is not an economically sound policy.
- Policies must be undertaken to reduce volatility in foreign private investment.
- Policies must be undertaken to strengthen domestic private investment.
- Public investment should be given priority over private investment.
- Substantial public investment in education and health should be undertaken.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 1, 3 and 5
(c) 2, 4 and 5 (d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As mentioned in the passage, the foreign private investment is more volatile and providing employment should not depend on foreign investment (FDI). The volatility of FDI is high because investors keep on searching the investment avenues with comparatively higher returns. Thus, it is not rational to rely on FDI investments. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, anything about the policy to reduce volatility of the foreign investment is not discussed. Foreign investment is volatile because the investors have multiple investment avenues (or countries), and policies may not effectively to reduce the volatility of FDI. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The passage is mainly talking about the downsides of foreign private investment, but not about domestic private investment. But we can conclude that author is indirectly in favour of domestic investments for domestic employment generation because of the uncertainty of foreign investment. So, domestic private investment can be strengthened. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** The passage highlights 'private investment' from the beginning. But it is nowhere mentioned in the passage that public investment should be prioritised over private investment. The only concern is about the uncertainty of foreign private investment and resulting employment instability. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 5:** In the passage, it is mentioned that "physical and human capital in India is inadequate for diffusion." It can be concluded that robust investments in education and health sectors is mandatory for human capital creation because a healthy body leads to a healthy mind, and a healthy mind is more productive. **Hence, it is correct.**
Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

PASSAGE – 48

Many opportunities to harness the highly skewed, seasonal and spatial distribution of monsoon flows, which occur in a four-month period from June to September annually, have been lost. Since these few months account for most of the rainfall and consequent freshwater availability, the need for holding rainwater in reservoirs, for subsequently releasing it for use over the year, is a necessity nobody can afford to overlook. Climate change will continue to affect weather conditions and create water shortages and excesses. While millions suffer from

droughts and floods, waters in the country's many rivers flow unutilized, and are discharged into the sea every year. (2020)

114. With reference to the above passage, which of the following could be the **most rational and practical implications** for India?

1. Inter-linking of rivers should be undertaken.
2. A network of dams and canals should be built across the country for proper distribution of water.
3. Farmers should be provided easy loans for digging borewells.
4. Usage of water for agriculture should be regulated by law.
5. Distribution of river water among regions should be regulated by the Union Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2, 4 and 5
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 2, 3 and 5

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, "while millions suffer from droughts and floods, waters in the country's many rivers flow unutilized, and are discharged into the sea every year." The author talks about the urgency of the efficient use of rainwater and river water resources. Inter-linking of rivers would be a remarkable step in this endeavour. The skewed distribution of water can be tackled through this step. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Due to skewed spatial distribution of monsoon water flows, large quantity of this water remains unutilised and flows into the sea, and millions suffer from droughts and floods due to shortage of water. A network of dams and canals will ensure proper water distribution across the country. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** Digging borewells would have an adverse impact on the distribution of ground water leading to its exploitation, due to easy availability. Also, no reference has been made regarding farm-credits. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 4:** The passage does not make any reference to lack of regulations for usage of water in agriculture. Also, regulating the usage of water is a complex task because water demand for agriculture varies according to the crops as well as the region. Lastly, the issue of water shortage and improper utilisation of rain/river water is highlighted by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 5:** Since, the passage does not refer to 'inability of states or federal relations' as the reason for the skewed distribution of water. Also, it is not a regional issue but an issue of national importance. Thus, state and union

governments should work together to resolve the problems related to water crisis, droughts and floods. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 49

People will invest in education whenever they are granted the economic freedom to fully enjoy its benefits. Again, this is for the obvious reason that the return on education increases as the level of economic freedom rises. When people, thanks to lower tax rates, are allowed to retain most of the higher income that they gain from each incremental level of education, it makes eminent sense to invest in education. On the other hand, when the government decides to tax the higher income of educated individuals at even higher rates, it makes very little sense to invest in educating oneself further. The same incentives apply to parents who decide on whether to invest in their children's education. **(2020)**

115. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Lower tax rates in a country invariably translate into greater investments in higher education.
2. Investment in the education of children ensures their economic freedom.
3. Economic freedom has a positive impact on building up human capital.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage mentions that higher gains from higher levels of education makes sense to invest in education. But use of the word 'invariably' in this statement makes it incorrect because it is not mandatory that tax cuts will surely lead to higher investments in education. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, it is economic freedom, resulting from lower tax rates, which ensures investment in higher education, but this statement contradicts the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** Greater economic freedom ensures investment in education. Moreover, education is a key component for building human capital. Thus, economic freedom will surely impact human capital building very positively. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 50

Our urban bodies cannot possibly ensure sustainable delivery of water in our cities unless financing mechanisms are put in place. Water delivery requires heavy investment in collecting it from a natural source, treating it to make it potable, and laying a distribution network of pipes for delivery to the users. It also requires investments in sewerage infrastructure and sewage treatment plants so that the sewers can carry the wastewater to these plants to ensure that no untreated sewage is discharged back into natural water bodies. If our cities were rich enough to meet the entire cost, water could be delivered free. They are not. **(2020)**

116. What is the **most logical and crucial message** conveyed by the passage?

- (a) Urban local bodies must recover costs through user charges.
(b) Urban local bodies are not efficient enough to meet the water requirements of our cities.
(c) Water shortage in our cities is a perennial problem that cannot be solved.
(d) In view of the water crisis in our cities, there is an urgent need to limit the population of cities by adopting an upper limit of population size.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As clearly mentioned in the passage, "financing mechanisms have to be put in place to ensure sustainable delivery of water in cities." Also, urban bodies are deprived of the funds. So, by levying user charges, urban bodies can sustainably recover their operational costs and other costs as well. These user charges, in turn, can improve the financial conditions of the urban local bodies. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, cities, i.e., urban bodies are not able to meet the water requirements because they do not have enough funds to meet the entire cost/ investments and not because of their inefficiency. Thus, this is not the most crucial message conveyed by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage says that sustainable delivery of water is possible if proper financing mechanisms are in place. Hence, the problem of water shortage in our cities can be resolved. This statement is a bit extreme statement, and it is not optimistic about the contemporary problem. Thus, this is not the most crucial message conveyed by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage does not specifically mention overpopulation as a reason for water shortage. Also, even

if the population is high, water still has to be supplied for basic needs. Population control is a long-term process, but the water crisis needs an immediate solution. Both the problems cannot be compared because of the huge timeline differences. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

117. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Rich cities only can ensure sustainable delivery of water.
2. Sustainable delivery of water in cities means much more than supplying water to households.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, if the cities were rich, they can afford free supply of water. But cities are deprived of funds. Also, cities can ensure sustainable supply of water, even when they are not rich, by having financial mechanisms, such as user charges, to ensure timely funds. The absence of capital does not mean absence of sustainable delivery. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage clearly mentions that sustainable water delivery is not limited to collection, treatment, and distribution of water, but it also includes investments in sewerage infrastructure and sewage treatment plants. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 51

In India, agriculture still engages about half of its workforce, and about 85 per cent of its farms are small and marginal. Compared to China and Vietnam, which have experienced fast structural and rural transformation, India's story is of slow transformation. As a result, poverty reduction in India was at a much slower pace during 1988-2014, compared to China and Vietnam, India's poverty reduction was slow during 1988-2005, but during 2005-2012, It accelerated dramatically – almost three times faster than during the earlier period. What did India do during this period? Research reveals that the relative price scenario changed significantly (by more than 50%) in favour of agriculture in the wake of rising global prices. This boosted private investments in agriculture by more than 50%. As a result, agri-GDP growth touched 4.1% during 2007-2012 as against 2.4% during 2002-2007. The net surplus of agri-trade touched \$25 billion in 2013-2014; real farm wages rose by 7% per annum. All this led to unprecedented fall in poverty. **(2020)**

118. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Structural and rural transformation is impossible when farms are mainly small and marginal.
2. A good price incentive can trigger investments in agriculture.
3. India needs to build value chains for high-value agri-products like livestock and horticulture.
4. Higher global prices of agricultural commodities are essential for India's poverty reduction.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** In the passage, it is not clearly mentioned that small and marginal size farms are a hurdle in structural and rural transformation. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As mentioned in the passage, "research reveals that the relative price scenario changed significantly (by more than 50%) in favour of agriculture in the wake of rising global prices. This boosted private investments in agriculture by more than 50%." Thus, it can be clearly concluded that a good price incentive can trigger investments in agriculture. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The passage clearly mentions to boost private investment in agriculture, which may also include investment in building value chains for high value agri-products. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** Though rising agricultural global prices favoured poverty reduction in India, but there is no established correlation between persistent higher global prices of agriculture commodities and India's poverty reduction. Also, persistent higher prices may trigger inflation, which in turn can aggravate the problem of poverty. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

119. Which one of the following statements **best reflects the critical message** of the passage?

- (a) India should create large-scale off-farm rural employment to reduce poverty in the near future.
- (b) India should create a large number of farmer producer companies.
- (c) Private investment in agriculture should be given priority over public investment.
- (d) Inclusive agricultural growth is key to reduce poverty in the near future.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The relation between 'off-farm rural employment' and 'poverty reduction' is not clearly mentioned in the passage. Also, it may be correct due to its own merits, but it is not the most critical message conveyed by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage does not mention anything about creation of large number of farmer producer organisations (FPOs). FPOs may help farmers for their betterment, but it is not referred in the passage. Hence, it not the best critical message of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Though, the passage is referring to the private investment in agriculture, but nothing is mentioned about public investment. Also, it is not clearly mentioned if private investment has to be prioritised over public investment. Thus, it is not the critical message conveyed by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** It is clearly mentioned in the passage that the rate of poverty reduction was higher when the growth rate of agri-GDP was more. Since, half of the workforce is engaged in agriculture, inclusive agricultural growth can support poverty reduction and the rural transformation. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 52

Spanish ships in the late 16th century first brought the potato tuber from South America to Europe whereby in the early 19th century, it had become a reliable backup to cereal crops, particularly in the cold, rain-soaked soils of Ireland. The Irish were soon almost wholly dependent on the potato as their staple food. And they were planting primarily one prodigious variety, the 'Lumper' potato, whose genetic frailty would be cruelly exposed by the fungus 'Phytophthora infestans.' In 1845, spores of the deadly fungus began spreading across the country, destroying nearly all the Lumpers in its path. The resulting famine killed or displaced millions. (2020)

120. Which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message of the passage?
- (a) For introducing any foreign plant into a country, the soil and climate conditions of that country should be suitable.
 - (b) As a staple food of a country, tuber crops like potato cannot replace cereal crops.
 - (c) Some of the fungal infections of plants cannot be prevented or stopped from spreading across large areas.
 - (d) Relying on a homogeneous food source is not desirable.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The given option can be a geographical fact, but it is not the critical message conveyed by the passage. Also, the critical message is in the context of a diverse and more important issue of famine and food shortage due to monocropping. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage did not mention whether the tuber crops can replace the cereal crops or not. Also, Irish people were dependent on tuber crop as their 'staple food' and not the cereal crop. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage mentioned about the destruction made by the fungus. But anything about prevention of fungal infections is not mentioned. Also, this is not the most critical message of the passage because it is a narrow approach to consider only prevention of the fungal infections in plants. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The unambiguous message conveyed by the passage is that relying on a homogenous food source is undesirable because a plant disease affecting particular type of plants can cause large scale food crisis resulting into famine. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 53

India is at once among the fastest growing global economies and home to the largest number of malnourished children in the world. There are regions where malnutrition is not the exception but the norm. And across the country, malnutrition is the cause of death for roughly half the 1.3 million children who die before their fifth birthday each year. Even those children who survive suffer permanently from the damage that has already been done to their bodies and minds from not getting enough of the right foods and nutrients. Around 44 million children under 5 are stunted. That makes it harder for them to learn in school and subsequently earn a living as adults. Their lifetime earnings potential is almost a quarter less than that of their healthy peers. (2020)

121. With reference to the above passage, which of the following is/are the most rational and practical implication/implications?
1. India's Public Distribution System should be monitored by the Union Government.
 2. Girls should be encouraged to delay marriage and first pregnancy.
 3. Mothers should be encouraged to breastfeed their children immediately after birth.
 4. The supply of safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities to all should be ensured.
 5. Authorities should ensure the vaccination as prescribed.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(c) 1 only (d) 3 and 5 only

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage nowhere talks about the monitoring by the Union or State government. It also doesn't refer to any inefficiency of the State government. Hence, monitoring of PDS by union government will not be much beneficial for malnourished children. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Delayed marriage and first pregnancy is always better for the health of both, the mother and the child. Also, mature mothers can make informed decisions about their children nutrition. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** Mother's milk contains immunoglobulins, kind of proteins, that is critical for immunity of the baby. It also improves the chances of survival of the baby. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** Safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities is indispensable to check the spread of diseases and curb malnutrition in children. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 5:** Vaccination boosts the immunity of babies and prevents early death. Therefore, vaccination should be ensured by the authorities because of its valuable outcomes. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PAASAGE – 54

The pulse variety 'Puss Arhar 16' has the potential to be grown in the paddy-growing regions of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and eventually in all of India. Its yield (about 2000 kg/hectare) will be significantly greater than those of the existing varieties and because its size will be uniform, it will be amenable to mechanical harvesting, an attractive feature for farmers in northern India who currently use this technology for paddy. Most important, Arhar straw, unlike paddy straw, is green and can be ploughed back into the soil. In paddy straw, the problem is the high silica content, which does not allow for easy decomposition. In the case of Arhar, the farmer, even after combine harvesting, just needs to run a rotovator to cut the leftover straw into pieces, which can be ploughed back and will decompose very fast. All this is difficult with leftover paddy stalks that cannot be easily salvaged or ploughed back. Farmers, therefore, choose the easiest option of simply burning it.

(2020)

122. Which of the following are the most rational inferences that can be made from the passage?

1. Farmers' income will be higher with pulse cultivation than with paddy cultivation.
2. Pulse cultivation causes less pollution as compared to paddy cultivation.
3. Pulse straw can be used to improve soil quality.
4. In the context of northern Indian agriculture, paddy straw has no usefulness.
5. Mechanized agriculture is the main cause for stubble burning.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 2, 3 and 5 (b) 1, 4 and 5
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 and 4 only

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Though the advantages of pulses cultivation are mentioned in the passage, the author did not mention farmer's income in the passage. Also, no comparison between cultivation of arhar or paddy is made on the basis of remunerations. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Pulse straw is green and can be ploughed back into the soil. But, paddy straw, due to its high silica content, does not decompose easily. Thus, farmers are compelled to burn it, which causes more pollution. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** Arhar straw decomposes very fast when ploughed back into the soil. Also, the straw can improve the soil quality because of the faster decomposition. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** As per the passage, nothing is mentioned about the usefulness of paddy straw in the context of northern Indian agriculture. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 5:** The passage nowhere states that mechanised farming is the main cause for stubble burning. But high silica content in the paddy straw does not allow for easy decomposition. Also, this is not the most rational inference made by the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 55

In India, authorities always look to store the maximum amount of water in reservoirs during the monsoon season, which is then used for irrigation and generation of electricity during the summer months. It is an internationally accepted practice that the water level of a reservoir should be kept below a certain level before the onset of monsoon season. This is so that when monsoon rains come, there is space

to store the excess rainwater and also so that water can be released in a regulated manner. But the authorities store the maximum amount of water in reservoirs even before the close of the monsoon, only to ensure greater electricity generation and irrigation. (2020)

123. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. High risks involved in holding maximum water in reservoirs are due to our over-dependence on hydropower projects.
2. Storage capacity of dams should not be fully used before or during monsoon season.
3. Role of dams in flood control is underestimated in India.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, “authorities store the maximum amount of water in reservoirs even before the close of the monsoon, only to ensure greater electricity generation and irrigation.” In the passage, it is clearly pointed toward the risks of storing the maximum water even before the monsoon because water level of a reservoir should be kept below a certain level before the onset of the monsoon to accommodate the excess rainwater. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, “it is an internationally accepted practice that the water level of a reservoir should be kept below a certain level before the onset of monsoon season.” Hence, it justifies the given statement. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, “authorities store the maximum amount of water in reservoirs even before the close of the monsoon, only to ensure greater electricity generation and irrigation.” Electricity generation and irrigation are accentuated more by dam regulating authorities and lesser importance is given to flood control. Hence, it can be seen that role of dams in flood control is underestimated in India. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 56

Economic liberalization in India was shaped largely by the economic problems of the government than by the economic priorities of the people or by the long-term development objectives. Thus, there were limitations in conception and

design which have been subsequently validated by experience. Jobless growth, persistent poverty and rising inequality have mounted as problems since economic liberalization began. And all these years later, four quiet crises confront the economy; agriculture, infrastructure, industrialization and education as constraints on the country’s future prospects. These problems must be resolved if economic growth has to be sustained and transformed into meaningful development. (2020)

124. Which of the following is/are the **most rational and logical inference/inferences** that can be made from the passage?

1. It is essential to rethink and redefine the economic role of the State in the quest for development.
2. India has not made effective implementation of its policies in social sectors nor made sufficient investments in them.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, “economic liberalisation in India was shaped largely by the economic problems of the government than by the economic priorities of the people or by the long-term development objectives.” Hence, it is essential to rethink and redefine the economic role of the state in pursuit of development. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, “jobless growth, persistent poverty and rising inequality” have been worsened as problems since economic liberalisation began. These problems can be seen as the limitations of effective implementation of the economic policies. Also, if proper investments in policies and effective implementation would had taken place, these problems would have been resolved rather than aggravating. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

125. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. India’s economy needs to be greatly integrated with global economy so as to create large number of jobs and to sustain its growth momentum.
2. Economic liberalization would cause large economic growth which would reduce poverty and create sufficient employment in the long run.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, in India, 'jobless growth, poverty and inequality' are worsening with onset of liberalisation. Liberalisation was a subtle step towards integrating the Indian economy with the global economy, but the problems such as poverty and jobless growth, still persists. Thus, higher integration with the global economy does not ensure growth and job creation. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** Passage is highlighting the downsides of economic liberalisation because with onset of economic liberalisation, problems of jobless growth, persistent poverty and rising inequality are rather aggravating. So, the given statement contradicts the logical inference of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 57

Bank credit to the industrial sector has started shrinking. Its decline has been a serious concern as credit growth is essential to revive investment. The problem's origins lie in the incomplete reforms of the last 25 years. An institutional change that should have followed the 1991 reforms should have been setting up of a resolution corporation for banks. In a market economy with booms and busts, banks should be allowed to be set up and to fail. Today, we cannot shut down banks because there is no proper system to shut them down. Weak loss-making banks continue to need more capital. **(2020)**

- 126.** Which one of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?
- (a) Indian banking system is not able to help the country in its economic growth.
 - (b) Economic reforms that started in 1991 have not helped in improving the economy to expected levels.
 - (c) India lacks the institutional mechanism to deal with the failure of banks.
 - (d) Encouraging the foreign investments in our industrial sector is a good alternative to this sector's dependence on banks for credit.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, "bank credit to the industrial sector has started shrinking." It clearly states that till now bank credit was normal, but it started to shrink. Shrinking bank credit means that banks are providing, comparatively, lesser bank credit, but indeed banks are helping for industrial growth (which leads to economic growth). **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** It is clearly mentioned that 1991 reforms are incomplete, and reforms could have initiated some more changes including the institutional reforms. But it would be exceptional to conclude that 1991 reforms altogether lack the expectations. Hence, this is not the most logical inference of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The theme of the passage is "failing banks and reforms (institutional changes)." As per the passage, there is no proper system to deal with failed banks and to shut them down. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** Though the passage mentioned about 'shrinking bank credit' and lacking institutional reforms, anything about foreign investments for our industrial sector is not mentioned. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 58

India has tremendous potential for solar energy. We all realize that we have to stop burning, fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. But certain renewable resources are still going through their cost curves and learning curves to get the required amount of output. The Indian Government has strongly committed to its targets of reducing emissions by 33 per cent by 2030, and towards this it has initiated a strong push towards a gas-based economy and has also invested heavily in renewable energy. However, business houses are wary of investing too heavily in renewable energy at a time when the technology is not yet ready. **(2020)**

- 127.** Which one of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?
- (a) India's commitment to reduce emissions by 33% is unlikely to be achieved.
 - (b) India should import gas rather than invest in renewable resources.
 - (c) Getting renewable resources to market too soon may be costly.
 - (d) India should put in more efforts in the exploration of natural gas.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “the Indian Government has strongly committed to its targets of reducing emissions by 33 per cent by 2030, and towards this it has initiated a strong push towards a gas-based economy and has also invested heavily in renewable energy.” It contradicts the given statement. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, “India has tremendous potential for solar energy. We all realize that we have to stop burning fossil fuels to meet our energy needs.” Here, the use of renewable energy is reiterated and heavy investments for renewable energy infrastructure are under the pipeline. The push towards gas-based economy is given by the government. Also, developing and utilising the domestic renewable technology is a better available choice rather than imports. Thus, this is not the most rational inferences. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, “certain renewable resources are still going through their cost curves and learning curves to get the required amount of output” and “business houses are wary of investing too heavily in renewable energy at a time when the technology is not yet ready.” It can be clearly seen that if business houses do not invest in renewables, then, production will be a costly affair for small and micro industries. Also, due to higher cost involved and limitations of the renewable technology because it is still developing, it would be much more costly. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, India has tremendous potential for solar energy; also, the Government of India has initiated a strong push towards a gas-based economy. But it has also been mentioned that “we all realize that we have to stop burning fossil fuels to meet our energy needs.” The limitations of renewable technology and cost issues are emphasized. But prior use and exploration of the fossil fuel is not suggested. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

128. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Governments often provide inefficient and costly subsidies for technologies that may not be ready in the near future.
2. India’s commitment of reducing emissions by 33% by 2030 shall be on the basis of gas-based economy.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The government has invested heavily in renewable energy, but the technology is still not ready for the market use. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** It is clearly mentioned in the passage that the Indian government’s commitment to reduce emission by 33 percent by 2030, is on the basis of gas-based economy as well as the renewable sources of energy. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 59

Genome editing is different from genome modification. Genome editing typically involves finding the part of a plant genome that could be changed to render it less vulnerable to disease, or resistant to certain herbicides, or to increase yields. Researchers use ‘molecular scissors’ to dissect the genome and repair it, which is a process that occurs naturally when plants are under attack from diseases and can throw up new mutations that enable the plant to survive future attacks. This evolutionary process can effectively be speeded up now that it is possible to examine plant genomes in detail in laboratories, and create mechanisms through which the relevant genes can be altered very precisely. **(2020)**

129. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Genome editing does not require the transfer of genes from one plant to another.
2. Through genome editing, the chosen genes can be altered precisely in a manner akin to the natural process that helps plants to adapt to the environmental factors.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, “genome editing typically involves finding the part of a plant genome that could be changed to render it less vulnerable to disease, or resistant to certain herbicides, or to increase yields.” Also, researchers use ‘molecular scissors’ to dissect the genome and repair it. Hence, there is no transfer of genes from one plant to another, but genomes of same plant are repaired. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, it is clearly mentioned that “this evolutionary process can effectively be speeded up now that it is possible to examine plant genomes in

detail in laboratories and create mechanisms through which the relevant genes can be altered very precisely.” Also, it is mentioned that “researchers use ‘molecular scissors’ to dissect the genome and repair it, which is a process that occurs naturally when plants are under attack from diseases and can throw up new mutations that enable the plant to survive future attacks.” **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 60

Many people understand the connection between solid waste management and health in terms of the consequences of unattended heaps of dry garbage which become home for flies and other vermin. However, there is another aspect that is not well-understood, that is, what happens when unscientific solid waste management combines with poor drainage and dumping of untreated sewage into drains which are meant to carry storm water during rains. The result is choked drains which are full of stagnant water breeding mosquitoes, resulting in the spread of water-borne diseases. **(2020)**

- 130.** In the context of India, which one of the following statements **best reflects the critical message** of the passage?
- In India, the drainage networks are not separate for sewerage and storm water.
 - Urban local bodies do not have enough resources and legislative authority to deal with the problems of waste management.
 - Solid waste management should be integrated with the maintenance of drainage and sewerage networks.
 - Bad management of solid waste and sewerage systems by our municipalities is the reason for drinking water shortages in our cities.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Option (a):** As per the passage, “there is another aspect that is not well-understood, that is, what happens when unscientific solid waste management combines with poor drainage and dumping of untreated sewage into drains which are meant to carry storm water during rains.” It is clear from the given statement that there are separate drainage networks for sewage and storm water. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- Option (b):** The passage discusses the issues of waste management, untreated sewage and health concerns. But lack of resources and legislative authority of urban local bodies for waste management is not clearly mentioned in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- Option (c):** As per the passage, when unscientific solid waste management combines with poor drainage and dumping of untreated sewage in the storm water drains, choking of sewerage networks, which, in turn, will spread water-borne diseases, attracts flies and mosquitoes. Hence, waste management should be integrated with the maintenance of sewerage networks. **Hence, it is correct.**
- Option (d):** The passage did not mention anything about drinking water shortage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 61

In Part III of the Constitution, which assures people certain fundamental rights, Article 25 proclaims that “all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.” What people fail to notice is that this proclamation is prefixed with the words “subject to public order, morality, health and to the other provisions of this Part,” which set conditions precedent for the legal protection of religious practices of any community. The closing words of this prefatory rider in Article 25 virtually constitute a subordination clause placing other fundamental rights mentioned in Part III over and above the right to religious freedom. Among those other fundamental rights is the right to equality before law and equal protection of laws – assured at the outset and elaborated in later articles to mean, inter alia, that the State shall not deny equal protection of laws to any person or group of persons on the basis of religion alone. **(2020)**

- 131.** What is the **most logical inference** from the above passage?
- State shall not interfere with the religious affairs of the citizens.
 - Religious freedom under the Constitution is open to State intervention.
 - Religious freedom of the citizens is not covered under fundamental rights.
 - Religious practices of any community are immune to State laws.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Option (a):** As per the passage, our constitution, under Article 25, provides the fundamental right of religious freedom. It is subjected to public order, morality, health, and to the other provisions. This provision (under Article 25) gives authority to the state to interfere, if any problem regarding public order, morality or health arises due to religious freedom. Public order, morality or health issues

are prioritised over the religious freedom, and state must interfere to uphold the right of equality before the law and equal protection of laws. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (b):** As per the passage, our constitution, under Article 25, provides the fundamental right of religious freedom. It is subjected to public order, morality, health and to the other provisions. This provision (under Article 25) gives authority to the state to interfere, if any problem regarding public order, morality or health arises due to fundamental rights of religious freedom. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, religious freedom is part of fundamental rights under Article 25 of Part III. Article 25 proclaims that “all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion.” **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This provision (under Article 25) gives authority to the state to interfere, if any problem regarding public order, morality, or health arises due to fundamental rights of religious freedom. Thus, religious practices of any community are not immune to State laws. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 62

Political theorists no doubt have to take history of injustice, for example, untouchability, seriously. The concept of historical injustice takes note of a variety of historical wrongs that continue into the present in some form or the other and tend to resist repair. Two reasons might account for resistance to repair. One, not only are the roots of injustice buried deep in history, injustice itself constitutes economic structures of exploitation, ideologies of discrimination and modes of representation. Two, the category of historical injustice generally extends across a number of wrongs such as economic deprivation, social discrimination and lack of recognition. This category is complex, not only because of the overlap between a number of wrongs, but because one or the other wrong, generally discrimination, tends to acquire partial autonomy from others. This is borne out by the history of repair in India. **(2019)**

132. What is the **main idea** that we can infer from the passage?

- Untouchability in India has not been taken seriously by political theorists.
- Historical injustice is inevitable in any society and is always beyond repair.
- Social discrimination and deprivation have their roots in bad economies.
- It is difficult, if not impossible, to repair every manifestation of historical injustice.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, “political theorists no doubt have to take history of injustice, for example, untouchability, seriously”. From this statement, it can be said that political theorists need to give more attention to untouchability. Further, the passage refers to the presence of the historical wrongs in the contemporary times. Thus, political theorists have although taken it seriously, more attention is required in the contemporary times because of the resistance to repair. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, India has its own history of repair, which makes the use of “beyond repair” contradictory to the passage. Thus, it cannot be the ‘main idea’ which can be inferred from the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, the first reason given for the ‘resistance to repair’ injustice has the roots in bad economic structures. The second reason given for the ‘resistance to repair’ highlights category of injustice like economic deprivation, social discrimination and lack of recognition, which do not have roots in bad economies. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This is the main idea of the passage because it is an optimistic solution for the given problem of historical injustice. The author has emphasised that it may be difficult but not impossible to repair the historical injustice. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

133. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- Removal of economic discrimination leads to removal of social discrimination.
- Democratic polity is the best way to repair historical wrongs.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** According to the passage, economic discrimination and social discrimination have different genesis; for example, economic discrimination has its roots in bad economies, whereas social discrimination overlaps a number of wrongs and tends to acquire partial autonomy from other wrongs. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage refers to the issue of historical injustice, particularly untouchability and exploitation. But it does not suggest any governance or democracy as a way to repair the historical wrongs. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 63

Education plays a great transformatory role in life, particularly so in this rapidly changing and globalizing world. Universities are the custodians of the intellectual capital and promoters of culture and specialized knowledge. Culture is an activity of thought, and receptiveness to beauty and human feelings. A merely well informed man is only a bore on God's earth. What we should aim at is producing men who possess both culture and expert knowledge. Their expert knowledge will give them a firm ground to start from and their culture will lead them as deep as philosophy and as high as art. Together it will impart meaning to human existence. (2019)

134. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. A society without well educated people cannot be transformed into a modern society.
2. Without acquiring culture, a person's education is not complete.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, the aim should be to produce men who possess expert knowledge and culture. Together, they will impart meaning to human existence. But it is not clearly mentioned in the passage that highly educated people are mandatory for advancement in a modern society. Instead, the passage says that a merely well-informed man is only a bore on God's earth. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, education plays a crucial role in life, expert knowledge gives a firm ground to start from, and culture leads to something as deep as philosophy and as high as art. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 64

Soil, in which nearly all our food grows, is a living resource that takes years to form. Yet it can vanish in minutes. Each year 75 billion tonnes of fertile soil is lost to erosion. That is alarming – and not just for food producers. Soil can trap huge quantities of carbon dioxide in the form of organic carbon and prevent it from escaping into the atmosphere. (2019)

135. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Large scale soil erosion is a major reason for widespread food insecurity in the world.
2. Soil erosion is mainly anthropogenic.
3. Sustainable management of soils helps in combating climate change.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage discusses the role of soil in sequestering carbon dioxide and the issue of soil erosion. However, the passage nowhere assumes that large-scale soil erosion is a major reason for widespread food insecurity in the world. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage does not discuss factors responsible for soil erosion. In fact, the author talks about the alarming situation of soil erosion. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The author outlines the extent of soil erosion and assumes that managing soil sustainably may both increase food production and mitigate climate change. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 65

Inequality is visible, even statistically measurable in many instances, but the economic power that drives it is invisible and not measurable. Like the force of gravity, power is the organising principle of inequality, be it of income, or wealth, gender, race, religion and region. Its effects are seen in a pervasive manner in all spheres, but the ways in which economic power pulls and tilts visible economic variables remain invisibly obscure. (2019)

136. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Economic power is the only reason for the existence of inequality in a society.
2. Inequality of different kinds, income, wealth, etc., reinforces power.
3. Economic power can be analysed more through its effects than by direct empirical methods.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage discusses various types of inequalities, such as income, gender, race, and religion, and says that economic power drives inequality. However, it nowhere mentions that economic power is the only reason for the existence of inequality. Thus, the extreme word "only" negates this statement. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** This statement contradicts the passage that says power is the organising principle of inequality, not vice versa. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The author says that the economic power that drives inequality is invisible and not measurable. However, the effects of economic power can be seen in a pervasive manner in all spheres. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 66

Climate change may actually benefit some plants by lengthening growing seasons and increasing carbon dioxide. Yet other effects of a warmer world, such as more pests, droughts, and flooding, will be less benign. How will the world adapt? Researchers project that by 2050, suitable croplands for four commodities – maize, potatoes, rice and wheat – will shift, in some cases pushing farmers to plant new crops. Some farmlands may benefit from warming, but others won't. Climate alone does not dictate yields; political shifts, global demand, and agricultural practices will influence how farms fare in the future. (2019)

137. Which one of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?
- (a) Farmers who modernize their methods and diversify their fields will be in an advantageous position in future.
 - (b) Climate change will adversely affect the crop diversity.
 - (c) Shifting major crops to new croplands will lead to a great increase in the total area under cultivation and thus an increase in overall agricultural production.
 - (d) Climate change is the most important factor affecting the agricultural economy in the future.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, the effects of climate change can be disadvantageous for farmers and croplands. Croplands will shift due to the repercussions of climate change. However, it will be advantageous for those farmers who are going to diversify and modernise their fields and methods. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (b):** As per the passage, some farmlands and plants may benefit due to climate change, but some croplands may not. Also, croplands for certain commodities may shift. But the extreme word "adversely" negates this statement because some benefits have also been discussed. Hence, it is not correct. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** An increase in overall agricultural production is not certain because climate alone does not dictate yields; political shifts, global demand, and agriculture practises will influence how farms fare in the future. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, apart from the climate, the agricultural economy can also be affected by other factors such as political shifts, global demand, and agricultural practices. Furthermore, the given statement uses the extreme word "most," which negates it because the passage nowhere says that climate change is the most important factor affecting the agriculture economy in the future. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 67

A bat's wings may look like sheets of skin. But underneath, a bat has the same five fingers as an orangutan or a human, as well as a wrist connected to the same cluster of wrist bones connected to the same long bones of the arm. What can be more curious than that the hand of a man, formed for grasping, that of a mole for digging, the leg of the horse, the paddle of the porpoise, and the wing of the bat, should all be constructed on the same pattern? (2019)

138. Which one of the following is the **most logical, scientific and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?
- (a) Different species having similar structure of hands is an example of biodiversity.
 - (b) Limbs being used by different species for different kinds of work is an example of biodiversity.
 - (c) Man and the aforementioned animals having similar structure of limbs is an example of coincidence in evolution.
 - (d) Man and the aforementioned animals have a shared evolutionary history.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** Biodiversity means the varieties of life, including plants and animals, that can be found on the earth. A similar structure of hands among different species is not an example of biodiversity; rather, it is an indication of shared evolutionary history. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (b):** As mentioned above, "biodiversity" refers to the variety of life, including plants and animals, that can be found on the earth. The limbs being used by different species for different purposes are homologous structures. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This statement can be assumed to be correct, but the term "coincidence in evolution" makes it wrong. Because the passage nowhere says that "coincidence in evolution" is the reason for the similar limbs. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage says that man and other species, such as horses, bats, porpoises, orangutans, and moles, have the same five fingers and wrist bones connected to the same long bones of the arm. Thus, it can be logically inferred that diverse species have a shared evolutionary history. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 68

Around 56 million years ago, the Atlantic Ocean had not fully opened and animals, perhaps including our primate ancestors, could walk from Asia to North America through Europe and across Greenland. Earth was warmer than it is today, but as the Palaeocene epoch gave way to Eocene, it was about to get much warmer still – rapidly and radically. The cause was a massive geologically sudden release of carbon. During this period called Palaeocene – Eocene Thermal Maximum or PETM, the carbon injected into the atmosphere was roughly the amount that would be injected today if humans burned all the Earth's reserves of coal, oil and natural gas. The PETM lasted for about 1,50,000 years, until the excess carbon was reabsorbed. It brought on drought, floods, insect plagues and a few extinctions. Life on Earth survived – indeed, it prospered – but it was drastically different. **(2019)**

139. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Global warming has a bearing on the planet's biological evolution.
2. Separation of land masses causes the release of huge quantities of carbon into the atmosphere.
3. Increased warming of Earth's atmosphere can change the composition of its flora and fauna.
4. The present man-made global warming will finally lead to conditions similar to those which happened 56 million years ago.

Which of the assumptions given above are valid?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) 3 and 4 |
| (c) 1 and 3 | (d) 2 and 4 |

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage clearly mentions that during the Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum, excessive carbon was injected into the atmosphere. The excess carbon has its own consequences in the form of droughts, floods, and the extinction of species that had a bearing on the biological evolution of the planet. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The relationship between the separation of land masses and the release of carbon has not been discussed in the passage. However, the passage says that due to the release of huge quantities of carbon, the land masses were separated that were once walkable from Asia to North America and Greenland. Thus, the given assumption contradicts the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** According to the passage, massive amounts of carbon were released into the atmosphere during the PETM period, resulting in droughts, floods, insect plagues, and a few extinctions. Life survived on earth after these events, but it was drastically different as compared to before. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** As per the passage, the injected carbon today would be roughly the same amount as during the PETM period if humans burned all the reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas present on the earth. But our resources are still not fully utilised, and we have a lot more fossil resources left on earth. Thus, the final conditions of the present global warming cannot be compared because the amount of carbon injected in the atmosphere is less as compared to the carbon injected during PETM. **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 69

Low-end IoT (Internet of Things) devices are cheap commodity items: addressing security would add to the cost. This class of items is proliferating with new applications; many home appliances, thermostats, security and monitoring devices and personal convenience devices are part of the IoT. So are fitness trackers, certain medical implants and computer-like devices in automobiles. The IoT is expected to expand exponentially – but new security challenges are daunting. **(2019)**

140. Which one of the following statements is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Development of enabling technologies in India can be a big boost to its manufacturing sector.
- (b) India is not yet fully ready to adopt IoT in view of the imminent security challenges.
- (c) Life becomes more comfortable with the development of cheap low-end IoT devices.
- (d) As we go digital, we must recognise the huge threat to Internet security from some IoT devices.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, low-end IoT devices will proliferate because of the exponential expansion of IoT, but at the same time, the security challenges associated with such low-end IoT devices have to be taken into consideration. However, the passage does not say that enabling technologies will surely boost the manufacturing sector. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Though the passage refers to the security issues that are associated with the use of low-end IoT devices, it does not talk about India's readiness to adopt IoT. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** A link between the development of "cheap low-end" IoT devices and a comfortable life is not established in the passage; rather, security issues associated with the use of low-end IoT devices have been highlighted. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage refers to the new security challenges that may arise due to the proliferation of cheap and low-end IoT technologies. Thus, it is crucial to recognise threats to internet security from some IoT devices. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 70

With the digital phenomenon restructuring most social sectors, it is little surprise that global trade negotiations are now eyeing the digital area in an attempt to pre-emptively colonise it. Big Data is freely collected or mined from developing countries, and converted into digital intelligence in developed countries. This intelligence begins to control different sectors and extract monopoly rents. A large foreign company providing cab service, for instance, is not a network of cars and drivers; it is digital intelligence about commuting, public transport, roads, traffic, city events, personal behavioural characteristics of commuters and drivers and so on. **(2019)**

141. Which one of the following is the **most logical and rational corollary** to the above passage?

- (a) Globalization is not in the interests of India as it undermines its socio-economic structures.
- (a) India should be careful to protect its digital sovereignty in global trade talks.
- (c) India should charge monopoly rents from multinational companies in exchange for Big Data.
- (d) The loss of Big Data from India is proportional to the degree/value of its foreign trade.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage highlights the issue of the collection and conversion of big data into digital intelligence and says that the interests of various countries (both developing and developed) in this regard may differ. However, it does not say that globalisation is not in the interests of India. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, global trade negotiations are observing the digital space in an effort to colonise it. Developed countries are eyeing developing countries for the purpose of data mining. India, being a developing country, must be cautious to safeguard its digital sovereignty when dealing with the international trade negotiations. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, multinational companies (of developed countries) mine the big data and convert it into digital intelligence to control different sectors and extract monopoly rents from those sectors, especially from developing countries. Thus, the given statement is contradictory to the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** In the passage, no link has been established between the loss of big data and the value or degree of foreign trade. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

142. Which of the following is most definitively implied by the above passage?

- (a) Big Data is the key resource in the digital space.
- (b) Big economies create Big Data.
- (c) Access to Big Data is the prerogative of developed countries.
- (d) Access to and possession of Big Data is a characteristic of developed countries.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** With the digital phenomenon restructuring most social sectors, big data became a key resource, as it can be converted into digital intelligence and used to control different sectors. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** It is nowhere mentioned in the passage that big economies create big data. On the contrary, it states that the big data is freely collected and mined from developing countries. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, it is clearly mentioned that developed countries mine and convert big data from developing countries. Hence, massive data is generated in developing countries also. With sufficient resources and basic infrastructure, it can be mined (and accessed) by developing countries also. Thus, access to big data is not a prerogative of only developed countries. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (d):** As explained above in option (c), the developed countries mine and convert big data from developing countries. Hence, massive data is generated in developing countries also. With sufficient resources and basic infrastructure, it can be mined (and accessed) by developing countries and possessed by these countries. Thus, access to and possession of Big Data is not a characteristic of developed countries. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 71

The rural poor across the world, including India, have contributed little to human-induced climate change, yet they are on the frontline in coping with its effects. Farmers can no longer rely on historical averages for rainfall and temperature, and the more frequent and extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, can spell disaster. And there are new threats, such as sea level rise and the impact of melting glaciers on water supply. How significant are small farms? As many as two billion people worldwide depend on them for their food and livelihood. Small-holder farmers in India produce 41 percent of the country's food grains, and other food items that contribute to local and national food security. **(2019)**

- 143.** What is the **most logical and rational corollary** to the above passage?
- (a) Supporting small farmers is an important part of any agenda regarding environmentally sustainable development.
 - (b) Poor countries have little role to play in the mitigation of global warming.
 - (c) Due to a large number of farmer households, India will not have food security problem in the foreseeable future.
 - (d) Only small-holder farmers in India can ensure food security.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, due to climate change, there is a rise in extreme events such as droughts and floods. Small and marginal farmers have contributed little to the human induced climate change. But they will suffer the most from an unpredictable climate and frequent extreme weather events. Approximately, 2 billion people across the world depend on small farms for food and livelihood. So, it is imperative to support small farmers for environmentally sustainable development. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage does not mention anything about the role of poor countries in mitigation of global warming. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** The passage does not establish the fact that India will not have food security because of the large number of farmer households. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** In the passage, no supporting evidence is provided for the given statement that only small-holder farmers can ensure food security in India. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

144. The above passage implies that

1. There is a potential problem of food insecurity in India.
2. India will have to strengthen its disaster management capabilities.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, small-holder farmers produce 41 percent of food grains in India. So, the contribution of small farmers to food security is immense. Also, small farmers (and rural poor) are on the frontline in coping with the effects of climate change like droughts and floods and other threats. Thus, it can be assumed that there is a potential problem of food insecurity in India. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, farmers can no longer rely on the historical averages for rainfall and temperature, and the higher frequency of extreme events will be disastrous. Also, rural poor and small-holder farmers are on the frontline in coping with effects of climate change. Thus, India will surely have to strengthen its disaster management capabilities for food security and mitigation. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 72

A changing climate, and the eventual efforts of governments (however reluctant) to deal with it, could have a big impact on investors' returns. Companies that produce or use large amounts of fossil fuels will face higher taxes and regulatory burdens. Some energy producers may find it impossible to exploit their known reserves, and be left with "stranded assets" – deposits of oil and coal that have to be left in the ground. Other industries could be affected by the economic damage caused by more extreme weather – storms, floods, heat waves and droughts. **(2019)**

145. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Governments and companies need to be adequately prepared to face the climate change.
2. Extreme weather events will reduce the economic growth of governments and companies in future.
3. Ignoring climate change is a huge risk for investors.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The governments' efforts to deal with climate change and the impact of efforts on the investors' returns, have been emphasised in the passage. The author has further highlighted that in order to face the unfavourable consequences of the climate change in future, both governments and companies need to be adequately prepared. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, the author is concerned about the financial losses caused by extreme weather events and their effects on energy companies' returns on investment. The passage makes no reference about the reduction in economic growth because of the extreme weather events. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, the changing climate and the eventual efforts of governments to deal with it, will have a notable impact on investors' return. Thus, ignoring climate change, and its consequences, would be risky for investors, and their returns. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 73

Access to schooling for those coming of school age is close to universal, but access to quality exhibits a sharp gradient with socio-economic status. Quotas for the weaker sections in private schools is a provision introduced by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The quotas have imposed a debate on issues of social integration and equity in education that private actors had escaped by and large. The idea of egalitarian education system with equality of opportunity as its primary goal appears to be outside the space that private school principals inhabit. Therefore, the imposition of the quotas has led to resistance, sometimes justified. (2019)

146. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Making equality of opportunity a reality is the fundamental goal of the Indian education system.

2. The present Indian school system is unable to provide egalitarian education.
3. Abolition of private schools and establishment of more government schools is the only way to ensure egalitarian education.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, private schools remain outside the purview of the fundamental goal of the Indian educational system i.e., making equality of opportunity a reality. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, the efforts for creation of an egalitarian educational system, such as quotas for weaker sections in private schools, has led to resistance. Also, they escape the social integration as well as provisions of quota. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, there is no mention of abolishing private schools and establishment of more government schools. Rather, the author of the passage emphasises the egalitarian educational system to address the issues of social integration and equity in education. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 74

A majority of the TB infected in India are poor and lack sufficient nutrition, suitable housing and have little understanding of prevention, TB then devastates families, makes the poor poorer, particularly affects women and children, and leads to ostracisation and loss of employment. The truth is that even if TB does not kill them, hunger and poverty will. Another truth is that deep-seated stigma, lack of counselling, expensive treatment and lack of adequate support from providers and family, coupled with torturous side-effects demotivate patients to continue treatment – with disastrous health consequences. (2019)

147. Which one of the following is the **most logical, rational and crucial message** conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) TB is not a curable disease in Indian circumstances.
- (b) Curing TB requires more than diagnosis and medical treatment.
- (c) Government's surveillance mechanism is deficient; and poor people have no access to treatment.
- (d) India will be free from diseases like TB only when its poverty alleviation programmes are effectively and successfully implemented.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** It is not established in the passage that TB is an incurable illness. The passage emphasises the relevant issues which makes TB patients more vulnerable to the disease. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, treatment of TB is more than just diagnosis and medical treatment. Thus, issues such as the lack of sufficient nutrition, financial situation of the patient, deep-seated stigma, a lack of counselling, and the side effects of the treatment, has to be resolved to ensure the fruitful results of the treatment. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** The given passage emphasises the possible prevention and relevant issues of TB disease. The passage makes no reference about deficient surveillance mechanism. Also, treatment is expensive. Nothing is discussed regarding poor peoples' accessibility for the treatment. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, issues relevant to nutrition, expensive treatment, ostracization, loss of employment and stigma are discussed. But anything about effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes is not discussed by the author. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 75

What stands in the way of the widespread and careful adoption of 'Genetic Modification (GM)' technology is an 'Intellectual Property Rights' regime that seeks to create private monopolies for such technologies. If GM technology is largely corporate driven, it seeks to maximize profits and that too in the short run. That is why corporations make major investments for herbicide-tolerant and pest-resistant crops. Such properties have only a short window, as soon enough, pests and weeds will evolve to overcome such resistance. This suits the corporations. The National Farmers Commission pointed out that priority must be given in genetic modification to the incorporation of genes that can help impart resistance to drought, salinity and other stresses. **(2019)**

148. Which one of the following is the **most logical, rational and crucial message** conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) Public research institutions should take the lead in GM technology and prioritise the technology agenda.
- (b) Developing countries should raise this issue in WTO and ensure the abolition of Intellectual Property Rights.
- (c) Private corporations should not be allowed to do agribusiness in India, particularly the seed business.
- (d) Present Indian circumstances do not favour the cultivation of genetically modified crops.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author of the passage highlights the misuse of the 'Intellectual Property Rights' regime. As per the passage, Genetic Modification (GM) technology is corporate-driven and seeks to maximise profits in the short run by making herbicide tolerant and pest-resistant crops, and lesser priority is given to genetic modification that can help to impart resistance to drought, salinity, etc. Thus, public research institutions, which are less profit-oriented and more socially aligned, should lead and prioritise the GM technology agenda. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** WTO, a global trade negotiation forum, is the right place to discuss the issues related to IPR. But the author of the passage does not mention anything about the abolition of the IPR regime. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** As per the passage, it is emphasised that private corporations should align for the social cause also, rather than profit making only. But it is not suggested in the passage to ban private corporations from doing agribusiness in India. Also, every organisation has its role in research of novel technologies. So, it will be an extreme step to outrightly ban the private organisations. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** This claim is not established in the passage and due to the extreme weather events, drought resistant and salinity resistant GM variety is need of the hour. Also, National Farmers Commission favoured drought and salinity resistant GM crops. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

149. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The issue of effects of natural calamities on agriculture is not given due consideration by GM technology companies.
2. In the long run, GM technology will not be able to solve agricultural problems arising due to global warming.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, Genetic Modification (GM) technology is corporate-driven and seeks to maximise profits in the short run by making herbicide tolerant and pest-resistant crops, and lesser priority is given to genetic modification that can help to impart resistance to drought,

salinity, etc. As per the National Farmers Commission, priority must be given to genetic modification that can help the crops to develop stress resistance. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 2:** The given statement is contradictory to the passage, as the focus of the passage is to develop GM technology that will help agriculture adapt to climate change and the consequent extreme weather events such as droughts and other stresses. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 76

Most invasive species are neither terribly successful nor very harmful. Britain's invasive plants are not widespread, not spreading especially quickly, and often less of a nuisance than vigorous natives such as bracken. The arrival of new species almost always increases biological diversity in a region; in many cases, a flood of newcomers drives no native species to extinction. One reason is that invaders tend to colonise disturbed habitats like polluted lakes and post-industrial wasteland, where little else lives. They are nature's opportunists. **(2019)**

150. Which one of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?
- (a) Invasive species should be used to rehabilitate desert areas and wastelands of a country.
 - (b) Laws against the introduction of foreign plants are unnecessary.
 - (c) Sometimes, the campaigns against foreign plants are pointless.
 - (d) Foreign plants should be used to increase the biodiversity of a country.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage highlights invasive species and the way they colonise the disturbed ecosystems, such as polluted lakes and polluted wastelands. They are referred as nature's opportunists. Though invasive species colonise wasteland and polluted lakes but using invasive species to 'restore' the desert and wasteland areas is not advocated. Thus, the given statement is not the most logical and rational inference. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** It is mentioned in the passage that invasive species are neither terribly successful nor very harmful. Some positive things about invasive species are mentioned, such as increased biological diversity and colonising

disturbed areas. Also, the passage does not talk specifically about the law related to the introduction of foreign plants. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** The passage highlights that invasive species are generally viewed as nuisance, but it is not always true. As per the passage, most invasive species are neither terribly successful nor very harmful. Invasive species may actually have some positive outcomes like increasing biological diversity and colonising disturbed areas, such as polluted lakes and post-industrial wastelands. Therefore, sometimes campaigns against invasive species are pointless. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, the arrival of new species increases the regional biological diversity. Also, it is mentioned that most species are neither terribly successful nor very harmful. But it is not directly recommended in the passage to use foreign plants (invasive species) to increase the biodiversity of a country. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 77

Diarrhoeal deaths among Indian children are mostly due to food and water contamination. Use of contaminated groundwater and unsafe chemicals in agriculture, poor hygiene in storage and handling of food items to food cooked and distributed in unhygienic surroundings; there are myriad factors that need regulation and monitoring. People need to have awareness of adulteration and ways of complaining to the relevant authorities. Surveillance of food-borne diseases involves a number of government agencies and entails a good training of inspection staff. Considering the proportion of the urban population that depends on street food for its daily meals, investing in training and education of street vendors is of great significance. **(2019)**

151. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Food safety is a complex issue that calls for a multipronged solution.
2. Great investments need to be made in developing the manpower for surveillance and training.
3. India needs to make sufficient legislation for governing food processing industry.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, use of contaminated groundwater and unsafe chemicals in agriculture, poor hygiene in storage and handling of food items to food storage, awareness about adulteration etc., are myriad factors which proves that food safety is a complex issue requiring a multipronged approach. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, it is mentioned that surveillance of food borne diseases necessitates good training of inspection staff. For this purpose, great investment for training of inspection staff has to be made. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, author highlights food contamination, food borne diseases, food safety etc., and the relevant consequences. But nothing is discussed about insufficiency of legislations governing food processing industry. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 78

The interests of working and poor people have historically been neglected in the planning of our cities. Our cities are increasingly intolerant, unsafe and unlivable places for large numbers of citizens and yet we continue to plan via the old ways – the static Development Plan – that draws exclusively from technical expertise, distanced from people's live experiences and needs, and actively excluding large number of people, places, activities and practices that are an integral part of the city. (2019)

152. The passage seems to argue

- (a) against the monopoly of builders and the interests of elite groups.
- (b) against the need for global and smart cities.
- (c) in favour of planning cities mainly for working class and poor people.
- (d) in favour of participation of peoples' groups in city planning.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, it is discussed that how planning via old ways, i.e., static development plans, are drawn exclusively from technical expertise while the interests, needs and experiences of the citizens have been neglected. But the passage makes no specific mention of the monopoly of builders and interests of elite groups. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, it is discussed that planning via old ways are based on technical expertise rather than

the interests, needs and experiences of the citizens. Also, passage highlights importance of planning, which is a key feature of smart cities. And the passage nowhere mentions anything against the global and smart cities. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** The author has highlighted the integral city planning which takes into account all of the people, places, activities and practices that make up a city. The given statement is limited to working class and poor people only, but the context of the passage is much more diverse than just poor people. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The context of the passage is related to the inclusive approach towards city planning. The author has highlighted that the inclusive planning takes into account all of the people, places, activities and practices that make up a city. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 79

A vast majority of Indians are poor, with barely 10 percent employed in the organised sector. We are being convinced that vigorous economic growth is generating substantial employment. But this is not so. When our economy was growing at 3 percent per year, employment in the organised sector was growing at 2 percent per year. As the economy began to grow at 7-8 percent per year, the rate of growth of employment in the organised sector actually declined to 1 percent per year. (2019)

153. The above passage seems to imply that

1. most of modern economic growth is based on technological progress.
2. much of modern Indian economy does not nurture sufficient symbiotic relationship with labour-intensive, natural resource-based livelihoods.
3. service sector in India is not very labour-intensive.
4. literate rural population is not willing to enter organised sector.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Most of the economic growth is based on the technological progress because with growth of economy at a rate of 7-8%, the rate of growth of employment actually declined. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** This is because only 10% are employed in the organised sector, and labour-intensive, natural

resource-based livelihoods largely fall under the unorganised sector. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 3:** Here, a more significant assumption is that service sector is not labour-intensive, because of being the organised sector. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** The literate rural population is not willing to enter the organised sector, which cannot be implied through the passage, and it also connotes a largely negative meaning. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 80

India has banking correspondents, who help bring people in the hinterland into the banking fold. For them to succeed, banks cannot crimp on costs. They also cannot afford to ignore investing in financial education and literacy. Banking correspondents are way too small to be viewed as a systemic risk. Yet India's banking regulator has restricted them to serving only one bank, perhaps to prevent arbitrage. Efforts at banking outreach may succeed only if there are better incentives at work for such last-mile workers and also those providers who ensure not just basic bank accounts but also products such as accident and life insurance and micro pension schemes. (2019)

154. Which one of the following is the **most logical, rational and crucial inference** that can be derived from the above passage?
- (a) Efforts to bring people in India's hinterland into the banking system are not successful.
 - (b) For meaningful financial inclusion, India's banking system needs more number of banking correspondents and other such last-mile workers.
 - (c) Meaningful financial inclusion in India requires that banking correspondents have diverse skills.
 - (d) Better banking outreach would be impossible unless each banking correspondent is allowed to serve a number of banks.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, banking correspondents play a crucial role in the hinterland. The people living in these hinterlands are brought into the banking systems with the help of the banking correspondents. But nothing in the paragraph is given to deduce if their efforts were successful, or unsuccessful, to bring people into the banking system. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** Though, it has not been mentioned anywhere in the passage that a greater number of banking correspondents, and other last-mile workers, will result

into a more meaningful financial inclusion. However, the greater outreach is possible if better incentives are provided to the last mile workers and banking correspondents. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** As per the passage, the greater outreach can be possible if better incentives are provided to the last-mile workers and banking correspondents, and their products are diversified. Thus, diversified skills of banking correspondents (including the financial literacy and diverse products) will result into meaningful financial inclusions. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, India's banking regulator allows banking correspondents to serve only one bank, so as to prevent arbitrage. Also, better banking outreach is possible with better incentives to last-mile and diversified products. Thus, the given statement contradicts the context of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 81

India's economic footprint, given its population, still remains small compared to the US, the European Union or China. It has much to learn from other economies, yet must implement solutions that fit its unique circumstances. India especially needs an effective long-term regulatory system based on collaboration rather than the current top-down approach. Regulations seek desirable outcomes yet are repeatedly used as political tools to push one agenda or another. Often, regulations fail to consider impacts on jobs and economic growth – or less restrictive alternatives. Regulations may be used to protect local markets at the expense of more widely shared prosperity in the future. Additionally, regulations inevitably result in numerous unintended consequences. In today's hyper competitive global economy, regulations need to be viewed as "weapons" that seek cost-justified social and environmental benefits while improving the economic well-being of most citizens. (2019)

155. Which one of the following is the **most logical, rational and crucial inference** that can be derived from the above passage?
- (a) A better regulatory system will help India achieve the size of economy appropriate to its population.
 - (b) In a competitive global economy, India must use regulations strategically.
 - (c) Regulations in India do not favour its integration with today's hyper competitive global economy.
 - (d) Job creation and economic growth should be dominant considerations in developing India's regulatory system.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, regulations can effectively seek social and environmental benefits while enhancing the well-being of citizens. Although India can benefit from stronger regulations, but other facets of regulations have also been discussed. Regulations have been used as political tools to push agendas and to protect local markets. Regulations fail to consider impacts on jobs and economic growth. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, the regulatory system may help, but there are many unintended consequences of the regulatory system. Also, the contemporary, hyper-competitive global economy must perceive regulations as "weapons" seeking cost-justified social and environmental benefits while improving the economic well-being of most citizens. Thus, it can be logically concluded that regulations must be used carefully and strategically. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** Though, unintended consequences are inevitable, but it is not clearly mentioned in the passage that Indian regulations are against global integration. Also, it is mentioned in the passage that India should take lessons from developed nations and implement the solutions which fits best to its unique circumstances. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** As per the passage, regulations often fail to consider impacts on jobs and economic growth. In addition, regulations are used as a political tool, and other unintended consequences are also inevitable. However, the passage did not emphasise to consider job creation and economic growth as a dominant consideration in developing India's regulatory system. Rather a collaboration-based approach is highlighted. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

156. On the basis of the above passage the following assumptions have been made:

In today's global economy,

1. regulations are not effectively used to protect local markets.
2. social and environmental concerns are generally ignored by the governments across the world while implementing the regulations.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, regulations may be used to protect local markets, but it is not clearly mentioned that regulations have not been effectively used to protect local markets. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 2:** The passage highlights the strategic usage of the regulations for intended benefits. But the passage does not clearly mention that the governments intentionally ignore social and environmental concern for implementation of regulations. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 82

In a study, scientists compared the microbiomes of poorly nourished and well nourished infants and young children. Gut microbes were isolated from faecal samples of malnourished and healthy children. The microbiome was "immature" and less diverse in malnourished children compared to the better developed "mature" microbiome found in healthy children of the same age. According to some studies, the chemical composition of mother's milk has shown the presence of a modified sugar (sialylated oligosaccharides). This is not utilized by the baby for its own nutrition. However, the bacteria constituting the infant's microbiome thrive on this sugar which serves as their food. Malnourished mothers have low levels of this sugar in their milk. Consequently, the microbiomes of their infants fail to mature. That in turn, leads to malnourished babies. **(2019)**

157. Which one of the following is the **most logical, rational and crucial inference** that can be derived from the above passage?

- (a) If malnourished condition in children is caused by gut bacteria, it cannot be treated.
(b) The guts of malnourished babies should be inoculated with mature microbiomes.
(c) Babies of malnourished mothers should be fed with dairy milk fortified with sialylated oligosaccharides instead of mother's milk.
(d) Research on benign effects of gut bacteria on nutrition has policy implications.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, the problem of malnutrition is highlighted, and the reason of the malnutrition is explained by comparing the faecal samples of malnourished children and nourished children. According to studies, infant's microbiome was immature in malnourished children. The reason behind this immature microbiome was malnourishment of mothers. Also, it is not clearly mentioned in the passage that malnourishment caused by gut bacteria cannot be treated. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, the reason behind the malnourishment of babies is the low levels of modified sugar (sialylated oligosaccharides) in malnourished

mother's milk and the bacteria constituting the infant's microbes thrives on this sugar. But any suggestion is not given regarding the inoculation of mature microbiomes into the guts of malnourished children. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (c):** Though the passage has explained that one of the reason behind the malnourishment is the low presence of modified sugar. The suggestion to feed malnourished infants with dairy milk fortified with sialylated oligosaccharides, instead of mother milk, appears to be logically correct, but it is not the crucial inference of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The research on the function of gut bacteria in the fight against malnutrition undoubtedly has policy implications because it will assist in formulating and coordinating the policy to curb infant's malnutrition.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

158. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Processed probiotic foods are a solution to treat the children suffering from malnutrition due to immature gut bacteria composition.
2. The babies of malnourished mothers generally tend to be malnourished.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage highlights the issues and causes of infant's malnutrition, but nothing is clearly mentioned about using manufactured probiotic foods to treat malnutrition due to immature gut bacteria. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** It is clearly mentioned in the passage that, "malnourished women have a low level of modified sugar in their milk". Thus, infants of malnourished mothers are also malnourished due to low levels of modified sugar in mother's milk, thus affecting the survival of infant's gut microbes in turn affecting the infant's nourishment. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 83

Temperatures have risen nearly five times as rapidly on the Western Antarctic Peninsula than the global average over the past five decades. Researchers have now found that melting glaciers are causing a loss of species diversity among benthos in the coastal waters off the Antarctic Peninsula, impacting

an entire seafloor ecosystem. They believe increased levels of suspended sediment in water to be the cause of the dwindling biodiversity in the coastal region. **(2019)**

159. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Regions of glaciers warm faster than other regions due to global warming.
2. Global warming can lead to seafloor sedimentation in some areas.
3. Melting glaciers can reduce marine biodiversity in some areas.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, over the past five decades, temperatures on the Western Antarctic Peninsula have risen by about five times as rapidly as the global average. The given statement generalises that all glacier regions warm faster than others. However, global warming in other glacier locations has not been specifically mentioned in the passage; only the Western Antarctic Peninsula has been highlighted. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, loss of species due to melting of glaciers is happening, and biodiversity in the coastal waters of the Antarctic Peninsula is dwindling due to global warming. A specific reason for this dwindling is increased levels of "suspended sedimentation." Therefore, we can conclude that suspended sedimentation, along with seafloor (bottom) sedimentation, may be caused by global warming in some areas. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, loss of species due to melting of glaciers is happening and biodiversity in the coastal waters of Antarctic peninsula is dwindling. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 84

A research team examined a long-term owl roost. Owls prey on small mammals and the excreted remains of those meals that accumulated over the time, provide us an insight into the composition and structure of small mammals over the past millennia. The research suggested that when the Earth went through a period of rapid warming about 13,000 years ago, the small mammal community was stable and resilient. But, from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, human-made changes to the environment had caused an enormous drop in biomass and energy flow. This dramatic decline in

energy flow means modern ecosystems are not adapting as easily as they did in the past. (2019)

160. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Global warming is a frequently occurring natural phenomenon.
2. The impending global warming will not adversely affect small mammals.
3. Humans are responsible for the loss of the Earth's natural resilience.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Global warming is not a common occurrence because the Earth experienced rapid warming approximately 13000 years ago. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The given statement is contradictory to the passage because, as per the passage, from the last quarter of 19th century, there is decline in biomass and energy flow, which means modern ecosystems are not adapting as easily as they did in the past. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, human-made changes to the environment had caused an enormous drop in biomass and energy flow. Due to this decline in energy flow, modern ecosystems are not adapting as easily as they did in the past. Thus, Earth is losing its natural resilience and humans are responsible for it. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 85

Food varieties extinction is happening all over the world – and it is happening fast. For example, of the 7,000 apple varieties that were grown during the nineteenth century, fewer than a hundred remain. In the Philippines, thousands of varieties of rice once thrived; now only up to a hundred are grown there. In China, 90 percent of the wheat varieties cultivated just a century ago have disappeared. Farmers in the past painstakingly bred and developed crops well suited to the peculiarities of their local climate and environment. In the recent past, our heavy dependence on a few high yielding varieties and technology-driven production and distribution of food is causing the dwindling of diversity in food crops. If some mutating crop disease or future climate change decimates

the few crop plants we have come to depend on to feed our growing population, we might desperately need some of those varieties we have let go extinct. (2019)

161. On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Humans have been the main reason for the large scale extinction of plant species.
2. Consumption of food mainly from locally cultivated crops ensures crop diversity.
3. The present style of production and distribution of food will finally lead to the problem of food scarcity in the near future.
4. Our food security may depend on our ability to preserve the locally cultivated varieties of crops.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, the global extinction of food crops is happening fast and is happening globally. Although it has been discussed that technology-driven food production and dependence on high-yielding varieties of food are causing a decline in the variety of food crops, the passage nowhere holds humans solely responsible for the widespread extinction of plant species. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, in past, farmers bred and developed crops well suited to the peculiarities of their local climate. Recently, heavy dependence on a few high-yielding varieties and technology-driven production is causing the dwindling of diversity in food crops. Locally cultivated crops suited to particular climate can ensure crop diversity. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As per the passage, food crop varieties are changing, some are cultivated persistently, and some are undergoing extinction. However, current production or distribution may cause food scarcity problem in near future. Thus, the statement is incorrect because the food scarcity is conditional and cannot be assured because of the production styles and methods. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 4:** As per the passage, if some mutating crop disease or future climate change decimates the few crop plants, on which we depend on to feed our growing population. We must save those varieties of food crops, which are getting extinct. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 86

Global population was around 1.6 billion in 1990 – today it is around 7.2 billion and growing. Recent estimates on population growth predict a global population of 9.6 billion in 2050 and 10.9 billion in 2100. Unlike Europe and North America, where only three to four per cent of population is engaged in agriculture, around 47 per cent of India's population is dependent upon agriculture. Even if India continues to do well in the service sector and the manufacturing sector picks up, it is expected that around 2030 when India overtakes China as the world's most populous country, nearly 42 per cent of India's population will still be predominantly dependent on agriculture. (2018)

162. Which of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Prosperity of agriculture sector is of critical importance to India.
- (b) Indian economy greatly depends on its agriculture.
- (c) India should take strict measures to control its rapid population growth.
- (d) India's farming communities should switch over to other occupations to improve their economic conditions.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** According to the passage, "around 47% of India's population depends on agriculture. Even if India continues to do well in the service sector and manufacturing sector, then also nearly 42% of the population will still be predominantly dependent on agriculture." Therefore, logically and rationally, it can be inferred from the above passage that the prosperity of the agriculture sector becomes critically important for the betterment of such a large population. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author of the passage nowhere mentions the dependency of the Indian economy on any sector, be it agriculture, manufacturing, or service. The author only states that around 47 percent of India's population is engaged in agriculture, this signifies the dependency of population on agriculture and not of the economy. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** This option is about policy choice, which is not indicated anywhere in the passage. Further, the author nowhere hints that population growth is a problem and that India should control it by ensuring strict measures. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** It is nowhere stated in the passage, either directly or indirectly, that India's farming communities

should switch to other occupations to improve their economic conditions. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 87

Many pathogens that cause foodborne illnesses are unknown. Food contamination can occur at any stage from farm to plate. Since most cases of food poisoning go unreported, the true extent of global foodborne illnesses is unknown. Improvements in international monitoring have led to greater public awareness, yet the rapid globalization of food production increases consumers' vulnerability by making food harder to regulate and trace. "we have the world on our plates", says an official of WHO. (2018)

163. Which of the following is the **most logical corollary** to the above passage?

- (a) With more options for food come more risks.
- (b) Food processing is the source of all foodborne illnesses.
- (c) We should depend on locally produced food only.
- (d) Globalization of food production should be curtailed.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** As per the passage, "improvements in international monitoring have led to greater public awareness, yet the rapid globalization of food production increases consumers' vulnerability by making food harder to regulate and trace." Thus, from the preceding statement it can be seen that "with more options for food come more risks" is the most logical corollary that can follow. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage does not blame food processing for all food borne illness, rather it says food contamination can occur at any stage from farm to plate. The passage further discusses about globalisation of food production, which means that the passage has already moved into other idea. Therefore, this cannot be the most logical corollary. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** It is clear from the initial few sentences of the passage that contamination can occur at any stage from farm to plate. This does not mean that depending on the locally produced food will save us from contamination. Therefore, this cannot be the most logical corollary. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Though the passage blames the rapid globalization of food production for increasing consumers' vulnerability, it does not imply that globalization should be curtailed. Therefore, this cannot be the most logical corollary. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 88

I am a scientist, privileged to be somebody who tries to understand nature using the tools of science. But it is also clear that there are some really important questions that science cannot really answer, such as: Why is there something instead of nothing? Why are we here? In those domains, I have found that faith provides a better path to answers. I find it oddly anachronistic that in today's culture there seems to be a widespread presumption that scientific and spiritual views are incompatible. (2018)

164. Which of the following is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) It is the faith and not science that can finally solve all the problems of mankind.
- (b) Science and faith can be mutually complementary if their proper domains are understood.
- (c) There are some very fundamental questions which cannot be answered by either science or faith.
- (d) In today's culture, scientific views are given more importance than spiritual views.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author nowhere says that faith can solve all the problems of mankind. The passage mentions that there are some domains that science cannot answer, and for those, faith provides a better answer. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** As per the passage, the author disagrees with the widespread presumption that scientific and spiritual views are incompatible. This implies that this statement is the most logical and rational inference. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author nowhere says that some fundamental questions cannot be solved by both science and faith. The passage tells us that science and faith can answer the fundamental question. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Passage nowhere says that scientific views are given more importance than spiritual views. It only says that in today's culture, there seems to be a widespread presumption that scientific and spiritual views are incompatible rather than complementing. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 89

Though I have discarded much of past tradition and custom, and am anxious that India should rid herself of all shackles that bind and contain her and divide her people, and suppress vast numbers of them, and prevent the free development of the body and the spirit; though I seek all this, yet I do not wish to

cut myself off from that past completely. I am proud of that great inheritance that has been and is, ours and I am conscious that I too, like all of us, am a link in that unbroken chain which goes back to the dawn of history in the immemorial past of India. (2018)

165. The author wants India to rid herself of certain past bonds because

- (a) he is not able to see the relevance of the past
- (b) there is not much to be proud of
- (c) he is not interested in the history of India
- (d) they obstruct her physical and spiritual growth

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author himself says, "though I seek all this, yet I do not wish to cut myself off from that past completely. I am proud of that great inheritance that has been and is ours". It shows that the author approves of the relevance of the past. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author clearly states that he is proud of the great inheritance, and he do not wish to cut off from that past. Therefore, concluding that there is not much to be proud of is incorrect. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** From the passage we can observe that the author shows interest, appreciation, and pride in India's past. Therefore, we cannot state that the author is not interested in the history of India. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The author believes certain past bonds obstruct physical and spiritual growth, which can be seen in the statement, "India should rid herself of all shackles that bind and contain her and divide her people, and suppress vast numbers of them, and prevent the free development of the body and the spirit." Therefore, this statement closely explains why the author wants India to rid herself of certain past bonds. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 90

It is no longer, enough for us to talk about providing for universal access to education. Making available schooling facilities is an essential prerequisite, but is insufficient to ensure that all children attend school and participate in the learning process. The school may be there, but children may not attend or they may drop out after a few months. Through school and social mapping, we must address the entire gamut of social, economic, cultural and indeed linguistic and pedagogic issues, factors that prevent children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups, as also girls, from regularly attending and complementing elementary education. The focus must

be on the poorest and most vulnerable since these groups are the most disempowered and at the greatest risk of violation or denial of their right to education.

The right to education goes beyond free and compulsory education to include quality education for all. Quality is an integral part of the right to education. If the education process lacks quality, children are being denied their right. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act lays down that the curriculum should provide for learning through activities, exploration and discovery. This places an obligation on us to change our perception of children as passive receivers of knowledge, and to move beyond the convention of using textbooks as the basis of examinations. The teaching-learning process must become stress-free; and a massive programme for curricular reform should be initiated to provide for a child-friendly learning system, that is more relevant and empowering. Teacher accountability systems and processes must ensure that children are learning, and that their right to learn in a child-friendly environment is not violated. Testing and redesigned to ensure that these do not force children to struggle between school and tuition centres, and bypass childhood. (2018)

166. According to the passage, which of the following is/are of paramount importance under the Right to Education?

1. Sending of children to school by all parents
2. Provision of adequate physical infrastructure in schools
3. Curricular reforms for developing child-friendly learning system

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 1 and 2 only |
| (c) 3 only | (d) None of the above |

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage talks about the quality of education rather than merely universal access. It overall emphasises that a massive programme for curricular reform should be initiated to provide for a child-friendly learning system that is more relevant and empowering. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The thrust of the passage is about fundamental changes that go beyond mere infrastructure and attendance to provide quality education for all. Therefore, as per the passage, providing adequate physical infrastructure is not paramount under the Right to Education. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The passage focuses on changing the quality of the education that disadvantaged groups receive. It

focuses on intangible changes like curricular reforms, for developing a child-friendly learning system. The passage laid a strong emphasis on a massive program for curricular reform to provide a child-friendly learning system that is more relevant and empowering. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

167. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The Right to Education guarantees teachers' accountability for the learning process of children.
2. The Right to Education guarantees 100% enrolment of children in the schools.
3. The Right to Education intends to take full advantage of demographic dividend.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The statement, "teacher accountability systems and processes must ensure that children are learning", shows an existing teacher accountability system under the Right to Education. The author emphasizes ensuring teacher accountability. So, this statement is a valid assumption. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The author has emphasized the essentiality of universal access to education, but has not stated that right to education guarantees 100% enrolment of children in the school. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The overall emphasis of the passage is on the quality education. Moreover, nowhere it is hinted that right to education intends to take full advantage of the demographic dividend. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

168. According to the passage, which one of the following is critical in bringing quality in education?

- (a) Ensuring regular attendance of children as well as teachers in school
- (b) Giving pecuniary benefits to teachers to motivate them
- (c) Understanding the socio-cultural background of children
- (d) Inculcating learning through activities and discovery

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** According to the passage, just enforcing teacher and student attendance would not suffice to ensure quality

education. Additionally, it also calls for curricular reforms and learning through activity, exploration, and discovery.

Hence, it is not correct.

- **Option (b):** The author discusses about the criticality of teachers' accountability, but nowhere discusses that giving pecuniary benefits can motivate teachers. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author has underlined the necessity of understanding the sociocultural background of children in providing quality education for all in the following statement "through school and social mapping, we must address the entire gamut of social, economic, cultural and indeed linguistic and pedagogic issues." Despite that it is less critical than inculcating learning through activities and discovery. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** Inculcating learning through activities and discoveries falls under the passage's primary objective to enhance the learning process, makes it less dependent on stressful books and examinations, and ensure quality education. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

169. What is the *essential message* in this passage?

- The Right to Education now is a Fundamental Right.
- The Right to Education enables the children of poor and weaker sections of the society to attend schools.
- The Right to Free and Compulsory Education should include quality education for all.
- The Government as well as parents should ensure that all children attend schools.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author nowhere mentions either directly or indirectly that right to education is a fundamental right. Therefore, it cannot be the essential message of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage claims that everyone has the right to free and compulsory education. Although the statement is true as per the passage, but is not an essential message that the author wants to convey. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Throughout the passage, the author's consistent focus has been on providing quality education for all. Thus, "quality education for all" is an essential message which author wants to convey. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (d):** Attending school is the only single aspect of the passage to provide quality education for all. In fact, the passage states that the right to education goes beyond free and compulsory education and includes quality education for all. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

'Desertification' is a term used to explain a process of decline in the biological productivity of an ecosystem, leading to total loss of productivity. While this phenomenon is often linked to the arid, semi-arid and sub-humid ecosystems, even in the humid tropics, the impact could be most dramatic. Impoverishment of human-impacted terrestrial ecosystems may exhibit itself in a variety of ways: accelerated erosion as in the mountain regions of the country, salinization of land as in the semi-arid and arid 'green revolution' areas of the country, e.g., Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, and site quality decline – a common phenomenon due to general decline in tree cover and monotonous monoculture of rice/wheat across the Indian plains. A major consequence of deforestation is that it relates to adverse alterations in the hydrology and related soil and nutrient losses. The consequences of deforestation invariably arise out of site degradation through erosive losses. Tropical Asia, Africa and South America have the highest levels of erosion. The already high rates for the tropics are increasing at an alarming rate (e.g., through the major river systems – Ganga and Brahmaputra, in the Indian context), due to deforestation and ill-suited land management practices subsequent to forest clearing. In the mountain context, the declining moisture retention of the mountain soils, drying up of the underground springs and smaller rivers in the Himalayan region could be attributed to drastic changes in the forest cover. An indirect consequence is drastic alteration in the upland-lowland interaction, mediated through water. The current concern the tea planter of Assam has is about the damage to tea plantations due to frequent inundation along the flood-plains of Brahmaputra, and the damage to tea plantation and the consequent loss in tea productivity is due to rising level of the river bottom because of siltation and the changing course of the river system. The ultimate consequences of site desertification are soil degradation, alteration in available water and its quality, and the consequent decline in food, fodder and fuel-wood yields essential for the economic well-being of rural communities. **(2018)**

170. According to the passage, which of the following are the consequences of decline in forest cover?

- Loss of topsoil
- Loss of smaller rivers
- Adverse effect on agricultural production
- Declining of groundwater

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As per the passage, the major consequence of deforestation is that it causes adverse alterations in the hydrology, and related soil and nutrient losses. Therefore, loss of topsoil is one of the consequences of decline in forest cover, i.e., deforestation. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** According to the passage, in the context of mountain, the declining moisture retention of the mountain soils and drying up of the underground springs and smaller rivers in the Himalayan region could be attributed to drastic changes in the forest cover. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The passage discusses about the drying up of underground springs and rivers, which causes damage to tea plantations, and has also highlighted poor agricultural production. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 4:** As per the passage, deforestation has adverse effects on hydrology, which includes decline in groundwater levels. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore option (d) is the correct answer.**

171. Which of the following is/are the **correct inference/inferences** that can be made from the passage?

1. Deforestation can cause changes in the course of rivers.
2. Salinization of land takes place due to human activities only.
3. Intense monoculture practice in plains is a major reason for desertification in Tropical Asia, Africa and South America.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above is a correct inference

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** According to the passage, “a major consequence of deforestation is that it relates to adverse alterations in the hydrology and related soil and nutrient losses.” Thus, deforestation can cause changes in the course of rivers due to soil loss and erosion. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage notes that the impoverishment of human-impacted terrestrial ecosystems may exhibit the salinization of land. However, it does not assert that human activity is the only reason for soil salinization to occur. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Statement 3:** The author refers to the intense monoculture practices in respect of the Indian plains and not with respect to Tropical Asia, Africa and South America. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

172. With reference to 'desertification', as described in the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Desertification is a phenomenon in tropical areas only.
2. Deforestation invariably leads to floods and desertification.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The author mentions that “desertification is often linked to the arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid ecosystems; even in the humid tropics, the impact could be most dramatic.” Therefore, desertification being a phenomenon only in tropical areas is not a valid assumption. **Hence it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The author has enumerated multiple consequences of deforestation, like loss of topsoil, decline in nutritional quality, decline in groundwater, floods, agriculture problems, etc. Therefore, floods and desertification being the only consequences, is not a valid assumption. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 92

A diversity of natural assets will be needed to cope with climate change and ensure productive agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. For example, crop varieties are needed that perform well under drought, heat, and enhanced CO₂. But the private-sector and farmer-led process of choosing crops favours homogeneity adapted to past or current conditions, not varieties capable of producing consistently high yields in warmer, wetter, or drier conditions. Accelerated breeding programmes are needed to conserve a wider pool of genetic resources of existing crops, breeds, and their wild relatives. Relatively intact ecosystems, such as forested catchments, mangroves, wetlands, can buffer the impacts of climate change. Under a changing climate, these ecosystems are themselves at risk, and management approaches will need to be more proactive and adaptive. Connections between natural areas, such as migration corridors, may be needed to facilitate species movements to keep up with the change in climate. (2018)

173. With reference to the above passage, which of the following would assist us in coping with the climate change?

1. Conservation of natural water sources
2. Conservation of wider gene pool
3. Existing crop management practices
4. Migration corridors

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The author in the passage talks about conservation of natural water sources such as forested catchments, mangroves, wetlands to cope with climate change. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage clearly mentions that “accelerated breeding programmes are needed to conserve a wider pool of genetic resources of existing crops, breeds, and their wild relatives.” Thus, the preceding statement is used in the context of coping with the impact of climate change. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The passage hints that existing crop management practices are not climate friendly. Thus, they cannot assist us in coping with the climate change. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 4:** The passage mentions that migration corridors may be needed to facilitate species movements to keep up with the change in climate. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

174. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Diversification of livelihoods acts as a coping strategy for climate change.
2. Adoption of monocropping practice leads to the extinction of plant varieties and their wild relatives.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The author in the passage is advocating the diversification in order to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. The author discussed about diversity of natural assets to ensure productivity in forestry, fisheries

and agriculture, which implies the diversification of livelihoods. Thus, it is a valid assumption. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Statement 2:** As per the passage, “private sector and farmer-led process of choosing crops favors homogeneity” justifies this statement. Furthermore, author is advocating the conservation of wider gene pool of crops. Thus, it is a valid assumption. **Hence, it is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 93

Today, the top environmental challenge is a combination of people and their aspirations. If the aspirations are more like the frugal ones we had after the Second World War, a lot more is possible than if we view the planet as a giant shopping mall. We need to get beyond the fascination with glitter and understand that the planet works as a biological system. **(2018)**

175. Which of the following is the **most crucial and logical inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) The Earth can meet only the basic needs of humans for food, clothing and shelter.
- (b) The only way to meet environmental challenge is to limit human population.
- (c) Reducing our consumerism is very much in our own interest.
- (d) Knowledge of biological systems can only help us save this planet.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** This option is not consistent with the assertion, “If the aspirations are more like the frugal ones we had after the Second World War, a lot more is possible than if we view the planet as a giant shopping mall.” Thus, the author doesn’t raise such a narrow claim. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** There is no reference to limiting human population with respect to environmental challenge. The author nowhere advocates that to meet the environmental challenge the only way is limiting the human population. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The phrases “fascination with glitter” and “shopping mall” clearly indicate that the passage attempts to persuade us to reduce our consumerism. Our greatest environmental challenge is a combination of people and their aspirations influenced by consumerism. Thus, it is the most crucial and logical inference. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (d):** Although the author suggests that people's consumerism will be reduced if they understand that the planet works as a biological system. This cannot, however, be the most significant and logical deduction from the passage because it is simply one facet. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 94

Some people believe that leadership is a quality which you have at birth or not at all. This theory is false, for the art of leadership can be acquired and can indeed be taught. This discovery is made in time of war and the results achieved can surprise even the instructors. Faced with the alternatives of going left or right, every soldier soon grasps that a prompt decision either way is better than an endless discussion. A firm choice of direction has an even chance of being right while to do nothing will be almost certainly wrong. **(2018)**

176. The author of the passage holds the view that:

- leadership can be taught through war experience only
- leadership can be acquired as well as taught
- the results of training show that more people acquire leadership than are expected
- despite rigorous instruction, very few leaders are produced

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** It has been given in the passage that "art of leadership can be acquired and can indeed be taught." The discussion about war is only used as an example and it cannot be implied that leadership can be taught only by experience of war. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author believes that "art of leadership can be acquired and can indeed be taught." This is the basic argument put forth by the author and is also the essence of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author does not claim that more people acquire leadership after training than expected. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The author mentions that the art of leadership can be acquired and can indeed be taught. This discovery is made during the time of war. But nowhere states that despite rigorous instructions, very few leaders are produced. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 95

All actions to address climate change ultimately involve costs. Funding is vital in order for countries like India to design

and implement adaptation and mitigation plans and projects. The problem is more severe for developing countries like India, which would be one of the hardest hit by climate change, given its need to finance development. Most countries do indeed treat climate change as real threat and are striving to address it in a more comprehensive and integrated manner with the limited resources at their disposal. **(2018)**

177. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- Climate change is not a challenge for developed countries.
- Climate change is a complex policy issue and also a development issue for many countries.
- Ways and means of finance must be found to enable developing countries to enhance their adaptive capacity.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage nowhere claims that climate change is not a challenge for the developed countries. In fact, it mentions that problem is more severe for the developing countries which means that all countries are affected by climate change and developing countries are more severely affected. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The passage states that apart from funding for adaptation and mitigation plans and projects, the developing countries face the challenge of utilising the limited resources for their overall development. This implies that climate change is a complex policy issue and a development issue for many countries. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** As stated in the passage, "funding is required, particularly for countries like India, in order to adapt and find a possible solution to increase their adaptive capacity." **Hence, it is correct. Therefore option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 96

Cooking with biomass and coal in India is now recognized to cause major health problems, with women and children in poor populations facing the greatest risk. There are more than 10 lakh premature deaths each year from household air pollution due to polluting cooking fuels with another 1.5 lakh due to their contribution to general outdoor air pollution in the country. Although the fraction of the Indian population using clean cooking fuels, such as LPG, natural gas and electricity, is slowly rising, the number using polluting solid fuels as their primary cooking fuel has remained static for nearly 30 years at about 70 crore. **(2018)**

178. Which of the following is the **most crucial and logical inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Rural people are giving up the use of polluting solid fuels due to their increasing awareness of health hazards.
- (b) Subsidizing the use of clean cooking fuels will solve the problem of India's indoor air pollution.
- (c) India should increase its import of natural gas and produce more electricity.
- (d) Access to cooking gas can reduce premature deaths in poor households.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The statement, "the number using polluting solid fuels as their primary cooking fuel has remained static for nearly 30 years at about 70 crores", goes against this stance. Also, it is nowhere mentioned that rural people are giving up the use of polluting solid fuels due to increased awareness of health hazards. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage does not suggest any policy decision or subsidising the clean cooking fuel to solve the problem of India's air pollution. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage mentions that a fraction of the Indian population uses clean cooking fuels, however, it does not advocate increasing the import of natural gas and producing more electricity. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The author expresses concern regarding health problems and premature deaths due to cooking with biomass and coal in India and emphasizes the use of clean cooking fuels. Thus, this is the most logical inference made from the passage. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 97

Scientific knowledge has its dangers, but so has every great thing. Over and beyond the dangers with which it threatens the present, it opens up as nothing else can, the vision of a possible happy world; a world without poverty, without war, with little illness. Science, whatever unpleasant consequences it may have by the way, is in its very nature a liberator. (2018)

179. Which one of the following is the **most important implication** of the passage?

- (a) A happy world is a dream of science.
- (b) Science only can build a happy world, but it is also the only major threat.
- (c) A happy world is not possible without science.
- (d) A happy world is not at all possible with or without science.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author states that, "over and beyond the dangers that science poses to the present, it opens up, as nothing else can, the vision of a possible happy world; a world free of poverty, war, and illness." This statement justifies this option, so it is the most important implication of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage claims that science has its dangers, but so has every great thing, i.e., science is not the only one which poses a major threat. The passage also states that science opens up as nothing else can, the vision of a possible happy world. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author is very hopeful that science despite its unpleasant consequences, is in its very nature a liberator and has the vision of a possible happy world. Therefore, happy world not being possible without science is contradictory to the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage doesn't make such claim that a happy world is not at all possible with or without science. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 98

The Arctic's vast reserves of fossil fuel, fish and minerals are now accessible for a longer period in a year. But unlike Antarctica, which is protected from exploitation by the Antarctic Treaty framed during the Cold War and is not subject to territorial claims by any country, there is no legal regime protecting the Arctic from industrialization, especially at a time when the world craves for more and more resources. The distinct possibility of ice-free summer has prompted countries with Arctic coastline to scramble for great chunks of the melting ocean. (2018)

180. Which one of the following is the **most important implication** of the passage?

- (a) India can have territorial claims in the Arctic territory and free access to its resources.
- (b) Melting of summer ice in the Arctic leads to changes in the geopolitics.
- (c) The Arctic region will solve the world's future problem of resource crunch.
- (d) The Arctic region has more resources than Antarctica.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author is worried about the rat race among countries with the Arctic coastline to have territorial claims in the Arctic territory and free access to its resources. Also, the author does not hint at India's territorial claim in Arctic territory. **Hence, it is not correct.**

- **Option (b):** The statement, “the distinct possibility of ice-free summer has prompted countries with Arctic coastline to scramble for great chunks of the melting ocean”, justifies that melting of summer ice in the Arctic leads to changes in geopolitics. Thus, this is the most important implication of the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author in the passage warns against exploiting the arctic region’s resources. Thus, implying that Arctic region will solve world’s problem of resource crunch is incorrect. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage does not make any comparison between the resources of Arctic and Antarctica. Thus, it is an unjustified implication. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 99

Being a member of the WTO, India is bound by the agreements that have been signed and ratified by its members, including itself. According to Article 6 of the Agriculture Agreement, providing minimum support prices for agricultural products is considered distorting and is subject to limits. The subsidy arising from ‘minimal supports’ cannot exceed 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production for developing countries. PDS in India entails minimum support prices and public stockholding of food grains. It is possible that, in some years, the subsidy to producers will exceed 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production. **(2018)**

- 181.** What is the **crucial message** conveyed by the above passage?
- (a) India should revise its PDS.
 - (b) India should not be a member of WTO.
 - (c) For India, food security collides with trade.
 - (d) India provides food security to its poor.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author in the passage does not advocate for PDS reforms in India. This statement is a policy recommendation which is not mentioned in the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage states that being a member of WTO, India is bound by the agreements it has signed and ratified. However, it does not make any recommendation that India should not be a member of WTO. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage mainly discusses the issue that India faces as a WTO member. The author in the passage highlighted the collision between ensuring food security in India and abiding by the agreements India has signed with WTO. This is arguably the most crucial message that the author has conveyed through the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**

- **Option (d):** It is given in the passage that PDS in India entails minimum support prices and public stockholding of food grains. Although true, but this is a general statement and not the crucial message of the passage. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 100

India’s educational system is modeled on the mass education system that developed in the 19th century in Europe and later spread around the world. The goal of the system is to condition children as ‘good’ citizens and productive workers. This suited the industrial age that needed the constant supply of a compliant workforce with a narrow set of capabilities. Our educational institutes resemble factories with bells, uniforms and batch-processing of learners, designed to get learners to conform. But, from an economic point of view, the environment today is very different. It is a complex, volatile and globally interconnected world. **(2018)**

- 182.** With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. India continues to be a developing country essentially due to its faulty education system.
2. Today’s learners need to acquire new-age skill-sets.
3. A good number of Indians go to some developed countries for education because the educational systems there are a perfect reflection of the societies in which they function.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The passage doesn’t show any relation between India’s education system and her being a developing country. Thus, it cannot be assumed that the faulty education system of India is responsible for its under-development. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Statement 2:** As stated in the passage, “but, from an economic point of view, the environment today is very different. It is a complex, volatile, and globally interconnected world.” It implies that a changing environment needs new-age skill sets. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 3:** The author does not hint that Indian students go to some developed countries for education because the educational system perfectly reflects the societies in which they function. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 101

The practice of dieting has become an epidemic; everyone is looking out for a way to attain that perfect body. We are all different with respect to our ethnicity, genetics, family history, gender, age, physical and mental and spiritual health status, lifestyles and preferences. Thereby we also differ in what foods we tolerate or are sensitive to. So we really cannot reduce so many complexities into one diet or diet book. This explains the failure of diets across the world in curbing obesity. Unless the reasons for weight gain are well understood and addressed and unless habits are changed permanently, no diet is likely to succeed. (2018)

183. What is the **most logical and rational inference** that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Obesity has become an epidemic all over the world.
- (b) A lot of people are obsessed with attaining a perfect body.
- (c) Obesity is essentially an incurable disease.
- (d) There is no perfect diet or one solution for obesity.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author mentions that “the practice of dieting has become an epidemic.” Moreover, diets across the world has failed in curbing obesity, but it nowhere mentions that obesity has become an epidemic all over the world. Thus, it cannot be a logical and rational inference. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The passage clearly states that everyone is looking out for a way to attain the perfect body. Further it is nowhere mentioned in the passage that a lot of people being obsessed with it, thus, is not a rational argument. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author in the passage explains the reasons for the worldwide failure of diets to curb obesity. However, it does not claim that obesity is essentially an incurable disease. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The statement “so we really cannot reduce so many complexities into one diet or diet book”, clearly justifies that there is no perfect diet for obesity. Furthermore, the author says, “unless the reasons for weight gain are well understood and addressed and unless habits are changed permanently, no diet is likely to succeed.” **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 102

Monoculture carries great risks. A single disease or pest can wipe out swathes of the world’s food production, an alarming prospect given that its growing and wealthier population

will eat 70% more by 2050. The risks are magnified by the changing climate. As the planet warms and monsoon rains intensify, farmlands in Asia will flood. North America will suffer more intense droughts, and crop diseases will spread to new latitudes. (2018)

184. Which of the following is the **most logical, rational and crucial message** given by the passage?

- (a) Preserving crop genetic diversity is an insurance against the effects of climate change.
- (b) Despite great risks, monoculture is the only way to ensure food security in the world.
- (c) More and more genetically modified crops only can save the world from impending shortages of food.
- (d) Asia and North America will be worst sufferers from climate change and the consequent shortage of food.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The author in the passage warns against the ill consequences of the monoculture practices and this statement suggests a way to protect us against threats posed by the monoculture. Thus, it is the most logical, rational and crucial message given by the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (b):** This option conveys exactly the opposite of what is being stated in the passage. The passage is nowhere making a claim that monoculture is the only way to ensure food security in the world. In fact, the author is advocating against the practice of monoculture to ensure food security. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** The passage does not make any such extreme claim that genetically modified crops alone can save the world from food shortage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage only mentions the adverse effects of climate change that could occur in North America and Asia, and this does not imply that these regions will be the worst affected by food shortages. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 103

The quest for cheap and plentiful meat has resulted in farms where more and more animals are squeezed into smaller lots in cruel and shocking conditions. Such practices have resulted in many of the world’s health pandemics such as the avian flu. Worldwide, live stock increasingly raised in cruel, cramped conditions, where animals spend their short live under artificial light, pumped full of antibiotics and growth hormones, until the day they are slaughtered. Meat production is water intensive. 15000 litres of water is needed for every kilogram of meat compared with 3400 litres for rice, 3300 litres for eggs and 256 for a kilogram of potatoes. (2018)

185. What is the **most rational and crucial message** given by the passage?

- (a) Mass production of meat through industrial farming is cheap and is suitable for providing protein nutrition to poor countries.
- (b) Meat-producing industry violates the laws against cruelty to animals.
- (c) Mass production of meat through industrial farming is undesirable and should be stopped immediately.
- (d) Environmental cost of meat production is unsustainable when it is produced through industrial farming.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage is raising concerns about mass production of meat through industrial farming and says it unsustainable while this option is contradictory to the passage. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The author nowhere discusses about the violation of laws against cruelty by the meat-producing industry. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (c):** Although passage states that industrial farming of meat is undesirable, it does not ask to stop it immediately. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The passage focuses on two main points; firstly, animal cruelty in factory farms, and secondly, the high environmental cost of maintaining such farms. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

PASSAGE – 104

A male tiger was removed from Pench Tiger Reserve and was relocated in Parma National Park. Later, this tiger trekked toward his home 250 miles away. The trek of this solitary tiger highlights a crisis. Many wildlife reserves exist as islands of fragile habitat in a vast sea of humanity, yet tigers can range over a hundred miles, seeking prey, mates and territory. Nearly a third of India's tigers live outside tiger reserves, a situation that is dangerous for both human and animal. Prey and tigers can only disperse if there are recognized corridors of land between protected areas to allow unmolested passage. (2018)

186. Which of the following is the **most rational and crucial message** given by the passage?

- (a) The conflict between man and wildlife cannot be resolved, no matter what efforts we make.
- (b) Safe wildlife corridors between protected areas is an essential aspect of conservation efforts.

- (c) India needs to declare more protected areas and set up more tiger reserves.
- (d) India's National Parks and Tiger Reserves need to be professionally managed.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (a):** The passage itself suggests a resolution to the conflict between man and wildlife, i.e., creating more wildlife corridors. Thus, it is incorrect the conflict cannot be resolved, despite the efforts. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (b):** The statement, "prey and tigers can only disperse if there are recognized corridors of land between protected areas to allow unmolested passage", justifies the option. It is the most rational and crucial message given in the passage. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Option (c):** The author focuses more on the safe passage of animals between protected areas rather than creating more protected areas. **Hence, it is not correct.**
- **Option (d):** The author focuses on the problems with the relocation of wild animals, especially animals like tigers, as they tend to wander toward their original place of living. It does not mention about the management of national parks and tiger reserves. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

187. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The strategy of conservation of wildlife by relocating them from one protected area to another is not often successful.
2. India does not have suitable legislation to save the tigers, and its conservation efforts have failed which forced the tigers to live outside protected areas.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** The author gives an example of a relocated tiger who trekked toward his home 250 miles away. This shows relocation is not often successful. Thus, it is a valid assumption. **Hence, it is correct.**
- **Statement 2:** The author does not talk about the lack of legislation in India to save tigers. **Hence, it is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

