

STUDENT NAME :

CONTACT NO. :

BATCH :

DATE OF EXAM :

CENTRE NAME :

MAX. MARKS : 120 , DURATION- 120 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. No clarification on the question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.
2. There are 120 questions provided. Candidates must attempt 120 of these questions.
3. Each question carries *One* marks. *Total Marks are 120.*
4. There is a *negative* marking of *0.25mark* for every incorrect answer.
5. Candidates have to indicate the correct answer by darkening one of the four responses provided. with a **BALL PEN (BLUE OR BLACK)** in the **OMR Sheet**.
6. Answering the questions by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered incorrect and no marks will be awarded for the same.
7. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong.
8. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and in the spaces provided for.
9. After the Test is over, the candidate has to return the OMR Answer Sheet to the invigilator. The candidate should take the Test Paper along with them.
10. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.
11. Impersonation is an offence and the candidate, apart from disqualification, may have to face criminal prosecution.
12. Electronic gadgets like mobile phones, pagers or calculators are strictly not permitted inside the Test Centre/Hall.
13. The candidates shall not leave the hall before the Test is over.

English Language

Passage-I

The health-care economy is replete with unusual and even unique economic relationships. One of the least understood involves the peculiar roles of producer or “provider” and purchaser or “consumer” in the typical doctor-patient relationship. In most sectors of the economy, it is the seller who attempts to attract a potential buyer with various inducements of price, quality, and utility, and it is the buyer who makes the decision. Where circumstances permit the buyer no choice because there is effectively only one seller and the product is relatively essential, government usually asserts monopoly and places the industry under price and other regulations. Neither of these conditions prevails in most of the health-care industry.

In the health-care industry, the doctor-patient relationship is the mirror image of the ordinary relationship between producer and consumer. Once an individual has chosen to see a physician—and even then there may be no real choice—it is the physician who usually makes all significant purchasing decisions: whether the patient should return “next Wednesday,” whether X-rays are needed, whether drugs should be prescribed, etc. It is a rare and sophisticated patient who will challenge such professional decisions or raise in advance questions about price, especially when the ailment is regarded as serious.

This is particularly significant in relation to hospital care. The physician must certify the need for hospitalization, determine what procedures will be performed, and announce when the patient may be discharged. The patient may be consulted about some of these decisions, but in the main it is the doctor’s judgments that are final. Little wonder then that in the eyes of the hospital it is the physician who is the real “consumer.” As a consequence, the medical staff represents the “power center” in hospital policy and decision-making, not the administration.

Although usually there are in this situation four identifiable participants—the physician, the hospital, the patient, and the payer (generally an insurance carrier or government)—the physician makes the essential decisions for all of them. The hospital becomes an extension of the physician; the payer generally meets most of the bona fide bills generated by the physician/hospital; and for the most part the patient plays a passive role. In routine or minor illnesses, or just plain worries, the patient’s options are, of course, much greater with respect to use and price. In illnesses that are of some significance, however, such choices tend to evaporate, and it is for these illnesses that the bulk of the health-care dollar is spent. We estimate that about 75-80 percent of health-care expenditures are determined by physicians, not patients. For this reason, economy measures directed at patients or the general public are relatively ineffective.

1. The author’s primary purpose is to

- (A) speculate about the relationship between a patient’s ability to pay and the treatment received
- (B) criticize doctors for exercising too much control over patients
- (C) analyze some important economic factors in health care
- (D) urge hospitals to reclaim their decision-making authority

2. It can be inferred that doctors are able to determine hospital policies because

- (A) it is doctors who generate income for the hospital
- (B) most of a patient’s bills are paid by his health insurance
- (C) hospital administrators lack the expertise to question medical decisions
- (D) a doctor is ultimately responsible for a patient’s health

3. According to the author, when a doctor tells a patient to “return next Wednesday,” the doctor is in effect

- (A) taking advantage of the patient’s concern for his health
- (B) instructing the patient to buy more medical services
- (C) warning the patient that a hospital stay might be necessary
- (D) advising the patient to seek a second opinion

4. The author is most probably leading up to

- (A) a proposal to control medical costs
- (B) a discussion of a new medical treatment
- (C) an analysis of the causes of inflation in the United States
- (D) a study of lawsuits against doctors for malpractice

5. The tone of the passage can best be described as

- (A) whimsical (B) cautious (C) analytical (D) inquisitive

Passage – II

The uniqueness of the Japanese character is the result of two seemingly contradictory forces: the strength of traditions and selective receptivity to foreign achievements and inventions. As early as the 1860s, there were counter movements to the traditional orientation. Yukichi Fukuzawa, the most eloquent spokesman of Japan's "Enlightenment," claimed: "The Confucian civilization of the East seems to me to lack two things possessed by Western civilization: science in the material sphere and a sense of independence in the spiritual sphere." Fukuzawa's great influence is found in the free and individualistic philosophy of the Education Code of 1872, but he was not able to prevent the government from turning back to the canons of Confucian thought in the Imperial Rescript of 1890. Another interlude of relative liberalism followed World War I, when the democratic idealism of President Woodrow Wilson had an important impact on Japanese intellectuals and, especially students: but more important was the Leninist ideology of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. Again in the early 1930s, nationalism and militarism became dominant, largely as a result of failing economic conditions.

Following the end of World War II, substantial changes were undertaken in Japan to liberate the individual from authoritarian restraints. The new democratic value system was accepted by many teachers, students, intellectuals, and old liberals, but it was not immediately embraced by the society as a whole. Japanese traditions were dominated by group values, and notions of personal freedom and individual rights were unfamiliar.

Today, democratic processes are clearly evident in the widespread participation of the Japanese people in social and political life: yet, there is no universally accepted and stable value system. Values are constantly modified by strong infusions of Western ideas, both democratic and Marxist. School textbooks expound democratic principles, emphasizing equality over hierarchy and rationalism over tradition; but in practice these values are often misinterpreted and distorted, particularly by the youth who translate the individualistic and humanistic goals of democracy into egoistic and materialistic ones.

Most Japanese people have consciously rejected Confucianism, but vestiges of the old order remain. An important feature of relationships in many institutions such as political parties, large corporations, and university faculties is the oyabun-kobun or parent-child relation. A party leader, supervisor, or professor, in return for loyalty, protects those subordinate to him and takes general responsibility for their interests throughout their entire lives, an obligation that sometimes even extends to arranging marriages. The corresponding loyalty of the individual to his patron reinforces his allegiance to the group to which they both belong. A willingness to cooperate with other members of the group and to support without qualification the interests of the group in all its external relations is still a widely respected virtue. The oyabun-kobun creates ladders of mobility which an individual can ascend, rising as far as abilities permit, so long as he maintains successful personal ties with a superior in the vertical channel, the latter requirement usually taking precedence over a need for exceptional competence. As a consequence, there is little horizontal relationship between people even within the same profession

6. The author is mainly concerned with

- (A) explaining the influence of Confucianism on modern Japan
(B) analyzing the reasons for Japan's postwar economic success
(C) discussing some important determinants of Japanese values
(D) describing managerial practices in Japanese industry

7. Which of the following is most like the relationship of the oyabun-kobun described in the passage?

- (A) A political candidate and the voting public
(B) A gifted scientist and his protégé
(C) Two brothers who are partners in a business
(D) A judge presiding at the trial of a criminal defendant

8. According to the passage, Japanese attitudes are influenced by which of the following?

I. Democratic ideals

II. Elements of modern Western culture

III. Remnants of an earlier social structure

- (A) I only (B) II only (C) I and II only (D) I, II, and III

9. The author implies that

- (A) decisions about promotions are often based on personal feelings
(B) students and intellectuals do not understand the basic tenets of Western democracy
(C) Western values have completely overwhelmed traditional Japanese attitudes
(D) respect for authority was introduced into Japan following World War II

10. The tone of the passage can best be described as

- (A) neutral and objective (B) disparaging and flippant
(C) critical and demanding (D) enthusiastic and supportive

Passage-III

In reaction to a rigid, overrefined classical curriculum, some educational philosophers have swung sharply to an espousal of “life experience” as the sole source of learning. Using their narrow interpretation of John Dewey’s theories for support and spouting such phrases as “Teach the child, not the subject,” they demand an end to rigorous study and insist that only through doing can learning take place. While not all adherents to this philosophy would totally eliminate the study of great books, the gradual subordination of literature in the school curriculum reflects their influence.

What is the purpose of literature? Why read if life alone is to be our teacher? James Joyce tells us that the artist reveals the human condition by re-creating life out of life; Aristotle, that art presents universal truths because its form is taken from nature. Thus, consciously or otherwise, great writers extend our understanding of ourselves and our world. We can soar with them to the heights of

aspiration or plummet with them to the depths of despair. How much wider is the understanding we gain from reading than from viewing life through the keyhole of our individual experience.

This function of literature, the enlarging of our life sphere, is of major importance in itself. Additionally, however, literature suggests solutions to social problems. The overweening ambitions of political leaders—and their sneering contempt for the law—did not appear for the first time in the writings of Bernstein and Woodward. The problems and behavior of the guilt-ridden did not await the appearance of the bearded psychoanalysts of the nineteenth century.

Federal Judge Learned Hand wrote, “I venture to believe that it is as important to a judge called upon to pass on a question of constitutional law, to have at least a bowing acquaintance with Thucydides, Gibbon, and Carlyle, with Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and Milton, with Montaigne and Rabelais, with Plato, Bacon, Hume, and Kant, as with the books which have been specifically written on the subject. For in such matters everything turns upon the spirit in which he approaches the questions before him.”

How do we overcome our dissenter? We must start with the field of agreement: the belief that education should serve to improve the individual and society. We must persuade our dissenters that the voices of human experience stretch our human faculties and open us to learning. We must convince them of the unity of life and art. We must prove to them that far from being separate, literature is that part of life that illumines life.

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) list the writers who make up the backbone of a great literature curriculum
(B) explain the function of literature
(C) advocate the adoption of a new philosophy of education
(D) plead for the retention of great literature as a fundamental part of the school curriculum

12. It can be inferred from the passage that the author considers those who believe in “life experience’ as the sole source of learning” to be

- (A) practical (B) progressive (C) misguided (D) inflexible

13. Based on the information in the passage, with which of the following statements about education would John Dewey be most likely to agree?

- (A) Education should be a continuous reconstruction of living experience, with the child the center of concern.
- (B) Education is the imparting of knowledge, not the drawing out of what is already in the child.
- (C) Though rigid, the classical curriculum has served us well for centuries and should be restored.
- (D) The purpose of education is to correct the inequalities brought about by the rise of civilization.

14. The author implies that children who learn exclusively by doing are likely to

- (A) be good problem solvers but poor judges
- (B) be more guilt-ridden than those who learn both by doing and reading
- (C) have below-average reading skills
- (D) have a myopic view of themselves and the world

15. What is the best synonym for the word "sneering"?

- (A) Cheerful
- (B) Contemptuous
- (C) Polite
- (D) Friendly

Passage-IV

Friendly indicates a warm and kind demeanor, which contrasts with the negativity and hostility associated with sneering. It cannot be considered a synonym.

In prehistoric times brachiopods were one of the most abundant and diverse forms of life on Earth: more than 30,000 species of this clamlike creature have been cataloged from fossil records. Today brachiopods are not as numerous, and existing species are not well studied, partly because neither the animal's fleshy inner tissue nor its shell has any commercial value. Moreover, in contrast to the greater diversity of the extinct species, the approximately 300 known surviving species are relatively uniform in appearance. Many zoologists have interpreted this as a sign that the animal has been unable to compete successfully with other marine organisms in the evolutionary struggle.

Several things, however, suggest that the conventional view needs revising. For example, the genus *Lingula* has an unbroken fossil record extending over more than half a billion years to the present. Thus, if longevity is any measure, brachiopods are the most successful organisms extant. Further, recent studies suggest that diversity among species is a less important measure of evolutionary success than is the ability to withstand environmental change, such as when a layer of clay replaces sand on the ocean bottom. The relatively greater uniformity among the existing brachiopod species may offer greater protection from environmental change and hence may reflect highly successful adaptive behavior.

The adaptive advantages of uniformity for brachiopods can be seen by considering specialization, a process that occurs as a result of prolonged colonization of a uniform substrate. Those that can survive on many surfaces are called generalists, while those that can survive on a limited range of substrates are called specialists. One specialist species, for example, has valves weighted at the base, a characteristic that assures that the organism is properly positioned for feeding in mud and similar substrates; other species secrete glue allowing them to survive on the face of underwater cliffs. The fossil record demonstrates that most brachiopod lineages have followed a trend toward increased specialization. However, during periods of environmental instability, when a particular substrate to which a specialist species has adapted is no longer available, the species quickly dies out. Generalists, on the other hand, are not dependent on a particular substrate, and are thus less vulnerable to environmental change. One study of the fossil record revealed a mass extinction of brachiopods following a change in sedimentation from chalk to clay. Of the 35 brachiopod species found in the chalk, only 6 survived in the clay, all of them generalists.

As long as enough generalist species are maintained, and studies of arctic and subarctic seas suggest that generalists are often dominant members of the marine communities there, it seems unlikely that the phylum is close to extinction.

16. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with

- (A) rejecting an earlier explanation for the longevity of certain brachiopod species
- (B) reevaluating the implications of uniformity among existing brachiopod species
- (C) describing the varieties of environmental change to which brachiopods are vulnerable
- (D) reconciling opposing explanations for brachiopods' lack of evolutionary success

17. It can be inferred from the passage that many zoologists assume that a large diversity among species of a given class of organisms typically leads to which of the following?

- (A) Difficulty in classification (B) A discontinuous fossil record
(C) A greater chance of survival over time (D) Numerical abundance

18. The second paragraph makes use of which of the following?

- (A) Specific examples (B) Analogy (C) Metaphor (D) Quotation

19. The author suggests that the scientists holding the conventional view mentioned in second paragraph make which of the following errors?

- (A) They mistakenly emphasize survival rather than diversity
(B) They misunderstand the causes of specialization.
(C) They overlook an alternative criterion of evolutionary success.
(D) They catalog fossilized remains improperly

20. It can be inferred from the passage that the decision to study an organism may sometimes be influenced by

- (A) its practical or commercial benefits to society
(B) the nature and prevalence of its fossilized remains
(C) the relative convenience of its geographical distribution
(D) its similarity to one or more better-known species

Passage-V

Benjamin Franklin established that lightning is the transfer of positive or negative electrical charge between regions of a cloud or from cloud to earth. Such transfers require that electrically neutral clouds, with uniform charge distributions, become electrified by separation of charges into distinct regions. The greater this separation is, the greater the voltage, or electrical potential of the cloud. Scientists still do not know the precise distribution of charges in thunderclouds nor how separation adequate to support the huge voltages typical of lightning bolts arises. According to one theory, the precipitation hypothesis, charge separation occurs as a result of precipitation. Larger droplets in a thundercloud precipitate downward past smaller suspended droplets. Collisions among droplets transfer negative charge to precipitating droplets, leaving the suspended droplets with a positive charge, thus producing a positive dipole in which the lower region of the thundercloud is filled with negatively charged raindrops and the upper with positively charged suspended droplets.

21. The passage is primarily concerned with discussing which of the following?

- (A) A central issue in the explanation of how lightning occurs
(B) Benjamin Franklin's activities as a scientist
(C) Research into the strength and distribution of thunderstorms
(D) The direction of movement of electrical charges in thunderclouds

22. The passage suggests that lightning bolts typically

- (A) produce a distribution of charges called a positive dipole in the clouds where they originate
(B) result in the movement of negative charges to the centers of the clouds where they originate
(C) originate in clouds in which the positive and negative charges are not uniformly distributed
(D) originate in clouds that have large numbers of negatively charged droplets in their upper regions

23. According to the passage, Benjamin Franklin contributed to the scientific study of lightning by

- (A) testing a theory proposed earlier, showing it to be false, and developing an alternative, far more successful theory of his own
(B) making an important discovery that is still important for scientific investigations of lightning.
(C) introducing a hypothesis that, though recently shown to be false, proved to be a useful source of insights for scientists studying lightning.
(D) developing a technique that has enabled scientists to measure more precisely the phenomena that affect the strength and location of lightning bolts

24. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the precipitation hypothesis, as it is set forth in the passage?

- (A) Larger clouds are more likely than smaller clouds to be characterized by complete separation of positive and negative charges
- (B) In smaller clouds lightning more often occurs within the cloud than between the cloud and the earth
- (C) Large raindrops move more rapidly in small clouds than they do in large clouds.
- (D) In clouds of all sizes negative charges concentrate in the center of the clouds when the clouds become electrically charged

25. What is the best synonym for the word "precipitation" in the context of weather?

- (A) Evaporation
- (B) Condensation
- (C) Rainfall
- (D) Wind

Logical Reasoning

Passage-I

Cybercrime has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges of the digital age. From data breaches to identity theft, the increasing reliance on technology has made individuals and organizations vulnerable to cyber attacks. In response, ethical hacking has been proposed as a solution to counter these growing threats. Ethical hackers, also known as "white hat" hackers, use their skills to identify vulnerabilities in systems before malicious actors, or "black hat" hackers, can exploit them. These ethical hackers work with organizations to strengthen their cyber security measures and close loopholes that could be targeted by criminals. Supporters of ethical hacking argue that by proactively identifying security flaws, companies can stay ahead of potential cyber attacks. Ethical hackers provide valuable insights into how systems can be penetrated and offer recommendations on how to bolster defenses. In doing so, they help prevent financial losses, reputational damage, and the theft of sensitive data. However, critics contend that ethical hacking may not be a foolproof solution, as even the most experienced ethical hackers may overlook certain vulnerabilities or inadvertently expose systems to additional risks.

While ethical hacking is widely regarded as a positive force in cyber security, it is not without its challenges. Questions about the legality and regulation of hacking practices remain, and not all organizations are comfortable with the idea of granting access to external hackers. Yet, as cybercrime continues to evolve, ethical hacking may play an increasingly important role in securing digital infrastructure.

26. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that ethical hacking is an effective solution to combat cybercrime?

- (A) Ethical hackers are able to identify every vulnerability in a system.
- (B) Ethical hackers have stopped several major cyberattacks in recent years
- (C) Ethical hacking is recognized as a legal and regulated practice in many countries
- (D) Organizations that use ethical hackers report a significant reduction in cyber attacks over time

27. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that ethical hacking is an effective solution to cybercrime?

- (A) Ethical hackers sometimes fail to identify critical vulnerabilities, which are later exploited by malicious hackers.
- (B) Ethical hacking is only effective in preventing small-scale cyber attacks
- (C) Organizations that use ethical hacking often face internal security breaches
- (D) Many ethical hackers are not fully trained, increasing the risk of system breaches

28. Which of the following is most similar to the reasoning behind the argument for ethical hacking as a solution to cybercrime?

- (A) A city hires more police officers to stop crime in its most dangerous neighborhoods.
- (B) A company installs security cameras to monitor employee behavior.
- (C) A person hires an expert to inspect their home for weaknesses that could allow burglars to break in
- (D) A government increases its budget for cyber security training programs..

29. What can be inferred from the passage about the role of ethical hacking in combating cybercrime?

- (A) Ethical hacking is the only solution to stop cybercrime.
- (B) Ethical hackers are more effective than automated security systems.
- (C) Ethical hacking is an important tool but not without its challenges and limitations
- (D) Ethical hacking is too risky to be used by organizations

30. Which of the following assumptions is necessary for the argument that ethical hacking can help prevent cybercrime?

- (A) Most cyberattacks are preventable through ethical hacking alone.
- (B) Ethical hackers have the necessary skills and expertise to identify vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious hackers
- (C) Organizations are willing to grant access to ethical hackers to secure their systems
- (D) Ethical hackers do not pose any risk to the organizations they work with

Passage-II

Manipur, a state in northeastern India, has long been plagued by ethnic and communal violence. The region, which borders Myanmar, has seen tensions between various tribal groups, insurgent activities, and disputes over resources. These conflicts have often escalated into violent clashes, affecting both the civilian population and security forces. Efforts to resolve the violence in Manipur have included military interventions, peace talks with insurgent groups, and attempts at economic development to address grievances. However, these approaches have met with limited success.

Diplomatic solutions have also been explored, aiming to create dialogue between the different communities involved. International organizations and neighboring countries, particularly Myanmar, have been brought into the conversation to help mediate and stabilize the region. Diplomatic initiatives have focused on addressing root causes, such as land rights, resource distribution, and ethnic representation in governance.

Critics argue that these efforts often fail because they focus too much on short-term gains rather than long-lasting solutions. They claim that diplomatic solutions are often undermined by corruption, lack of political will, and deep-rooted mistrust between groups. Supporters, however, believe that sustained diplomatic efforts, combined with developmental policies, are essential to achieving peace. By promoting dialogue, strengthening governance, and addressing economic disparities, they argue that the violence in Manipur can eventually be curtailed.

31. Which of the following is the most appropriate conclusion based on the passage?

- (A) Diplomatic efforts, if sustained and combined with development, can play a significant role in resolving the violence in Manipur
- (B) Military interventions are the only solution to stop the violence in Manipur
- (C) The conflicts in Manipur are too deep-rooted to ever be resolved.
- (D) International organizations alone can resolve the violence in Manipur

32. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that diplomatic efforts can help resolve the violence in Manipur?

- (A) Previous peace talks failed because parties involved refused to compromise on key issues
- (B) International organizations have successfully mediated conflicts in similar regions
- (C) The government has allocated significant resources to development programs
- (D) Insurgent groups in Manipur have shown interest in participating in peace talks

33. Which of the following presents a paradox related to the diplomatic efforts in Manipur?

- (A) Diplomatic talks have been ongoing for years, yet violence continues to escalate
- (B) Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, trust between communities has continued to deteriorate.
- (C) Development programs have been implemented, but poverty levels remain unchanged
- (D) International aid is flowing into Manipur, yet the violence has not decreased.

34. What can be inferred from the passage about the role of international organizations in resolving the violence in Manipur?

- (A) International organizations have had a minimal role in mediating the conflict
- (B) International organizations have solved similar conflicts in other regions
- (C) International organizations are involved but face challenges in overcoming corruption and mistrust
- (D) International organizations are the primary force driving peace in Manipur

35. Which of the following assumptions is necessary for the argument that diplomatic efforts combined with development can resolve the violence in Manipur?

- (A) Military interventions are not necessary if diplomatic solutions are implemented.
- (B) Insurgent groups are willing to negotiate a peaceful settlement
- (C) Development programs will automatically lead to peace and stability
- (D) Long-term diplomatic engagement can address the deep-rooted issues fueling the conflict

Passage-III

In a school of 900 students,

- 350 students failed in Mathematics,
- 250 failed in English,
- 300 failed in Science.
- 70 students failed in Mathematics and English only,
- 80 failed in English and Science only,
- 90 failed in Mathematics and Science only.

Use this data to answer the questions below:

36. What is the number of students who Passed only in Mathematics?

- A. 120 B. 80 C. 180 D. 170

37. What is the number of students who Passed in all three subjects?

- A. 250 B. 245 C. 240 D. 260

38. What is the number of students who passed in Science and Mathematics only?

- A. 90 B. 80 C. 70 D. 100

39. How many students have passed in Mathematics and English?

- A. 380 B. 320 C. 340 D. 400

40. How many students failed in all three subjects ?

- (A) 60 (B) 10 (C) 70 (D) 80

Passage - IV

Eight persons P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, and W are sitting around a square table facing the centre. Four of them sit at the corners of the square and four sit in the middle of each side.

Use the clues below to determine the correct seating arrangement:

- (A) P sits second to the right of V, who sits at one of the sides, not at a corner.
- (B) W, who does not sit at any corner, sits second to the right of Q.
- (C) Only two persons sit between Q and R (taken from one side).
- (D) T is not an immediate neighbour of W.
- (E) U sits second to the left of R.
- (F) S is not an immediate neighbour of V or W.

41. Who is sitting exactly between Q and P, if counted clockwise?

- A. W B. S C. R D. V

42. Who sits opposite to U?

- A. P B. Q C. T D. S

43. Which of the following pairs are immediate neighbours sitting on sides of the square?

- A. V and W B. S and Q C. T and W D. P and Q

44. Who sits second to the right of T?

- A. U B. V C. P D. S

45. What is the position of Q with respect to R?

- A. Immediate Right B. Third to the right C. Second to the right D. Opposite

Passage - V

Twelve people are sitting in two parallel rows containing six people each, in such a way that there is an equal distance between adjacent person. In row -1: P,Q,R,S,T and V are seated and all of them are facing South. In row-2: A,B,C,D,E and F are seated and all of them are facing North. Therefore, in the given seating arrangement each member seated in a row faces another member of the other row.

P sits third to the left of T. Neither P nor T sits at an extreme end of the line. A sits second to the right of E. Neither A nor E faces T or P. A does not sit at an extreme end. R does not face A and R does not seat at extreme end of the line. Only one person sits between F and C. Neither F nor C faces T. C does not sit at the extreme end. Only one person sits between V and Q. F is not immediate neighbour of B and A does not face V."

46. Who faces A?

- A) P B) Q C) R D) S

47. Which pair is definitely facing each other?

- A) T - D B) R - FC) V - E D) S - C

48. How many persons sit between V and R ?

- A) 0 B) 1 C) 2 D) 3

49. Who sits at position 4 in Row-1 (from left to right)?

- A) R B) S C) Q D) T

50. How many persons sit between F and B ?

- A) 3 B) 2 C) 4 D) 1

By Ready For Exam

Legal Reasoning

Passage-I

In its simplest form, intention to create legal relations means that the parties must intend to enter into a legally binding arrangement in which the rights and obligations of the agreement are enforceable. As simple as this seems, the question as to whether the parties to a negotiation did intend to create legal relations is highly fact sensitive. It is relatively certain that representatives of a business, meeting in a formal commercial scenario to negotiate a contract do intend to create legal relations. In the case of Dinesh Prasad Raturi V. Bata India Limited. The complaint was filed by the Complainant Mr. Dinesh Prasad Raturi (hereinafter referred to as “the Complainant”) against Bata India Limited (hereinafter referred to as “the Opposite Party”). The Complainant alleged that on buying shoes worth Rs. 399 from the Bata Store he was billed an additional amount of Rs. 3, for a carry bag, which the Complainant had no intention of buying. The carry bag bore the name of the shop ‘BATA’ with a tag line ‘ Bata Surprisingly Stylish’ “Barcelona Milan Singapore New Delhi Rome”. The Complainant contended that he had no intention to purchase the carry bag. The Complainant also alleged that the brand name of the Opposite Party along with its tagline was printed on the carry bag, making it a form of advertisement for which the consumers were being wrongly charged, hence it is a form of Unfair Trade Practice. The Opposite Party contended that it was in lieu of environmental safety, that the Complainant was the carry bag at the cost of Rs. 3. In light of the arguments advance of the Complainant and the Other Party the Forum opined that: The Forum held that the carry bag was indeed a form of advertisement by the company and stated, “We had also a glance to the carry bag which is annexed with the consumer complaint in which advertisement of Bata Company was being published as it has been printed in red words “Bata Surprisingly Stylish” which shows that Bata Company is stylish in nature and used the consumer as if he is the advertisement agent of Opposite Party. The purchase of the item along with sale of carry bag is not disputed as per statement put forth by Opposite Party.” The Forum also concluded that charging Rs. 3, for the shopping bag is a form of Unfair Trade Practice employed by the company” even if it is not printed anywhere in the store that the additional money will be charged for the carry bag so it is one sided agreement without knowing the intention of the consumer.

The cons of these decisions is however that though it is not pro retailers it is also not pro- environment. It is a settled fact that plastic is a major threat to our environment, but it is also true that paper wastage is another leading factor towards detriment of our environment. The previous store policy to charge for paper bags, in a way encouraged the buyers to carry their own bags from home when going shopping. This trend is highly prevalent in grocery stores where no carry bags are provided, and the customers carry bags from their own home to carry their groceries. It is not unimaginable that people develop a habit or carrying carry bags when leaving for shopping. This would be both pro-consumer and pro-environment.

51. Mr. Raj purchased a jacket from a reputed clothing store for Rs. 2000. At the counter, he was charged an additional Rs. 10 for a branded paper carry bag without prior notice. He protested, saying he didn't want to buy the carry bag, but the cashier insisted it was mandatory. Which of the following legal principles would best apply to this situation?

- A. The store has the right to charge for the bag as part of the sale.
- B. The store cannot charge for a carry bag without informing the customer beforehand.
- C. Mr. Raj cannot dispute the charge as he willingly made the purchase.
- D. It is legal to charge for carry bags for environmental reasons.

52. A consumer, Priya, purchased footwear worth Rs. 499 from a store. During the purchase, the store charged her Rs. 2 for a paper carry bag that had the store's name and tagline printed on it. Priya, after leaving the store, realized she was charged for a carry bag and filed a complaint. Based on the Bata India Ltd. case, what would be the most likely outcome?

- A. The store will be penalized for not informing Priya about the charge for the bag.
- B. Priya's complaint will be dismissed because charging for carry bags is standard practice.
- C. The court will rule in favor of the store as it is promoting environmental safety.
- D. Priya will lose the case because she did not refuse the bag during the transaction.

53. Ramesh bought groceries from a local supermarket and was charged Rs. 5 for a plastic bag with the store's logo on it. There was no prior notice of the charge. He files a case alleging unfair trade practice. What is the court most likely to consider?

- A. Whether charging for plastic bags is an industry norm.
- B. Whether Ramesh agreed to buy the bag at the time of checkout.
- C. Whether the store used the bag as an advertisement and imposed a charge for it without informing customers.
- D. Whether Ramesh could have carried the groceries without the plastic bag.

54. A clothing store has been charging customers Rs. 3 for paper bags with the store's branding on them. After a lawsuit, the court ruled that this charge was an unfair trade practice. How might this decision affect future store policies?

- A. Stores may stop charging for carry bags altogether to avoid legal issues.
- B. Stores might continue charging for carry bags as long as they provide prior notice.
- C. Stores will begin providing plastic bags to avoid conflicts.
- D. Stores will offer free bags to customers without any branding on them.

55. Sunita purchased a gift item from a high-end boutique that charged her Rs. 8 for a paper carry bag that had the boutique's logo on it. Sunita, after seeing no prior notification, files a case. Based on the Dinesh Prasad Raturi case, which is the most appropriate outcome?

- A. Sunita's claim will be rejected since high-end stores are allowed to charge for premium bags.
- B. Sunita's claim will be upheld because charging for a branded bag without notification is an unfair trade practice.
- C. The court will dismiss the case because the charge was minimal.
- D. The case will be dismissed as Sunita agreed to the purchase of the item and implicitly accepted the bag.

Passage - II

Under the "fair use" defense, another author may make limited use of the original author's work without asking permission. Certain uses of copyrighted material "for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright."

As a matter of policy, fair use is based on the belief that the public is entitled to freely use portions of copyrighted materials for purposes of commentary and criticism. The fair use privilege is perhaps the most significant limitation on a copyright owner's exclusive rights. If you write or publish, you need a basic understanding of what does and does not constitute fair use.

Filmmaker Suneel Darshan has won a copyright infringement case against Google and its video-streaming platform YouTube, after an eight-year-long court battle. Darshan, the proprietor of film production company Shree Krishna International, had filed a suit for permanent injunction against Google India and YouTube LLC, in 2011, in the court for infringement of his copyright.

The court awarded damages amounting to Rs. 50,000/- to Darshan and restrained Google and YouTube from infringing on his works. Darshan had argued that Google and YouTube had infringed on his copyright in respect of the sound recording, cinematograph films and audio-visual songs of his films by uploading them and generating an ad-revenue without authorization or a license from Darshan. Sometime later, the case of Chetan v. Facebook India Pvt Ltd (A social networking platform) came before the Supreme Court. In that case, the consumer, Chetan, is a live poet in the Welcome Café in Mangalore. One day, when Chetan was reading a self-made poem in the bar, the CEO of Facebook was sitting in the bar. The CEO recorded his poem and the music of poem and uploaded such poem on his Facebook account free for all, but later on started minting money by charging user for each play of such poem. Chetan decided to sue Facebook India Pvt. Ltd. for infringing the copyright protected work of Chetan. Chetan's lawyer argues that the Supreme Court was bound to follow the decision in the case of Shree Krishna International v. Google & YouTube India and should award permanent injection to Chetan for the copyright protected work of Chetan. The rule of precedent provides that a court must follow its own previous decisions in cases that are similar to the cases that resulted in such previous decisions, but not in cases that are different from the cases that resulted in such previous decisions. Facebook's lawyer argues that the present case is very different from the Shree Krishna International v. Google & YouTube India case, and so, the Supreme Court should not follow its decision in that case in the present matter. Facebook's lawyer also argued that the matter should be decided in favour the favour of Facebook as the company is using the song of Chetan under the principles of fair use which is a defence in the cases of copyright infringement. The company is not earning any money from the song so it cannot be covered under copyright infringement.

56. Riya is a professional photographer who uploads her photos on her personal blog. One day, she finds that a popular news website has used one of her photos without permission in an article about nature conservation. The news website claims that they are protected by the “fair use” doctrine because they used the photo to raise awareness about environmental issues. Based on the concept of fair use, what would most likely determine whether this use is legally permissible?

- A. The fact that the news website is raising awareness about an important issue.
- B. The fact that Riya’s photograph was used without her permission.
- C. Whether the photo was used in a transformative way or for commercial profit.
- D. Whether the photo was credited to Riya on the news website.

57. Sahil, a music teacher, creates a YouTube video analyzing a popular song by a famous artist. He uses 30 seconds of the song in his video to explain a complex chord progression. The music label claims copyright infringement and demands the removal of the video. Based on the “fair use” doctrine, which argument would best support Sahil’s defense?

- A. Sahil used the song for commercial purposes since his YouTube channel is monetized.
- B. Sahil’s video is educational, and he only used a small portion of the song to demonstrate a concept.
- C. Sahil gave credit to the artist in the video description.
- D. Sahil edited the song and changed its meaning, making it an original creation.

58. A non-profit organization creates a documentary about climate change and includes short clips from several movies to illustrate how climate change is depicted in popular culture. The movie studios argue that the use of their film clips constitutes copyright infringement. Based on the concept of fair use, what would be the best defense for the non-profit organization?

- A. The documentary is non-commercial and educational, using the clips for commentary on a social issue.
- B. The documentary gave credit to all the movie studios whose clips were used.
- C. The documentary was uploaded on a platform that does not generate ad revenue.
- D. The movie studios were not contacted to request permission, but the documentary promotes their films.

59. An academic professor publishes a book on modern philosophy and quotes extensively from the works of various philosophers. One of the philosopher’s estates claims that the professor infringed on their copyright by using too many excerpts from the philosopher’s work. Based on fair use principles, which factor would most likely determine whether the professor’s use is permissible?

- A. The professor’s book is being sold commercially.
- B. The amount and substantiality of the excerpts used from the philosopher’s works.
- C. The professor’s book acknowledges the original philosophers in the footnotes.
- D. The professor’s book is intended for an academic audience.

60. A tech company creates an online parody of a popular mobile game, changing the characters and storylines but retaining elements of the original gameplay. The creators of the original game file a lawsuit for copyright infringement. Which of the following arguments would most likely support the tech company’s defense under fair use?

- A. The parody is not for profit and is available for free to the public.
- B. The parody has completely different characters and settings from the original game.
- C. The parody transforms the original game’s elements to create social commentary and humor.
- D. The tech company asked for permission from the original creators but never received a response.

Passage - III

In India, the market economy has been fast replacing the centralized command economy of the Nehruvian and the Indira Gandhi eras. In a market economy, the role of the governments at all levels is of pivotal importance as they have to design and implement policies and programmes to develop social and economic infrastructure to suit the local needs. To achieve this, financial autonomy is essential for the States and local bodies.

Over the last few years, especially since Narendra Modi-led Government came to power at the Centre in May 2014, one can observe a remarkable shift in the federal relations between the Centre and States. The change is visible in all the essential aspects of the relations like - the division of expenditure responsibilities, fiscal assignments and intergovernmental transfer arrangements and seeks to grant more financial autonomy to the States. To accelerate the change further, new institutions like NITI (National Institute of transforming India) Aayog was set up and the GST (Goods & Service Tax, further referred as GST) Council was formed. It is against this background, it is pertinent to understand some of the key measures in relation to fiscal federal relations and their impact on the Centre-State fiscal relations.

The Goods and Services Tax or GST was rolled out across the country on 1 July 2017. The GST subsumes majority of the indirect taxes – excise, service, sales tax, octroi, etc – to create ‘One Nation, One Market’. To sort out issues related to its implementation, the GST Council the CGST (Central Goods & Services tax) and SGST (State goods & services tax) rates, it ensures that the States are significant decision partners in nation-level macro-economic engagement. Previously, in the pre-GST regime, States were not involved in deciding the taxes that fall under the Centre’s purview. However, on the flip side, States have lost the autonomy in deciding the tax rates of subjects that fall under the State list. Previously, State Governments used to fix tax rates by taking into spending requirements, revenue base, etc. The inability of States to fix tax rates to match their development requirements will result in higher dependence on the Centre for funds.

61. The state of Uttar Pradesh is struggling with a budget deficit due to an unexpected rise in infrastructure costs. Previously, they would have increased the sales tax on certain goods to balance their budget. However, under the current GST regime, they are unable to do so. Which of the following best describes the challenge faced by Uttar Pradesh under the GST regime?

- A. The state lacks the power to introduce any new taxes.
- B. The state must seek approval from the Central Government to adjust any tax rates.
- C. The state has lost autonomy in determining tax rates for goods and services that fall under the GST.
- D. The state cannot impose taxes on interstate trade.

62. A state government wants to increase revenue for its healthcare programs by raising taxes on certain services provided within the state. In the pre-GST regime, this would have been possible. Now, under the GST regime, what must the state government do to accomplish this?

- A. The state government must propose changes in the GST Council, where all states and the Centre decide on tax matters together.
- B. The state government can independently raise taxes as long as it informs the GST Council.
- C. The state government must seek approval from the Finance Ministry before making any tax-related decisions.
- D. The state government must pass a resolution in its legislative assembly to raise taxes.

63. The GST Council has been deliberating on increasing the SGST (State Goods & Services Tax) rate for luxury goods to meet revenue shortfalls for several states. If the Council agrees, what will be the effect on states like Karnataka that rely on taxing luxury goods to fund developmental projects?

- A. The state of Karnataka will have no influence on the tax rate of luxury goods, as these fall under CGST.
- B. Karnataka can unilaterally decide the SGST rate without consulting other states or the Centre.
- C. Karnataka will have to match its developmental projects’ funding to the rates set by the GST Council.
- D. Karnataka will no longer receive funds for developmental projects under the GST regime.

64. In a hypothetical situation, a natural disaster strikes in Tamil Nadu, and the state needs immediate funds to rebuild infrastructure. Before the GST regime, the state could raise funds by increasing taxes on essential commodities. Under the current GST regime, what is the best course of action for the state to generate additional funds?

- A. The state government can immediately increase the SGST rate on essential goods.
- B. The state must request financial assistance from the Central Government or propose tax rate changes in the GST Council.
- C. The state can implement a temporary state-wide tax for disaster relief without consulting the Centre.
- D. The state can impose new taxes on commodities that do not fall under the GST regime.

65. A scholar is studying the fiscal federalism dynamics in India and argues that one of the key impacts of the GST regime is a significant shift in fiscal autonomy from the states to the Centre. Which of the following would best support the scholar's argument?

- A. States can no longer independently decide tax rates for goods and services within their jurisdiction.
- B. States now receive more funds from the Central Government through GST revenue sharing.
- C. States are now full participants in the GST Council, influencing national tax policy.
- D. States can still collect revenue through direct taxes, which are outside the scope of the GST.

Passage- IV

The ingredients required for complying with Section 138 are, a person must have drawn a cheque for payment of money to another for the discharge of any debt or other liability; that cheque has been presented to the bank within a period of three months; that cheque is returned by the bank unpaid, either because insufficient of funds or that it exceeds the amount arranged to be paid from that account by an agreement made with the bank; the payee makes a demand for the payment of the money by giving a notice in writing to the drawer within 15 days of the receipt of information by him from the bank regarding the return of the cheque as unpaid; The drawer fails to make payment to the payee within 15 days of the receipt of the notice.

In 2017, Delhi High Court in Dayawati v. Yogesh Kumar Gosain took into account the question whether an offence under Section 138, which is a criminally compoundable case, could be settled by mediation. The Court held that even though an express statutory provision enabling the criminal court to refer the complainant and accused persons to alternate dispute redressal mechanisms has not been specifically provided by the Legislature. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Hereinafter referred as Cr.P.C.) does permit and recognize settlement without stipulating or restricting the process by which it may be reached. Thus, there is no bar to utilizing the alternate dispute mechanisms including arbitration, mediation, conciliation (recognized under Section 89 of Civil Procedure Code, 1908) for the purposes of settling disputes which are the subject matter of offences covered under Section 320 of the Cr.P.C. It also stated the proceedings under Section 138 of the Act is distinct from other criminal cases and are really in the nature of a civil wrong which has been given criminal overtones.

The recent steps undertaken by the judiciary and the changes brought by the legislature are steps in the right direction. But there is a need to realise the commercial realities in India and further expedite the process of recovery to discourage delays caused by the accused, unnecessary adjournments and frivolous appeals. Courts in India are overburdened and lack basic infrastructure to deal with dishonoured cheque cases. It is vital that people have faith in the integrity and honesty of the system. However, reliability of cheques in commercial dealings has been eroded to a great extent. Dishonour of cheque causes financial loss, inconvenience and injury to the payee.

66. Rajesh issued a cheque to Ramesh in March 2023 for repayment of a personal loan. However, when Ramesh deposited the cheque in June 2023, the cheque bounced due to insufficient funds. Ramesh received a message from the bank informing him of the dishonour of the cheque. If Ramesh wants to initiate legal proceedings under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, which of the following steps must he take within the required timeframe?

- A. He must file a criminal case within 15 days of receiving the bank notice.
- B. He must send a written demand to Rajesh within 15 days of receiving the bank notice.
- C. He must wait 30 days before sending a notice to Rajesh.
- D. He must deposit the cheque within six months to file a case.

67. Vinay received a cheque from Mohan for a business transaction, but the cheque was dishonoured by the bank due to insufficient funds. Instead of filing a case under Section 138, Vinay and Mohan mutually agree to resolve the matter through mediation. Based on the Delhi High Court's decision in *Dayawati v. Yogesh Kumar Gosain*, what legal option is available to them?

- A. The parties can opt for mediation as there is no bar against using alternate dispute resolution mechanisms like mediation for Section 138 cases.
- B. They must file a civil case since mediation is not allowed in criminal cases like Section 138.
- C. The parties can only settle through arbitration, as Section 138 specifically permits arbitration.
- D. They must seek court approval to enter into mediation for cheque bounce cases.

68. Shalini issued a cheque to her friend Nikhil for repaying a loan, but the cheque bounced because it exceeded the agreed limit with the bank. Nikhil informed Shalini about the dishonour and issued a notice demanding payment within 15 days. Shalini received the notice but failed to pay the amount within the stipulated period. Which of the following describes the next step Nikhil can take?

- A. Nikhil can send another notice demanding payment before initiating legal proceedings.
- B. Nikhil must file a civil suit to recover the loan amount.
- C. Nikhil can file a complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act after the 15-day period expires without payment.
- D. Nikhil must wait for 30 days after issuing the notice before filing any legal case.

69. Manoj issued a cheque to Priya as repayment of a loan. However, when Priya deposited the cheque, it was dishonoured by the bank. Priya sent a demand notice to Manoj within the 15-day timeframe, but Manoj paid her the amount owed after 20 days. What legal implications does this situation have under Section 138?

- A. Priya can still file a complaint under Section 138 because the payment was not made within 15 days.
- B. Manoj is liable to pay a penalty for the delay in payment, but Priya cannot file a complaint.
- C. Priya cannot file a complaint since Manoj paid her the full amount, though after the 15-day period.
- D. Priya must accept the payment and drop any legal proceedings as the matter is resolved.

70. A cheque issued by Raghav to his supplier Amit was dishonoured due to insufficient funds in May 2023. Amit sent a legal notice demanding payment within 15 days. If Raghav fails to make the payment within the stipulated time, by when must Amit file a complaint under Section 138 to avoid missing the legal window for filing the case?

- A. Amit must file the complaint within 30 days after the expiry of the 15-day notice period.
- B. Amit must file the complaint immediately after the 15-day period expires.
- C. Amit must file the complaint within 60 days of receiving the bank notice.
- D. Amit must file the complaint within 90 days of the cheque being dishonoured.

Passage - V

The Supreme Court of India in the matter titled *Navtej Singh Johar & Ors v. Union of India & Ors* has struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (hereinafter called "IPC") and has consequently overruled the earlier judgement passed by a 2 judge bench in *Suresh Kumar Koushal v. Naz Foundation & Ors*.

Section 377 provides for punishment for "carnal intercourse against the order of nature". There are various arguments to state that the phraseology used in Section 377 is violative of (the fundamental rights especially article 21) enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

It is of pertinence to point out that the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community consists of about 7-8% of the Indian population. Section 377 was promulgated in the year 1860 and the same can be considered to be a manifestation of the mind set of societal values in the Victorian Era where sexual activities were considered mainly for procreation. What Section 377 fails to consider is that homosexuality, bisexuality and other sexual orientation are as natural and are an expression of individualism.

In *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court has acknowledged "gender identity" and has recognised transgender as third gender apart from male and female. Accordingly, Section 377 in its present form violates various fundamental rights of the LGBT community. It has been contended that being homosexual is neither a physical nor a mental illness and right to choose a partner is a feature of dignity and LGBT community has right to privacy.

Union of India while addressing arguments left the issue of “consensual acts of adult in private” to the wisdom of the Supreme Court. On the other hand, various interveners in the batch petitions vehemently argued against striking down of Section 377 on interalia the following grounds. Firstly, that the LGBT community is more susceptible to contracting HIV/AIDS. Secondly, the same goes against the family system and the institution of marriage. Thirdly, interest of an individual/section of people cannot supersede interest of the society as a whole.

The Constitution Bench of Supreme Court while deciding the Navtej Singh Johar has recognised that the society needs to transform progressively and LGBT community has a right to live with dignity. It has also been duly recognised that sexual orientation is natural and inherent in an individual which is controlled by neurological and biological factors. Persons of same sex who indulge in ‘consensual sexual acts’ cannot be penalised and unequal treatment to be them cannot be meted out. Accordingly, the law in Suresh Kumar Koushal has been overruled unanimously.

The Supreme Court has also laid emphasis on the reduction of social stigma and has accordingly suggested that the judgment ought to be widely publicised by various media platforms. While showing empathy towards the LGBT community, Supreme Court states that “hundred and fifty eight years is too long a period for the LGBT community to suffer the indignities of denial.” It also writes that “History owes an apology to the members of this community and their families, for the delay in providing redressal for the ignominy and ostracism that they have suffered through the centuries.”

71. Ravi and Sameer, two consenting adults, are in a same-sex relationship. They fear prosecution under Section 377 of the IPC for engaging in consensual sexual acts. After reading about the Navtej Singh Johar & Ors v. Union of India case, they wish to know if they can still be penalized under this law. Based on the judgment, what advice should they receive?

- A. They can be penalized since Section 377 still applies to all sexual acts.
- B. They cannot be penalized because Section 377 has been entirely removed from the IPC.
- C. They cannot be penalized for consensual sexual acts between adults, as the Supreme Court struck down the relevant part of Section 377.
- D. They should still avoid engaging in such acts, as the Supreme Court has only partially struck down Section 377.

72. The LGBT community has been ostracized for years due to the stigma surrounding their sexual orientation. How did the Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar & Ors v. Union of India aim to address this social stigma?

- A. By emphasizing the need to widely publicize the judgment across media platforms to reduce social stigma.
- B. By penalizing any media that continues to publish content discriminating against the LGBT community.
- C. By ensuring that all religious organizations accept LGBT individuals within their communities.
- D. By mandating that every individual attend a government-sponsored workshop on LGBT rights.

73. Which fundamental right(s) were most directly impacted by the Supreme Court’s decision in Navtej Singh Johar & Ors v. Union of India?

- A. Right to equality (Article 14).
- B. Right to life and personal liberty, including the right to privacy and dignity (Article 21).
- C. Right to freedom of speech (Article 19).
- D. Right against exploitation (Article 23).

74. In a debate, a participant argued that Section 377 was essential to protect the family system and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. How should this argument be addressed based on the Supreme Court’s judgment?

- A. The argument is valid, and Section 377 should continue to protect society’s interests.
- B. Section 377 applies only to commercial sexual acts, so it does not affect private relationships.
- C. The argument is irrelevant because the Constitution already protects public health under different provisions.
- D. The Supreme Court found that such arguments could not supersede the constitutional rights of the LGBT community to privacy, dignity, and personal liberty.

75. In its judgment, the Supreme Court recognized the inherent nature of sexual orientation in individuals. What scientific or biological reasoning did the Court provide in support of its decision?

- A. The Court relied on research showing that homosexuality is a mental illness that can be treated with therapy.
- B. The Court recognized that sexual orientation is determined by societal influences and upbringing.
- C. The Court acknowledged that sexual orientation is natural, inherent, and controlled by neurological and biological factors.
- D. The Court did not provide any scientific basis for its decision but based it solely on human rights principles.

Passage - VI

The Government passes a law that prohibits the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, commercial distribution, and advertisement of e-cigarettes in India. Any person who violates this law will be punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both. The law says that for any subsequent offence, the person will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years, along with a fine of up to five lakh rupees. The law defines electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) as electronic devices that heat a substance (natural or artificial) to create aerosol for inhalation. These e-cigarettes may contain nicotine and flavours and include all forms of electronic nicotine delivery systems, heat-not-burn products, e-hookahs, and other similar devices. However, the definition of 'e-cigarettes' creates an exception for licensed medical products. The law further states that no person is allowed to use any place for the storage of any stock of e-cigarettes. The law states that from the date on which the law came into force (i.e., September 18, 2019), the commercial owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes are required to declare and deposit all their stocks at the nearest office of an authorized police officer (at least at the level of a subinspector) without unreasonable delay.

Zakaria owned a shop known as the Big Marley Shop in Koramangala, Bangalore that imported and stocked e-cigarettes from China. He had placed an order for e-cigarettes on September 10, 2019, with his Chinese supplier and the package arrived on September 25, 2019. On the arrival of the package, he promptly went to the house of his neighbour, who happened to be a Police Inspector, and handed it over to him. On September 27, 2019, he gave away for free, 3 e-cigarettes from his existing stock to his cousin, Shanti, who was a chain-smoker of cigarettes and was exploring alternatives to cigarettes. Shanti was delighted and immediately began using the e-cigarettes. Even after the law came into force, Zakaria continued to stock a product in his shop known as the 'Double Barrel' for sale, which has a chamber that converts nicotine juice into the aerosol form like e-cigarettes and a pipe to smoke loose tobacco. Zakaria continues to sell the Double Barrel even after September 18, 2019.

76. Arjun, a shop owner in Mumbai, imports e-cigarettes from the USA on September 20, 2019, unaware that a new law banning e-cigarettes has been passed on September 18, 2019. When the package arrives on September 30, 2019, he immediately informs his local police station and hands over the stock. Has Arjun complied with the law?

- A. Yes, because he declared and deposited the stock with the police without delay.
- B. No, because he imported e-cigarettes after the law was passed.
- C. Yes, because he was unaware of the new law when he placed the order.
- D. No, because he should have destroyed the e-cigarettes instead of handing them over to the police.

77. Ravi, a trader, imported 50 e-cigarettes from China before the ban came into effect. On October 1, 2019, Ravi sold five of them to his friend, Raj, despite the new law. Which of the following best describes Ravi's legal situation?

- A. Ravi is not liable because the e-cigarettes were imported before the ban came into effect.
- B. Ravi is liable for selling e-cigarettes, but since it was a small amount, the punishment will be reduced.
- C. Ravi is liable for violating the law as any sale of e-cigarettes after the law's commencement is prohibited.
- D. Ravi is not liable because he only sold a small quantity to a personal friend.

78. Sana owns a retail shop and continues to advertise e-cigarettes on social media after the ban. She argues that advertising is not the same as selling the product. Has Sana violated the law?

- A. No, advertising does not fall under the scope of the ban.
- B. Yes, advertising e-cigarettes is explicitly prohibited under the new law.
- C. No, as long as she does not sell the product, advertising is allowed.
- D. Yes, but only if she also has stock of e-cigarettes to sell.

79. Vishal runs an e-commerce platform and displays e-cigarettes for sale from multiple sellers, even after the law came into force. What is his legal status?

- A. Vishal is liable because facilitating the sale of e-cigarettes is also prohibited under the law.
- B. Vishal is not liable since the platform does not own or store any stock.
- C. Vishal is liable only if the platform itself earns revenue from the sales.
- D. Vishal is not liable because the ban applies only to physical stores, not online platforms.

80. Farah is a frequent traveler and brought back e-cigarettes from a foreign country after the ban in India. She claims that because she purchased them abroad, the Indian law does not apply to her. Is Farah correct?

- A. Yes, because she purchased the e-cigarettes in another country.
- B. No, because possession and use of e-cigarettes within India are also prohibited under the law.
- C. Yes, because personal use is exempt from the law.
- D. No, because only licensed medical products are exempt from the e-cigarette ban.

General Knowledge

Passage-I

Launched in 2007 under the aegis of the African Union, the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) is an ambitious Africa-led programme designed to combat land degradation, desertification and climate vulnerability across the Sahel-Sahara belt from Senegal to Djibouti. Initially visualised as a contiguous “wall” of vegetation roughly 8,000 km long and 15 km wide, the initiative has evolved into a broader mosaic of restoration landscapes, sustainable land use management, and community-based livelihood enhancement.

The GGWI sets out to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, and create 10 million green jobs by 2030. Its geographic focus spans the Sahel region, characterised by frequent droughts, fragile soils, over-grazing, deforestation, rapid population growth and increasing migration pressures. Through restoration of soils, water harvesting, agro-forestry, native species introduction and local-community engagement, the initiative hopes to enhance food security, resilience to climate change, rural incomes and ecosystem services.

Progress has been achieved but with significant delays and caveats. By recent assessments, around 18 million to 20 million hectares of land have been restored to date (representing roughly 18–20% of the target) and only a fraction of the jobs and carbon-sequestration goals have been realised. Major obstacles include: funding shortfalls (an estimated additional US \$30-33 billion still required), weak governance and coordination across multiple countries, monitoring and evaluation challenges, and the destabilising effects of conflict and insecurity in parts of the Sahel.

Institutions such as the African Development Bank, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other bilateral and multilateral donors support the GGWI through funding, technical assistance, policy frameworks and the recently-launched “Great Green Wall Accelerator”. Looking ahead, the initiative is increasingly recognised not only as a large-scale environmental restoration project but as a model of climate-resilient development, South-South cooperation and ecosystem-based adaptation — though its ultimate success hinges on sustained political commitment, private-sector financing, and deep engagement of local communities.

81. The GGWI was launched in 2007 by which organisation?

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. African Union
- C. World Bank
- D. Food and Agriculture Organization

82. Which geographic region is the primary focus of the GGWI?

- A. The Congo Basin
- B. The Horn of Africa only
- C. The Sahel-Sahara belt from Senegal to Djibouti
- D. The coastal plains of West Africa

83. Among the challenges listed for GGWI implementation, which of the following is not mentioned in the passage?

- A. Funding shortfalls
- B. Weak governance and coordination
- C. Lack of indigenous species planting
- D. Monitoring and evaluation difficulties

84. Which institution is described in the passage as supporting the GGWI via the “Great Green Wall Accelerator”?

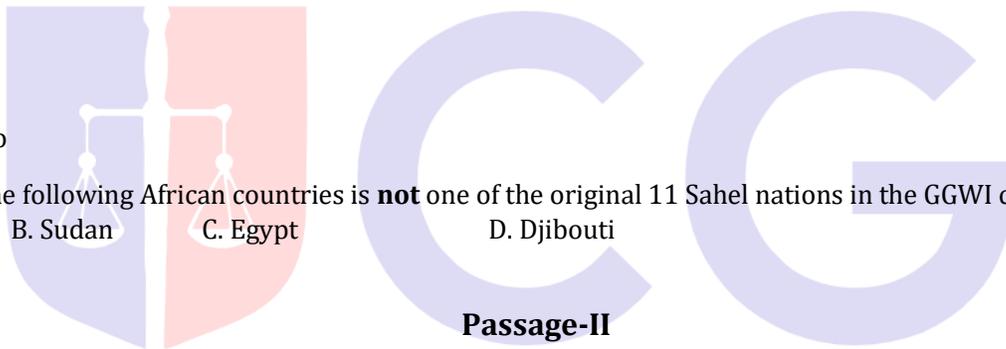
- A. World Food Programme
- B. African Development Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. World Wildlife Fund

85. Which country hosts the headquarters of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW)?

- A. Senegal
- B. Niger
- C. Mauritania
- D. Burkina Faso

86. Which of the following African countries is **not** one of the original 11 Sahel nations in the GGWI core list?

- A. Mali
- B. Sudan
- C. Egypt
- D. Djibouti



Passage-II

The National Science and Technology Survey (NSTS) carried out by the National Science & Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS) under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, is a periodic, large-scale survey of resources devoted to scientific and technological (S&T) activities in India. The current cycle, 2024-25, aims to capture data from approximately 8,000 organisations — including public sector research institutions, higher education institutions, private industry, SIROs (Scientific & Industrial Research Organisations) and NGOs.

The survey collects information via a structured online questionnaire aligned with international S&T indicator standards. Key information modules include general organisational profile, expenditure on research & development (R&D) and other S&T activities, R&D manpower (including women scientists), and R&D output data such as patents, publications and foreign collaborations. According to recent data, India’s gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) rose from around ₹ 60,196.75 crore in 2010-11 to approximately ₹ 127,380.96 crore in 2020-21. Also, India’s GERD as a share of GDP stood at about 0.66 % in 2019-20 and 0.64 % in 2020-21.

The NSTS is designed to support evidence-based S&T policy by providing an updated database for tracking national S&T capability, benchmarking India’s performance globally, and guiding resource allocation. The survey is conducted via a web-based platform to minimise time-lag, and each respondent institution is assigned unique login credentials to ensure authenticity. Historically, these surveys began in the mid-1990s and are carried out periodically, typically biennially.

Despite the large scale, challenges remain: non-response by private sector entities, standardising definitions across sectors, ensuring data quality and timeliness, and integrating findings into policy planning. Going forward, the NSTS is expected to interface with other national indicator systems and help India move towards its target of increasing R&D intensity, improving gender balance in S&T manpower, and enhancing private-sector R&D contributions.

This survey thus holds significance for India’s science, technology & innovation ecosystem by offering a granular view of where resources are deployed, where gaps exist, and how India can calibrate its S&T trajectory in an increasingly competitive global knowledge economy.

87. Which of the following modules is explicitly listed as part of the survey questionnaire in the passage?
- A. Institutional funding for international missions
 - B. R&D manpower (including women scientists)
 - C. Defence-S&T collaboration data
 - D. Export value of innovation outputs
88. What is the primary purpose of the NSTS as per the passage?
- A. To certify patents for international use
 - B. To provide granular data on India's S&T resources for policy-making
 - C. To audit private sector R&D spending only
 - D. To monitor only the higher education institutions
89. Which organisation has been authorised to collect data through the online questionnaire for the NSTS 2024-25?
- A. Indian Statistical Institute
 - B. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
 - C. NITI Aayog
 - D. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
90. Under which policy framework does the NSTMIS scheme operate within the DST?
- A. National Innovation Policy 2010
 - B. Policy Coordination & Programme Management (PCPM) division
 - C. National Research Foundation Act
 - D. Science, Technology & Innovation Policy 2020
91. Which of the following sectors contributed the largest share to India's GERD in 2020-21, according to latest survey data ?
- A. Public sector industry
 - B. Higher education
 - C. Central Government
 - D. Private sector industry

Passage - III

The Chenab Rail Bridge is a landmark engineering structure on the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, India, crossing the Chenab River gorge in the Reasi district. The structure extends roughly 1,315 metres in length and rises about 359 metres above the river bed — making it the highest railway bridge in the world in terms of deck height.

Designed as a steel-and-concrete deck-arch configuration, it features a main arch span of around 467 metres and is engineered to withstand harsh Himalayan terrain, high wind speeds and seismic activity. The bridge sits between the stations of Kauri and Bakkal on the Jammu–Baramulla line, forming one of the most formidable segments in the Himalayan rail link.

The construction phase saw considerable challenges: steep difficult terrain, geological instability, extreme weather conditions, and logistical constraints. The project cost was approximately ₹1,486 crore in the latest published values, and its estimated lifespan is about 120 years. As part of the USBRL, the bridge not only serves civilian connectivity but also holds strategic value in enhancing all-weather rail linkages to the Kashmir Valley.

Inaugurated by the Prime Minister (on 6 June 2025) as part of the completion of the rail link, the bridge stands as a symbol of India's push for connectivity in its northern frontier. With tourism, defence logistics, and regional development in view, the Chenab Bridge is widely seen as a landmark in the nation's infrastructure ambitions.

92. Consider the following statements about the *Chenab Rail Bridge*:

1. It is an arch bridge built using a steel-truss system.
2. Its deck height is greater than that of the Millau Viaduct in France.
3. It carries both rail and road traffic on separate decks.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

93. Which of the following entities were involved in the design and construction of the Chenab Rail Bridge?

1. Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)
2. Afcons Infrastructure Limited
3. WSP Group (UK) as the design consultant

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 1 and 3 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

94. With reference to the world's highest bridges, arrange the following in descending order of height from the river/valley bed:

1. Chenab Rail Bridge
2. Beipanjiang Bridge (China)
3. Millau Viaduct (France)

- A. 2 > 1 > 3 B. 1 > 2 > 3 C. 3 > 1 > 2 D. 1 > 3 > 2

95. Consider the following statements:

1. The estimated cost of the Chenab Rail Bridge project exceeded ₹1,400 crore.
2. The bridge's construction was executed under the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link Project.
3. The bridge has an expected lifespan of about 120 years.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

96. Which of the following government ministries or divisions primarily executed and supervised the project?

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B. Ministry of Railways
- C. National Highways Authority of India
- D. Ministry of Defence

97. Arrange the following milestones in chronological order:

- 1. Foundation laying of the Chenab Bridge
- 2. Completion of arch closure
- 3. Inauguration for operational use

- A. 1 → 2 → 3
- B. 2 → 1 → 3
- C. 3 → 1 → 2
- D. 2 → 3 → 1

98. Which of the following statements about the Chenab Rail Bridge's global significance is correct?

- A. It is the world's highest railway bridge, surpassing China's Beipanjiang Bridge.
- B. It is the longest railway bridge in Asia.
- C. It is the highest road bridge in the world.
- D. It is the oldest operational arch bridge in the Himalayas.

Passage - IV

Lipulekh Pass is a high-altitude mountain pass in the Kumaon region of the Indian state of Uttarakhand, located in the Pithoragarh district near the trijunction of India, Nepal and China (Tibet). The pass lies at an elevation of approximately 5,334 metres ($\approx 17,500$ feet) above sea level. Historically it has served as an ancient trade route linking the Indian subcontinent with the Tibetan plateau. It also holds religious significance as part of the pilgrimage route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Mt Kailash and Lake Mansarovar.

Beyond its religious and trade roles, Lipulekh Pass is strategically important for India's northern border management, due to its position on the India-China (Tibet) frontier and near the India-Nepal border. In recent years, the road access to Lipulekh via Dharchula has been upgraded, improving connectivity for both pilgrims and security forces.

However, the pass is also the subject of a boundary dispute. The neighbouring country of Nepal claims the adjacent Kalapani and Limpiyadhura region, arguing that Lipulekh lies within its territory under the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli. India, in contrast, maintains that Lipulekh lies within Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and has continuously administered the region. This dispute underscores how geography, history and strategic border infrastructure converge at Lipulekh.

In summary, Lipulekh Pass is more than a mountain pass—it is a nexus of pilgrimage, cross-border trade (though constrained), strategic frontier infrastructure and historical geopolitical contestation. Understanding its multi-dimensional significance is important from infrastructure, security, cultural-heritage and border-governance perspectives.

99. Consider the following statements about Lipulekh Pass:

- 1. It is located in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- 2. It forms the tri-junction between India, Nepal, and China (Tibet).
- 3. The pass connects the Indian side with the valley of the Kali (Sharda) River.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

100. Which of the following statements correctly highlight the strategic value of Lipulekh Pass?

- 1. It provides access to the Kailash Mansarovar region of Tibet.
- 2. It serves as an entry point for the Indian Army to monitor the India-China border in this sector.
- 3. It is part of the trans-Himalayan trade corridor under the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

101. Arrange the following locations in correct order from south to north along the Lipulekh route:

1. Dharchula
2. Gunji
3. Kalapani
4. Lipulekh Pass

A. 1 → 2 → 3 → 4

B. 1 → 3 → 2 → 4

C. 3 → 1 → 2 → 4

D. 1 → 2 → 4 → 3

102. Which of the following events led to renewed tensions between India and Nepal over Lipulekh Pass in 2020?

- A. India's inauguration of a new road link from Dharchula to Lipulekh Pass.
- B. The signing of a trilateral agreement among India, China, and Nepal.
- C. The deployment of UN peacekeepers in the Kalapani region.
- D. Nepal's inclusion of the Lipulekh area in the BIMSTEC trade map.

103. Consider the following statements:

1. Lipulekh Pass lies in the Greater Himalayan range, characterised by alpine tundra vegetation.
2. The area remains snow-bound for almost nine months a year.
3. It experiences heavy monsoon rainfall during June–September.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

104. Which of the following passes lie close to Lipulekh Pass along India's northern frontier?

1. Niti Pass
2. Mana Pass
3. Shipki La

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

105. Which Indian security agency primarily oversees movement through Lipulekh Pass?

A. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

B. Border Security Force (BSF)

C. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

D. Assam Rifles

Passage - V

The water-sharing dispute between the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana arises from the reorganisation of Punjab in 1966, when Haryana was carved out and the successor states were to share the water resources of the Ravi-Beas system. Under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, Section 78(1) provided that excess or surplus water of the Ravi and Beas rivers should be shared with Haryana, but no agreement could be reached within two years of the act. In March 1976, the Union Government issued a notification under its powers that split the surplus waters between Punjab and Haryana, a decision challenged by Punjab.

A key piece of infrastructure tied to the dispute is the proposed Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal, conceived to divert Punjab's share of the Sutlej waters into the Yamuna system to supply Haryana. Legal and institutional efforts followed: the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) was constituted in April 1986 to adjudicate the dispute between Punjab, Haryana (and also Rajasthan) regarding the surplus flows of Ravi-Beas. Over the decades the matter has remained unresolved and has recently flared again: in April 2025 Haryana demanded an extra 8,500 cusecs of water from the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) via the Bhakra-Nangal system, 4,500 cusecs above its usual share. Punjab refused, citing its water scarcity and structural constraints.

The dispute underscores the complexities of inter-state river water sharing in India: competing agricultural and drinking water demands, ageing infrastructure, the role of federal institutions (BBMB), calls for cooperative federalism, and the challenge of finalising canal links like SYL. Understanding this case is important for India's water governance, basin-level management and legal/institutional frameworks for inter-state river waters.

106. Which of the following rivers are directly involved in the Punjab–Haryana water-sharing dispute?

1. Ravi
2. Beas
3. Sutlej
4. Yamuna

A. 1, 2 and 3 only B. 2 and 4 only C. 1 and 2 only D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

107. Which of the following sectors in Punjab and Haryana are most directly affected by reduced river-water availability?

1. Agriculture
2. Thermal power generation
3. Urban drinking water supply

A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

108. Which of the following states are beneficiaries of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)?

1. Punjab
2. Haryana
3. Rajasthan
4. Himachal Pradesh

A. 1 and 2 only B. 1, 2 and 3 only C. 2, 3 and 4 only D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

109. Which of the following measures can best ensure a sustainable resolution of the Punjab–Haryana water conflict?

1. Scientific assessment of river flows under climate change.
2. Revival of joint irrigation infrastructure projects.
3. Community-based water governance across basins.

A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

110. Which of the following inter-state water disputes offers a comparable precedent in tribunal adjudication?

- A. Cauvery Water Dispute (Karnataka–Tamil Nadu)
- B. Krishna–Godavari Water Dispute
- C. Mahanadi Water Dispute (Odisha–Chhattisgarh)
- D. All of the above

Quantitative Technique

Passage-I

Number of employees working in five different banks A, B, C, D and E in Bihar.



BANK	EMLOYEES	M:F
A	1520	13:06
B	1680	4:03
C	1460	9:11
D	1380	10:13
E	1420	13:07

111. What is the total number of male employees taking all the banks together?

- (A) 3180 (B) 6180 (C) 5180 (D) 4180

112. What is the average number of female employees taking all the bank together?

- (A) 676 (B) 686 (C) 656 (D) 666

113. By what percent is the number of male employees working in banks A and C together more than that of the total number of female employees working in bank B and D?

- (A) 11.11% (B) 33.33% (C) 13.13% (D) 17.17%

114. What is the ratio of female employees working in Bank D to that in E ?

- (A) 780:497 (B) 760:497 (C) 730:497 (D) 720:497

115. Approximately by what percent is the number of total employees of bank C more than that of bank D?

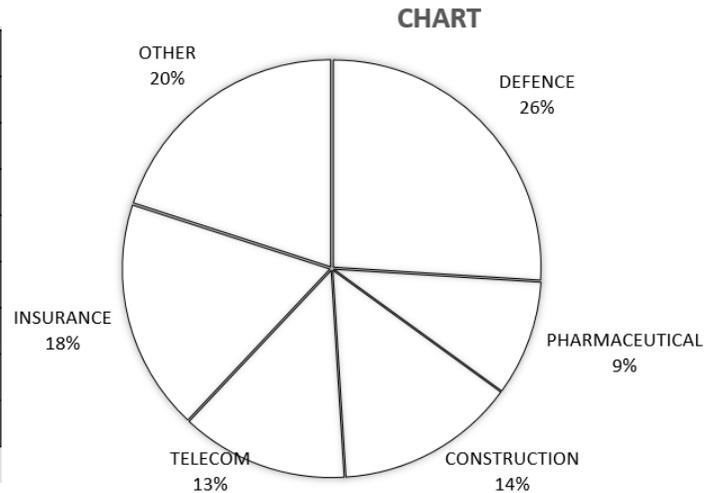
- (A) 5.4% (B) 5.8% (C) 6.8% (D) 6.4%

Space for Rough :

Passage-II

The table shows the state-wise foreign investment, and the pie-chart shows the percentage distribution of investments in different sectors in 2014-2015 for each states.

STATE	FOREIGN INVESTMENT (IN RS CRORE)
A.P	730
DELHI	830
MAHARASTRA	1940
RAJASTHAN	1560
M.P	1780
GUJRAT	1970
T.N	690
TOTAL	9500



116. What is the total foreign investment in other sectors by all the given states together?

- (A) 1900 crore (B) 1700 crore (C) 1750 crore (D) 1850 crore

117. The foreign investment in insurance sector in Rajasthan is approximately what percent of the foreign investment in construction sector in Maharashtra?

- (A) 103.38% (B) 104.38% (C) 102.38% (D) 101.38%

118. The foreign investment in pharmaceutical sector in A.P is approximately what percent less than the foreign investment in Telcom sector in Delhi?

- (A) 36.11% (B) 37.11% (C) 39.11% (D) 38.11%

119. What is the ratio of foreign investment in defence sector in Rajasthan and T.N.?

- (A) 72:23 (B) 52:23 (C) 62:23 (D) 42:23

120. What is the ratio of the foreign investment in defence sector in Gujarat to that in construction and insurance sector together in M.P.?

- (A) 1920:2136 (B) 1280:1424 (C) 1600:1776 (D) 2561:2848

Space for Rough :

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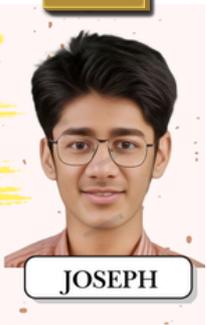
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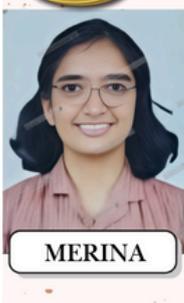
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2



JOSEPH

3



MERINA

4



ARSALAN AHMAD

5



HARIPRIYA

6



YASH RAJYA VARDHAN