

XAT 2025 Question Paper

Quant

1. There are 25 rooms in a hotel. Each room can accommodate at the most three people. For each room, the single occupancy charge is Rs. 2000 per day, the double occupancy charge is Rs. 3000 per day, and the triple occupancy charge is Rs. 3500 per day. If there are 55 people staying in the hotel today, what is the maximum possible revenue from room occupancy charges today?
- A Rs. 72500
B Rs. 82500
C Rs. 77500
D Rs. 92500
E Rs. 87500
2. The market value of beams, made of a rare metal, has a unique property: the market value of any such beam is proportional to the square of its length. Due to an accident, one such beam got broken into two pieces having lengths in the ratio 4:9. Considering each broken piece as a separate beam, how much gain or loss, with respect to the market value of the original beam before the accident, is incurred?
- A 74.23% gain
B 42.60% loss
C 31.77% loss
D 57.40% loss
E No gain or loss
3. ABCD is a rectangle, where the coordinates of C and D are (-2,0) and (2,0), respectively. \longleftrightarrow
If the area of the rectangle is 24, which of the following is a possible equation representing the line AB ?
- A $4x + 6y = 24$
B None of the other options is correct.
C $y = 6$
D $x = 6$
E $x + y = 12$
4. Adu and Amu have bought two pieces of land on the Moon from an e-store. Both the pieces of land have the same perimeters, but Adu's piece of land is in the shape of a square, while Amu's piece of land is in the shape of a circle. The ratio of the areas of Adu's piece of land to Amu's piece of land is:
- A 1 : 1
B $\pi^2 : 4$

- C $1 : \pi$
- D $\pi : 4$
- E $\pi : 2$

5. Ramesh bought a mobile from a local store. He paid $\frac{1}{6}$ of the price via UPI and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the price via cash. He agreed to pay the balance amount a year later. While paying back the balance amount, Ramesh paid 10% interest on the balance amount.

If the interest paid was Rs. 6000, what was the original price of the mobile?

- A Rs. 120000
- B Rs. 110000
- C Rs. 100000
- D Rs. 90000
- E Rs. 150000

6. A straight line L_1 has the equation $y = k(x - 1)$, where k is some real number. The straight line L_1 intersects another straight line L_2 at the point $(5, 8)$.

If L_2 has a slope of 1, which of the following is definitely FALSE?

- A The distance between the y-intercepts of the two lines is 6
- B The distance from the origin to one of the lines is $\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}$
- C The line L_1 passes through the point $(1, 0)$
- D The distance between the x-intercepts of the two lines is 4
- E The distance from the origin to one of the lines is $\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$

7. In a computer game, each move requires pressing a button. When the button is pressed for the first time, as a move, the computer randomly chooses a cell from a 4×4 grid of sixteen cells and puts an "X" mark on that cell. When the button is pressed subsequently, the computer randomly chooses a cell from the remaining unmarked cells and puts an "X" mark on that cell. This goes on till the end of the game. The game ends when either all the cells in any one row, or all the cells in any one column, are marked with "X".

What is the maximum possible number of times a player has to press the button to finish the game?

- A 16
- B 10
- C 6
- D 13
- E 4

8. If a , b , and c are all positive integers, with $4a > b$, then which of the following conditions is BOTH NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT for the expression $\sqrt[3]{(3)^a(21)^{(3a-b)}(49)^{(2b+c)}}$ to be a positive integer?

- A $a - b + 2c$ is divisible by 3
- B None of the other conditions is both necessary and sufficient
- C a , b , and c are divisible by 3
- D $a - b = c$
- E $(a - b)$ and c are divisible by 3

9. A solid trophy, consisting of two parts, has been designed in the following manner: the bottom part is a frustum of a cone with the bottom radius 30 cm, the top radius 20 cm, and height 40 cm, while the top part is a hemisphere with radius 20 cm. Moreover, the flat surface of the hemisphere is the same as the top surface of the frustum.

If the entire trophy is to be gold-plated at the cost of Rs. 40 per square cm, what would the cost for gold-plating be closest to?

- A Rs. 1,12,000
- B Rs. 3,60,000
- C Rs. 4,73,000
- D Rs. 5,23,000
- E Rs. 3,72,000

10. An industrial robot manufacturing company is tasked to design humanoid robots to be used in warehouses where the robots need to pick items from a stack of shelves. The height of the topmost shelf from the ground is 7 feet. To operate, the robot has to move on a track, running parallel to the stack of shelves. The track is fixed 1 foot away from the base of the stack of shelves. Further, the robot cannot raise its arms by more than 60° from the horizontal plane.

If the robot's arms are attached to its shoulder, what should be the minimum height of the robot from the ground to the shoulder for its arms to reach the topmost shelf?

- A $\sqrt{3}$ feet
- B 7 feet
- C $7 - \sqrt{3}$ feet
- D None of the other options is correct
- E $6 + \sqrt{3}$ feet

11. There are five dustbins along a circular path at different places. Ramesh takes multiple rounds of the path every morning, always at the same speed. He noticed that it took him a different number of steps to walk between any two consecutive dustbins. Ramesh also noticed that starting from any of the dustbins, it took a minimum 800 steps to reach every second dustbin. On the other hand, starting from any of the dustbins, it took a maximum 1260 steps to reach every third dustbin.

If Ramesh's one step is 0.77 metre, and the width of the path is negligible, which of the following can be the radius of the circular path?

- A 230 metres
- B 240 metres
- C 260 metres
- D 250 metres
- E 220 metres

12. For how many distinct real values of x does the equation below hold true? (Consider $a > 0$.)

$$\frac{x^2 \log_a(16)}{\log_a(32)} - \frac{\log_a(64)}{\log_a(32)} - x = 0$$

- A 1
- B Infinitely many
- C 2
- D 0
- E Depends on the value of a

13. A farmer has a quadrilateral parcel of land with a perimeter of 700 feet. Two opposite angles of that parcel of land are right angles, while the remaining two are not. The farmer wants to do organic farming on that parcel of land. The cost of organic farming is Rs. 400 per square foot. Consider the following two additional pieces of information:

- I. The length of one of the sides of that parcel of land is 110 feet.
- II. The distance between the two corner points where the non-perpendicular sides of that parcel of land intersect is 255 feet.

To determine the amount of money the farmer needs to spend to do organic farming on the entire parcel of land, which of the above additional pieces of information is/are MINIMALLY SUFFICIENT?

- A II only
- B I only
- C I and II together only
- D Either of I or II, by itself
- E The amount cannot be determined even with the additional pieces of information.

14. Consider the quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + a$ having two irrational roots, with a and b being two positive integers, such that $a, b \leq 9$.

If all such permissible pairs (a, b) are equally likely, what is the probability that $a + b$ is greater than 9?

- A $\frac{7}{16}$
- B $\frac{5}{8}$

C None of the other answers is correct.

D $\frac{7}{15}$

E $\frac{2}{3}$

15. Eight employees of an organization have been rated on a scale of 1 to 50 for their performance. All ratings are integers. The overall average rating of the eight employees is 30. While the five employees with the highest ratings average 38, the five employees with the lowest ratings average 25. Which of the following, about the ratings obtained by the eight employees, is DEFINITELY FALSE?

A The second highest rating obtained is 38.

B The median of the eight ratings is 37.5.

C The lowest rating obtained is 1.

D The highest rating obtained is 40.

E The third lowest rating obtained is 37.

16. Arun selected an integer x between 2 and 40, both inclusive. He noticed that the greatest common divisor of the selected integer x and any other integer between 2 and 40, both inclusive, is 1. How many different choices for such an x are possible?

A 4

B 8

C 1

D 12

E 0

Instructions [17 - 19]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

In an 8-week course, a professor administered a test at the end of each week. Each of the eight tests was scored out of 4 marks, and a student could only receive a non-negative integer score.

Two students, Ravi and Sumana, took the eight tests.

In the first test, Ravi and Sumana scored the same marks. From the second to eighth tests, Ravi scored the exact same non-zero marks. Sumana scored the same marks as Ravi from the fifth test onwards. Ravi's total marks in the first three tests was the same as Sumana's total marks in the first two tests. Also, Sumana's marks in the first test, total marks of the first two tests, and total marks of the eight tests are in a geometric progression.

17. Which of the following CAN be true?

A Ravi scored 4 marks in the third test

B Sumana scored 2 marks in the first test

C Ravi scored 0 marks in the fifth test

D Sumana scored 3 marks in the second test

E Sumana scored 4 marks in the eighth test

18. If Ravi scored 4 marks in the first test, how many marks did Sumana score in the third test?

A 3

B 0

C 1

D 4

E 2

19. If Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test, what is the maximum possible value of Sumana's total marks in all the eight tests together?

A 10

B 12

C 9

D Cannot be uniquely determined from the given information

E 8

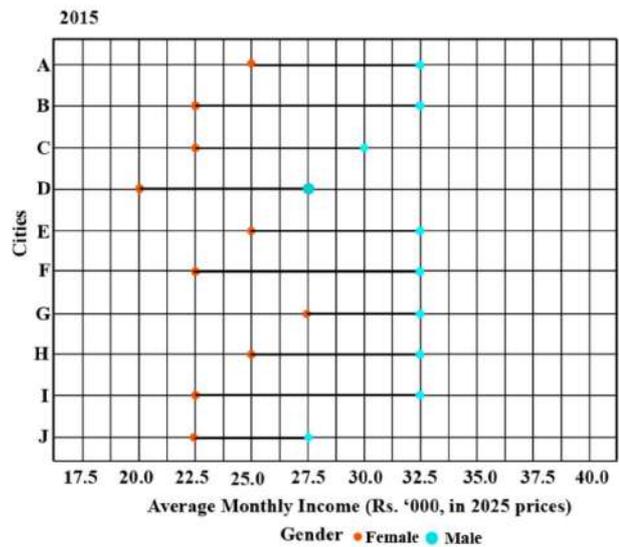
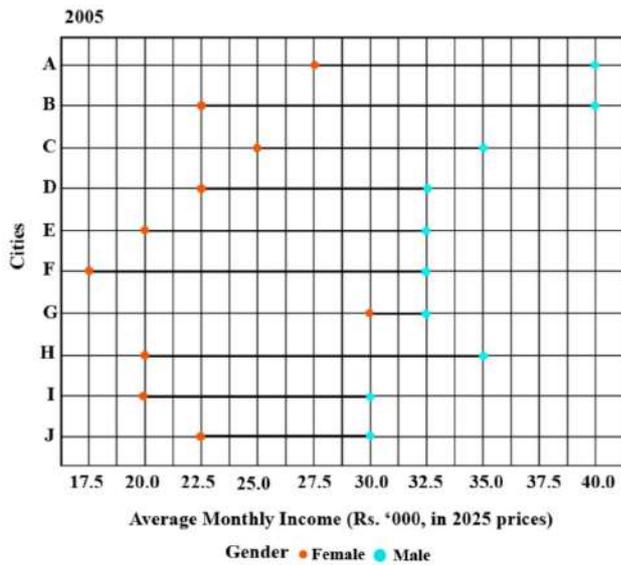
Instructions [20 - 22]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

The plots below depict and compare the average monthly incomes (in Rs. '000) of males and females in ten cities of India in the years 2005 and 2015. The ten cities, marked A-J in the records, are of different population sizes. For a fair comparison, to adjust for inflation, incomes for both the periods are scaled to 2025 prices.

Each red dot represents the average monthly income of females in a particular city in a particular year, while each blue dot represents the average monthly income of males in a particular city in a particular year. The gender gap for a city, for a particular year, is defined as the absolute value of the average monthly income of males, minus the average monthly income of females, in that year.



20. In which city did the gender gap, in terms of 2025 prices, change the least, from 2005 to 2015, in terms of percentage?

- A J
- B I
- C D
- D E
- E C

21. Which of the following statements, about the average monthly incomes of the 10 cities, as represented in the plots, is DEFINITELY FALSE?

- A In terms of 2025 prices, the average gender gap of the 10 cities combined in 2015 was less compared to the average gender gap of the 10 cities combined in 2005.
- B In terms of 2025 prices, the median monthly income of men of the 10 cities combined were higher than the median monthly income of women of the 10 cities combined, both in 2005 and 2015.
- C In terms of 2025 prices, the average monthly income of men of the 10 cities combined was less than Rs. 30,000 in 2005.
- D In terms of 2025 prices, in more than half of the 10 cities, average monthly incomes of men were more in 2005, compared to 2015.
- E In terms of 2025 prices, the average monthly income of women of the 10 cities combined was less than Rs. 22,000 in 2015.

22. Rs.100 in 2025 is worth Rs. 60 in 2015 prices, and Rs. 25 in 2005 prices. Based on the given plots, which of the following statements, about the unscaled incomes, i.e., the incomes before scaling to 2025 prices, CANNOT be correct? (All statements refer to people represented in the given plots.)

- A Average unscaled income for both genders increased in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015
- B Average unscaled income of women was about Rs. 15,000 in 2015 in City H
- C Average unscaled income of men in City E increased by about 140% from 2005 to 2015

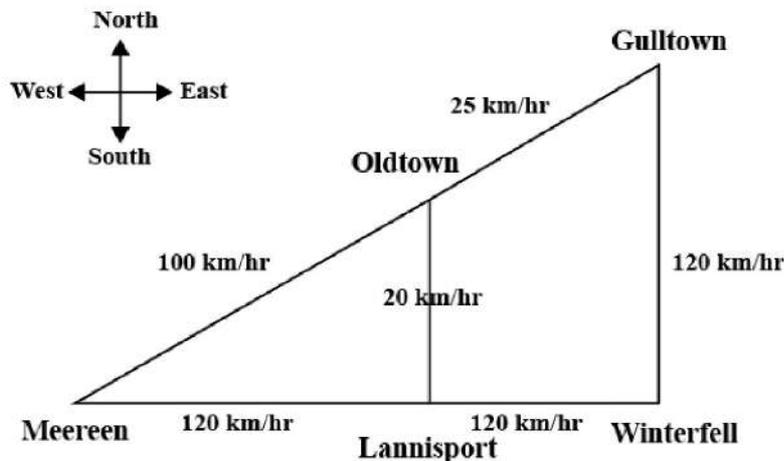
- D Average unscaled income of women in City G increased by about 120% from 2005 to 2015
- E The unscaled gender gaps reduced in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015

Instructions [23 - 25]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

The diagram below represents a road network connecting five towns, namely Meereen, Lannisport, Winterfell, Oldtown, and Gulltown. The maximum speed limits along any stretch of road are as shown in the diagram. The straight road that connects Meereen to Gulltown passes through Oldtown. Another straight road, running west to east, connecting Meereen to Winterfell, passes through Lannisport. Further, two straight roads, one from Lannisport to Oldtown and another from Winterfell to Gulltown, are perpendicular to the road joining Meereen to Winterfell, and run from south to north.



Consider a car always travelling at the maximum permissible speed, and always taking the shortest route. It takes 1 hour to reach Oldtown from Meereen, 2 hours to reach Gulltown from Oldtown, and 45 minutes to reach Winterfell from Gulltown. (For this problem, always consider the shortest route in terms of distance.)

23. Tyrion Lannister drove from Meereen to Oldtown, then from Oldtown to Lannisport, and finally from Lannisport to Winterfell, always taking the shortest paths. He always drove at a speed 10 km/hr below the maximum speed limits for the stretches he took. What was his total driving time closest to?
- A 3 hrs 19 mins
 - B 4 hrs 20 mins
 - C 7 hrs 28 mins
 - D 6 hrs 42 mins
 - E 7 hrs 50 mins
24. Missandei starts from Gulltown towards Oldtown by the shortest path, driving at the maximum permissible speed. From Oldtown, she drives at a speed of 10 km/hr towards Lannisport. When Missandei starts from Gulltown, Varys starts at the same time from Lannisport to Oldtown along the shortest path, always driving at the maximum permissible speed. If they don't stop anywhere, at what point will they meet?
- A Approximately 13.33 km south of Oldtown.

- B Approximately 54.33 km north of Lannisport.
- C Approximately 57.33 km north of Lannisport.
- D Approximately 6.67 km south of Oldtown.
- E Cannot be uniquely determined from the given information.

25. The capital city, King’s Landing, located 40 km to the south of Gulltown on the road connecting Gulltown to Winterfell, did not have a straight road, connecting to Meereen. Now, a new expressway is being built to connect these two towns by a straight road.

What should be the maximum speed limit allowed on this expressway so that it cuts down the travel time, from Meereen to King’s Landing, from the fastest possible route through the road network shown in the diagram, by 20 minutes?

- A 100 km/hr
- B 130 km/hr
- C 139 km/hr
- D 120 km/hr
- E 157 km/hr

Instructions [26 - 28]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

GadRev is a firm that reviews different latest gadgets through a team of four reviewers (R1, R2, R3, and R4). Recently the reviewers reviewed four different tech gadgets (A, B, C, and D) on a scale of 1 to 5 (all integer values) where 1 denotes poor and 5 denotes excellent. These review ratings were then tabulated. However, due to a technical glitch, some of these ratings got deleted. The average rating given by each reviewer, and the average rating given to each gadget were earlier communicated to the team management in a separate email and hence can be useful to retrieve the deleted ratings. The available ratings along with the average ratings are represented in the following table:

	A	B	C	D	Average
R1		4		3	4
R2	3		4		4
R3				5	4
R4		4	5		4.25
Average	4	4	4	4.25	

26. What rating provided by Reviewer R1 to Gadget A can help determining the remaining ratings uniquely?

- A 1
- B 4
- C 2
- D 5

E 3

27. In how many different ways could Reviewer R2 have rated Gadget B so that the ratings lead to the same averages for the gadgets and the reviewers as shown in the table?

A 1

B 5

C 2

D 4

E 3

28. How many different valid combinations of the missing ratings are possible?

A 4

B 1

C 5

D 2

E 3

Decision Making

Instructions [29 - 31]

Read the following scenario and answer the **THREE** questions that follow.

Aarya had always been a mediocre student. Luckily, after finishing her undergraduate degree from a tier-two engineering college, she secured a decent but modestly paying job at a reputable IT company.

However, after a year on the job, Aarya found her role mundane. When her best friend at the company, Shruti, left to pursue an MBA from a top-tier business school, citing significant career growth and potential salary increase upon graduation, Aarya felt intrigued and inspired to follow the same path. Shruti appreciated Aarya's aspirations, telling her that doing an MBA from a top-tier business school could not only land Aarya a lucrative job but also it could fast-track her career progression. However, Aarya was concerned whether she would be able to balance between her MBA entrance exam preparation and her current job. Aarya considered resigning to focus entirely on MBA entrance exam preparation, but Shruti cautioned her that top-tier business schools might view a career break unfavourably, as they prefer continuous professional engagement.

29. The CEO of Aarya's IT firm tied up with a premier business school to reserve thirty seats in an online management certificate program, aimed at grooming working professionals. The CEO, however, declared that the employees participating in this program will have to sign a three-year bond with the firm. Further, the CEO added that though good performance was a criterion for selection, he would hold authority to take a final call.

Aarya, well aware of her academic limitations, was unsure about the time available to prepare for the MBA entrance exams. She contemplated going for the management certificate program, instead of preparing for the MBA entrance exams.

Which of the following considerations will **BEST** help Aarya decide whether to apply for the online management certificate program?

- A Aarya keeps getting appreciated for her performance by the HR department.
- B Shruti attempted the MBA entrance exams twice, before she could get selected.
- C Aarya feels that the online program is light enough to manage while working full time.
- D Aarya wants to be part of a very good alumni network.
- E Those who complete this online management certificate program do well in their career.

30. After working hard on MBA entrance exam preparations for one year, Aarya received an admission offer from the two-year agribusiness program of a premier business school. While she aspired to be a part of that premier business school, she had no interest in agribusiness. While deliberating, she received an offer from a brand new, but buzzworthy, global one-year executive MBA program in General Management, in a mid-tier business school. The program boasted excellent placement for its first batch of students. While the program was typically geared towards students with a considerable industry experience, being new, it also allowed some exceptions for "well-deserving students" with little or no experience.

Aarya was worried whether, being a candidate with a minimal experience, she would be a good fit in the executive MBA program. Which of the following considerations would BEST help Aarya in taking admission in the one-year executive MBA program?

- A The executive MBA program offers generous scholarships to women with IT experience.
- B Aarya does not have the confidence to spend another year in MBA entrance-exam preparation.
- C The agribusiness program is not the flagship program of the premier business school.
- D Aarya has a better chance of furthering her career in a field of her interest through the executive MBA program.
- E The unique structure of the executive MBA program has gained a lot of attention from the new start-ups.

31. After working hard on MBA entrance exam preparations for one year, Aarya received two admission offers: one from the two-year agribusiness program of a premier business school, and another one from a brand new, but buzzworthy, global one-year executive MBA program in General Management in a mid-tier business school. As she did not have much interest in agribusiness, Aarya opted to enrol in the one-year executive MBA program, and promptly submitted her first instalment of fees towards admission. She was very happy that she would soon embark on her MBA journey.

To her shock, a few days later, she received a call from the authorities of the mid-tier business school. They informed her that due to a technical glitch in their system, more admission offers were made than the available seats. Consequently, candidates lower on the merit list, including Aarya, were being offered a choice from the following options: a deferred admission next year to the same program, or a full refund of the fees. They also said, if interested, Aarya could right now join a similar program, starting in a newly launched campus of the same business school, where many seats were available.

Aarya considered the whole episode a breach of trust, and wondered, if it would at all be worthwhile to be associated with this business school now or in the future. Which of the following considerations will BEST restore her faith in this business school?

- A A deferment by a year will give her a chance to build on her work experience.
- B The business school runs many management training programs on ethical leadership for corporates.
- C A similar incident happened three years back in another business school, and all deferred candidates eventually got good placements.

- D Many mid-tier business schools give offers to more candidates than available seats to tackle rejections.
- E The business school owned the mistake, and tried their best to help the affected candidates.

Instructions [32 - 34]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Ned Flanders and Homer Simpson Partners Limited is a law firm, known for its unwavering commitment to client satisfaction. They treat the clients as family members who have grown along with the firm. Further, they are highly regarded in the industry, consulted by the country's top organizations. Among the founders, Homer Simpson is flamboyant, while Ned Flanders is serious. Together, they bring a dynamic balance to the team.

The organization believes in a strong socialization ritual that bonds the new lawyers (newcomers) with the existing members. Also, the socialization ritual ensures that newcomers fully understand the nature of their work and integrate seamlessly into the company's culture. During their first week, newcomers are overloaded with a barrage of artificial tasks, unexpected client calls, and a challenging meeting with the founders. This results in newcomers getting overwhelmed, and doubting their decision to join the firm, only for the founders to meet them and reveal that this is one big prank and a way to welcome them to the organization. This socialization ritual has served them well for the past two decades. However, not all the newcomers appreciate the utility of this ritual.

One of the lawyers, Ms. Lisa Simpleton, who joined in 2023 and went through the same socialization ritual, found it unwelcoming. She believes that other newcomers might also share the same opinion. Lisa thinks that the current generation, especially post-COVID, needs more friendly welcome, and the firm must put an end to this ritual.

- 32.** When a new batch of lawyers joins in 2024, Lisa feels that it is her moral responsibility to reprieve the newcomers from the ensuing stress. However, Lisa, like the others who joined along with her, is on probation for two years. During the probation period, her skills and performance are under evaluation. Upon successful completion of this twoyear assessment, she will be eligible for confirmation. Since she is yet to be confirmed, she wants to be seen as fitting within the organization's culture.

Which of the following options will BEST enable Lisa to save the newcomers from the socialization ritual, without being singled out for questioning the organization's culture?

- A Seek a meeting with Ned Flanders, suggesting him to put an end to this practice.
- B Meet one of the newcomers in secret and tell her about this practice.
- C Organize a generic workshop for newcomers regarding workplace politics.
- D Join a team of lawyers, petitioning to the founders to end this practice.
- E Be silent this year until her performance review is over and she is confirmed.

- 33.** When a new batch of lawyers joins the organization in 2024, they receive an anonymous email, warning them about the socialization ritual, just as it is about to start. Though no newcomer paid heed to the mail, the founders are furious. They call a meeting, and announce that while employees are welcome to express their opinions, this cowardly act of sending an anonymous email shall not be tolerated.

The watercooler discussions murmur Lisa's name. Lisa is pleased that someone shares her perspective on the socialization ritual and has acted. However, she did not write the aforementioned email. As her name continues to be mentioned, she feels overwhelmed and wonders if she needs to do something about it.

Which of the following actions by Lisa can BEST enable her to defuse the situation?

- A She should apologize to the founders, taking accountability for creating a climate that resulted in someone sending the anonymous email.
- B She should simply focus on her work, and hope that the founders would ignore the rumours.
- C She should send a public email clarifying that while she has reservations about the practice, she is not the author of the anonymous email.
- D She should meet the founders and share that while she has reservations about the practice, she did not send the anonymous email.
- E She should publicly apologize for having questioned the tradition of the organization to put all doubts to rest.

34. It is 2025: a new batch of lawyers has joined the firm.

Some lawyers from the 2024 batch have approached the founders to express their appreciation for the intent behind the socialization ritual. They shared that the experience offered them a glimpse of the world they are about to enter. However, they feel that the ritual has become archaic in its execution, showing its age and necessitating some fresh thinking.

As they leave, Ned feels that the time has come to abandon the ritual due to changing times. However, Homer disagrees; he thinks that exposing the employees to what the profession has to offer, in the first week, is very critical. Moreover, it helps the organization know whether the newcomer is ready for such a profession. Further, he adds that the socialization ritual has been effectively helping them for decades in grooming the talents of their organization.

Which of the following actions should the founders BEST take, if they still want to welcome their newcomers by exposing them to the harsh reality of the profession, while being empathetic to the demands of the times?

- A They should, in their website, share details about how tough the workload is going to be.
- B They should get a mental health professional to design their socialization ritual.
- C They should stick to what they are doing but hire a mental health professional who the newcomers can refer to if they feel the need.
- D They should invite suggestions from their young lawyers regarding formulating a new socialization ritual.
- E They should talk to their competitors in the same industry and check what kind of practices they follow.

Instructions [35 - 37]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Mr. Zubin Mistry is the owner and the chief editor of the newspaper The Pluralist, renowned for its high reporting standards and outstanding writing quality. The Pluralist's authentic reporting distinguishes it from other newspapers that sensationalize news. They are responsible employers, known to be highly supportive towards their employees. Its news editing team is led by Ms. Ramya Kattabomman, a respected veteran in the newspaper reporting industry, wellknown for her stringent adherence to the ethical standards of newspaper reporting.

Mr. Aditya Swaroop Verma, an award-winning senior journalist, has brought in an exposé into the activities of a mining company, operating in an ecologically vulnerable area. In his hardhitting reporting style, he has presented interviews with tens of people, delineating how the mining company has used illegal means to start mining in that area. These mining activities may lead to the destruction of the local ecological balance. However, Aditya Swaroop is unable to obtain an interview with the management of the mining company.

Aditya Swaroop's investigative report article offers significant revelations about the alleged illegal activities of the mining company which were hardly covered in the media otherwise. Nevertheless, his sources have requested for complete anonymity.

35. Ramya is trying to decide whether to publish the article. While publishing the article may enhance the reputation of The Pluralist, there are possibilities of political and economic backlash for reporting on the powerful mining company. She has consulted the legal team of the newspaper, who have warned that the report, relying mostly on anonymous sources, is likely to be legally vulnerable. On the other hand, Aditya Swaroop is a senior journalist, well known and well respected for the quality of his investigative reporting. The topic of the report is time sensitive: if the report is not published within the next 2-3 days, the mining company would get an important government project in the same area.

Which of the following reasons will BEST enable Ramya to publish the article?

- A** Ramya should publish the article because her legal team is mostly over cautious about any possibility of backlashes.
- B** Ramya should publish the article given the time-sensitive nature of the report.
- C** Ramya should publish the article because any investigation by Aditya Swaroop has enhanced the reputation of The Pluralist till date.
- D** Ramya should publish the article because a similar article was published on another mining company last week in another news daily.
- E** Ramya should publish the article because the same news can get published by a competitor known for breaking such news.

36. After the article is published next morning in The Pluralist, it goes viral. However, the mining company pushes back with a public declaration, contesting some of the findings of the article. While the potential inaccuracies do not entirely invalidate the article, they substantially undermine its message if proven true.

When Ramya asks Aditya Swaroop to bring in further proof to publish a rebuttal, he informs her that his sources, for a vital part of the article, were two employees recently fired by the mining company. And, they now admit that they were not completely honest in their initial interaction with him. Though some points raised in the article might still be valid, it is difficult to separate the inaccuracies given the unreliability of the sources. Ramya immediately brings it to the attention of Zubin, while admitting that she hastily permitted the publication of the article.

What is the MOST responsible action should Zubin take, keeping in view the recent developments due to the inaccuracies of the article?

- A** Retract the entire article, and publish Ramya's apology in the newspaper.
- B** Retract the entire article, and publish that Aditya Swaroop will no longer be with the newspaper.
- C** Publish a follow-up article disclosing the identity of the sources used for the article, attributing the responsibility of the errors to them.
- D** Publish an article accusing the mining company of bullying witnesses to change their versions.
- E** Publish a modified version of the article next day, defending the investigative journalism of Aditya Swaroop.

37. After the article is published in The Pluralist, the mining company pushes back with a public declaration, contesting some of the findings of the article.

This has hit Aditya Swaroop's reputation because he trusted unreliable sources. Nevertheless, he is

confident about the illegal activities of the mining company; he wants to redeem himself. He approaches Zubin with a request to go back to the mining company project to find new sources and rewrite an article with reliable pieces of evidence. Though his fresh investigation will require time and money, it might also enhance the reputation of the newspaper.

Zubin respects Aditya Swaroop and wants his reputation to be restored. However, Zubin is confident that continuing to work on the mining company project will not yield any results.

Which of the following actions by Zubin will BEST enable Aditya Swaroop to enhance his diminishing reputation?

- A Assign Aditya Swaroop to work as an anonymous journalist for the next few months, until he feels confident of himself.
- B Ask Aditya Swaroop to start his own YouTube channel, since more people are aware of him now than before.
- C Tell Aditya Swaroop that he plans to delegate the mining company project to a fresh team, who will work in consultation with Aditya Swaroop.
- D Ask Aditya Swaroop to focus on mentoring new and young journalists instead of working on any investigative report for some time.
- E Assign a new investigative project to Aditya Swaroop, advising him to focus on the new project without worrying about the past project.

Instructions [38 - 40]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Humane Dynamix is a leadership training organization based in Mumbai. Established in 2015, the organization is gradually becoming a leader in behavioral training. In the organization, trainers are assigned to training projects based on their expertise. Corporates seek behavioral training services on a regular basis, from Humane Dynamix, for upskilling their executives. Humane Dynamix is headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to whom the Training Assignment Officer (TAO) reports. The TAO position rotates among the senior trainers for a fixed tenure; the CEO assigns this position to a senior trainer.

Companies, desirous of hiring Humane Dynamix, share their training needs with the organization. The TAO assigns a trainer to the client. Typically, the satisfied client requests for a particular trainer that the client is satisfied, giving repeat business to Humane Dynamix from the same client company. However, the TAO takes the final call. Years of training experience plays a big role in client satisfaction, and hence, senior trainers conduct most training programs while the newly recruited trainers apprentice with them. However, the senior trainers have the autonomy to decide on who they want to accept as an apprentice.

Further, during a training program, the senior trainer takes most of the sessions, if not all, while the apprentice helps the senior trainers to organize their sessions, and occasionally take a few sessions. As the apprentices gain experience, they start getting their own independent projects, but that typically takes quite some time.

Dheeraj, a senior trainer, takes over as the TAO. As soon as he assumes the office, the CEO shares a concern with him: "We have a lot of young trainers who we have recently recruited. Since they are not known to the outside world, they do not get enough opportunities. Many of them are impatient to prove their mettle. Unless they are assigned more programs, we risk losing them rapidly."

38. Dheeraj knows that his senior colleagues are very good at training, and, hence, they conduct most of the training programs. They keep the clients satisfied and, consequently, bring repeat business. However, as asked by the CEO, Dheeraj needs to do something to enable the young trainers get more opportunities and increase their training engagements.

Which of the following options should Dheeraj execute to BEST enable the young trainers to get more training opportunities, without affecting their relationships with the client companies?

- A Dheeraj should explore for those clients who would be comfortable working with the young trainers.
- B Dheeraj should request the repeat clients to switch to the services of the young trainers who bring a lot of energy to their sessions.
- C Dheeraj should mandate that the senior trainers must allow the young trainers to take at least thirty percent of their training sessions.
- D Dheeraj should assign some of the repeat projects from the satisfied clients with particular senior trainers to the young trainers.
- E Dheeraj should request the CEO to urge the senior colleagues in giving up some of their existing clients in the interest of others' careers.

39. Dheeraj decided to assign some of the repeat clients, at random, to their young trainers, to address the concerns of the CEO. Many young trainers appreciated him for giving them more opportunities.

Sudha Iyer, a senior trainer, popular for her training programs in "Deceptive Communication Methods," was surprised to see that some of her long-standing clients were assigned to a young person. She was concerned that the clients would feel shortchanged. Moreover, she was chagrined that she was not even consulted. This led to the reduction in her number of training hours.

Since, Humane Dynamix incentivizes trainers who cross a mandated number of training hours every year, Sudha was also concerned about her possible revenue loss. Sudha wanted Dheeraj to stop assigning established clients to the young trainers. Which of the following actions would BEST help Sudha to stop Dheeraj from assigning her programs to the young trainers?

- A She should approach the CEO and request that Dheeraj be removed from his role as the TAO.
- B She should contact the client companies and ask them to reject Dheeraj's assigned trainers.
- C She should confront the CEO and share that his concerns should not be addressed at the cost of her revenues.
- D She should propose training the young trainers in her innovative methods so that they become independent in future.
- E She should share with Dheeraj that assigning her client companies to novice trainers will lead to loss of those clients.

40. Dheeraj assigned a repeat client of Nandini Hegde, another very senior trainer, to Kirti Gowda, a promising young trainer.

A few days later, the client company reached out to Nandini, off the record, and informed her that they were very unhappy with Kirti's training. They also shared that Dheeraj, when informed about this, had claimed that the client would appreciate Kirti with more exposure to her training programs.

What BEST can Nandini do to regain the client for herself, without appearing to be against the organization's focus on providing the young trainers more opportunities?

- A Tell the client that to ensure quality, they must demand her exclusively as the trainer for their upcoming training programs.
- B Propose to Dheeraj that in future assignments with the client, Kirti be a co-trainer with Nandini to help improve her performance.

- C Engage in a follow up conversation with the client, requesting that they communicate their concerns to the CEO of Humane Dynamix directly.
- D Share the client's feedback with Kirti, and ask her to opt out of future training assignments with that client.
- E Arrange a meeting with Dheeraj, informing him that she is aware of the situation, and Dheeraj's actions may lose the client for Humane Dynamix.

Instructions [41 - 43]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

TrueColor, an event management company in eastern India, had been in a business of inviting Tollywood singers to a city called Tivanna, and made money out of selling tickets of their concerts. The stars were paid a fixed fee regardless of the number of tickets sold. The company had a specialized team that negotiated the singers' fee with their managers. However, for selling the tickets of such events, they were reliant on an external media agency called Zedius. Zedius had a long-standing relationship with TrueColor, and had been instrumental in achieving a target of 50,000 tickets for each of the flagship events.

Mr. Sukanta Rao joined TrueColor as an inhouse sales and marketing manager, a position exclusively created for him. The CEO, Mr. Adil Banerjee, had assigned a task of increasing the sales of tickets to 100,000. In Sukanta's earlier stint, he had seen that similar cities sell more than 75,000 tickets for such events. He felt that, over time, reaching 100,000 was plausible for TrueColor.

41. Sukanta felt that the aspirational target can be achieved only if Zedius is replaced. However, he is not sure if he should make any major changes in his first year.

Which of the following reasons will BEST help Sukanta NOT to start making major changes immediately?

- A Zedius has managed TrueColor's marketing for the last five years.
- B The owners of Zedius are respected citizens of Tivanna.
- C Sukanta needs more time to learn about the dynamics of the eastern market.
- D TrueColor recruited Sukanta specifically to increase ticket sales by whatever means necessary.
- E For around a decade, ticket sales have consistently hovered at 50,000.

42. Just two weeks before the flagship event, Adil received a few emails from competing media agencies that accused Zedius of selling phony tickets in the "black" market. When Adil enquired with the security agency in charge of gatekeeping the events, they told him that they had no mechanism to check the authenticity of tickets.

Which of the following options will BEST help Adil to ignore the accusations from the competing media agencies, and maintain status quo?

- A In Tivanna, the competing media agencies keep defaming each other out of fierce competition.
- B Zedius promises a particular threshold of ticket sales as decided by TrueColor.
- C Zedius is the largest media agency in Tivanna.
- D Some attendees admitted to paying cash to gate keepers to get in.
- E Tivanna being a small city, a few prominent personalities have to be allowed in without tickets.

43. The following year, Sukanta discussed with Adil that unless they got into the ticket selling process, they might not be able to improve the ticket numbers. However, this would mean moving away from Zedius, and the transition could cause short-term pains since TrueColor would be entering into uncharted territory. Further, Sukanta added that TrueColor would achieve self-sufficiency over couple of years. Adil was concerned about the risk of taking over an activity that the organization was not competent at, but understood Sukanta's point. In the interest of building long-term competencies, he authorized Sukanta to take it forward. Sukanta did not renew Zedius's contract in the following year; instead, he recruited a skeletal team of three freshers from a premier business school as his support staff.

As the event approached, the team dedicated themselves to executing their plan. However, by the time the ticket sales window closed, they managed to sell only 40,000 tickets. This shift in strategy provoked considerable dissent within the company, challenging Sukanta's decision.

Disturbed by the situation, witnessing the internal turmoil, Adil must now navigate the company's immediate reaction.

Which of the following should now be Adil's BEST course of action?

- A He should make Sukanta and his team to go back to Zedius immediately.
- B He should wait and watch as the investment in Sukanta may need more time to bear result.
- C He should engage a different media agency which is working for TrueColor's main competitor.
- D He should dismiss Sukanta's team and let the earlier media agency to take over.
- E He should threaten Sukanta that if sales do not improve by next year, he and his team will be fired.

Instructions [44 - 46]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

KindCare hospital, located in the small industrial town of Chinar, is one of the largest hospitals within 50-kilometers radius. It is well-regarded among the locals for emergency services.

However, for critical surgeries, they prefer to travel to the nearest city Shamili, which is 100 kilometers away.

When KindCare was established 50 years ago, the town was still in its early stages of development.

Consequently, the hospital needed to incorporate several facilities within its premises, including a 24-hour cafeteria, to accommodate needs of the patients and their relatives who would come from nearby places.

Another facility that KindCare built and takes pride in is its state-of-the-art testing lab. It is the most sought-after testing lab in Chinar even today when many independent labs have come up around KindCare. Moreover, many other facilities have also come up in the surrounding area of the hospital such as pharmacies, food joints, hotels etc. Further, a standalone pharmacy chain has gained a strong foothold in Chinar as they expand their reach into Tier-3 cities.

When it comes to KindCare, a significant proportion of its patients are outpatients with a substantial number seeking emergency services. As the sole 600-bed hospital in the region, KindCare plays a crucial role in medical services, and receives generous funding from two major corporations operating locally, further enabling KindCare to cater to the growing medical needs of the community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, KindCare made significant investment in enhancing internet connectivity, enabling many doctors, and the majority of administrative staff, to seamlessly work remotely. This investment also allowed KindCare to bring in doctors from other cities through remote care.

Further, COVID-19 was a wakeup call for KindCare to enhance their infrastructure. Though KindCare made significant improvements, they kept the major renovations on hold due to the constant flow of patients. KindCare believes that if the held renovations are not taken up on an urgent basis now, the operations at the hospital will get obstructed.

44. KindCare feels that it needs to be better prepared before a similar situation like COVID-19 chances upon the city again. The hospital decides to invest immediately in improving their infrastructure. However, this would mean that, temporarily, it should either reduce, or shut down the operations of a few departments.

It is considering the following options:

- A) Reduce their outpatient capacity to half
- B) Shut down the cafeteria for the period of renovation
- C) Ask their administrative staff to work remotely
- D) Strip the pharmacy operations down to emergency and critical medications
- E) Shut down the medical lab, and arrange medical tests from a local lab

Which of the following combinations will LEAST affect the functioning of the hospital?

- A ACD
- B BCD
- C ABC
- D BCE
- E ABE

45. KindCare needs to maintain a large inventory of medicines and other auxiliary supplies in their storage unit. The storage unit ensures adequate and timely supply to Intensive Care Unit and the emergency services, and always runs to capacity. The renovation team suggests that the storage unit be shut down for seven days for urgent renovation. However, the hospital building being old, in the past, renovation work had stretched beyond estimated time.

Which of the following actions BEST ensures KindCare operates efficiently during the renovation of the storage unit?

- A Renovate the storage unit part by part while halving the capacity of the emergency services until the renovation completes.
- B Shut down the hospital until further notice, except for the emergency ward, which can run on outside supplies.
- C Shut down the cafeteria until further notice and relocate the storage unit.
- D Rent a large space, about one hour away from the hospital, for seven days.
- E Start building a new storage facility, as their capacity is already stretched.

46. KindCare Hospital has to renovate its storage unit, given the complexity of the medicines and the need to store other critical supplies. The renovation is supposed to take seven days. However, as the work starts, the team entrusted with the work realizes that the work will take more than 15 days. KindCare feels that even this revised estimate is modest. Already the outpatient services are affected, and people visiting the hospital are being turned away. Stretching it further will attract a strong public resentment.

Which of the following actions offers the MOST sustainable solution for KindCare to reduce the number of patients being turned away?

- A Resume some operations from rented spaces, scattered around the region.

- B Start reduced operations gradually, and hire a team of experts to find ways to expedite the renovation.
- C Arrange with a larger hospital, in Shamili, to take over their critical patients.
- D Bring in a reputed renovation team at triple the cost, which guarantees to finish this work in three days.
- E Stop the renovation work immediately, and resume normal operations.

Instructions [47 - 49]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Sundaram Stores operated in a gated community, situated about 30 Kilometers away from the main town. The store owner Mr. Sundareswaran Pichaimuthu, or Sundaram as he was called by everyone, secured a space in the gated society through a competitive bidding process. The residents' association, led by Mr. Thangamoorthy Selvaganapathy, selected Sundaram over three other bidders, based on his willingness to pay the highest rent. Desperate to augment his post-retirement income, Sundaram agreed to pay a very high rent, banking on the prospect of generating exceptional revenue from the gated community.

Sundaram was awarded the contract to establish the store, with provisions for a review every three years. Feeling elated during the meeting with the residents' association to finalize the contract, he enthusiastically committed to offering a 15% discount on all groceries and stationary, cementing goodwill and reinforcing the partnership established through the contract. The association was delightedly taken aback by his generous assurance. Sundaram hoped to make up the difference through volume.

Although his sales were strong during the initial months, he soon realized that the SUV-owning residents of the gated community primarily made their purchases at large, branded retail chains in the main town. These stores offered deeper discounts, which he could not afford to compete with. However, gradually, Sundaram store became their go-to store for daily essentials and occasional urgent big purchases such as replacing a broken mixer-grinder.

47. While reviewing his monthly accounts, Sundaram realized that he was barely breaking even, primarily due to the substantial rent he was paying to the residents' association. He realized that while his sales were stagnated, the rental costs were contractually scheduled to increase every three years. He was determined to do something to increase his profits.

Which of the following will be the MOST sustainable way to increase Sundaram's profits?

- A He should meet with the residents' association to negotiate a lower rent.
- B He should advertise about his shop through a leaflet in the gated community.
- C He should remove all the discounts he was offering and sell at the maximum retail price.
- D He should offer to procure items unavailable at his shop from the town on residents' demand.
- E He should introduce "cheap Wednesdays" where he will sell groceries at 40% discount.

48. To increase his profits, Sundaram diversified into selling vegetables. Earlier, a vegetable vendor used to visit the gated community once every week. The vendor, after seeing dismal sales ever since Sundaram started selling vegetables, stopped visiting the gated community. The residents' association did not like losing the rent they were receiving from the vendor. Additionally, the maintenance staff of the gated community benefitted from receiving vegetables either for free or at extremely low prices, as the vendor, reluctant to take back the unsold stock, chose to distribute them at little to no cost. This enabled the residents' association to retain maintenance staff whose attrition rate was increasing with more gated communities coming up in the nearby area.

Which of the following options will BEST address the concerns of the residents' association arising out of Sundaram getting into selling vegetables?

- A The residents' association should request for bids from various shop owners to open another grocery store in the vacant place.
- B The residents' association should ask Sundaram to use the erstwhile space for selling vegetables and pay rent for the same.
- C The residents' association should impose a fine on Sundaram since he was not contracted to sell vegetables.
- D The residents' association should discount the rent for the vegetable vendor to increase competition and ask him to continue.
- E The residents' association should ask Sundaram to give a specific quantity of vegetables to the maintenance staff for free.

49. Sundaram is a happy man now. He has managed to get contracts with two more nearby gated communities. He feels like the grocery king of the suburb.

However, his happiness is short-lived as Rush'em, a new startup, begins making waves among gated communities. This app-based startup promises to deliver any grocery item within 15 minutes, leveraging its own large warehouses. Earlier, Rush'em was confined to the main town, but now, the startup has expanded its delivery services to the suburbs, including gated communities where Sundaram operates. Of course, for the suburbs, Rush'em promises delivery within 60 minutes, given the distance.

Though not an official slogan, the rumour in the market is that Rush'em's founder inspired her employees by shouting "Rush'em or Crash'em, but Push'em through that door!" Sundaram started losing business to Rush'em. He felt rushed, pushed, and was wondering if his business would come crashing.

What should Sundaram BEST do to ensure that his revenues do not come down due to Rush'em?

- A Sundaram should not bother since the nearest town is 30 kilometers away.
- B Sundaram should explore starting his own delivery startup Finish'em, dedicated to the suburb, competing with Rush'em.
- C Sundaram should employ a few helpers who will do home delivery of his products within 10 minutes across the three gated communities.
- D Sundaram should demand that his rent be reduced to one-third since Rush'em has free access to these societies
- E Sundaram should start giving discounts on every product he sells.

Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

50. Read the following sentences carefully.

- A. The dean asked for additional funding.
- B. The boss discussed about the new project with his team.
- C. Radhika is good in data interpretation.
- D. Neil is transitioning into a new phase of life.
- E. Rajat emphasized on the need for consistency in XAT preparation.
- F. This car is superior to the previous one in terms of efficiency.

Which of the following options contains only grammatically CORRECT sentences?

- A B, C & D
- B B, C & F
- C C, E & F
- D A, B & C
- E A, D & F

51. Read the following sentences carefully.

- A. There are less cars on the road today.
- B. She is nicer than her sister.
- C. I have been here from Monday.
- D. I know how to swim.
- E. She is the girl that won the case competition.
- F. The media are divided on the issue.

Which of the following options contains only grammatically CORRECT sentences?

- A D, E & F
- B A, D & F
- C B, C & E
- D B, D & F
- E A, D & E

52. Read the following excerpt carefully.

When each _____ generation grows up, it looks down on the next as if we all forget what it feels like to be _____. When most _____ think about their own youthful indiscretions, they do so with a wink and a laugh. But when the same people think about those in today's generation doing something similar, they _____ sound the alarm about a decline in morality in next generation. From the options below, choose the one that meaningfully fills up the blanks.

- A young, young, seniors, carefully
- B old, older, youngsters, sincerely
- C succeeding, next, people, naturally
- D preceding, succeeding, folks, cautiously
- E successive, young, adults, hypocritically

53. Read the following statements and answer the question that follows.

- A. Whatever that might be on Europa—far from the Sun, and beneath kilometers of ice—it will not be sunlight.
- B. The final ingredient for a habitable world is a source of energy for life to exploit.
- C. On Earth almost every living thing ultimately depends on photosynthesis for its energy, including the rich ecosystems in the ocean depths, discovered in the 1980s and which helped the idea of life on Europa gain a foothold.
- D. Their inhabitants do not benefit from sunlight directly, but their metabolisms are

powered by chemicals created in the photosynthesizing, oxygen-rich surface oceans far above.

E. That is a bit of a problem.

Which of the following sequences is the MOST logically ordered?

- A D, E, C, B, A
- B C, E, B, A, D
- C A, B, E, D, C
- D B, A, E, C, D
- E E, D, B, C, A

54. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness – they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.

Which of the following options can be BEST concluded from the passage?

- A To claim to know anything we must apply it in a situation and then judge ourselves.
- B How we label ourselves depends entirely on how much we have fought for that label.
- C Unless we are put to test for our beliefs, we do not know what our true beliefs are
- D Most of the population does not know what being bad or being good actually is.
- E To claim to be good people, we should know what temptation means

55. Read the following statements and answer the question that follows.

- A. The treaty tests of a budget deficit no bigger than 3% of the GDP and a public debt converging towards a ceiling of 60% of a GDP seemed impossible for Italy to pass by 1999.
- B. That Belgium also had a public debt above 100 percent of GDP helped, as did a special euro tax Mr. Prodi introduced.
- C. Into the uncompromising environment came the first of a series of external shocks. One of the earliest was entry into the European single currency, the euro, in 1999.
- D. But when it became clear in 1997 that Spain was determined to join from the start, Romano Prodi, then Italian prime minister, decided that Italy, as a founder member of the bloc, must be there too.
- E. Germany had more or less designed the 1992 Maastricht treaty's convergence criteria to keep out a profligate, chronically indebted Italy.

Which of the following sequences is the MOST logically ordered?

- A A, B, C, D, E
- B C, E, A, D, B

C E, A, B, C, D

D E, D, B, A, C

E C, B, D, E, A

56. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

The lovely thing about the unsayable is that it is unsaid. As soon as it is said, it is sayable and loses all its mystery and ambiguity. Art exists so that the unsayable can be said without having to actually say it. We cloud it in secrecy and obfuscation. The mind is free to roam and all things can be imagined, under the cover of darkness. How nice that is. The unsayable. How tired we are of having things explained to us. Having things said. How nice it is when people just shut ... up."

Which of the following options can be BEST inferred from the passage?

A Art unfolds the mystery of human tongues.

B Any piece of art defies expression.

C Art echoes the language that is unintelligible

D Explaining an art metamorphoses into another piece of art.

E Art expresses what humans cannot communicate in words

57. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

Employees complaining about mundane tasks are often ignored. There is a listlessness that settles around them. A bored employee may continue to produce good results, but that can also be because the tasks are repetitive, and the outcomes are expected.

Which of the following options can be BEST inferred from the passage?

A Mundane tasks create listlessness around good performers

B Boredom is a serious problem that needs immediate attention

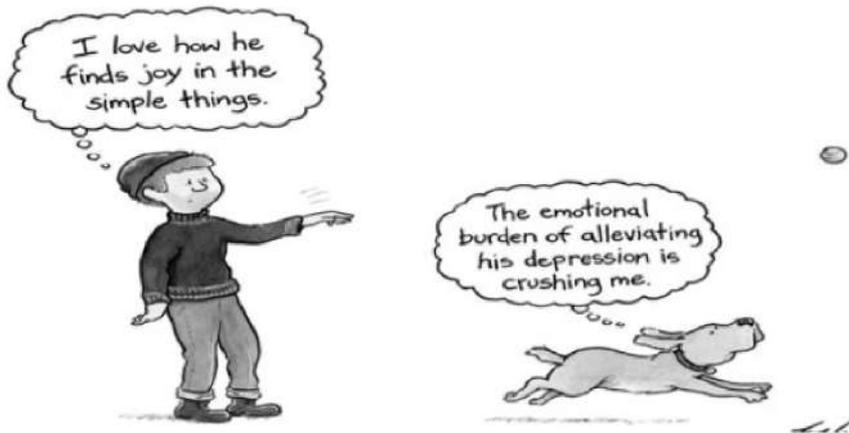
C Listlessness settles around good performers who are bored

D A bored employee must be a bad performer for the organization to take notice

E Good performance makes organizations overlook their employees' state of mind.

58. Observe the cartoon below carefully and answer the question that follows.

(Cartoon by Tom Toro, originally published in The New Yorker on November 18, 2024. Used for educational purposes)



Which of the following options BEST explains the underlying message depicted in the cartoon?

- A Our understanding of others, based on our beliefs, may not be true.
- B Our sense of duty for others can overwhelm our sense of self.
- C Love is about caring for others even if it wears you out.
- D Our interpretation of others' reality is mostly arbitrary.
- E Our sense of identity is based on how others interpret us.

Instructions [59 - 61]

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

You may laugh at a hat, but what you are making fun of, in this case, is not the piece of felt or straw, but the shape that men have given it, -- the human caprice whose mould it has assumed. It is strange that so important a fact, and such a simple one too, has not attracted to a greater degree the attention of philosophers. Several have defined man as "an animal which laughs." They might equally well have defined him as an animal which is laughed at; for if any other animal, or some lifeless object, produces the same effect, it is always because of some resemblance to man, of the stamp he gives it or the use he puts it to.

Here I would point out, as a symptom equally worthy of notice, the ABSENCE OF FEELING which usually accompanies laughter. It seems as though the comic could not produce its disturbing effect unless it fell, so to say, on the surface of a soul that is thoroughly calm and unruffled. Indifference is its natural environment, for laughter has no greater foe than emotion. I do not mean that we could not laugh at a person who inspires us with pity, for instance, or even with affection, but in such a case we must, for the moment, put our affection out of court and impose silence upon our pity. In a society composed of pure intelligences there would probably be no more tears, though perhaps there would still be laughter; whereas highly emotional souls, in tune and unison with life, in whom every event would be sentimentally prolonged and re-echoed, would neither know nor understand laughter. Try, for a moment, to become interested in everything that is being said and done; act, in imagination, with those who act, and feel with those who feel; in a word, give your sympathy its widest expansion: as though at the touch of a fairy wand you will see the flimsiest of objects assume importance, and a gloomy hue spread over everything. Now step aside, look upon life as a disinterested spectator: many a drama will turn into a comedy. It is enough for us to stop our ears to the sound of music, in a room where dancing is going on, for the dancers at once to appear ridiculous. How many human actions would stand a similar test? Should we not see many of them suddenly pass from grave to gay, on isolating them from the accompanying music of sentiment? To produce the whole of its effect, then, the comic demands something like a momentary anesthesia of the heart. Its appeal is to intelligence, pure and simple.

59. What does the author BEST mean when they say, "it seems as though the comic could not produce its disturbing effect unless it fell, so to say, on the surface of a soul that is thoroughly calm and unruffled?"

- A Comics are the most effective when the audience is unaware of the context.
- B Unless one is emotionally detached from the event, it is impossible to appreciate a comical view.
- C Relaxed people tend to find edgy or disturbing comedy funnier
- D To appreciate humour with an unsettling tone, people benefit from being in a calm state.
- E Comical behaviour disturbs those more deeply whose minds are calm and composed

60. Based on the passage, which of the following statements CANNOT be inferred?

- A Comic happens in a setting of emotional detachment, having a sense of distance.
- B Inanimate objects can become a subject of laughter because they may project human characteristics
- C When strong emotions are involved, laughter cannot be evoked.
- D When you laugh at a hat, you laugh at a human being it represents
- E Humour only springs from experiences that demand momentary anesthesia

61. Based on the passage, which of the following statements will the author BEST agree with?

- A Life is a tragedy when seen in close up but a comedy in long-shot.
- B Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.
- C Comedy is but tragedy, cunningly disguised and popularized for the multitude
- D A person who knows how to laugh at himself will never cease to be amused
- E Comedy is an escape, not from truth but from despair.

Instructions [62 - 64]

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Recently, a team of social scientists launched an experiment to test that hypothesis. They recruited 1,500 entrepreneurs in West Africa—a mix of women and men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s—who were running small startups in manufacturing, service, and commerce. They randomly assigned the founders to one of three groups. One was a control group: they went about their business as usual. The other two were training groups: they spent a week learning new concepts, analyzing them in case studies of other entrepreneurs, and applying them to their own startups through role-play and reflection exercises. What differed was whether the training focused on cognitive skills or character skills. In cognitive skills training, the founders took an accredited business course created by the International Finance Corporation. They studied finance, accounting, HR, marketing, and pricing, and practiced using what they learned to solve challenges and seize opportunities. In character skills training, the founders attended a class designed by psychologists to teach personal initiative. They studied proactivity, discipline, and determination, and practiced putting those qualities into action. Character skills training had a dramatic impact. After founders had spent merely five days working on these skills, their firms' profits grew by an average of 30 percent over the next two years. That was nearly triple the benefit of training in cognitive skills. Finance and marketing knowledge might have equipped founders to capitalize on opportunities, but studying proactivity and discipline enabled them to generate opportunities. They learned to anticipate market changes rather than react to them. They developed more creative ideas and introduced more new products. When they encountered financial obstacles, instead of giving up, they were more resilient and resourceful in seeking loans. Along with demonstrating that character skills can propel us to achieve greater things, this evidence reveals that it's never too late to build them ... Character doesn't set like

plaster—it retains its plasticity. Character is often confused with personality, but they're not the same. Personality is your predisposition—your basic instincts for how to think, feel, and act. Character is your capacity to prioritize your values over your instincts. Knowing your principles doesn't necessarily mean you know how to practice them, particularly under stress or pressure. It's easy to be proactive and determined when things are going well. The true test of character is whether you manage to stand by those values when the deck is stacked against you. If personality is how you respond on a typical day, character is how you show up on a hard day. Personality is not your destiny—it's your tendency. Character skills enable you to transcend that tendency to be true to your principles. It's not about the traits you have—it's what you decide to do with them. Wherever you are today, there's no reason why you can't grow your character skills starting now.

62. Which of the following views would the author BEST agree with?

- A Putting our values and principles to practice requires transcending our personality.
- B Our values and principles are always put to test by our personality.
- C Our behavior is a function of our character not our personality.
- D Character skills risk abandoning your personality along with your instincts.
- E Because principles clash with your personality, character is needed.

63. Which of the following can be BEST inferred from the passage?

- A Cognitive skills unlike character skills are always reactive.
- B Being aware of your character skills enable you to exercise them.
- C Sustainable success in life requires strong character skills.
- D Character skills can compensate for poor cognitive skills.
- E Character skills can be built only if one believes in them.

64. Based on the passage, why would character skills help entrepreneurs more than cognitive skills?

- A Character skills are industry agnostic in application.
- B One can be poor in finance and quantitative skills but really good in character skills
- C Character skills prepare you for an uncertain future.
- D Entrepreneurs are already aware of their business and are only missing character skills.
- E Character skills enable you to generate opportunities rather than capitalize on existing ones.

Instructions [65 - 67]

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

This fluidity and situational dependence is uniquely human. In other species, in-group/outgroup distinctions reflect degrees of biological relatedness, or what evolutionary biologists call "kin selection." Rodents distinguish between a sibling, a cousin, and a stranger by smell—fixed, genetically determined pheromonal signatures—and adapt their cooperation accordingly. Those murderous groups of chimps are largely made up of brothers or cousins who grew up together and predominantly harm outsiders. Humans are plenty capable of kin-selective violence themselves, yet human group mentality is often utterly independent of such instinctual familial bonds. Most modern human societies rely instead on cultural kin selection, a process allowing people to feel closely

related to what are, in a biological sense, total strangers. Often, this requires a highly active process of inculcation, with its attendant rituals and vocabularies. Consider military drills producing “bands of brothers,” unrelated college freshmen becoming sorority “sisters,” or the bygone value of welcoming immigrants into “the American family.” This malleable, rather than genetically fixed, path of identity formation also drives people to adopt arbitrary markers that enable them to spot their cultural kin in an ocean of strangers—hence the importance various communities attach to flags, dress, or facial hair. The hipster beard, the turban, and the “Make America Great Again” hat all fulfill this role by sending strong signals of tribal belonging. Moreover, these cultural communities are arbitrary when compared to the relatively fixed logic of biological kin selection. Few things show this arbitrariness better than the experience of immigrant families, where the randomness of a visa lottery can radically reshuffle a child’s education, career opportunities, and cultural predilections. Had my grandparents and father missed the train out of Moscow that they instead barely made, maybe I’d be a chain-smoking Russian academic rather than a Birkenstock-wearing American one, moved to tears by the heroism during the Battle of Stalingrad rather than that at Pearl Harbor. Scaled up from the level of individual family histories, our big-picture group identities—the national identities and cultural principles that structure our lives—are just as arbitrary and subject to the vagaries of history.

65. Based on the passage, how are rodents and humans similar to each other?

- A Both rodents and humans carry a genetically determined pheromonal signature.
- B Both rodents and humans can reign their instincts.
- C Both rodents and humans make their groups exclusive of brothers and cousins.
- D Both rodents and humans divide the world between “us” and “them.”
- E Both rodents and humans are hostile towards outsiders.

66. What does the author BEST mean when they say, “This fluidity and situational dependence is uniquely human?”

- A Humans’ kin selection is not based on instinctual familial bonds while relating to strangers.
- B Humans use cognitive architecture to detect any potential cues about social coalitions and alliances.
- C Humans are uniquely progressive and ever evolving.
- D The implicit traits that humans associate with can change over time
- E Humans’ in-group/out-group thinking is influenced by their space and time.

67. What does the author BEST mean when they refer to the Battle of Stalingrad and Pearl Harbour?

- A Our identities and emotional attachments are subject to erratic interpretation of history.
- B Humans’ relationship with any specific place depends upon their lineage and ancestry
- C Humans do not follow any specific logic when they develop association with a particular cultural community
- D Humans’ interpretation of specific events depends on their emotional association with them.
- E Humans are capable of selective violence towards each other.

Instructions [68 - 70]

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Work, for many on the career track, is greedy. The individual who puts in overtime, weekend time, or evening time will earn a lot more—so much more that, even on an hourly basis, the person is earning more....The greediness of work means that couples with children or other care responsibilities would gain by doing a bit of specialization. This specialization doesn't mean catapulting back to the world of Leave It to Beaver. Women will still pursue demanding careers. But one member of the couple will be on call at home, ready to leave the office or workplace at a moment's notice. That person will have a position with considerable flexibility and will ordinarily not be expected to answer an e-mail or a call at ten p.m. That parent will not have to cancel an appearance at soccer practice for an M&A. The other parent, however, will be on call at work and do just the opposite. The potential impact on promotion, advancement, and earnings is obvious. The work of professionals and managers has always been greedy. Lawyers have always burned the midnight oil. Academics have always been judged for their cerebral output and are expected not to turn their brains off in the evenings. Most doctors and veterinarians were once on call 24/7. The value of greedy jobs has greatly increased with rising income inequality, which has soared since the early 1980s. Earnings at the very upper end of the income distribution have ballooned. The worker who jumps the highest gets an ever-bigger reward. The jobs with the greatest demands for long hours and the least flexibility have paid disproportionately more, while earnings in other employments have stagnated. Thus, positions that have been more difficult for women to enter in the first place, such as those in finance, are precisely the ones that have seen the greatest increases in income in the last several decades. The private equity associate who sees the deal through from beginning to end, who did the difficult modeling, and who went to every meeting and late-night dinner, will have maximum chance for a big bonus and the sought-after promotion. Rising inequality in earnings may be one important reason why the gender pay gap among college graduates has remained flat in the last several decades, despite improvements in women's credentials and positions. It may be the reason why the gender earnings gap for college graduates became larger than that between men and women in the entire population in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Women have been swimming upstream, holding their own but going against a strong current of endemic income inequality. Greedy work also means that couple equity has been, and will continue to be, jettisoned for increased family income. And when couple equity is thrown out the window, gender equality generally goes with it, except among same-sex unions. Gender norms that we have inherited get reinforced in a host of ways to allot more of the childcare responsibility to mothers, and more of the family care to grown daughters.

68. Which of the following statements CANNOT be inferred from the passage?

- A Flexibility in work may result in relatively lesser income.
- B The root of all problems in the world is greed.
- C Women can be equally greedy as men.
- D Many of those toiling hard on the career track are greedy
- E Jobs that extract the most out of the workforce also pay more

69. Which of the following about greedy work is CORRECT, as per the passage?

- A Organizations prefer only those who surrender their everything to the organization
- B With more women coming into the workforce, work itself is becoming greedier.
- C Work that requires more time investment and dedication tend to pay more, and hence are sought after
- D Greedy work is a result of greedy corporations, who reward greedy people
- E Employees willing to sacrifice their leisure and time with families must be rewarded with higher pay

70. Based on the passage, which of the following options BEST summarizes the author's views?

- A In heterosexual unions, women must pay a price to see their husbands rise to fame.
- B Greedy work reinforces extant gender norms, leading to gender pay gap.
- C Greedy work is the single most important reason for the gender pay gap we see in the society.
- D Greedy work results in a men's club, ensuring that women do not get to be a part.
- E As women try to fight against gender norms, greedy work is their most formidable enemy

Instructions [71 - 72]

Read the following poem and answer the TWO questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Look how you turned on
 the ceiling fan—it's too high,
 see how it shakes and trembles.
 You walk into this room
 with your hot ideas
 and the ceiling fan has to work harder
 to cool down the room
 for us. You walk into this room
 with your crazy eyes
 and the ceiling fan
 wants to fly loose. It dreams
 of becoming a spider lily.

71. Which of the following statements BEST conveys the theme of the poem?

- A The poem talks about inner conflict resolved by an attempt to restore balance
- B The poem conveys fear and anxiety due to the loss of stability.
- C The poem conveys a subtle art of argumentation and counter-argumentation
- D The poem talks about a conflict between transformation and escapism
- E The poem conveys quest for self during emotional turmoil

72. What does the author BEST mean, when she says, "You walk into this room with your hot ideas and the ceiling fan has to work harder to cool down the room for us?"

- A That the person's presence makes the ceiling fan lose its ability to handle intense energy.
- B That the person brings with him passionate intellectual and emotional energy
- C That the person's presence develops self-doubt in others.
- D That the person's hostile presence makes others feel unwelcomed
- E That the person's presence creates palpable tension in the room.

Instructions [73 - 75]

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

No one argues that the rich should be rich because they were born to wealthy parents. Critics of inequality may complain that those who would abolish inheritance taxes, say, are implicitly endorsing hereditary privilege. But no one defends hereditary privilege outright or disputes the principle that careers should be open to talents.

Most of our debates about access to jobs, education, and public office proceed from the premise of equal opportunity. Our disagreements are less about the principle itself than about what it requires. For example, critics of affirmative action in hiring and college admissions argue that such policies are inconsistent with equality of opportunity, because they judge applicants on factors other than merit. Defenders of affirmative action reply that such policies are necessary to make equality of opportunity a reality for members of groups that have suffered discrimination or disadvantage.

At the level of principle at least, and political rhetoric, meritocracy has won the day. In democracies throughout the world, politicians of the center-left and center-right claim that their policies are the ones that will enable all citizens, whatever their race or ethnicity, gender or class, to compete on equal terms and to rise as far as their efforts and talents will take them. When people complain about meritocracy, the complaint is usually not about the ideal but about our failure to live up to it: The wealthy and powerful have rigged the system to perpetuate their privilege; the professional classes have figured out how to pass their advantages on to their children, converting the meritocracy into a hereditary aristocracy; colleges that claim to select students on merit give an edge to the sons and daughters of the wealthy and the well-connected. According to this complaint, meritocracy is a myth, a distant promise yet to be redeemed.

73. Based on the passage, which of the following inferences **CANNOT** be drawn?

- A** Though the wealthy can pass their advantages to their children, wealth and privilege cannot undermine meritocracy.
- B** Equality of opportunity is widely accepted in principle, but there is disagreement about how to achieve it.
- C** Meritocracy is a popular ideal in political rhetoric, promoted across the political spectrum.
- D** Hereditary privilege is not openly defended but can be perpetuated through policies like the abolition of inheritance taxes.
- E** Meritocracy is seen by some as an unfulfilled promise, with the system still skewed in favour of the well-connected.

74. Which of the following can be **BEST** concluded from the passage?

- A** Meritocracy is a utopian system that is difficult to implement as the wealthy rigs the system.
- B** In an unequal society, any attempt to execute meritocracy perpetuates inequality.
- C** Meritocracy is desired by everybody, but despised by those rejected by it.
- D** Meritocracy is accepted by everyone, but not understood by anyone.
- E** Everybody admires meritocracy, until it is they or their children's career on the line.

75. Based on the passage, which of the following will the defenders of affirmative action identify as the main problem in the implementation of the meritocratic system?

- A** Meritocratic system does not acknowledge the initial disadvantages in opportunities.
- B** Meritocratic system supports those having hereditary privileges.

- C Meritocratic system rewards individuals based on the outcome they produce.
- D Meritocratic system intentionally favours the rich.
- E Meritocratic system is based on structural bias.

General Knowledge

76. Which award is given to outstanding coaches in sports and games in India?

- A Arjuna Award
- B Dronacharya Award
- C Dhyan Chand Award
- D Vashistha Award
- E Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

77. Match the following renowned Indian personalities with their respective awards.

Names	Award
1. Shri Ratan Naval Tata	A. Dadasaheb Phalke Award
2. Manmohan Singh	B. Grammy Awards
3. Zakir Hussain	C. Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy
4. Shyam Benegal	D. World Statesman Award

- A 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A
- B 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B
- C 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D
- D 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C
- E 1-A, 2-C, 3-D, 4-B

78. Which term is commonly used to describe the strategy employed by firms where they reduce the product size or quality while maintaining the same price?

- A Redflation
- B Skimpflation
- C Shrinkflation
- D Inflation
- E Deflation

79. Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her space novel, based on the events on a single day, of lives of six astronauts in the international space station as they revolve around the Earth, wondering about what is happening at the Earth.

- A Orbital
- B Creation Lake
- C James
- D Held
- E The Safekeep

80. In which state is Dhimsa recognized as the official folk dance?

- A Maharashtra
- B Jharkhand
- C Chhattisgarh
- D Himachal Pradesh
- E Andhra Pradesh

81. Who was the world's first female to be elected as the prime minister of a country?

- A Golda Meir
- B Margaret Thatcher
- C Indira Gandhi
- D Benazir Bhutto
- E Sirimavo Bandaranaike

82. Who did Gukesh Dommmaraju defeat in the finals of the World Chess Championship 2024?

- A Ding Liren
- B Hiraku Nakamura
- C Deep Blue Supercomputer
- D Ian Nepomniachtchi
- E Fabiano Caruana

83. Match the following authors with their respective works.

Authors	Books
1. Andy Weir	A. Dune
2. Cixin Liu	B. The Time Machine
3. Stephen Hawking	C. The Brief History of Time
4. HG Wells	D. The Martian
5. Frank Herbert	E. The Three Body Problem

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

84. What is the name of the AI-based app recently launched by the central government of India to provide study materials in regional languages?

- A Bhasha Sangam
- B Diksha
- C Prabandh
- D Anuvadini
- E Bhasini

85. Where is the world's only floating national park located?

- A Tripura
- B Jharkhand
- C Manipur
- D Assam
- E Chhatisgarh

86. Which two players made history by winning India's first ever medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships?

- A Manika Batra & Sathiyam Gnanasekaran
- B Sreeja Akula & Mouma Das
- C Neha Aggarwal & Ankita Das
- D Madhurka Patkar & Archana Kamath
- E Ayhika Mukherjee & Sutirtha Mukherjee

87. Who qualifies for a free e-visa under the "Chalo India" initiative?

- A Indian tourists
- B Non-Resident Indian
- C Non-Indian friends of Indian diaspora

- D Foreign diplomats
- E International students interested in higher education

88. In which country is Mount Marapi Volcano, which recently erupted, located?

- A Mexico
- B China
- C Panama
- D Indonesia
- E United States of America

89. Who holds the position of Supreme Commander-in-chief of India's armed forces?

- A The Prime Minister
- B The Chief of Defence Staff
- C The Defense Minister
- D The President
- E The Home Minister

90. Who won the SVERIGES RIKSBANK PRIZE in ECONOMIC Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel 2024 for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity?

- A Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson & James A. Robinson
- B Claudia Goldin
- C Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond & Phillip Dybvig
- D Paul R Milgrom & Robert B Wilson
- E David Card, Joshua D Angrist & Guido W. Imbens

91. As of December 31 2024, which of the following countries is not a NATO member?

- A Poland
- B Ukraine
- C Lithuania
- D Italy
- E Turkey

92. Who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024?

- A Narges Mohammadi
- B Ales Bialiatski and the Center for Civil Liberties
- C World Food Programme
- D Motaz Azaiza
- E Nihon Hidankyo

93. Match the following Airlines with the countries where they are headquartered?

Airlines	Countries
1. AirAsia	A. Singapore
2. AZAL	B. South Korea
3. Jeju Air	C. Azerbaijan
4. Indigo	D. India
5. Tigerair	E. Malaysia

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

94. Which company recently acquired MGM Studios to enhance its streaming service content?

- A Jio
- B Amazon
- C Netflix
- D Disney
- E Apple

95. Which shipyard built INS Tushil, a stealth guided missile-frigate, commissioned on Dec 9, 2024?

- A Honkong United Dockyards, Hong Kong
- B Guangzhou Shipyard International, China
- C Yantar Shipyard, Russia
- D Naval Group Shipyard, France
- E Navantia Shipyard, Spain

Answers

Quant

1.C	2.B	3.C	4.D	5.A	6.A	7.D	8.E
9.C	10.C	11.D	12.E	13.C	14.D	15.D	16.A
17.B	18.B	19.C	20.B	21.C	22.E	23.C	24.D
25.D	26.B	27.C	28.E				

Decision Making

29.E	30.D	31.E	32.D	33.D	34.D	35.C	36.A
37.E	38.C	39.E	40.B	41.C	42.A	43.B	44.B
45.C	46.D	47.C	48.D	49.C			

Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

50.E	51.D	52.E	53.D	54.C	55.B	56.E	57.E
58.A	59.B	60.E	61.A	62.A	63.C	64.C	65.D
66.E	67.D	68.B	69.C	70.B	71.B	72.E	73.A
74.B	75.A						

General Knowledge

76.B	77.A	78.C	79.A	80.E	81.E	82.A	83.B
84.D	85.C	86.E	87.C	88.D	89.D	90.A	91.B
92.E	93.D	94.B	95.C				

Explanations

Quant

1. C

So, there are 25 rooms in total and 55 people need to be occupied in the these 25 rooms. We need to maximize the revenue.

The cost of a single, double and triple occupancy room is Rs. 2,000, Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 3,500 respectively.

Now, if we look at the per person cost from a single, double and triple occupancy room, it will be Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,166.67

Now, we clearly see that the per person cost is maximum for single occupancy room but we know that there are only 25 rooms which are not sufficient. Hence, we will aim to adjust all the 55 people to the maximum possible single occupancy then double occupancy and then triple occupancy room.

Let the number of single, double and triple occupancy rooms used are x , y and z respectively.

We know $x + y + z = 25$ as the total number of rooms are 25.

Further, $x + 2y + 3z = 55$ i.e. total number of people.

If $z = 1$, $y = 28$ which is not possible as the number of rooms are limited to 25.

If $z = 2$, $y = 26$ which is again not possible.

If $z = 3$, $y = 24$ which is again not possible.

If $z = 4$, $y = 22$ which is again not possible.

If $z = 5$, $y = 20$ which is possible.

Hence, to maximize the revenue, we have to use 20 room of double occupancy and 5 rooms of triple occupancy.

Hence, the total revenue will be $20 \times 3,000 + 5 \times 3,500 = 77,500$

2. B

Given that the beam got broken into two pieces, with length in a ratio of 4 : 9.

Let the lengths of the new beams be $4x$ and $9x$ respectively.

So, the length of the original beam is $13x$.

Now, given the value is proportional to the square of its length.

Value of the original beam = $k(13x)^2 = 169kx^2$, where k is the constant of proportionality.

The value of new beams is $k(4x)^2 + k(9x)^2 = 16kx^2 + 81kx^2 = 97kx^2$

Hence, the gain/loss with respect to the original beam is $169kx^2 - 97kx^2 = 72kx^2$

In percentage terms, Loss % = $\frac{72kx^2}{169kx^2} \times 100 = 42.60\%$

Hence, the answer is 42.60% loss

3. C

CD is on of the side of the rectangle. So, two of the remaining 3 sides will be perpendicular to CD.

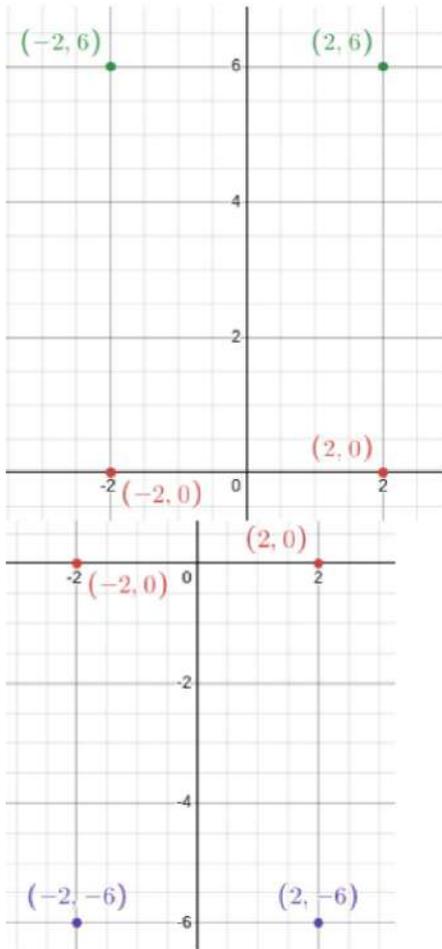
Length of CD is 4. We are told that area is 24.

We know area of rectangle is lb. $4 \times l = 24$

$l = 6$

So, the other two points should be such that when joined with C and D respectively, should be perpendicular to CD and lie at a distance of 6.

There will be two pair of such points. One pair is $(-2,6), (2,6)$ and the other pair is $(-2,-6), (2,-6)$



So, there are two possible equations of AB. One is $y = 6$ and the other is $y = -6$.

4. D

It is given that the perimeters of areas are equal for both of them. Let the equal perimeter be P .

Adu's piece is a square, and the perimeter of the square = $4s = P$

$$\text{Side of the square } s = \frac{P}{4}$$

Amu's piece is a circle, and the perimeter of the circle = $2\pi r = P$

$$\text{The radius of the circle } r = \frac{P}{2\pi}$$

The ratio of areas is,

$$s^2 : \pi r^2 = \left(\frac{P}{4}\right)^2 : \pi \left(\frac{P}{2\pi}\right)^2 = \frac{P^2}{16} : \pi \times \frac{P^2}{4\pi^2} = \frac{1}{4} : \frac{1}{\pi} = \pi : 4$$

Hence, the correct answer is option D.

5. A

Let the total price of the mobile phone is Rs. $60X$.

$$\text{Ramesh paid } 1/6 \text{ of the price via UPI i.e. } 60X \times \frac{1}{6} = 10X$$

$$\text{Further, he paid } 1/3 \text{ of the price via cash i.e. } 60X \times \frac{1}{3} = 20X$$

$$\text{Remaining amount to be paid by Ramesh} = 60X - 10X - 20X = 30X$$

Further, 10% interest charged on the balance amount = Rs. 6,000

Or, we can say, 10% of $30X = 6,000$

i.e. $3X = 6,000$

Or, $X = 2,000$

Since the total price of the mobile phone was $60X$, the actual cost is $60 \times 2,000 = \text{Rs. } 1,20,000$

6. A

Given that the equation of line L_1 is $y = k(x - 1)$ and it intersects line L_2 at $(5, 8)$.

So, the point $(5, 8)$ must satisfy the equation of line L_1

We get $8 = k(5 - 1)$

or $k = 2$

Hence, the equation of line L_1 is $y = 2(x - 1) \dots (1)$

Now, L_2 has a slope of 1

Using slope form, the equation of line is $y = mx + c$, where m is the slope and c is the y-intercept

So, the equation of line L_2 is $y = x + c$

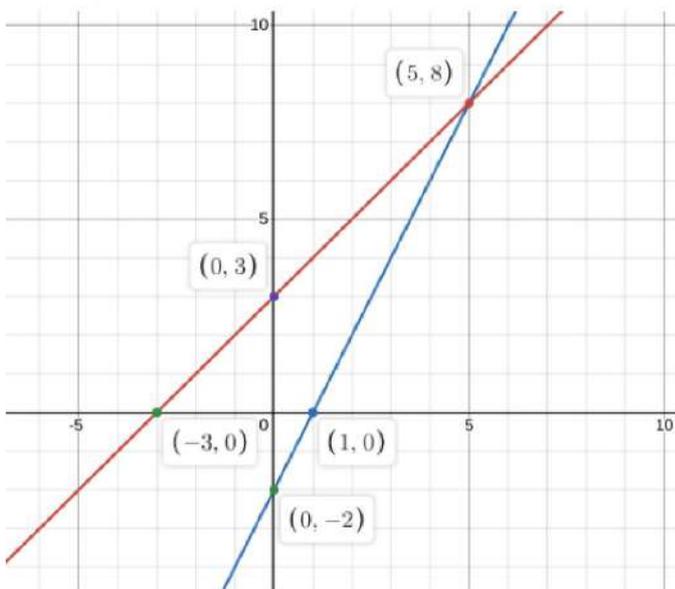
Now, as it passes through the point $(5, 8)$, the equation must satisfy

Hence, $8 = 5 + c$

or, $c = 3$

Hence, the equation of line L_2 is $y = x + 3 \dots (2)$

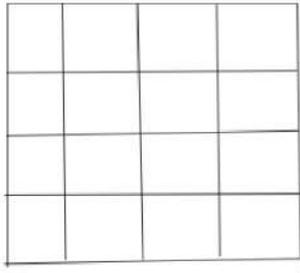
Plotting both lines on the graph, we get



From the graph we can clearly see that the distance between the y-intercepts of the two lines is 5 not 6.

Hence, the statement the distance between the y-intercepts of the two lines is 6 is definitely false.

7. D



In a 4*4 grid, if all 4 diagonal cells are ignored and the remaining cells are marked, no row or column will be filled. So, we can mark 12 cells without finishing the game. When we mark the 13th one, the game gets finished.

8. E

The given expression is, $\sqrt[3]{(3)^a(21)^{(3a-b)}(49)^{(2b+c)}$ and it can also be written as,

$$\sqrt[3]{(3)^a (3)^{3a-b} (7)^{3a-b} (7)^{4b+2c}} = \sqrt[3]{(3)^{4a-b} (7)^{3a+3b+2c}}$$

For the above expression to be a positive integer, the power of the expression must be an integer after applying the cube root for the expression inside. This means that the power of the expression inside must be a multiple of 3.

The expression is,

$$\sqrt[3]{(3)^{4a-b} (7)^{3a+3b+2c}} = 3^{\frac{(4a-b)}{3}} \times 7^{\frac{(3a+3b+2c)}{3}}$$

The value $\frac{4a-b}{3} = \frac{3a+a-b}{3} = a + \frac{a-b}{3}$ must be an integer which means that $a-b$ must be a multiple of 3.

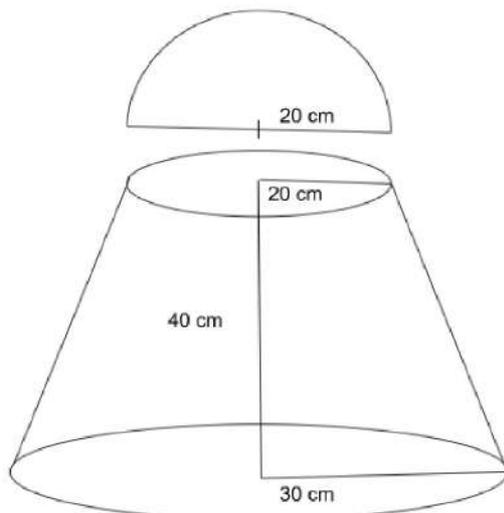
Similarly, the value $\frac{3a+3b+2c}{3} = a+b + \frac{2c}{3}$ must also be an integer which gives us the condition that c must be a multiple of 3.

So, the necessary and sufficient conditions are $a-b$ and c must be a multiple of 3.

Hence, the correct answer is option E.

9. C

According to the question, we have the following figure:



According to the question, we have a frustum and a hemisphere with flat surface and we need to find the curved surface area of the frustum along with the curved surface area of the hemisphere and the bottom flat area of the frustum.

$$\text{Curved surface area of the Frustum} = \pi \times (r_1 + r_2) \times l$$

Here, r_1 and r_2 refers to the two different radii and l refers to the slant height.

$$l = \sqrt{h^2 + (r_1 - r_2)^2}$$

$$l = \sqrt{1600 + 100} = \sqrt{1700} = 10\sqrt{17}$$

Hence, curved surface area of the frustrum = $\pi \times (20 + 30) \times 10\sqrt{17}$

$$\pi \times 50 \times 10\sqrt{17}$$

$$500\sqrt{17}\pi$$

Now, curved surface area of the hemisphere = $2\pi r^2 = 2 \times \pi \times (20)^2 = 800\pi$

And the flat bottom area of the frustrum = $\pi r^2 = \pi \times (30)^2 = 900\pi$

Hence, the total surface area of the trophy = $500\sqrt{17}\pi + 800\pi + 900\pi = 500\sqrt{17}\pi + 1700\pi$

The cost of gold coating is Rs. 40 per square cm

Hence, the total cost of coating = $40 \times (500\sqrt{17}\pi + 1700\pi)$

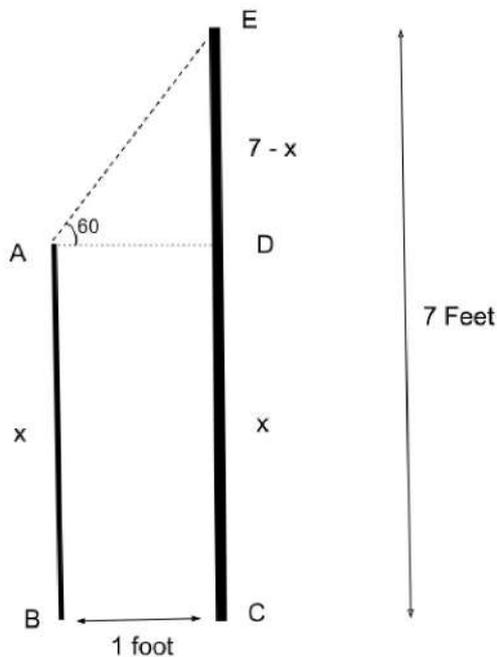
$$40 \times \frac{22}{7} \times (500\sqrt{17} + 1700)$$

$$40 \times \frac{22}{7} \times (2061.55 + 1700)$$

$$40 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 3761.55 = \text{Rs. } 4,72,880.571 \approx \text{Rs. } 4,73,000$$

10. C

According to the question, we can draw the following table:



Here, EC refers to the shelf which is 7 feet and AB refers to the height of the robot. Here, AE reflects the hand of the robot. Since we need to find the minimum possible height, we need to maximize the length of the hands of the robot. The hands of the robot can be tilted to the maximum angle of 60° , hence, we will assume that the hands of the robot tilt to exactly 60° .

Let the height of the robot i.e. AB be x feet.

Now, we need to find the value of x .

Since, BC = 1 foot, AD is also 1 foot.

In triangle ADE, $\tan 60^\circ = \frac{ED}{AD}$

$$\tan 60^\circ = \frac{7-x}{1}$$

$$\sqrt{3} = \frac{7-x}{1}$$

$$x = 7 - \sqrt{3}$$

11. D

Let's assume that all the dustbins are at equal distances and the distance between two dustbin's be l .

We are told that a minimum 800 steps to reach every second dustbin.

$$800 \leq 2l \Rightarrow 400 \leq l$$

Similarly, we are also told that a maximum 1260 steps to reach every third dustbin.

$$\text{So, } 3l \leq 1260$$

$$400 \leq l \leq 420$$

The circumference will be $5l$.

$$2000 \leq 5l \leq 2100$$

2000 and 2100 are both in steps of Ramesh.

We are told that each of his step is 0.77m.

$$\text{So, } 2000 \text{ steps} = 2000 \times 0.77 = 1540\text{m}$$

$$2100 \text{ steps} = 2100 \times 0.77 = 1617$$

So, the circumference will lie between 1540 and 1617.

$$1540 \leq 2\pi r \leq 1617.$$

$$\frac{1540}{2\pi} \leq r \leq \frac{1617}{2\pi}$$

$$245.22 \leq r \leq 257.48$$

So, 250m is the correct option.

12. E

In the given equation $\frac{x^2 \log_a(16)}{\log_a(32)} - \frac{\log_a(64)}{\log_a(32)} - x = 0$

We know the property of log that $\frac{\log_a b}{\log_a c} = \log_c b$

$$\text{So, } \frac{\log_a 16}{\log_a 32} = \log_{32} 16 = \log_{2^5} 2^4 = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \frac{\log_a 64}{\log_a 32} = \log_{32} 64 = \log_{2^5} 2^6 = \frac{6}{5}$$

Hence, the equation can be written as

$$\frac{4}{5}x^2 - \frac{6}{5} - x = 0$$

$$\text{or, } 4x^2 - 6 - 5x = 0$$

Evaluating the discriminant we get

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (-5)^2 - 4(4)(-6)$$

$$\text{or, } D = 121 > 0$$

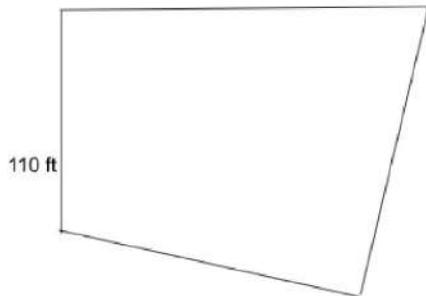
Hence, the equation has two distinct real roots.

But as the question mentions $a > 0$, so it can take the value $a = 1$, for which the log term will not be defined, hence there will be no defined solution.

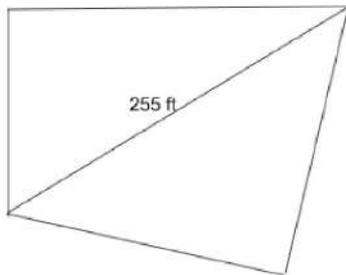
Hence, the answer is Depends on the value of a

13. C

Considering statement 1: We can only get one of the sides length of the land. But that is not sufficient to get the area.



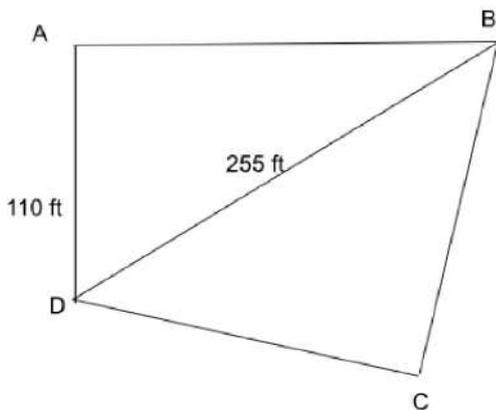
Considering statement 2:



We are given the diagonal length.

With this information and the perimeter it is not possible to find the area of land.

Considering both 1 and 2 statements.



Now we have two right angle triangles. We know the hypotenues of both the triangles.

$$AB^2 + AD^2 = BD^2$$

$$110^2 + AB^2 = 255^2$$

$$AB \approx 230$$

$$\text{Let } DC = x, BC = 700 - 110 - 230 - x = 360 - x.$$

$$x^2 + (360 - x)^2 = 255^2$$

$$\text{Upon solving this we get } x = 180 \pm \frac{15}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$360 - x = 180 \pm \frac{15}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\text{Area of triangle ABD} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 110 \cdot 230 = 12650$$

$$\text{Area of triangle BDC} = \frac{1}{2} \left(180 + \frac{15}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \left(180 - \frac{15}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = 16143.75$$

$$\text{So, total area} = 12650 + 16143.75 = 28793.75$$

$$\text{Cost} = 28793.75 \cdot 400 = \text{Rs. } 11517500.$$

So, option C is the answer.

14. D

For the roots to be irrational, the value of $D > 0$ and D must not be a perfect square.

$$\text{The value of } D \text{ for the equation given is } = b^2 - 4 \times a \times a = b^2 - 4a^2$$

The pairs (a, b) that satisfy the above conditions are,

b = 1 no value of a exists

b = 2 no value of a exists

b = 3, a = 1

b = 4, a = 1

b = 5, a = 1

b = 6, a = 1, 2

b = 7, a = 1, 2, 3

b = 8, a = 1, 2, 3

b = 9, a = 1, 2, 3, 4

There are a total of 15 pairs of (a, b) that satisfy the above condition and out of them, the value of $a + b$ is greater than 9 for 7 of them.

So, the probability that $a + b$ is greater than 9 is given by $\frac{7}{15}$.

Hence, the correct answer is option D.

15. D

It is given that the average of the first five highest-rated employees is 38. So, the sum of the ratings of the top 5 highest-rated employees is $38 \cdot 5 = 190$.

It is given that the average of the first five lowest-rated employees is 25. So, the sum of the ratings of the top 5 lowest-rated employees is $25 \cdot 5 = 125$.

The overall average rating of all the employees is given as 30. So, the sum of the ratings of all the employees is given as $30 \cdot 8 = 240$.

The sum of the 3 highest rated employees' ratings can be obtained by subtracting the sum of the 5 lowest rated players' ratings from the overall rating, which is $240 - 125 = 115$.

The sum of the 3 lowest rated employees' ratings can be obtained by subtracting the sum of the 5 highest rated players' ratings from the overall rating, which is $240 - 190 = 50$.

So, the sum of the 4th and 5th highest-rated employees is $190 - 115 = 75$.

Now let us look at the options to eliminate the wrong option,

Option A)

It is given that the second-highest rating is 38. It is not an incorrect option because there is a possible case of the second highest being 38 and satisfying all the above conditions. The first 5, in that case, can be 39, 38, 38, 38, 37, which satisfies the above conditions.

Option B)

Same as the above case, we can have the 4th and 5th ratings to be 38 and 37, and in that case, the median of the ratings of the employees becomes $\frac{37 + 38}{2} = 37.5$. So, this is not an incorrect option.

Option C)

We know that the sum of the lowest three ratings is 50, and in that case, there are possibilities of the lowest rating being 1 and the sum of the three is 50. For example, 37, 12, 1 is one of the cases. Hence, this is not an incorrect option.

Option D)

The highest rating cannot be 40 because if it is 40, then the sum of the 2nd and 3rd becomes 75. In that case, the 3rd rated person's rating has to be less than or equal to 37, and we know that the 4th person's rating must be greater than or equal to 38. So, if the third person rating is 37 or less, then there is no possibility as the 4th person rating must be less than 3rd person rating. So, option D is incorrect.

Option E)

As explained in option C, the set of the last three rated employees can be 37, 12 and 1, and in this case, we can see that the third lowest player's rating is 37. So, E is not an incorrect option.

Hence, the correct answer is option D.

16. A

We know that if the greatest common divisor of two numbers is 1, they are co-prime to each other.

Given that the greatest common divisor of the selected integer x and any other integer between 2 and 40, both inclusive, is 1.

So, the selected number has to be a prime number, and that too greater than $\frac{40}{2}$ or 20 because prime numbers less than 20, like 17, will have the greatest common divisor = 17 with their multiple, like 34 which is also in the range of selected integers.

Hence, the only possible values of x are 23, 29, 31 and 37 i.e. a total of 4 values.

Explanation [17 - 19]:

According to the set, there are 8 tests and each test can have a maximum of 4 marks so any student can get a maximum of 32 marks.

Now, the number of marks received by any student in a test can be 0/1/2/3/4.

We are given information about two students, Ravi and Sumana.

In the first test, they both scored the same marks. Let the marks scored by both is x .

Further, from the second to eighth tests, Ravi scored the exact same non-zero marks. Let the marks scored by Ravi from second to eighth test is y where y can be 1/2/3/4. Also, Sumana scored the same marks as Ravi from the fifth test onwards.

With this, we get the following table:

Tests	Ravi	Sumana
Test 1	x	x
Test 2	y	
Test 3	y	
Test 4	y	
Test 5	y	y
Test 6	y	y
Test 7	y	y
Test 8	y	y

Ravi's total marks in the first three tests was the same as Sumana's total marks in the first two tests.

Let the marks of Sumana in the second test be z .

We are given that, $x + 2y = x + z$

Therefore, we can say, $z = 2y$.

We don't have any other information about their marks in specific tests so let the marks of Sumana in test 3 and test 4 be a and b respectively.

With this, we have:

Tests	Ravi	Sumana
Test 1	x	x
Test 2	y	2y
Test 3	y	a
Test 4	y	b
Test 5	y	y
Test 6	y	y
Test 7	y	y
Test 8	y	y

At last, we are given that Sumana's marks in the first test, total marks of the first two tests, and total marks of the eight tests are in a geometric progression.

i.e. x , $(x + 2y)$ and $(x + a + b + 6y)$ are in a geometric progression.

With this, we can infer that x can't be 0 as if x is 0, any number multiplied with it will be 0 and $(x+2y)$ and $(x + a + b + 6y)$ can't be in a geometric progression.

Hence, x can be 1 / 2 / 3 / 4.

Let's try to make all possible geometric progression with this information:

1. (1, 3, 9) when $x = 1$, $y = 1$ and $a + b = 2$
2. (2, 4, 8) when $x = 2$, $y = 1$ and $a + b = 0$
3. (2, 6, 8) when $x = 2$, $y = 2$ and $a + b = 4$
4. (4, 8, 16) when $x = 4$, $y = 2$ and $a + b = 0$

17. **B**

In the question, we need to answer which of the mentioned statements can be true:

A: Ravi scored 4 marks in the third test

y can't be 4 in any of the possible case. Hence, the statement **can't be true**.

B: Sumana scored 2 marks in the first test

Sumana scored x marks in the first test and x can be 2. Hence, this **can be true**.

C: Ravi scored 0 marks in the fifth test

y can't be 0 as we discussed above. Hence, this statement **can't be true**.

D: Sumana scored 3 marks in the second test

Sumana scored $2y$ in the second test and if $2y = 3$, y will be a non integer number which is **not possible**.

E: Sumana scored 4 marks in the eighth test

y can't be 4 in any of the possible case. Hence, this **can't be true**.

18. B

p>According to the question, if Ravi scored 4 marks in the first test i.e. if $x = 4$, the possible case is case 4,

Hence, sumana scored a marks in the third test and we know that in case 4, $a + b = 0$. Hence, both a and b are 0.

19. C

p>If Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test i.e. $y = 1$, it can be either case 1 and case 2.

The total marks scored by Sumana across the tests according to case 1:

$$x + a + b + 6y = 1 + 2 + 6 = 9$$

The total marks scored by Sumana across the tests according to case 2:

$$x + a + b + 6y = 2 + 0 + 6 = 8$$

Hence, the maximum possible marks that can be scored by Sumana is 9.

20. B

2005			
	Female	Male	GAP
A	40	27.5	12.5
B	40	22.5	17.5
C	35	25	10
D	32.5	22.5	10
E	32.5	20	12.5
F	32.5	17.5	15
G	32.5	30	2.5
H	35	20	15
I	30	20	10
J	30	22.5	7.5

2015			
	Female	Male	GAP
A	32.5	25	7.5
B	32.5	22.5	10
C	30	22.5	7.5
D	27.5	20	7.5
E	32.5	25	7.5
F	32.5	22.5	10
G	32.5	27.5	5
H	32.5	25	7.5
I	32.5	22.5	10
J	27.5	22.5	5

Difference between the gap in 2015 and 2005 is least in I. That is 0.

Hence I is the answer.

21. C

2005			
	Female	Male	GAP
A	40	27.5	12.5
B	40	22.5	17.5
C	35	25	10
D	32.5	22.5	10
E	32.5	20	12.5
F	32.5	17.5	15
G	32.5	30	2.5
H	35	20	15
I	30	20	10
J	30	22.5	7.5

2015			
	Female	Male	GAP
A	32.5	25	7.5
B	32.5	22.5	10
C	30	22.5	7.5
D	27.5	20	7.5
E	32.5	25	7.5
F	32.5	22.5	10
G	32.5	27.5	5
H	32.5	25	7.5
I	32.5	22.5	10
J	27.5	22.5	5

Option A: average gender gap of the 10 cities in 2005 = 11.25.

average gender gap of the 10 cities in 2015 = 7.75. Average in 2015 is less when compared to 2005.

Option B: Median of men's income in 2005 = 32.5

Median of women's income in 2005 = 22.5

Median of men's income in 2015 = 32.5

Median of women's income in 2015 = 22.5

Median of men's income is higher than median of women's income in both the years.

Option C: The average men's income in all 10 cities in 2005 is more than or equal to 30,000. So, there is not way a for the average to be less than Rs. 30,000.

So, option C is false.

Option D: We can clearly see that average montly income of men in 2005 in many cities is more than that in 2015.

Option E: There are some cities where the average income for women is less than Rs. 22,000.

Since the poopulation can be more in those cities, we can't say if the average income of women is less than Rs. 22,000. So, there is a case for this statement to be true.

22. E

We are told that Rs.100 in 2025 is worth Rs. 60 in 2015 prices, and Rs. 25 in 2005 prices

Option A: Average unscaled income for both genders increased in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015

This is true. The average unscaled income of both male and female for all the 10 cities will be more in 2015 than 2005. Why? The unscaled income in 2005 is $\frac{1}{4}$ th of value given in the graph. While in 2015 it is $\frac{3}{5}$ th of value given in the graph. For allmost all the points the values in 2015 is more than that in 2005. And for those values that are lesser in 2015 than 2005, when the values when scaled as stated in the question, the value in 2015 will be more than 2005 as they don't have that much margin.

Option B: Average unscaled income of women was about Rs. 15,000 in 2015 in City H

The least value of average income of women in 2015 accross all cities is 27.5.

Its unscaled value = $\frac{27.5*60}{100} = 16.5$. This is more than 15,000. So, this option is correct.

Option C: Average unscaled income of men in City E increased by about 140% from 2005 to 2015

Average income of men in City E in 2005 = 20,000

Its unscaled value will be $20000 \cdot \frac{25}{100} = 5,000$

Average income of men in City E in 2015 = 25,000

Its unscaled value will be $25000 \cdot \frac{60}{100} = 12,000$

$$\frac{(12000 - 5000)}{5000} = 1.4$$

So, option C is also correct.

Option D: Average unscaled income of women in City G increased by about 120% from 2005 to 2015

Average income of women in City G in 2005 = 32,500

Its unscaled value will be $32500 \cdot \frac{25}{100} = 8,125$

Average income of women in City G in 2015 = 32,500

Its unscaled value will be $32500 \cdot \frac{60}{100} = 19,500$

$$\frac{(19500 - 8125)}{8125} = 1.2$$

So, this is also a correct option.

Option E:

	2005		2015	
	GAP	Unscaled GAP	GAP	Unscaled GAP
A	12.5	3.125	7.5	4.5
B	17.5	4.375	10	6
C	10	2.5	7.5	4.5
D	10	2.5	7.5	4.5
E	12.5	3.125	7.5	4.5
F	15	3.75	10	0.6
G	2.5	0.625	5	3
H	15	3.75	7.5	4.5
I	10	2.5	10	6
J	7.5	1.875	5	3

Unscaled gap for city G in 2005 is more than in 2015.

So, this is an incorrect statement.

23. C

We are told that a car always travelling at the maximum permissible speed, and always taking the shortest route takes 1 hour to reach Oldtown from Meereen, 2 hours to reach Gulltown from Oldtown, and 45 minutes to reach Winterfell from Gulltown.

So, distance between Oldtown and Meereen is $100 \cdot 1 = 100\text{km}$

Distance between Gulltown and Oldtown is $25 \cdot 2 = 50\text{km}$.

Distance between Winterfell and Gulltown. is $120 \cdot \frac{3}{4} = 90\text{km}$.

Let the distance between Meereen and Winterfall be x .

Using the pythagoras theorem, $(100 + 50)^2 = 90^2 + x^2$

$x = 120\text{ km}$

For convience, we are refering the vertices as the starting letters of towns.

Using the similar triangle rule, MOL is similar to MGW.

$$\text{So, } \frac{MO}{ML} = \frac{MG}{MW}$$

$$\frac{100}{ML} = \frac{150}{120}$$

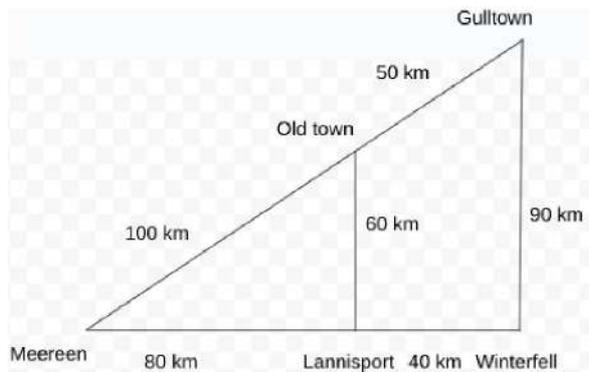
ML = 80 km.

LW = 40 km.

$$\frac{MO}{LO} = \frac{MG}{WG}$$

$$\frac{100}{LO} = \frac{150}{90}$$

LO = 60 km



The path Tyrion Lannister took is MO, OL, LW.

Distances of these path are 100, 60, 40. The respective speeds are 90, 10, 110.

$$\text{So, the total time taken will be } \frac{100}{90} + \frac{60}{10} + \frac{40}{110} = 1.11 + 6 + 0.36 = 7.47$$

0.47 of an hour is 28 mins.

So, answer will be 7 hr 28 mins

24. D

We are told that a car always travelling at the maximum permissible speed, and always taking the shortest route takes 1 hour to reach Oldtown from Meereen, 2 hours to reach Gulltown from Oldtown, and 45 minutes to reach Winterfell from Gulltown.

So, distance between Oldtown and Meereen is $100 \times 1 = 100$ km

Distance between Gulltown and Oldtown is $25 \times 2 = 50$ km.

Distance between Winterfell and Gulltown. is $120 \times 3/4 = 90$ km.

Let the distance between Meereen and Winterfall be x.

$$\text{Using the pythagoras theorem, } (100 + 50)^2 = 90^2 + x^2$$

$$x = 120 \text{ km}$$

For convience, we are refering the vertices as the starting letters of towns.

Using the similar triangle rule, MOL is similar to MGW.

$$\text{So, } \frac{MO}{ML} = \frac{MG}{MW}$$

$$\frac{100}{ML} = \frac{150}{120}$$

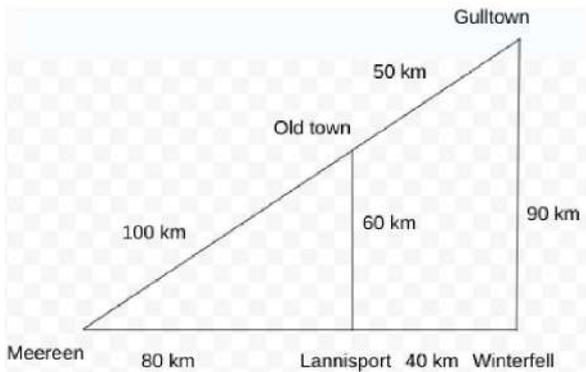
ML = 80 km.

LW = 40 km.

$$\frac{MO}{LO} = \frac{MG}{WG}$$

$$\frac{100}{LO} = \frac{150}{90}$$

LO = 60 km



Path taken by Missandei is GO, OL at a speed of 25 kmph and 10 kmph. Path taken by Varys is LO at a speed of 20 kmph.

Missandei reaches O 2hrs after he start. In the mean time, Varys travells $20 * 2 = 40$ km.

Now, both are travelling in opposite direction and 20 km far.

The speed of Varys is 20 and that of Missandei is 10 km.

The time taken for them to meet is $20/30 = 2/3$ hr.

In $2/3$ hr, travels Missandei 6.67 km and Varys travels 13.33 km.

So, they will meet at 6.67 km south of Oldtown.

25. D

We are told that a car always travelling at the maximum permissible speed, and always taking the shortest route takes 1 hour to reach Oldtown from Meereen, 2 hours to reach Gulltown from Oldtown, and 45 minutes to reach Winterfell from Gulltown.

So, distance between Oldtown and Meereen is $100 * 1 = 100$ km

Distance between Gulltown and Oldtown is $25 * 2 = 50$ km.

Distance between Winterfell and Gulltown. is $120 * 3/4 = 90$ km.

Let the distance between Meereen and Winterfall be x.

Using the pythagoras theorem, $(100 + 50)^2 = 90^2 + x^2$

$x = 120$ km

For convience, we are refering the vertices as the starting letters of towns.

Using the similar triangle rule, MOL is similar to MGW.

$$\text{So, } \frac{MO}{ML} = \frac{MG}{MW}$$

$$\frac{100}{ML} = \frac{150}{120}$$

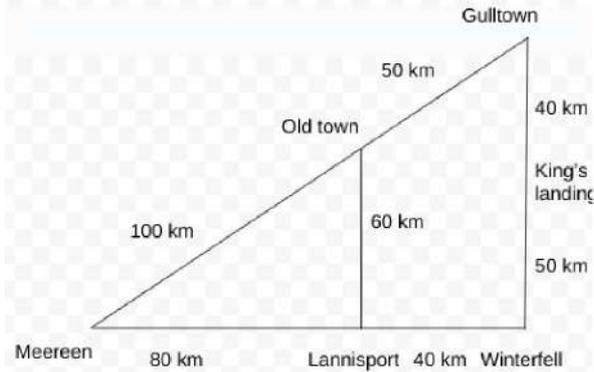
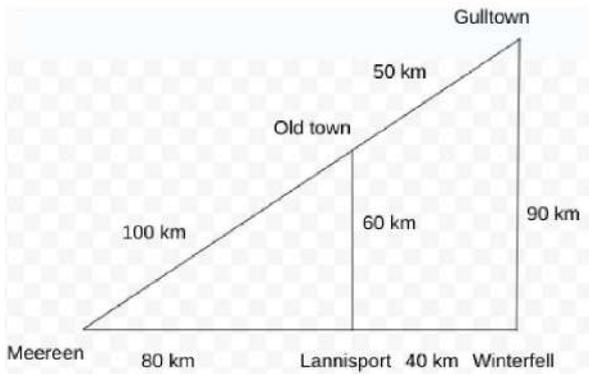
ML = 80 km.

LW = 40 km.

$$\frac{MO}{LO} = \frac{MG}{WG}$$

$$\frac{100}{LO} = \frac{150}{90}$$

LO = 60 km



The direct path from M to K will $120^2 + 50^2 = 130^2$.

The shortest time taking path from Meereen to King's landing. Through M0GK, time taken = $\frac{100}{100} + \frac{50}{25} + \frac{40}{120} = 1 + 2 + \frac{1}{3} = 3.33$

Through MWK, time taken = $\frac{120}{120} + \frac{50}{120} = 1.42$

So, the second case that is MWK is the fastest route. Time taken will be 1 hr 25 mins.

If the travel time cuts down by 20 mins, the new time will be 1 hr 5 mins. So, it should take 13/12 hrs.

$$\text{speed} = \frac{130}{\frac{13}{12}} = 120 \text{ kmph}$$

Explanation [26 - 28]:

The first thing we should do while solving this set is we should replace the average with the sum of the ratings as we have done in the following table:

	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1		4		3	4	16
R2	3		4		4	16
R3				5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

We know that the ratings can be 1/2/3/4/5 only.

R1 has given 4 and 3 to B and D respectively and the sum of the ratings given by R1 in total is 16.

So, the sum of the ratings given by R1 to A and C is $(16-4-3 = 9)$

Now, this sum is only possible when he has given 4 to one of them and 5 to another.

Let's make both the cases:

Case - 1						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	5	4	4	3	4	16
R2	3		4		4	16
R3				5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Case - 2						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	4	4	5	3	4	16
R2	3		4		4	16
R3				5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Now, with this, we can derive the score given by R3 to C.

In case 1, it will be $(16 - 4 - 4 - 5) = 3$

In case 2, it will be $(16 - 5 - 4 - 5) = 2$

Now, R2 gave 3 and 4 score to A and C respectively. Hence, he would have given a sum of $(16 - 3 - 4 = 9)$ to B and D. It could be possible when he gave 4 to one and 5 to the other one.

Hence, we can make the possible cases and sub cases:

Case - 1						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	5	4	4	3	4	16
R2	3	5	4	4	4	16
R3			3	5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Sub - Case - 1						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	5	4	4	3	4	16
R2	3	4	4	5	4	16
R3			3	5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Case - 2						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	4	4	5	3	4	16
R2	3	5	4	4	4	16
R3			2	5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Sub - Case - 2						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	4	4	5	3	4	16
R2	3	4	4	5	4	16
R3			2	5	4	16
R4		4	5		4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

With this only, we can fill the complete table. Hence, we get:

Case - 1						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	5	4	4	3	4	16
R2	3	5	4	4	4	16
R3	5	3	3	5	4	16
R4	3	4	5	5	4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Case - 2						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	4	4	5	3	4	16
R2	3	5	4	4	4	16
R3	6	3	2	5	4	16
R4	3	4	5	5	4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Sub - Case - 1						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	5	4	4	3	4	16
R2	3	4	4	5	4	16
R3	4	4	3	5	4	16
R4	4	4	5	4	4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

Sub - Case - 2						
	A	B	C	D	Average	Sum
R1	4	4	5	3	4	16
R2	3	4	4	5	4	16
R3	5	4	2	5	4	16
R4	4	4	5	4	4.25	17
Average	4	4	4	4.25		
Sum	16	16	16	17		

However, Case - 2 is not possible as there no reviewer can give 6 points to any gadget.

26. B

Now, according to the question, we have to find what rating R1 give to A so that we can find remaining ratings uniquely.

Now, R1 give 5 ratings according to two cases and 4 rating to A according to the one another.

If R1 gives 5 rating, we still can't figure out the remaining ratings uniquely. Hence, R1 has to give 4 to A in order to find the remaining ratings uniquely.

27. C

Now, according to the three possible cases, R2 give either 4 or 5 to B.

28. E

However, Case - 2 is not possible as there no reviewer can give 6 points to any gadget. Hence, there are only three possible combinations.

Decision Making

29. E

Let us examine the given choices -

Option A: Being appreciated for her performance is a positive sign, but it doesn't directly relate to the decision about whether to join the online management certificate program or prepare for an MBA entrance exam. Aarya needs to focus on what will bring long-term growth and career advancement.

Option B: Shruti's personal experience with the MBA entrance exams may offer some perspective, but it doesn't directly help Aarya make a decision between the two options. Each individual's circumstances are different, and Aarya needs to focus on factors that directly apply to her own situation.

Option C: This consideration is relevant in terms of work-life balance, but it is largely a secondary concern. Aarya might be able to manage her time, but if the program doesn't provide substantial career growth or opportunities, simply managing her schedule won't be the deciding factor. The overall impact on her career trajectory should be more important than how manageable the program is.

Option D: Like C, networking is a benefit, but it's secondary to ensuring that the program actually delivers career opportunities and growth. Aarya should focus on how the program will enhance her career prospects first.

Option E: This factor directly addresses the potential benefit of enrolling in the program - career advancement and success after completion. Aarya's main goal is to improve her career trajectory, and if the certificate program leads to better job prospects or career growth, it would help her make an informed decision. While other options provide context (like the program's ease or the desire for a strong alumni network), the tangible outcome of career success is the most compelling reason for her to consider the program over other paths.

30. D

Among the given choices, only Option D best aligns with Aarya's aspirations, as it highlights that the one-year executive MBA program offers an opportunity to further her career in a field that she is interested in, unlike the agribusiness program, which does not align with her career goals.

None of the other choices offer a compelling reason to select a particular program. For example, while the scholarship mentioned in Option A could be a financial incentive, it does not directly address Aarya's main concern: whether the program is a good fit for her and her long-term career goals.

Similarly, the consideration in Option B reflects Aarya's lack of confidence, but it does not focus on the core question of whether the one-year executive MBA program is the best option for her career. While avoiding another year of exam prep might be appealing, it's more of a personal emotional response and does not necessarily lead to the most strategic or fitting choice for her professional growth.

Option C compares the agribusiness program with another program but doesn't address Aarya's lack of interest in agribusiness. The fact that it is not the flagship program is secondary to the main issue: Aarya's disinterest in the subject matter of the program. A good fit for her interests and career goals should be the main consideration. Option E is also tangential: what matters more is whether the program will offer Aarya the tools and career trajectory she seeks, not just its popularity.

31. E

In the context of the question, Aarya has faced a frustrating situation where the business school made an error by offering more admissions than available seats, leading to her being presented with a deferred admission or a full refund. Aarya is now questioning the integrity and reliability of the business school. The task is to identify which consideration would restore her faith in the institution. Only Option E helps with this cause: this response is the most relevant because it shows that the business school took full responsibility for its mistake (owning the error) and made efforts to resolve the situation in a way that helped the affected students. This is key in rebuilding trust, as it indicates a commitment to transparency and accountability. Typically, when organizations own up to their mistakes and offer assistance, it can help restore confidence in them, especially after an incident that could have damaged their reputation.

Option A is tangential to the question: while a deferment could be personally beneficial for Aarya, this response does not directly address the issue of the breach of trust caused by the school's mistake. Options B and D suffer from a similar issue. The fact that the business school runs certain programs does not address the specific breach of trust Aarya has experienced. Similarly, the prevalence of the practice also need not assuage Aarya's fears.

Option C compares Aarya's situation to a different case, which could be seen as minimizing her current frustration; however, like the other options, it doesn't focus on the specific actions taken by the business school to correct the mistake in Aarya's case, which is central to her rebuilding faith in the institution.

32. D

Let us go option by option keeping in mind what the question expects of us, we need to find an option that makes sure Lisa is not singled out, understands the fact that she is still in her probationary period and is not finalized into the firm, makes sure that Lisa is respectful of everyone and does not violate trust.

Option A: Seeking a meeting with Ned Flanders directly to suggest ending the practice risks singling Lisa out as someone questioning the organization's culture. This is not ideal during her probationary period. This is the exact opposite of what the question is expecting us to do, this action will surely single out Lisa and will most definitely put her in trouble if Ned perceives it in the wrong way.

Option B: Meeting a newcomer secretly to reveal the ritual breaches organizational ethics, could undermine trust, and might lead to disciplinary action if discovered. This action is highly unethical and can be seen as going against the firm in a very shrewd and cowardly way.

Option C: Organizing a generic workshop on workplace politics does not directly address the issue of the ritual. It is unlikely to achieve Lisa's goal of relieving newcomers from the stress of the ritual.

Option E: Remaining silent until her confirmation fails Lisa's sense of moral responsibility to help the newcomers and contradicts her goal of addressing the ritual.

Correct Option

Option D: By joining a team of lawyers and collectively petitioning the founders, Lisa aligns herself with a group, reducing the risk of being singled out. This approach demonstrates that her concerns are shared by others and are not a personal grievance. The collective effort allows her to contribute to a culture change while appearing to work within the organization's norms and respecting its values.

33. D

Let us go option by option and see which is the most suitable action for the described situation,

Option A: Lisa did not send the email, nor is she directly responsible for someone else's actions. Taking accountability for something she did not do might make her appear insincere and set a precedent for accepting blame in future situations. This also does nothing to clarify her actual position to the founders or her peers.

Option B: Ignoring the situation does not address the rumors surrounding Lisa's involvement. This passive approach might allow the misunderstanding to persist, potentially damaging her reputation and relationships within the firm. It also risks her seeming indifferent or disengaged.

Option C: While this may seem like a direct response, addressing the entire firm could come across as defensive or overreactive, drawing unnecessary attention to the matter. It could also perpetuate the focus on the issue instead of defusing it, creating more questions about her motives and actions.

Option E: Apologizing for her opinion diminishes Lisa's ability to voice her perspectives in the future. It also signals that dissenting viewpoints are not welcome, which could stifle healthy discussions in the organization. Moreover, a public apology implies guilt, even though Lisa is not responsible for the anonymous email.

Correct Option

Option D: This option balances transparency with professionalism. By directly addressing the founders, Lisa can clarify her position in a controlled, private setting. She can honestly state her reservations about the ritual, which aligns with her earlier stance, while firmly denying any involvement with the anonymous email. This approach demonstrates integrity, accountability, and respect for the leadership, helping defuse the situation without unnecessary drama.

34. D

Let us go option by option to determine what is the best possible action that can be taken for the described situation,

Option A: Simply sharing information on the website does little to address the root concerns about the ritual's execution. It's passive and impersonal, failing to actively engage newcomers or offer them meaningful preparation for the challenges ahead. It also doesn't address the feedback about the ritual being outdated.

Option B: While involving a mental health professional can be valuable, handing over the design of the ritual entirely to them might dilute the professional essence of the process. The ritual is meant to simulate the real demands of the profession and outsourcing it to someone unfamiliar with the specific challenges of the legal field might result in a process that doesn't align with the founders' objectives.

Option C: This option is reactive rather than addressing the core issue. Retaining the current ritual unchanged fails to acknowledge the concerns raised by the young lawyers about its archaic nature. Adding a mental health professional as an afterthought doesn't make the ritual itself more relevant or empathetic.

Option E: While benchmarking against competitors can be helpful, relying too much on external practices might result in the firm losing its unique identity and approach. The ritual is deeply ingrained in the organization's culture, and copying others' methods may not capture the same impact or align with their goals. This action also risks losing the firm's individuality.

Correct Option

Option D: This is the best choice because it strikes an ideal balance between preserving the ritual's intent and modernizing it to meet current expectations. By inviting suggestions from young lawyers, the founders demonstrate empathy and inclusivity, showing that they value feedback from those who recently experienced the ritual. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of ownership among employees, making them feel invested in the process while also ensuring that the ritual evolves in a way that resonates with contemporary sensibilities. Additionally, this option allows the firm to maintain the core purpose of the ritual which is preparing newcomers for the demands of the profession, while at the same time adapting its execution to be more relevant, effective, and aligned with the changing times. It is a thoughtful way to honor tradition without becoming stagnant.

35. C

We need to publish the article and select the reasoning that will most likely convince Ramya to proceed with the report.

Option A: Even if this is true, Ramya herself would know there are reasons not to publish a report based on anonymous sources; keeping the legal consequences apart could harm the organisation's image. Overall, this is not a strong reason to go ahead with the report, but just trying to eliminate one of the deterrents.

Option B: This is close but not necessarily correct. Just because it is time-sensitive, we can not proceed with an unverified report with anonymous sources.

Option C: This serves the role we need. If Aditya has been a good reporter and his previous work has enhanced the Pluralists' reputation in the past, Ramya can put her faith in Aditya and publish the report without thorough investigation, given the circumstances and the need to unveil a possible scandal.

Option D: This doesn't help the case, as the stem clearly states that Pluralist has a reputation for publishing articles that are not just for sensualization and would value its reporting standards higher.

Option E: Competition should be the least of her worries since who is the first to publish and gather more headlines is not the aim of the report or the organisation. Though one of the options is a clear-cut answer to the problem at hand, C is the best choice, as Aditya's reputation and experience would help Ramya go ahead with his report with the least hesitation.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

36. A

We are essentially presented with a situation in which the article published is not entirely true and is raised in question. Although we have a reputation for higher reporting standards and not sensationalizing news, this poses a risk to the paper's reputation.

Of the given options, we can eliminate C, as it simply assigns the blame to the people reporting. This does not help in any way. It does not matter who provided the information since we were publishing it; it was our responsibility to verify it.

Option D is not only unethical (since nothing like this happened) but also against shifting the blame, and it is not a viable solution.

Option E is also irrelevant, caimsing their journalist to be good at its work doe snot refute the accusations, additionally, does not make a change in public opinion and the mining company's position.

The only way out of this is to accept responsibility for the error, leaving us with options A and B.

Option B is not entirely incorrect. In case of an actual oversight from the reporter, the institute should consider firing the reporter since it is detrimental to the organisation. Here however, Aditya was not at fault, it was the employees that gave incorrect information.

Option A is a better approach. Ramys accepts her haste in publishing the article, and as the editor's head, she also has some responsibility for the flat.

Hence, Option A is the correct answer.

37. E

We mentioned that Zubin is confident that further pursuit of the mining company will not yield any results. We must consider this before making our decision.

Option A: Assigning him anonymously would not help him regain the confidence he has lost in this process. He wants to redeem himself, and working anonymously might not allow him to fully utilize his and the company's resources.

Option B: This option is too impractical and irrelevant from the problem's perspective and can easily be eliminated.

Option C: Although not entirely wrong, this goes against Zubin's beliefs that the mining project would not yield any results. It also keeps Aditya stuck on the same project, which is not good for him or the organisation.

Option D: Although this is also a good option, this does not directly fulfil Aditya's need to redeem himself. We can look for a better choice.

Option E: This is the best course of action. Not only will it help Aditya gain his lost reputation by working on another investigative project, but it will also help him move past the mining industry event that Zubin believes is futile at this point.

Therefore, of all the given options, E serves the organisation's purpose, and Aditya is both the best and would be the correct answer.

38. C

The correct answer is **Option C**, as it provides a balanced and sustainable solution to enable young trainers to gain more opportunities without compromising client relationships. By mandating that senior trainers allow young trainers to handle at least 30% of their training sessions, Dheeraj ensures that young trainers gain hands-on experience while senior trainers remain the primary point of contact with clients. This gradual introduction of young trainers ensures client satisfaction, as the expertise of senior trainers continues to drive the training while young trainers are given the chance to prove their mettle. This approach benefits both the young trainers, by giving them exposure, and the clients, by maintaining trust and quality service.

Option A, which suggests exploring clients who are comfortable working with young trainers, is not a practical solution. There is no guarantee that enough clients would agree to work with inexperienced trainers, especially when the organization's reputation is tied to the expertise of its senior trainers. Limiting young trainers to "comfortable" clients may also restrict their exposure to smaller or less impactful projects, failing to address the CEO's concern of giving them broader opportunities.

Option B, requesting repeat clients to switch to young trainers due to their energy, risks damaging relationships with clients who have developed trust with senior trainers. Clients typically value consistency and proven expertise in behavioural training, and such a forced switch might lead to dissatisfaction or even loss of business. Additionally, the assumption that clients would prioritize "energy" over experience undermines the quality standards expected in this field.

Option D, assigning repeat projects from satisfied clients to young trainers, is a risky move. Repeat clients usually request senior trainers based on their past satisfaction and replacing them with young trainers may result in dissatisfaction or erode trust. This option does not provide a structured transition for young trainers and could jeopardize the reputation of Humane Dynamix by prematurely assigning high-stakes projects to less experienced trainers.

Option E, requesting the CEO to urge senior trainers to give up some of their existing clients for the sake of others' careers, is impractical and unfair. Senior trainers have earned the trust of clients through their expertise and efforts, and asking them to give up clients could create resentment among senior trainers. Additionally, it risks alienating clients who value continuity and established relationships with their preferred trainers.

Hence, **Option C** is the best solution as it ensures a structured and client-friendly approach to integrating young trainers into training programs. It allows young trainers to gain practical experience while keeping senior trainers involved, maintaining client satisfaction and the organization's reputation.

39. E

The correct answer is **Option E**, as it provides Sudha with a professional and constructive way to address her concerns. By explaining to Dheeraj that assigning her well-established clients to novice trainers might lead to the loss of those clients, she highlights a valid risk to the organization's reputation and revenue. This approach aligns with the organization's priority of maintaining client satisfaction and repeat business while addressing Sudha's concern about her reduced training hours and revenue loss. Since Dheeraj's role as the TAO involves balancing the CEO's directive to train young trainers with ensuring business continuity, Sudha's input directly supports his decision-making process without being confrontational or disruptive.

Option A, where Sudha approaches the CEO to request Dheeraj's removal as TAO, is overly drastic and unprofessional. While Sudha may be frustrated, such an action would be perceived as personal and vindictive, rather than focused on the organization's goals. Dheeraj is carrying out the CEO's directive to give young trainers more opportunities, and targeting him instead of addressing the issue directly is unlikely to garner support. Moreover, this option risks damaging her relationship with both the CEO and Dheeraj.

Option B, contacting client companies and asking them to reject Dheeraj's assigned trainers, is unethical and undermines the organization's internal structure. Such behavior would create unnecessary conflict between the clients and the organization, while also eroding trust between Sudha and Dheeraj. This option not only harms

Humane Dynamix's reputation but also jeopardizes the morale of young trainers and the collaborative work environment within the company. It does nothing to address the root issue constructively.

Option C, confronting the CEO to argue that his concerns should not be addressed at the cost of her revenues, is unlikely to be effective. While Sudha has valid concerns, directly opposing the CEO's directive without offering an alternative solution could make her appear self-centered and resistant to change. The CEO is already aware of the need to balance young trainer development with client satisfaction, and simply complaining about revenue loss does not contribute to resolving the issue in a productive manner.

Option D, proposing to train young trainers in her innovative methods to make them independent in the future, is a constructive suggestion but does not address Sudha's immediate concerns. While mentoring young trainers would help them develop, this does not resolve the current issue of Sudha losing clients and training hours. Furthermore, this option assumes Sudha is willing to take on the responsibility of mentoring, which may not align with her immediate priorities.

Hence, **Option E** is the best choice as it allows Sudha to address her concerns directly with Dheeraj in a professional and constructive manner. By framing her argument around the risk of losing clients and revenue, she aligns her concerns with the organization's goals, increasing the likelihood that Dheeraj will reconsider his approach while maintaining client relationships and organizational harmony.

40. **B**

The correct answer is **Option B**. This option balances the client's needs with the organization's goals of nurturing young trainers. It addresses the client's dissatisfaction by ensuring Nandini, a senior trainer, oversees future sessions while giving Kirti the opportunity to learn and improve through co-training. This collaborative and constructive approach maintains client trust, supports Kirti's development, and aligns with Humane Dynamix's vision.

Option A is wrong as it undermines the organization's goal of developing young trainers and encourages clients to bypass internal policies. While it might win back the client temporarily, it portrays Nandini as self-serving and could harm teamwork.

Option C is inappropriate as it escalates the issue unnecessarily, reflecting poorly on Nandini and Dheeraj. It shifts responsibility to the client instead of addressing the problem directly, which does not help improve Kirti's performance or regain client trust effectively.

Option D is counterproductive as it isolates Kirti without offering her a chance to improve. This could demotivate her and conflicts with the organization's objective of providing opportunities to new trainers while failing to rebuild the client relationship.

Option E is confrontational and risks damaging Nandini's relationship with Dheeraj. It highlights the issue but fails to propose a solution, leaving the client dissatisfied and Kirti unsupported.

Hence, **Option B** is the best choice as it tactfully resolves client concerns, supports Kirti's growth, and aligns with organizational goals, while the other options either fail to address the issue fully or create further challenges.

41. **C**

Option C is the correct answer because Sukanta is new to TrueColor and the eastern market dynamics. Making major changes without fully understanding the local market and the nuances of how Zedius operates could lead to disruption or failure. Taking time to analyze the competitive landscape, customer preferences, and Zedius's current performance would provide Sukanta with the insights necessary to make informed decisions in the future. This approach also allows him to build trust with the team and gather data to support any major changes he may propose later. By not rushing into a decision, Sukanta ensures a smoother transition if changes are eventually required. This reasoning aligns with the principle of risk mitigation and cautious decision-making in a new role.

Option A: This option is incorrect because while Zedius's long-standing relationship with TrueColor indicates their experience and familiarity with the company's needs, it does not provide a strong enough reason for Sukanta to avoid making changes. The fact that Zedius has been managing marketing for five years is more of

a descriptive fact than a justification to delay decisions. The decision to not make immediate changes should be based on Sukanta's need to assess the market and gather relevant data, not merely on Zedius's history with the company.

Option B: This option is incorrect because the reputation of Zedius's owners, while noteworthy, does not necessarily reflect the effectiveness of their operations or their ability to meet TrueColor's growing ticket sales target. Respect in the community does not directly address the business challenges TrueColor is facing, such as increasing ticket sales to 100,000. Sukanta's decision to delay changes should be rooted in a need to understand market dynamics and operational strengths, not in the personal standing of Zedius's owners. Therefore, this option is irrelevant to the core decision-making process.

Option D: This option is incorrect because it suggests that Sukanta should take bold and immediate action, which contradicts the idea of delaying major changes. While it is true that Sukanta was hired to increase ticket sales, "by whatever means necessary" does not imply that changes must happen immediately. Making significant changes without adequate understanding of the market and Zedius's role could backfire and lead to poor results. Sukanta's mandate is to achieve long-term growth, and taking time to evaluate the situation before acting would be a more prudent approach.

Option E: This option is incorrect because it focuses on the historical stagnation of ticket sales, which actually supports the case for change rather than delaying it. If ticket sales have consistently been at 50,000 for a decade, it suggests that there is a pressing need for new strategies or interventions to meet the aspirational target of 100,000. Therefore, this reason would encourage Sukanta to make immediate changes rather than wait and observe. It does not align with the decision to avoid making major changes in his first year.

Option C is the best choice because it provides a logical, strategic reason for Sukanta to delay making major changes. It acknowledges his need to familiarize himself with the market and gather insights before taking bold steps. The other options either fail to provide strong justifications for delaying action (A and B) or contradict the idea of postponing changes by suggesting immediate action (D and E). By prioritizing market understanding, Sukanta sets himself up for informed and effective decision-making in the future.

42. A

Option A: In Tivanna, the competing media agencies keep defaming each other out of fierce competition. This option provides Adil with a valid and logical justification for ignoring the accusations against Zedius. By framing the allegations as a common tactic used by competing agencies in a fiercely competitive market, it effectively undermines the credibility of the claims. Adil can reasonably conclude that these accusations may be baseless and designed to tarnish Zedius's reputation. This allows him to confidently maintain the status quo with Zedius, ensuring no disruption in the critical sales target of 100,000 tickets for the event.

Option B: Zedius promises a particular threshold of ticket sales, as decided by TrueColor is incorrect because it does not address the specific issue of accusations about selling phoney tickets. While this shows Zedius's commitment to achieving sales targets, it provides no basis for Adil to judge the credibility of the competing agencies' allegations. The question requires an explanation for dismissing the claims, and this option does not contribute to that goal.

Option C: Zedius is the largest media agency in Tivanna is also not the correct answer. While being the largest agency might indicate that Zedius has a significant market presence or influence, it does not automatically prove its integrity or discredit the accusations. The size of the agency is irrelevant when assessing whether or not the allegations are true. Adil needs a reason to dismiss the accusations, and this option fails to provide one.

Option D: Some attendees admitted to paying cash to gatekeepers to get in works against the goal of ignoring the accusations. This option suggests that there may indeed be unethical practices happening at the events, thus lending credibility to the claims of fake ticket sales. Instead of helping Adil maintain the status quo, this option would encourage further investigation into the matter, which is the opposite of what the question is asking for.

Option E: Tivanna being a small city, a few prominent personalities have to be allowed in without tickets is irrelevant to the situation. This statement focuses on the practice of allowing free entry to VIPs, which has no connection to the accusations about selling black-market tickets. It neither supports Zedius nor provides Adil with a reason to ignore the allegations. Therefore, this option does not help in achieving the desired outcome.

Option A directly addresses the root of the problem by undermining the credibility of the accusations and presenting them as a tactic of market rivalry. The other options either fail to address the issue of credibility, are irrelevant to the situation, or actively work against the objective of maintaining the status quo.

43. **B**

Option B is the correct answer because Sukanta's strategy, though unsuccessful in the short term, is aimed at building long-term self-sufficiency for TrueColor. Transitioning from reliance on an external agency like Zedius to managing ticket sales internally was always expected to involve short-term challenges, as acknowledged by both Sukanta and Adil during their discussions. The failure to meet the sales target in the first year does not necessarily indicate a flawed strategy, as Sukanta and his newly recruited team require more time to learn, gain experience, and refine their processes. By adopting a "wait and watch" approach, Adil would provide the team with the time and space needed to realize their potential and build long-term capabilities for TrueColor. Prematurely reversing the decision would waste the investments made in Sukanta's plan and undermine the organization's commitment to long-term goals.

Option A: This option is incorrect because it disregards the strategic shift Adil had previously approved, which aimed to reduce dependence on external agencies and build internal capabilities for ticket sales. While Zedius had helped achieve past sales targets, going back to them immediately would indicate a lack of faith in Sukanta's strategy and render the effort of creating an in-house team meaningless. Moreover, abruptly reversing the decision would demoralize Sukanta's team and weaken the organization's commitment to long-term growth. The initial underperformance of Sukanta's team should be seen as part of the learning curve rather than a reason to abandon the new strategy entirely.

Option C: This option is not the best course of action because it not only undermines the commitment to Sukanta's plan but also introduces unnecessary risk. Partnering with a media agency working for TrueColor's main competitor may result in conflicts of interest, operational challenges, or confidentiality concerns. Additionally, this option would still involve reliance on an external agency, which goes against the company's objective of becoming self-sufficient in ticket sales. This would further delay the development of internal capabilities and erode the progress made so far under Sukanta's leadership.

Option D: This option is also incorrect because it completely reverses the strategic direction Adil had approved just a year ago. While the decision to switch from Zedius to an in-house ticket sales team has faced challenges, dismissing Sukanta's team after one setback would be an overreaction. Such a drastic move would not only waste the effort and investment already made but also signal a lack of patience and willingness to endure short-term pain for long-term gain. The in-house team's failure to meet the target in their first year does not necessarily indicate that the strategy is doomed. Instead of dismissing Sukanta's team, Adil should provide them with time to adapt and improve.

Option E: This option is incorrect because it creates a hostile work environment and does not address the root cause of the issue. While setting clear expectations for performance improvement is important, issuing threats will only demotivate Sukanta and his team, who are already dealing with the pressure of a failed initiative. Adil's role as a leader is to support his team, especially during challenging times, rather than resort to coercion or fear. A more constructive approach would involve providing Sukanta with resources, training, or guidance to improve sales, rather than threatening to fire him and his team.

Option B is the best course of action because it aligns with the long-term vision of building internal capabilities, acknowledges the learning curve involved in Sukanta's strategy, and avoids undermining the investment made in the new approach. The other options either involve prematurely abandoning the strategy, reverting to external reliance, or creating unnecessary conflict and demotivation, all of which are counterproductive to TrueColor's goals. By adopting a patient, supportive stance, Adil can give Sukanta and his team the opportunity to refine their approach and eventually achieve the desired outcomes.

44. **B**

This combination—**B (Shut down the cafeteria for the period of renovation), C (Ask their administrative staff to work remotely), and D (Strip the pharmacy operations down to emergency and critical medications)**—is the best option because it minimizes disruption to the hospital's critical operations while allowing the infrastructure renovation to proceed. The cafeteria, while a helpful facility, is not directly tied to medical services and can be

temporarily closed without impacting the hospital's ability to provide healthcare. Similarly, asking administrative staff to work remotely, as they did during the COVID-19 pandemic, is a feasible solution that would not affect core hospital services. Reducing the pharmacy operations to only emergency and critical medications ensures that patients can still access life-saving medicines while scaling down non-critical operations. Together, these steps allow the hospital to maintain its emergency services and outpatient care, which are critical for its reputation and operations, while accommodating the renovation.

Option A: This combination—**A (Reduce their outpatient capacity to half), C (Ask their administrative staff to work remotely), and D (Strip the pharmacy operations down to emergency and critical medications)**—is not the best choice because reducing outpatient capacity to half would significantly impact the hospital's primary role in the community. Outpatient services make up a significant proportion of KindCare's patients, and such a drastic reduction could harm its reputation and result in a loss of trust among patients. While asking administrative staff to work remotely and scaling down the pharmacy to emergency medications are sensible steps, compromising outpatient care would severely disrupt the hospital's functioning. Therefore, this option is less viable.

Option C: This combination—**A (Reduce their outpatient capacity to half), B (Shut down the cafeteria for the period of renovation), and C (Ask their administrative staff to work remotely)**—is not ideal because it involves reducing outpatient capacity, which is a core service of the hospital. While shutting down the cafeteria and asking administrative staff to work remotely are low-impact measures, cutting outpatient services by half would severely affect the hospital's ability to serve its community. Outpatient care is one of KindCare's key strengths, and such a reduction would lead to dissatisfaction among patients and tarnish its reputation. Hence, this option is less effective compared to BCD.

Option D: This combination—**B (Shut down the cafeteria for the period of renovation), C (Ask their administrative staff to work remotely), and E (Shut down the medical lab, and arrange medical tests from a local lab)**—is not the best option because shutting down the hospital's state-of-the-art medical lab would significantly affect patient care. The lab is described as a major strength of KindCare, being the most sought-after testing facility in the region. Arranging medical tests from local labs would compromise the quality and reliability of diagnostic services, which are critical to the hospital's operations. While shutting down the cafeteria and having administrative staff work remotely are reasonable measures, closing the medical lab would have a much greater negative impact on the hospital's functioning. Therefore, this combination is not ideal.

Option E: This combination—**A (Reduce their outpatient capacity to half), B (Shut down the cafeteria for the period of renovation), and E (Shut down the medical lab, and arrange medical tests from a local lab)**—is the least effective option because it involves two highly disruptive measures: reducing outpatient capacity and shutting down the medical lab. Outpatient services are a key component of KindCare's operations, and reducing their capacity would directly impact the hospital's ability to serve its patients. Similarly, shutting down the medical lab would compromise diagnostic services, which are critical for both inpatient and outpatient care. While shutting down the cafeteria is a low-impact measure, the other two actions would severely disrupt the hospital's operations and reputation, making this combination highly undesirable.

Option B:

- **Shutting down the cafeteria (B):** The cafeteria is not directly related to the hospital's medical operations. While it serves patients and their relatives, its closure would have minimal impact on the hospital's ability to provide healthcare. Patients and relatives can use other food joints and restaurants that have opened around the hospital in recent years.
- **Asking administrative staff to work remotely (C):** The hospital successfully implemented remote working for its administrative staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. This option is feasible and would not affect the hospital's critical services or patient care.
- **Stripping the pharmacy operations down to emergency and critical medications (D):** This ensures that the hospital can continue to provide life-saving medicines to its patients while temporarily suspending non-essential pharmacy services. This is a reasonable compromise during the renovation period.

By implementing these measures, KindCare can ensure that its critical services, such as outpatient care, emergency services, and its state-of-the-art medical lab, remain functional during renovations. This approach minimizes disruption and aligns with the hospital's mission of serving the community effectively.

45. C

Option C is the correct answer because shutting down the cafeteria is a low-impact decision that does not affect the hospital's ability to provide medical care. The cafeteria, while important for the comfort of patients, their families, and hospital staff, is not directly linked to critical operations like emergency services, ICU operations, or outpatient care. Relocating the storage unit to the cafeteria temporarily ensures that the hospital's inventory of medicines and supplies is close and easily accessible during the renovation of the primary storage unit. This decision allows KindCare to continue operating efficiently without disrupting critical medical services. Additionally, there are other food options available in the surrounding area, such as food joints and restaurants, making this a practical and effective solution.

Option A: This option is incorrect because reducing the capacity of emergency services would severely impact the hospital's ability to serve patients in need of urgent care. Emergency services are a core strength of KindCare and one of the main reasons it is highly regarded by the locals. Halving this capacity would not only compromise the hospital's reputation but also endanger lives by turning away patients who rely on these services. Renovating the storage unit part by part is a time-consuming approach that would delay the renovation, adding unnecessary operational challenges and prolonging disruption. This option poses significant risks and is less effective than relocating the storage unit.

Option B: This option is highly disruptive and impractical. Shutting down most of the hospital would significantly affect its ability to serve the community, especially since it is the only major hospital in the region. Many patients, particularly outpatients and those requiring ICU care, would face severe inconvenience or even harm. While running the emergency ward on outside supplies might be feasible, relying on external supply chains introduces delays and logistical complexities. This option would create unnecessary disruption and undermine the hospital's primary role in the community, making it far less effective than Option C.

Option D: This option is less effective because relocating the storage unit to a rented space an hour away would introduce logistical delays and inefficiencies. In a hospital setting, timely access to medicines and auxiliary supplies is critical, particularly for the ICU and emergency services. A storage facility located far from the hospital would make it difficult to ensure adequate and timely supply, potentially jeopardizing patient care. While this option avoids shutting down any part of the hospital, it introduces operational risks that are unnecessary when a more practical alternative (relocating the storage unit to the cafeteria) is available.

Option E: This option is not a practical solution for the immediate problem at hand. Building a new storage facility is a long-term solution that would take months or even years to complete, during which the hospital would still need to address the urgent renovation of the existing storage unit. The immediate need is to ensure the hospital continues operating efficiently during the seven-day renovation period, and this option fails to address that requirement. While expanding storage capacity may be a good idea in the future, it is irrelevant to solving the current issue.

Shutting down the cafeteria and temporarily relocating the storage unit ensures that KindCare can continue to operate efficiently without disrupting its critical services. The cafeteria is a non-essential facility in the context of hospital operations, and its temporary closure would not impact the hospital's ability to provide medical care. Relocating the storage unit to the cafeteria keeps the inventory accessible and eliminates the logistical challenges of moving supplies to a distant location. Moreover, patients and their families can utilize the other food joints and restaurants that have developed around the hospital, minimizing the impact of the cafeteria's closure.

46. D

Option D is the correct answer because it offers a sustainable and practical solution to minimize the disruption caused by the renovation. By bringing in a reputed team that can complete the work in just three days, KindCare can significantly reduce the time during which outpatient services are affected. While the cost is high, it is a short-term expense that ensures the hospital's reputation and ability to serve the community are not further

damaged. The hospital is already turning away patients, which could lead to long-term resentment and a loss of trust in KindCare's services. Therefore, prioritizing a faster renovation—even at triple the cost—is the most effective and sustainable option to resolve the situation promptly and ensure smooth operations in the future.

Option A: This option is not the best solution because it introduces logistical challenges and inefficiencies. While renting spaces could allow the hospital to continue providing some services, operating from scattered locations would likely confuse patients and add complexity to hospital management. Patients seeking emergency care or outpatient services may not know where to go, and staff would need to divide their efforts between multiple locations. Furthermore, transporting critical supplies like medicines or equipment to these scattered spaces would be time-consuming and costly. While this option could temporarily reduce the number of patients turned away, it is not sustainable and would create operational challenges that could hurt KindCare's reputation.

Option B: This option is less effective because it does not address the immediate issue of patients being turned away. Starting reduced operations would still limit the hospital's ability to serve the community, and hiring a team of experts to expedite the renovation would add further delays. The renovation team already estimates that the work will take more than 15 days, and waiting for experts to provide solutions would only prolong the process. While this approach might seem cautious, it does not resolve the urgent problem of public dissatisfaction and disrupted services. It fails to provide a timely and impactful solution compared to Option D.

Option C: This option is not ideal because it would primarily help critical patients rather than addressing the broader issue of outpatient services being turned away. While critical patients might be redirected to Shamili, many outpatients and locals rely on KindCare as their primary medical facility. Shamili is located 100 kilometers away, which makes it inconvenient for most patients in Chinari and the surrounding area. Additionally, outsourcing patients to Shamili could harm KindCare's reputation as a dependable healthcare provider. This option solves the issue for only a small segment of patients and fails to address the community's broader healthcare needs.

Option E: This option is not sustainable because it simply postpones the problem rather than solving it. The hospital has already identified the need for urgent renovation of its storage unit, which is critical for maintaining an adequate inventory of medicines and supplies. Stopping the renovation would provide only a temporary reprieve and would likely result in greater operational challenges in the future. The hospital would eventually need to restart the renovation, potentially leading to another disruption. This approach reflects poor planning and does not provide a sustainable solution for the hospital or its patients.

Option D is the most sustainable and effective solution because it prioritizes minimizing disruption and ensures that the hospital can resume normal operations as quickly as possible. While the cost of hiring a reputed renovation team is high, it is a worthwhile investment to preserve the hospital's reputation and meet the community's healthcare needs. Completing the renovation in three days drastically reduces the duration of patient inconvenience and addresses the growing dissatisfaction among the public. Additionally, this option ensures that the hospital's infrastructure improvements are completed efficiently, preventing future delays or operational bottlenecks.

47. C

Sundaram's realization of barely breaking even highlights the need for a sustainable solution to improve profitability. Among the given options, **Option C**, removing all discounts and selling at the maximum retail price, is the most viable choice. By eliminating the 15% discount, Sundaram can immediately increase his profit margin without requiring additional investment or effort. His store already caters to residents' daily essentials and urgent needs, where convenience outweighs pricing. Thus, customers are unlikely to stop shopping at his store despite the removal of discounts. This approach ensures a steady increase in revenue and profitability without jeopardizing his core customer base or incurring further costs.

Option A, negotiating a lower rent with the residents' association, appears appealing but is unlikely to succeed. Sundaram voluntarily agreed to the high rent through a competitive bidding process, making it difficult for the association to justify reducing the rate. Furthermore, relying on renegotiation does not address the fundamental issue of improving sales or reducing dependency on discounts, and there's no guarantee of a favourable outcome.

Option B, advertising via leaflets in the gated community, may increase visibility but comes with its own costs, such as printing and distribution. This would add financial strain without ensuring a significant uptick in sales. Given that residents are already aware of the store and still prefer large retail chains for major purchases, this strategy may not lead to a substantial increase in profits.

Option D, offering to procure items unavailable at his shop on demand, would introduce operational complexities and additional costs, such as transportation and logistics. This approach shifts focus from optimizing the store's current operations and profitability. It may also set unrealistic expectations among customers, further straining Sundaram's resources.

Option E, introducing "cheap Wednesdays" with 40% discounts, is counterproductive. While it might draw more customers temporarily, such steep discounts would drastically reduce profit margins. Customers may also delay their purchases to only shop on discount days, cannibalizing regular sales. Over time, this discount-driven model would be unsustainable and could further harm Sundaram's financial stability.

Hence, **Option C** offers the most sustainable way for Sundaram to improve profits. By removing the discounts, he can enhance revenue from existing sales without additional costs or operational risks, aligning his strategy with the shopping habits of his customers.

48. **D**

The correct answer is **Option D**, as it effectively addresses the residents' association's concerns while maintaining balance among all stakeholders. Offering the vegetable vendor a discounted rent would incentivize him to return to the gated community, restoring competition and potentially lowering prices for residents. Moreover, the vendor's return would reinstate the practice of distributing unsold vegetables to the maintenance staff, helping to retain them amidst rising attrition. This solution ensures the association continues to receive rent, resolves concerns over staff retention and avoids placing additional burdens on Sundaram.

Option A, inviting bids for another grocery store, could lead to market saturation, harming Sundaram's business and failing to restore the maintenance staff's benefits.

Option B, asking Sundaram to rent the vendor's former space, would increase his costs without resolving the association's concerns regarding the staff and the vendor.

Option C, imposing a fine on Sundaram, is punitive and does not address the actual issue of the staff losing access to discounted or free vegetables.

Option E, asking Sundaram to provide free vegetables to the staff, would impose an unfair financial burden on him, making this solution unsustainable.

Hence, **Option D** is the best choice as it directly resolves the association's concerns by bringing back the vendor, restoring competition, ensuring staff retention, and maintaining harmony in the community without negatively impacting Sundaram.

49. **C**

The correct answer is **Option C**, as it offers a practical and competitive solution to the challenge posed by Rush'em. By employing a few helpers to deliver products within 10 minutes across the three gated communities, Sundaram can leverage his proximity advantage and provide a hyper-local, fast delivery service. This approach ensures convenience for his customers while capitalizing on his established presence and reputation. It allows Sundaram to directly compete with Rush'em's delivery services while avoiding the heavy infrastructure costs of setting up a startup like Rush'em.

Option A, ignoring the problem, is a poor strategy. Rush'em has already expanded to the suburbs, and Sundaram is losing business to them. Not acting on this threat could lead to a steep decline in revenue and eventually make his business unviable.

Option B, starting his own delivery startup "Finish'em," is impractical. Competing directly with Rush'em in terms of warehouses and technology would require significant financial investment, operational expertise, and infrastructure, which Sundaram likely cannot afford. Additionally, such an initiative would take time to scale, leaving him vulnerable to continued revenue losses in the interim.

Option D, demanding that his rent be reduced to one-third, is unlikely to succeed and doesn't address the core issue. The residents' association cannot directly regulate Rush'em's operations, and Sundaram's rental arrangement was made through a competitive bidding process. Furthermore, rent reduction does not help

Sundaram retain customers or address their preference for fast deliveries.

Option E, offering discounts on every product, would further strain Sundaram's profitability without guaranteeing that customers would stop using Rush'em. Discounts alone won't solve the convenience advantage Rush'em offers through its delivery service. Customers may still prefer the ease of doorstep delivery, even at slightly higher prices.

Hence, **Option C** is the best solution. By introducing a fast delivery service within his gated communities, Sundaram can counter the threat posed by Rush'em while leveraging his existing infrastructure and customer base to maintain and grow his revenue.

Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

50. E

Let us look at the sentences and try eliminating the grammatically incorrect sentences,

C. Radhika is good in data interpretation.

This sentence is wrong as it should be "good at data interpretation"

E. Rajat emphasized on the need for consistency in XAT preparation.

This sentence is wrong as it should simply be "emphasized the need"

B. The boss discussed about the new project with his team.

This sentence is wrong as it should just simply be "discussed the new project"

Hence the grammatically correct sentences are A, D, F.

51. D

A: The sentence should be: There are "fewer" cars on the road; hence this is incorrect.

C: The sentence should be: I have been here "since" Monday; hence this statement is incorrect.

E: Although this format is also acceptable in common language, the grammatically correct version would be: She is the girl "who" won the case competition.

Sentences B, D, and F are grammatically correct.

Therefore, Option D would be the correct answer.

52. E

Here, "young" fits logically in the second blank since the sentence discusses the perspective of older generations on younger ones. Similarly, the usage of "hypocritically" in the fourth blank highlights the irony in how older generations criticize younger ones for behaviors they themselves engaged in. This matches the intent. The correct word in the first blank is "successive," referring to one generation following another, making it appropriate in this context.

53. D

We need to arrange the sentences in a logically sequenced order; to do that, we need to get an idea of what the particular paragraph will be about. So, we look at the sentences and we see sentence C: On Earth almost every living thing ultimately depends on photosynthesis for its energy, including the rich ecosystems in the ocean depths, discovered in the 1980s and which helped the idea of life on Europa gain a foothold.

We realise that the paragraph is referring to energy and living organisms and ecosystems.

We see that, D and E are abrupt sentences to start a paragraph with, they obviously need previous context and reference. A

Starting with A would abruptly introduce Europa's sunlight issue without first providing the necessary context that a habitable world needs an energy source, making the discussion lack a clear foundation.

Between C and B, B seems like a much more suitable options to start a paragraph with, where it introduces the concept of Energy needed for a habitable world.

We look at the option that starts with B, which is B, A, E, C, D

Following B, A specifies the particular energy challenge on Europa, linking the general need for energy to a specific case: lack of sunlight on Europa.

E reacts to the challenge presented in A, acknowledging the issue created by the absence of sunlight, maintaining logical flow.

C introduces an Earth analogy, explaining how life adapts in deep-sea environments away from sunlight, offering a possible parallel for Europa's situation.

Finally, D elaborates on the mechanism behind these deep-sea ecosystems, completing the explanation and connecting back to the possibility of life on Europa.

The sequence B-A-E-C-D moves from the general requirement of an energy source (B), through the problem of no sunlight on Europa (A, E), to an analogous Earth scenario (C, D) that suggests how life might thrive without direct sunlight, creating a coherent narrative.

54. C

The essence of the passage is that only someone who acts good knows how hard it can be to tempt evil. A person who does evil has already given in and hence does not know how much more he would have had to face the hardships. A good man, on the other hand, is still putting up the fight and hence knows the extent of the hardships he would have to face.

The question asks for what bet can be concluded. Let's take a look at each option individually:

Option A: The idea of judging ourselves is not present. Further, the idea is not that to know **anything**, we must apply ourselves to it; the idea of resisting temptation can not be connected to this in a sensible manner.

Option B: This is also fetched from the text's central idea, It is not about the labels of good or bad or who gets to call themselves good, but about what it means to know the temptations of falling to the other side.

Option C: This is the best of the given options, essentially carrying a higher meaning that is present in the text. An idea similar to "having principles is easy until they are tested". The text is about how anyone can give in to temptations and stop being good, and they might never even face the real hard temptations. Only a good person can claim to have known temptation since he has been through it all. Hence, unless you have tested your belief of being good, you can not tell your true beliefs. You might think you are good, but if you falter at the slightest inconvenience, your beliefs might be unjustified.

Option D: This is an easy elimination. Nowhere is it implied that most people are not good, so this can be concluded.

Option E: This essentially repeats what the passage wants to say but in the reverse order. It is not that knowing temptations makes you a good person, but a good person knows what temptation is.

Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

55. B

Given the seemingly complex appearance of the jumbled sentence, a good starting point would be to look at the repeated words in sentences A and E: both mention a treaty and the idea of convergence.

We begin with Sentence E, which introduces the Maastricht treaty and its convergence criteria. This sentence highlights the motivations behind the treaty: Germany wanted to design the rules to exclude fiscally unstable countries, specifically pointing to Italy as a target of these restrictions.

Sentence A naturally follows because it elaborates on the specific criteria outlined in the treaty. Where E sets the broader context of the treaty and its purpose, A narrows it down to the actual numerical benchmarks - a 3% budget deficit limit and public debt **converging** toward 60% of GDP. It then highlights Italy's struggle to meet these standards, describing them as nearly impossible to achieve by 1999.

Together, E→A presents a clear situation: the treaty (E) was crafted to exclude countries like Italy, and Italy's financial state (A) made it a clear candidate for exclusion.

Once the situation has been clarified, the natural question becomes: How did Italy respond to these challenges? This is where Sentence D comes into play. The sentence introduces Romano Prodi, then Italian prime minister, and highlights his resolve to ensure Italy joined the group under question (the group from which Germany wanted to prevent Italy from entering). Despite the challenges outlined in A, Prodi decided that Italy, as a founding member of (perhaps the European) bloc, had to join the group. Prodi's determination wasn't arbitrary - it was a reaction to the realization that countries like Spain were pushing to join the group, too. Therefore, the

link between A→D reflects an action-response relationship, where the constraints in A led to the decisive response in D. At this stage, E-A-D forms a coherent narrative. E introduces the treaty, A highlights the challenge for Italy, and D shows how Italy's leadership decided to deal with it.

We observe that Sentence B further cements this narrative by informing us how certain factors might have played in Italy's favour; its attempt to join the group in spite of the restrictions placed by the treaty might have been expedited by the presence of Belgium, which also did not meet the convergence criteria, with a "public debt above 100 percent of GDP."

We observe from the options that only Option B presents an arrangement correctly representing the narrative E-A-D-B. This suggests that Sentence C likely serves as the context.

56. E

Let us understand what the passage is trying to convey,

We see that the first line talks about the beauty of unsaid things, the author is trying to emphasize the charm of unsaid things and how that charm is lost when it spoken out by stating that it loses all mystery and ambiguity when it is said out loud.

They then bring in the idea of art, and how art acts as a tool that can convey ideas and thoughts without saying it.

They mention that it is clouded in secrecy and obfuscation and the fact that the interpretation of a piece of art lies in the eyes of the beholder.

They conclude by stating the beauty of unsayable things and how things are better when they are left unsaid.

After understanding the passage, taking a look at the options we see that

Art echoes the language that is unintelligible can be eliminated as it is out of context and brings in the idea of intelligence out of nowhere.

Explaining an art metamorphoses into another piece of art can be eliminated too as this actually goes against what the author is trying to convey; by explaining the art you are tainting the beauty of the art according to the author.

Any piece of art defies expression this too is wrong as it defies the author, the author clearly states that art expresses things while leaving it unsaid.

Art unfolds the mystery of human tongues, this option emphasizes on the human tongue over the beauty of unsaid things and the charm of art, which cannot be inferred.

Art expresses what humans cannot communicate in words, this can be inferred as the author talks about the beauty of art as it can convey unsaid thoughts and ideas.

57. E

Let's look at each option individually:

Option A: Although close, this option introduces the idea that listlessness is produced only around good performers, while the passage implies that it affects employees in general. While not a sure shot elimination, we can look at other options.

Option B: This sense of urgency by "immediate" and the call for action is absent from the text and can be eliminated as an option.

Option C: This has the same flaw as option A, where it focuses on the good employees, and the idea of boredom is not said to be the cause but the mundane tasks creating listlessness, which results in boredom .

Option D: This extreme option can not be inferred from the text.

Option E: This is what the passage is hinting towards. Since outcomes are consistent, even if the employees are listless and bored, the organization might not find out about this and might overlook this change since performance is maintained.

Hence, of all the given options, only E can be inferred from the text.

58. A

The cartoon subtly highlights the mismatch between the perspectives of the man and the dog. While the man sees the dog's actions as simple and joyful, the dog interprets its actions as a heavy emotional responsibility to alleviate the man's depression. This disparity underscores how our understanding of others, often based on our assumptions and beliefs, may not align with their true experiences or reality (Option A).

Option B is a close competitor but misses the likely theme of the cartoon: the mismatch between how the man perceives the dog and how the dog perceives its own actions. The cartoon is more about the misunderstanding between perspectives than just the weight of duty. Option D might seem relevant as well; however, "arbitrary" implies randomness or lack of reason, which is not quite the point here. The man's interpretation of the dog's joy is not arbitrary; it's a genuine but incorrect assumption based on his beliefs.

On the other hand, Option C emphasizes love and sacrifice, but the cartoon does not clearly depict mutual affection or love. The man's perspective is superficial ("joy in simple things"), and the dog's thought focuses on burden, not love or care. Similarly, Option E implies that the dog's identity is shaped by the man's interpretation, which is not the case. The cartoon focuses on how the man misunderstands the dog's reality rather than the dog's identity being influenced by that misunderstanding.

59. B

Through the line, the author is essentially saying that a comic can have its effect only on a calm person, as in a person who is not himself meddled by the problem at hand. (It would be difficult to make a person laugh at a phone falling off a building when it is his phone.)

Looking at the options:

Option A: It is not that he wants them to be unaware but unaffected; this is inaccurate.

Option B: This is precisely what the author is trying to convey not only from this particular line but from the entire penultimate paragraph. Only when a would is unruffled, which is unaffected or detached, can it fully let the comic do its work.

Option C: It is not about actually relaxed people or edgy or disturbing things; this can be easily eliminated.

Option D: This comes close, but the idea of an unsettling tone is not accurate. The disturbing effect is not about the joke itself being dark or unsettling.

Option E: This is also unrelated to what the author is trying to say.

Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

60. E

Let's look at each option individually:

Option A: This is what the entire penultimate paragraph builds towards, that comedy works when one is indifferent and not close to the situation being laughed at. Hence, this statement can be inferred.

Option B: This is what the first paragraph talks about. A hat is laughed at because of the traits humans have given it and what human characteristics it resembles; no squirrel is laughing at a "hat"; hence, this too can be inferred.

Option C: While this might seem like an extreme option, this is what the passage conveys, "*In a society composed of pure intelligences there would probably be no more tears, though perhaps there would still be laughter; whereas highly emotional souls, in tune and unison with life, in whom every event would be sentimentally prolonged and re-echoed, would neither know nor understand laughter.*" Hence, this, too, can be inferred.

Option D: Similar to option B, this can be inferred from the passage's first paragraph. "*...if any other animal, or some lifeless object, produces the same effect, it is always because of some resemblance to man, of the stamp he gives it or the use he puts it to.*" Hence, this too can be inferred from the passage.

Option E: Although the penultimate paragraph has the line: "*To produce the whole of its effect, then, the comic demands something like a momentary anaesthesia of the heart.*" The options distort it by omitting the heart; it is not that we need actual anaesthesia but that we need to put our feelings and pity on hold.

Hence, of all the given statements only option E can not be inferred and would be the correct answer.

61. A

We can refer to the lines "*Indifference is its natural environment, for laughter has no greater foe than emotion.*"

"*Now step aside, look upon life as a disinterested spectator: many a drama will turn into a comedy.*"

and the example of dancing looking comical when you look from far away.

The author is essentially trying to say that life can be full of emotions and pity, but we can laugh only when we *silence our pity*. While dancing in a room with music blasting and people syncing themselves to it might seem a piece of art, a ballet performance on a street with no music (especially for someone who does not know what ballet is) would seem comical.

Option A: "Life is a tragedy when seen close up but a comedy in long shots" is a famous quote by Charlie Chaplin. The author is trying to get across the same point: If you look at each event very closely and minutely, it might seem serious and tragic, say slipping while going for a walk or a dog chasing you while on a morning jog, but when you look from far away (in a temporal sense), it seems funny. Hence, the author would most agree with this.

The other options are not something the author has implied or hinted towards, and I would not agree with them. Option B is incorrect, as comedy is not said to be a way of being "serious", Option C and E have similar flaws as in they are not presented as disguises or escapes, and option D is self-humor which again is not implied.

Therefore, Option A is the correct answer.

62. A

Let us examine the given choices -

Option A: This aligns with the ideas presented in the passage. The author differentiates personality (our predispositions or instincts) from character (the ability to prioritize values over instincts). The passage emphasizes that practising values often requires overcoming the limitations of personality (instincts), particularly under stress or adverse conditions. The author notes:

- "Character is your capacity to prioritize your values over your instincts."
- "Character skills enable you to transcend that tendency to be true to your principles."

Option B: While personality can create challenges in practising values, the author does not emphasize a constant "test" dynamic. Instead, the focus is on pushing past the limitations of personality, not necessarily being "tested" by it.

Option C: The passage does not claim that behaviour is exclusively shaped by character. Instead, it recognizes both personality and character as influential, with character allowing us to act beyond our predispositions.

Option D: This misinterprets the passage. The author does not suggest abandoning personality but rather channelling it to align with principles.

Option E: This is an inaccurate representation of the idea in the passage. The need for character is not premised on the conflict of principles with instincts. Instead, the author simply discusses how character enables the application of values in alignment with principles, especially under pressure.

Hence, Option A is the correct choice.

63. C

Let us evaluate the given choices -

Option A: Though the passage mentions that cognitive skills help entrepreneurs react to opportunities, it does not claim they are always reactive or that this is a defining characteristic of cognitive skills. This overgeneralizes the distinction.

Option B: The author emphasizes that knowing principles doesn't necessarily equate to practising them, especially under pressure. Awareness alone isn't sufficient; action is required. This statement is inaccurate based on the text.

Option C: The passage repeatedly highlights the transformative impact of character skills on long-term success, such as resilience, proactivity, and determination in overcoming challenges. It also concludes with a call to develop these skills for personal growth and achievement, strongly supporting this inference.

Option D: The author does not suggest that character skills can fully compensate for a lack of cognitive skills; this idea misrepresents the point being made

Option E: The passage states that character skills can be developed at any stage, but it does not tie their development to belief. This is an unwarranted assumption.

Hence, Option C is the correct choice.

64. C

The study discussed in the passage found that character skills, such as proactivity, discipline, and determination, had a far more significant impact on entrepreneurs' success - leading to a 30% increase in profits over two years - than cognitive skills, which involved business-related knowledge like finance and marketing. Character skills helped entrepreneurs generate new opportunities, stay resilient in the face of adversity, and adapt to changing circumstances, all of which are crucial for navigating an uncertain future. Option C correctly emphasises this idea: character skills prepare entrepreneurs to anticipate and adapt to future challenges.

The focus on character skills being industry agnostic (Option A) is misplaced: while these skills may be broadly applicable, the passage doesn't emphasize this as the primary reason for their effectiveness.

Options B and D are not relevant points: the author does not argue that entrepreneurs can be poor in cognitive skills but excel in character skills alone, nor does he suggest that entrepreneurs are already aware of their business and only lack character skills. Both these are not presented in the passage, and thus, they can be eliminated.

Option E is partially true but contains additional information: though character skills enable entrepreneurs to generate opportunities, it is not implied that this dissuades them from capitalizing on existing opportunities.

65. D

Let us try understanding the passage,

The author contrasts human flexibility in group identity with the fixed, biology-based kin selection seen in other species. While animals like rodents and chimpanzees form groups strictly based on genetic relatedness—with cooperation or aggression dictated by pheromonal signals and familial bonds—humans exhibit a much more fluid and context-dependent approach to grouping.

The focus then shifts to how humans establish group bonds beyond mere biological kinship. Although capable of kin-based loyalty, modern societies predominantly engage in "cultural kin selection," where rituals, shared language, and collective practices foster feelings of deep kinship among unrelated individuals.

Question asks: Based on the passage, how are rodents and humans similar to each other?

We look at the options seeing which of the following we can infer.

A cannot be inferred, it is stated that Rodents have a signature scent, nothing is mentioned about humans.

B cannot be inferred as this is not mentioned throughout

C is inherently wrong and goes against the main idea of the passage

E cannot be inferred as there is no mention of behavior to outsiders.

D can be inferred as both humans and rodents create groups although on different basis but nevertheless still divide themselves from others using different criterion.

66. E

Let us try understanding the passage, an identity formation is culturally driven rather than genetically pre-determined, people adopt arbitrary symbols—like specific clothing, hairstyles, or even political hats—to signal their membership in a group. These markers serve as visual cues of belonging and tribal affiliation in a diverse society.

The author also illustrates that cultural communities and identities are inherently arbitrary and shaped by chance historical events, using the example of immigrant families. .

The questions ask: What does the author BEST mean when they say, "This fluidity and situational dependence is uniquely human?"

We are asked about the initial part of the paragraph, mentioning the fluidity of humans that is not present with other animals. The central idea of the passage is the fact that humans create bonds not just biologically and how their association is fluid in nature.

We look at the options and only two of them are remotely relevant to the question asked,

"The implicit traits that humans associate with can change over time" and "Humans' in-group/out-group thinking is influenced by their space and time"

The passage does not mention anything about ideals and associations changing with time, the author only talks about the different associations humans can have and how they are at times arbitrary or the result of certain events or actions. Hence the former option can be eliminated. The latter option is the correct one as it clearly outlines what the author is trying to convey by mentioning the fluid nature of human association and how it can change according to space and time.

67. D

Let us try to understand the passage. Identity formation is culturally driven rather than genetically pre-determined. People adopt arbitrary symbols—like specific clothing, hairstyles, or even political hats—to signal their membership in a group. These markers are visual cues of belonging and tribal affiliation in a diverse society.

Using the example of immigrant families, the author also illustrates that cultural communities and identities are inherently arbitrary and shaped by chance historical events. The unpredictable nature of immigration outcomes can drastically alter an individual's life path and identity, highlighting how national and cultural identities emerge from factors beyond genetic ties and are subject to the random twists of history.

The question asks about the association with historical events. Here, it is important to note that the historical events were not "interpreted." The author clearly mentions that he might have different views about the same historical event if he were born elsewhere. This inference rules out the fact that history is being interpreted; rather, the person (in this case, immigrants) is associated with certain historical events depending on their location and their cultural ties.

The only correct option is "Humans' interpretation of specific events depends on their emotional association with them."

There is no "erratic interpretation"; rather, there is an understanding of a certain event based on emotion, cultural, and geographic association.

68. B

If questions cannot be inferred, we should look for extreme statements.

Option A: The general tone of the text and the line "*The private equity associate who sees the deal through from beginning to end, who did the difficult modelling, and who went to every meeting and late-night dinner, will have the maximum chance for a big bonus and the sought-after promotion.*" hint towards the idea the one who is willing to stay at home and not pick up calls after 10 is less likely for promotion and result in relatively less income.

Option B: This is a way too extreme statement. The author is mainly concerned with greed in terms of jobs and work and how it negatively affects women. Calling it the source of all problems is too far-fetched and can not be inferred.

Option C: The line "*Women will still pursue demanding careers*" suggests that both men and women can be greedy regarding careers. However, it is a matter of who will stay home when the norm poses a problem. Women, however, can be as greedy (in terms of work) as men.

Option D: This is close to the central idea of the passage and can be inferred from the tone.

Option E: The passage's examples of private equity associates and other professions show that longer working hours, demanding more from employees, tend to pay more.

Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

69. C

Option A: the words "surrender their everything" is extreme and hence can be eliminated.

Option B: This is nowhere implied that the influx of women in a field makes the field greedier and can be eliminated.

Option C: This is true according to the passage and hence would be the correct answer.

Option D: The greedy work resulting from the corporation is not implied, and this too can be eliminated.

Option E: "must be awarded" while they are generally awarded, saying that they must be awarded would be incorrect.

Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

70. B

Option A: This is not the point the author is trying to make; the main idea is that in heterosexual couples, one person has to sacrifice for the sake of the family (children) and hence is not able to do the greedy jobs, not for their husband's "rise to fame".

Option B: This is the point the author tries to make in the last few sentences: "It may be the reason why the gender earnings gap for college graduates became larger than that between men and women in the entire population in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Women have been swimming upstream, holding their own but going against a strong current of endemic income inequality." This aptly captures the author's views and hence would be the correct answer.

Option C: Although the author attributes the gender pay gap to the idea of greedy work, saying it would be the most important reason is not something that the author wants to get across or something that summarises the main idea.

Option D: Although not completely disconnected, the picture painted by the author is not of a men's club being formed but the problems posed by the idea of greedy work for women.

Option E: This option comes close, but greedy work as the "most formidable enemy can not be inferred and hence can not be said to be an apt summary of the author's views.

Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

71. B

The poem builds tension through several key elements:

- The unstable, shaking ceiling fan
- The "hot ideas" causing the fan to work harder
- "Crazy eyes" intensifying the fan's instability
- The fan's dream of transforming into a spider lily

Looking at the given options:

- a) While there is conflict, there's no clear resolution or balance being restored
- b) The imagery strongly supports fear and instability - the trembling fan, the destabilizing presence, the sense of impending chaos
- c) This doesn't fit - there's no clear argumentative structure
- d) While transformation is present (fan to spider lily), it's more about instability than escape
- e) There is emotional turmoil, but not necessarily a quest for self

Option B appears to best capture the poem's central theme. The entire piece builds a sense of mounting instability and anxiety - from the physical shaking of the fan to the destabilizing effect of the "hot ideas" and "crazy eyes," culminating in the surreal image of the fan wanting to break free. The progression from physical instability to emotional/psychological unease effectively conveys fear and anxiety due to the loss of stability.

The spider lily image at the end, rather than suggesting escape or transformation as its primary meaning, serves to heighten this sense of instability - it's an impossible transformation that further emphasizes the loss of natural order and stability.

72. E

Analysing the imagery in the poem to help us answer the question better,

"Hot ideas": The phrase suggests that the person brings very intense, passionate, and possibly provocative thoughts or energy with them.

"Ceiling fan has to work harder to cool down the room": This isn't about the literal operation of the fan, but instead serves as a metaphor. The fan struggling to cool the room represents the room itself reacting to the heat (intensity) brought by the person's ideas and presence.

Using the metaphors in the poem to help understand the author better,

The person's arrival raises the "temperature" in the room—not in a physical sense, but emotionally and intellectually.

The ceiling fan, which symbolizes the environment or the collective calm of the room, has to increase its effort (work harder) to counteract this rising intensity.

This struggle suggests that the atmosphere becomes charged, uneasy, or tense due to the person's intense energy or controversial ideas.

Looking through the options:

Options a, c, and d focus on different interpretations (physical inability, self-doubt, hostility) that don't fully align with the metaphorical language of the poem.

Option b suggests "passionate intellectual and emotional energy," which is close but doesn't capture the full consequence—the palpable tension—that option e does. The poem emphasizes not just the presence of passion but the tangible impact it has on the room.

Option E fits best: The description of the fan shaking, trembling, and wanting to "fly loose" implies that the environment feels the strain of the person's energy. This strain is not just a simple reaction but something that impacts the whole room, creating an almost tangible tension. The phrase "creates palpable tension" captures the overall effect that the person's "hot ideas" and intense presence have on everyone around them. The environment feels as though it's under pressure, much like a room growing hot and requiring more cooling - which fits perfectly with the imagery used.

73. A

Let us evaluate the given choices -

Option A: This is contrary to the idea presented in the passage: we are told that wealth and privilege do undermine meritocracy by rigging the system, enabling the wealthy to pass on advantages to their children, and turning meritocracy into a hereditary aristocracy.

Option B: This is consistent with the discussion. The author states that "our disagreements are less about the principle itself than about what it requires," clearly highlighting a consensus on the principle but debates about its implementation.

Option C: The passage explicitly mentions that "politicians of the center-left and center-right" claim their policies promote meritocracy. This somewhat establishes its popularity across political ideologies (since members from opposing sides of the spectrum are involved).

Option D: This is also a valid point: the author notes that "no one defends hereditary privilege outright" while also suggesting that policies like abolishing inheritance taxes implicitly endorse it.

Option E: The passage states that "meritocracy is a myth, a distant promise yet to be redeemed," and critiques that the system favours the wealthy and well-connected. Thus, the statement here aligns with the discussion.

Hence, Option A is the correct choice.

74. B

Among the given choices, Option B offers an apt summary of the author's intended message. The passage critiques the implementation of meritocracy in unequal societies. While meritocracy is upheld as an ideal, the passage underscores that in practice, structural inequalities - such as the wealthy rigging the system and passing privileges to their children - subvert its execution. The very institutions that claim to promote

meritocracy (e.g., colleges) often end up perpetuating inequality by giving advantages to the wealthy and well-connected. This implies that any attempt to establish meritocracy in an unequal society is compromised by existing disparities, thus perpetuating inequality rather than eliminating it.

Contrarily, the remaining choices are either not implied or stated in the passage. For instance, while the passage critiques the wealthy's manipulation, it does not frame meritocracy as inherently "utopian," as suggested in Option A. The emphasis is on practical shortcomings, not on it being an unattainable ideal. Option D also distorts the message: the passage shows that people understand meritocracy well but disagree on its practical implementation; the critique focuses on execution, not comprehension.

Option E is out of scope: the passage does not delve into selfish motivations for rejecting meritocracy. Similarly, Option C is not understood from the passage: the author focuses on systemic critiques rather than individual resentment. Critics argue meritocracy has failed to deliver fairness due to structural flaws, not because they are personally "rejected."

75. A

The passage explicitly mentions that defenders of affirmative action argue that such policies are necessary to make equality of opportunity a reality for groups that have suffered discrimination or disadvantage. This suggests that they see the meritocratic system as failing to account for initial disadvantages faced by certain groups, which prevents genuine equality of opportunity. Option A aligns with this idea the most.

The points presented in the other choices are either tangential or inconsistent with the view of those defending affirmative action. For example, though hereditary privilege is criticized in the passage (Option B), it is not the primary focus of affirmative action defenders. Similarly, structural bias may play a role in the criticism of meritocracy (Option E), but defenders of affirmative action emphasize addressing initial disadvantages, making Option A the more precise answer. Options C and D are not implied in the passage: there is no focus on meritocracy being based on outcomes or on meritocratic systems intentionally favouring the rich.