

Reading Comprehension Questions for IBPS PO 2025

Directions (1-10): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some parts have been highlighted to aid in answering the questions.

In the contemporary discourse on identity and personal autonomy, the topic of a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage has garnered significant attention. This debate touches upon the intersection of tradition, law, and individual rights, offering a window into the evolving nature of societal norms and the empowerment of women. Historically, the practice of a woman taking her husband's surname post-marriage was rooted in patriarchal notions of ownership and family unity. It was seen as a symbol of a woman transitioning from her father's household to her husband's, with the surname acting as a marker of this transition.

However, as societies progress towards gender equality, the act of automatically adopting a husband's surname is increasingly viewed as outdated. Critics argue that it perpetuates gender imbalances by prioritizing the husband's identity over the wife's. In contrast, proponents of surname choice advocate for a woman's right to retain her maiden name, hyphenate, or adopt an entirely new surname as a reflection of her autonomy and partnership in marriage. This perspective emphasizes identity as a personal choice rather than a societal imposition.

Legal systems worldwide have begun to reflect these changing attitudes, with many countries enacting laws that support a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage. Yet, despite legal advancements, social pressures and expectations often still push women towards **traditional** choices, underscoring the gap between legal rights and societal norms.

The discourse on surnames and identity is emblematic of the broader struggle for women's rights and gender equality. It highlights the importance of challenging outdated traditions and advocating for choices that reflect individual identities and equal partnerships. As society continues to **grapple** with these issues, the decision over a surname becomes more than just a matter of personal preference—it becomes a statement on autonomy, equality, and the right to self-determination.

Q1. Which of the following statements best reflects the current societal attitude towards women adopting their husband's surname after marriage?

- (a) It is actively encouraged by all modern legal systems as a necessary step towards achieving gender equality in marriage.
- (b) It remains the predominant practice embraced universally as a symbol of marital unity and family cohesion.
- (c) It is a legal obligation for women in most countries, reflecting deep-rooted patriarchal values that are still prevalent today.
- (d) It is solely a personal choice unaffected by societal pressures or historical traditions associated with marital practices.
- (e) It is increasingly seen as an outdated practice that supports gender imbalances by emphasizing the husband's identity over the wife's.

Q2. What does the discourse on surnames and identity primarily symbolize in the context of societal change?

- (a) The need to adhere to traditional family structures for societal stability
- (b) The role of legal reforms in simplifying name-changing procedures
- (c) The importance of maintaining cultural heritage through surnames
- (d) The emphasis on challenging outdated traditions for individual identity and equal partnerships
- (e) The influence of societal norms on professional opportunities for women

Q3. According to the passage, how has the significance of a woman's decision regarding her surname evolved in society?

- (a) It remains a simple matter of personal preference without deeper implications.
- (b) It has become an indicator of a woman's career ambitions and professional identity.
- (c) It is considered a reflection of the couple's financial status and social standing.
- (d) It primarily serves to uphold traditional family values and cultural norms.
- (e) It is now viewed as a statement on autonomy, equality, and the right to self-determination.

Q4. What does the contemporary debate on a woman's surname choice after marriage primarily explore?

- (a) The legal procedures for changing one's surname after marriage
- (b) The significance of family heritage in maintaining societal traditions
- (c) The intersection of tradition, law, and individual rights in shaping societal norms
- (d) The impact of surname choice on children's identity and family unity
- (e) The preferences for surnames based on aesthetic or phonetic appeal

Q5. Based on the discussion about a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage, which statement(s) is/are INCORRECT?

- (I) The tradition of a woman adopting her husband's surname is rooted in modern legal practices rather than historical patriarchal notions.
 - (II) Societal progress towards gender equality views the automatic adoption of the husband's surname as increasingly outdated.
 - (III) Legal systems worldwide uniformly resist changes, offering no support for a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage.
- (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Both (I) and (II)
 - (c) Only (III)
 - (d) Both (I) and (III)
 - (e) Only (II)

Q6. Choose the antonym of "traditional" based on the passage's context.

- (a) Patriarchal
- (b) Progressive
- (c) Historical
- (d) Symbolic
- (e) Rooted

Q7. What is implied about the relationship between legal rights and societal norms regarding surname choice?

- (a) Legal rights have effectively eradicated societal norms and expectations about surname choice.
- (b) Societal norms are always aligned with legal rights, reflecting a harmonious relationship.
- (c) There exists a gap between legal rights and societal norms, with social pressures still influencing traditional choices.
- (d) Societal norms have advanced more rapidly than legal rights in supporting surname choice.
- (e) Legal rights and societal norms are irrelevant to the personal choices individuals make regarding surnames.

Q8. Which word from the passage closely mirrors the meaning of "grapple" in the context of societal challenges?

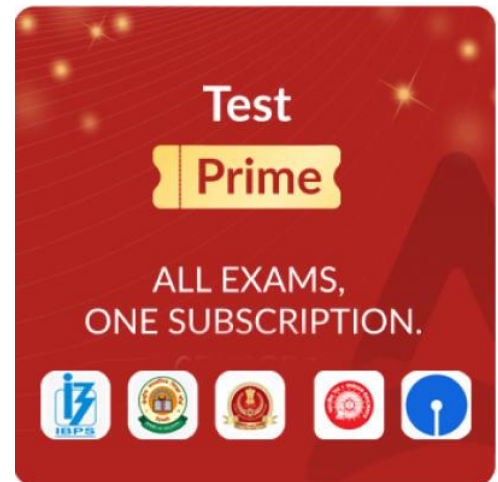
- (a) Debate
- (b) Advocate
- (c) Reflect
- (d) Struggle
- (e) Transition

Q9. Which word from the passage best aligns with the meaning of "outmoded" or "obsolete"?

- (a) Autonomy
- (b) Traditions
- (c) Outdated
- (d) Norms
- (e) Practices

Q10. What does the discourse on surname choices ultimately signify in the context of societal progress?

- (a) A shift towards recognizing individual preferences in cultural practices
- (b) An ongoing challenge against dated traditions for autonomy and equality
- (c) A mere trend in personal naming conventions without deeper societal implications
- (d) A reinforcement of existing societal norms and traditions
- (e) A legal debate focused solely on the procedures for changing surnames



Directions (11-20): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some parts have been highlighted to aid in answering the questions.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) recently released an extensive report detailing the latest national income data, offering a **comprehensive** snapshot of the country's economic health. Amidst **fluctuating** global economic conditions, the report presents an intriguing mix of trends and figures that shed light on the underlying strengths and vulnerabilities of the economy.

According to the NSO, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has shown a modest increase of 3.5% over the past financial year, a figure that, while positive, indicates a slower pace of growth compared to the previous year's 4.8%. This deceleration can be attributed to a variety of factors, including subdued industrial output and a slight downturn in consumer spending. Despite these challenges, certain sectors, notably the technology and renewable energy industries, have exhibited robust growth, **bolstering** the overall economic landscape.

The report further highlights a significant shift in the employment sector, with a notable rise in service-oriented jobs counterbalanced by a slight decline in manufacturing employment. This trend underscores the evolving nature of the workforce and the economy's gradual pivot towards service-driven growth.

On the fiscal front, the government's budgetary deficit has narrowed to 2.9% of GDP, down from 3.4% the previous year. This improvement is largely due to increased revenue from taxes and a stringent approach to fiscal management. The reduction in deficit is a positive sign for the economy's stability, indicating a prudent balance between spending and revenue generation.

Investment in infrastructure and public services has been a key focus, with the NSO report pointing out a 6% increase in capital expenditure. This investment is aimed at stimulating economic activity, improving public amenities, and laying the groundwork for sustainable growth.

In conclusion, the NSO's latest national income data paints a picture of an economy facing complex challenges but also possessing distinct areas of growth and opportunity. As the country navigates these economic waters, the insights provided by the NSO will be invaluable for policymakers, businesses, and the public alike.

Q11. What did the NSO report indicate about the country's GDP growth over the past financial year?

- (a) A significant leap by 5.5%, indicating a robust economic performance
- (b) A moderate increase of 3.5%, signaling a slower growth pace than the previous year
- (c) A slight uptick of 2%, reflecting a cautious optimism in economic circles
- (d) An impressive growth of 6%, fueled by major industrial and technological advancements
- (e) A steady rate of 4%, demonstrating consistent economic stability across sectors

Q12. Which sectors are highlighted for their robust growth in the NSO's latest report?

- (a) The manufacturing and construction sectors have led the economic expansion.
- (b) Tourism and hospitality sectors have outpaced other industries in growth.
- (c) Technology and renewable energy industries have shown significant advancement.
- (d) Agricultural and mining sectors are the new pillars of economic growth.
- (e) The financial services and real estate sectors have seen unprecedented growth.

Q13. What does the NSO's latest national income data suggest about the economy's stability?

- (a) It indicates severe economic instability due to unpredictable global market trends
- (b) It suggests a high degree of volatility with rapid shifts between growth and recession
- (c) It points to a cautious yet stable economic environment with potential growth areas
- (d) It reflects a declining economic state with no immediate signs of recovery
- (e) It shows an over-reliance on external investments for economic stability and growth

Q14. What has been the focus of investment according to the NSO report?

- (a) Privatizing public services to reduce government expenditure.
- (b) Cutting back on all forms of capital expenditure to control the budget.
- (c) Focusing investment on overseas ventures to diversify income sources.
- (d) Redirecting most of the investment towards defense and security.
- (e) Increasing investment in infrastructure and public services by 6%.

Q15. How has the government approached fiscal management according to the NSO report?

- (a) By reducing public spending and freezing government salaries.
- (b) Focusing solely on cutting down infrastructure investments to save costs.
- (c) By significantly increasing the borrowing to cover the budgetary deficit.
- (d) Through increased revenue from taxes and stringent fiscal management.
- (e) Launching new tax exemptions to stimulate business investments.

Q16. What trend is observed in the employment sector according to the NSO report?

- (a) A surge in manufacturing jobs overshadowing the service sector.
- (b) Stagnation in the job market with no notable changes in any sector.
- (c) An increase in freelance and gig economy jobs as the main employment trend.
- (d) An unexpected decline in both service and manufacturing employment.
- (e) A notable rise in service-oriented jobs with a decline in manufacturing employment.

Q17. Based on the insights from the National Statistical Office (NSO) report on national income data, which statement(s) is/are CORRECT?

- (I) The report suggests that the reduction in budgetary deficit reflects reckless fiscal management rather than a balanced approach to spending and revenue generation.
 - (II) The NSO's findings indicate that investments in infrastructure and public services are primarily intended to reduce government spending in the long term.
 - (III) The overall economic outlook provided by the NSO highlights an economy with distinct areas of growth and opportunity amidst complex challenges.
- (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Both (I) and (II)
 - (c) Only (III)
 - (d) Both (I) and (III)
 - (e) Only (II)

Q18. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word "fluctuating" from the options given below.

- (a) Oscillating
- (b) Variable
- (c) Inconsistent
- (d) Stable
- (e) Erratic

Q19. Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word "bolstering" as used in the passage.

- (a) Undermining
- (b) Weakening
- (c) Supporting
- (d) Ignoring
- (e) Diverting

Q20. Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word "comprehensive" as used in the passage:

- (a) Superficial
- (b) Limited
- (c) Incomplete
- (d) Exhaustive
- (e) Brief

Directions (21-28): Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

Confucian philosophy, a cornerstone of East Asian cultural and intellectual history, has significantly shaped social norms and values, including those related to gender. Confucius (551-479 BCE) and his followers emphasized the importance of social harmony, moral integrity, and hierarchical relationships, which inherently included gender roles. Confucian thought is characterized by its focus on five key relationships: ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, elder and younger siblings, and friends. These relationships were hierarchical and reciprocal, defining roles and responsibilities for each participant.

In the context of gender, Confucianism traditionally placed men and women in distinct, complementary roles. Men were typically associated with the public sphere, governance, and intellectual pursuits, while women were linked to the private sphere, household management, and familial duties. This division of roles was **justified** through the concept of yin and yang, where yang (associated with masculinity) was active, dominant, and creative, and yin (associated with femininity) was passive, yielding, and nurturing. This philosophical framework reinforced the idea that men should lead and women should follow, each fulfilling their natural, harmonious role within society.

The Confucian classic texts, such as the "Analects" and the "Book of Rites," provide guidance on these gender roles. For instance, the "Book of Rites" outlines the "Three Obediences" and "Four Virtues" for women, which **dictate** that a woman should obey her father before marriage, her husband during marriage, and her son after her husband's death. The "Four Virtues" describe the ideal qualities of a woman: morality, proper speech, modest manner, and diligent work.

However, Confucianism is not monolithic, and interpretations of gender roles have evolved. Some scholars argue that Confucian philosophy also emphasizes the moral development of all individuals, regardless of gender. In contemporary times, there is a reexamination of Confucian texts to highlight the potential for gender equality within its ethical framework. This reexamination challenges traditional gender norms and advocates for a more inclusive understanding of Confucianism that aligns with modern values of equality and human rights.

Thus, while traditional Confucianism has reinforced specific gender roles, ongoing reinterpretations offer the potential for a more egalitarian perspective.

Q21. What do the "Three Obediences" and "Four Virtues" outlined in the "Book of Rites" signify for women in Confucian philosophy?

- (a) They recommend that women should take on leadership roles in family and community decision-making.
- (b) They suggest that a woman should follow male figures in their lives and cultivate virtue.
- (c) They prescribe that women should focus on intellectual pursuits and active public involvement.
- (d) They advocate for equal roles for women in all societal areas, challenging traditional hierarchies.
- (e) They highlight women's roles in public governance and moral development.

Q22. Which of the following best captures the essence of the yin and yang concept in relation to gender roles in Confucianism?

- (a) Yin and yang symbolize equal, interchangeable roles for men and women.
- (b) Yang is passive and nurturing, while yin is active and dominant.
- (c) Yin represents masculinity and leadership; yang represents femininity and support.
- (d) Yang is active and dominant; yin is passive and nurturing.
- (e) Yin and yang concepts are irrelevant to gender roles in Confucianism.

Q23. How has contemporary reexamination of Confucian texts contributed to the discussion on gender roles?

- (a) It has reinforced the traditional gender roles as essential for social harmony and moral integrity.
- (b) It has highlighted the inflexibility of Confucian texts in addressing modern values of gender equality.
- (c) It has emphasized an interpretation that aligns Confucian ethics with potential gender equality.
- (d) Both (a) & (c)
- (e) It has focused on proving the irrelevance of Confucian philosophy in today's discussions on gender roles.

Q24. According to Confucian philosophy, what is the primary focus of its key relationships?

- (a) They emphasize achieving equality and mutual respect, respecting any form of hierarchy.
- (b) They highlight the importance of friendship and peer-to-peer interactions over familial duties.
- (c) They focus on hierarchical and reciprocal roles, defining specific responsibilities for each participant.
- (d) They advocate for the hierarchical roles in social structures to establish economical harmony.
- (e) They promote gender equality by ensuring interchangeable roles for men and women in all aspects of life.

Q25. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true based on the passage?

- (I) Confucianism traditionally assigned identical, complementary roles to men and women.
 - (II) Traditional Confucianism reinforced specific gender roles, but reinterpretations suggest a potential for gender equality.
 - (III) Confucian philosophy has significantly shaped Southern Asian social norms and values, including gender roles.
- (a) Only (II)
 - (b) Both (I) & (III)
 - (c) Only (III)
 - (d) Both (I) & (II)
 - (e) All of the above

Q26. What is the tone of the passage?

- (a) critical
- (b) sentimental
- (c) analytical
- (d) idealistic
- (e) pessimistic

Q27. Choose a synonym for the word "justified" as it is used in the passage.

- (a) enlightened
- (b) deceived
- (c) mortified
- (d) discerned
- (e) condoned

Q28. Choose an antonym for the word "dictate" as it is used in the passage.

- (a) relinquish
- (b) defunct
- (c) reminisced
- (d) withered
- (e) rational

Directions (29-35): Read the following passage and answer the given questions based on it.

Political philosophy is a branch of philosophy that explores questions about government, political structures, justice, rights, liberty, and the enforcement of a legal code by authority. It is deeply concerned with the ideals of political life, questioning what forms of government are best, how power should be distributed, what rights individuals should possess, and the responsibilities of citizens. This field intersects with ethics, metaphysics, and philosophy of law, providing a framework for analyzing political systems and their impact on human behaviour and society.

At the core of political philosophy is the debate between individual freedom and the collective good. Philosophers argue over the extent to which states should have the power to restrict individual liberties for the sake of social order and welfare. For instance, liberalism emphasizes individual rights and freedoms, **advocating** for minimal state interference, while socialism argues for the redistribution of resources to ensure equality and justice for all members of society.

Another crucial area of discussion within political philosophy is the concept of justice. What is fair? How should resources be distributed? Philosophers like John Rawls have offered theories of justice that attempt to balance freedom and equality, suggesting principles for structuring society in a way that is both fair and beneficial to all.

Political philosophy also examines the legitimacy of political authority, asking by what right do governments rule, and what obligations do citizens owe to their government? Through exploring these and other questions, political philosophy seeks to understand the principles underlying political institutions and practices, aiming to guide the creation of a just and equitable society.

In summary, political philosophy provides a critical framework for understanding and shaping the political world. It addresses fundamental questions about the nature of justice, the rights of individuals versus the needs of the community, and the role of government in citizens' lives. By engaging with these enduring debates, political philosophy not only helps clarify our values and principles but also assists in crafting legislative and social structures that can adapt to changing circumstances. As we continue to confront new ethical challenges and navigate complex global interactions, the insights from political philosophy are invaluable in guiding our pursuit of a fair and equitable society.

Q29. What is a primary concern of political philosophy as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Fostering global cooperation through diplomatic relations.
- (b) Enhancing governmental efficiency with technology.
- (c) Determining effective government forms and power distribution.
- (d) Deriving lessons from past leaders for contemporary governance.
- (e) Understanding public opinion dynamics through election analysis.

Q30. What does socialism argue for, according to the paragraph?

- (a) Promoting collective welfare through robust national defence strategies.
- (b) Embracing the principles of unrestricted competition and market deregulation.
- (c) Minimizing state intervention in economic affairs to foster just private enterprise.
- (d) Advocating for the redistribution of resources to achieve societal equality and justice.
- (e) Fostering equality in social innovation and entrepreneurship as drivers of economic growth.

Q31. What is the primary objective of exploring political philosophy?

- (a) The strategies and intricacies of political campaigns and electoral processes
- (b) The foundational principles and philosophies guiding political entities and their actions
- (c) The strategic approaches and considerations in national security and defense planning
- (d) The efficiency and principles behind the collection of taxes and fiscal governance
- (e) The theoretical underpinnings and methodologies in the planning and development of urban spaces

Q32. How does integrating political philosophy with ethics, metaphysics, and philosophy of law directly impact?

- (a) Improves ethical assessment of security measures in digital communications
- (b) Establishes ethical guidelines for environmental conservation within politics
- (c) Enhances understanding of political systems and their societal impact
- (d) Innovates conceptualization of artistic expressions reflecting political themes
- (e) Incorporates ethics into new methodologies for societal advancement through space exploration

Q33. Which statement is CORRECT according to the passage?

- (I) Philosophers debate the degree to which governments should limit individual freedoms in pursuit of societal harmony and well-being.
 - (II) John Rawls and other philosophers develop justice theories to create fair and beneficial societal structures for all.
 - (III) Liberalism prioritizes individual liberties and rights, advocating for minimal intervention by the state.
- (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Both (II) & (III)
 - (c) Only (II)
 - (d) Both (I) & (II)
 - (e) All of the above

Q34. What is the tone of the passage?

- (a) Introspective
- (b) cynical
- (c) Speculative
- (d) expository
- (e) Humanistic

Q35. Which of the following is the synonym of the word “advocating” highlighted in the passage?

- (a) perusing
- (b) describing
- (c) exacerbate
- (d) rendering
- (e) endorsing

Directions (36-44): Read the passage carefully and answer the given questions based upon that. Space exploration has long **captivated** the imagination of humanity, driving us to push the boundaries of what is possible. Over the years, remarkable advancements have been made in this field, paving the way for an exciting future of space travel. These advancements encompass technological breakthroughs, scientific discoveries, and a growing understanding of the vastness and mysteries of the universe.

One of the notable advancements is the development of more powerful and efficient rocket engines. These engines have enabled spacecraft to travel farther and faster, significantly reducing the time required to reach distant celestial bodies. Additionally, advancements in materials science have led to the creation of lightweight and durable materials that can withstand the harsh conditions of space, ensuring the safety of astronauts and equipment.

Robotic exploration expands our knowledge of the cosmos, while the International Space Station fosters international cooperation and research in space, paving the way for future human missions and colonization.

Looking ahead, the future of space travel holds great promise. Concepts like reusable rockets and spaceplanes aim to make space travel more affordable and accessible. Private space companies are also emerging, bringing innovation and competition to the industry. Furthermore, **ambitious** missions to explore and colonize other planets, such as Mars, are being planned, pushing the boundaries of human exploration and paving the way for potential interplanetary civilizations.

In conclusion, the advancements in space exploration revolutionize our understanding of the universe and propel us towards an exciting future of space travel, with ongoing technological progress and ambitious missions opening doors to scientific breakthroughs and _____ our presence beyond Earth.

Q36. What has been a driving force behind advancements in space exploration?

- (a) Technological advancements have driven progress in space exploration.
- (b) Significant scientific discoveries have propelled advancements in space exploration.
- (c) Human imagination has been a driving force behind the progress in space exploration.
- (d) The vastness of the universe has inspired and motivated advancements in space exploration.
- (e) All of the above

Q37. How have advancements in rocket engines impacted space travel?

- (a) They have the inability to endure the harsh conditions.
- (b) They have decreased the safety of astronauts.
- (c) They have facilitated expedited and extended space travel.
- (d) They have retarded the quality of scientific experiments.
- (e) They have made space travel more limited to the public.

Q38. How are private space companies contributing to the future of space travel?

- (a) They are conducting scientific research in space.
- (b) They are exploring the mysteries of the universe.
- (c) They are creating competition and innovation.
- (d) They are focusing on human colonization of Mars.
- (e) They are collaborating with government space agencies.

Q39. What is the potential impact of reusable rockets and spaceplanes on space travel?

- (a) Increased affordability and accessibility
- (b) Enhanced safety for astronauts
- (c) Improved scientific experiments in space
- (d) Increased international cooperation
- (e) Development of interplanetary civilizations

Q40. What is the significance of the International Space Station (ISS)?

- (a) It allows for long-duration space travel experiments.
- (b) It serves as a platform for human colonization.
- (c) It facilitates private space missions.
- (d) It increases competition among space companies.
- (e) It explores the mysteries of the universe.

Q41. What role does robotic exploration play in space exploration?

- (a) It enables colonization of other planets.
- (b) It promotes international cooperation in space.
- (c) It provides valuable data about celestial bodies.
- (d) It supports research on the effects of space travel.
- (e) It develops lightweight and durable materials.

Q42. Which of the following is the synonym of the word “captivated” highlighted in the passage?

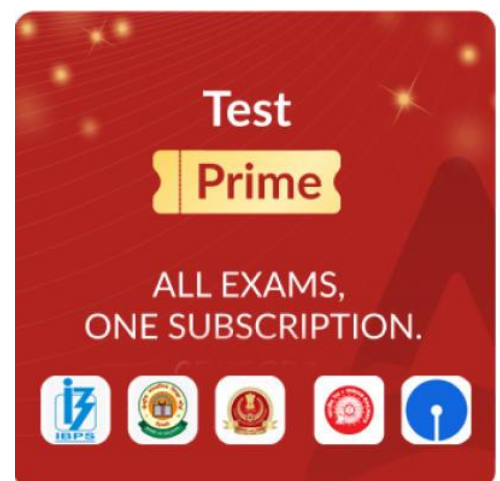
- (a) detached
- (b) fascinated
- (c) revolted
- (d) offended
- (e) repelled

Q43. Which of the following fits appropriately in the highlighted blank of the passage?

- (a) applauding
- (b) praising
- (c) inflating
- (d) expanding
- (e) stroking

Q44. Which of the following is the antonym of the word “ambitious” highlighted in the passage?

- (a) dynamic
- (b) fierce
- (c) energetic
- (d) assertive
- (e) amenable



Directions (45-52): Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

In the dynamic landscape of today's business world, acquisition has emerged as a powerful strategy for companies seeking growth, market expansion, and competitive advantage. Business acquisition refers to the process of one company purchasing another, either partially or wholly, to gain control over its operations, assets, and market presence. Business acquisition serves as a strategic tool for companies aiming to achieve various objectives. One of the primary motivations behind acquisition is to expand market share rapidly. By acquiring a competitor or a complementary business, companies can penetrate new markets, access a larger customer base, and **leverage** economies of scale. Acquisitions also facilitate the acquisition of valuable intellectual property rights, patents, and proprietary technology, giving the acquiring company a competitive edge. Additionally, acquiring businesses can offer a quick and efficient way to diversify products or services, enter new geographical locations, or gain access to new distribution channels. Furthermore, business acquisition can provide opportunities for synergies, such as cost savings through operational efficiencies and the consolidation of back-office functions.

While business acquisition holds immense potential, it is not without its challenges and complexities. One of the key considerations is conducting thorough due diligence to assess the financial health, legal compliance, and overall viability of the target company. This involves examining its financial statements, contracts, customer relationships, intellectual property, and potential liabilities. Additionally, cultural integration and organizational alignment present significant challenges in post-acquisition integration. Differing corporate cultures, management styles, and employee attitudes can impact the success of the acquisition. It is crucial to develop a well-defined integration plan that **(I)** these challenges and outlines the steps for harmonizing operations, aligning strategic objectives, and retaining key talent. Moreover, businesses must carefully evaluate the financial implications of an acquisition, including the purchase price, financing options, and potential synergies, to ensure the deal aligns with their long-term strategic goals.

The affairs of acquisition are regulated through various legal frameworks and regulatory bodies to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with the applicable laws. The specific regulations and requirements may vary across different jurisdictions, but there are several common aspects that are typically addressed in the regulation of acquisitions. One of the key areas of regulation in acquisition affairs is antitrust and competition laws. These laws aim to prevent anti-competitive practices and maintain a level playing field in the market. Regulatory bodies review acquisitions to assess their potential impact on competition. They examine factors such as market concentration, potential for abuse of market power, and impact on consumer welfare. Acquisitions that may lead to a significant reduction in competition or harm consumer interests may be subject to regulatory scrutiny. Companies engaging in acquisitions should seek legal and regulatory advice to ensure **compliance** with the applicable laws and regulations in the relevant jurisdictions.

Q45. Based on the passage, what are some motivations behind business acquisition?

- (a) Expanding market share rapidly through acquiring complementary businesses.
- (b) Gaining access to new markets, larger customer bases, and economies of scale.
- (c) Acquiring valuable intellectual property rights, patents, and proprietary technology.
- (d) Diversifying products or services and accessing new distribution channels.
- (e) All of these

Q46. What challenge(s) can arise in post-acquisition integration, according to the passage?

- (a) Developing a well-defined integration plan is negligible to address post-acquisition challenges for harmonizing operations and aligning strategic objectives.
- (b) Cultural integration and organizational alignment present significant challenges due to differing corporate cultures, management styles, and employee attitudes.
- (c) Retaining key talent during the integration process is elementary, as employees do not experience uncertainty and resistance to change.
- (d) Ensuring effective communication and collaboration between the acquiring and acquired companies is incidental for a successful post-acquisition integration.
- (e) Both (c) and (d)

Q47. How do antitrust and competition laws regulate acquisitions, as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Preventing anti-competitive practices
- (b) Maintaining a level playing field in the market
- (c) Exploring the potential impact of acquisitions
- (d) Leading to a concentration of market power
- (e) Both (a) and (b)

Q48. What factor(s) do regulatory bodies consider when assessing the impact of acquisitions on competition?

- (I) Market control held by the government
- (II) The potential for abuse of market power
- (III) Choices and higher quality for business
- (a) Only (I) and (III)
- (b) Only (II)
- (c) All of these
- (d) Only (III)
- (e) Only (I) and (II)

Q49. Why is conducting thorough due diligence important in the acquisition process, as stated in the passage?

- (a) Thorough due diligence helps assess the financial health, legal compliance, and overall viability of the target company.
- (b) The scrutiny of financial statements, contracts, customer relationships, and potential liabilities is not an integral part of due diligence.
- (c) Conducting due diligence does not ensure well-informed decision-making and effectively minimizes risks associated with the acquisition.
- (d) Identifying any red flags or potential obstacles in advance does not necessarily help avoid costly mistakes in the acquisition process.
- (e) None of these

Q50. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word 'LEVERAGE', as highlighted in the given passage.

- (a) intimidate
- (b) subjugate
- (c) oppress
- (d) forsake
- (e) None of these

Q51. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word '**COMPLIANCE**', as highlighted in the given passage.

- (a) abdicate
- (b) meekness
- (c) forswear
- (d) subversion
- (e) None of these

Q52. Choose the most appropriate filler from the following options to fill in the blank (I) given in the passage.

- (a) leaves off
- (b) takes for
- (c) grapples with
- (d) learns by
- (e) pulls out

Directions (53-60): Read the following passage and answer the given questions based on the information provided in the passage.

Biodiversity is the living fabric of our planet. It underpins human well-being in the present and in the future, and its rapid decline threatens nature and people alike. Because of our collective excesses, the ecological carrying capacity of planet earth has largely been exceeded. This trend needs to be redressed, with cleaner air, high quality drinking water, and enough food and healthy habitats to ensure that ecosystem services continue to benefit humanity without critically affecting nature's balance. Whether we look at nature from an environmental, from a cultural or even from a religious _____, it is our responsibility and clearly in our interest to respect the environment.

In fact, the possibilities exist, and all is not lost. In the last 50 years or so, much has been accomplished for the protection of nature, including the establishment of conservation areas, and a number of international conventions have been signed and ratified.

One of the best mechanisms that has been created is the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, created in 1971 by UNESCO. Biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, and where there is an effective combination of sustainable development and nature conservation. They represent pockets of hope and proof that we are not **inexorably** headed towards a doomsday ecological scenario, provided we take appropriate action.

In South Asia, over 30 biosphere reserves have been established. The first one was the Hurulu' Biosphere Reserve in Sri Lanka, which was designated in 1977 and comprises 25,500 hectares within the tropical dry evergreen forest.

In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000 within the blue mountains of the Nilgiris. It stretches across the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The network has gone from strength to strength, and it now counts 12 sites, with Panna, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, as the latest inscription in 2020.

We need many more biosphere reserves and pockets of hope, and the region offers **countless** options.

Q53. Which of the following most closely characterises the relation between human activity and biodiversity as is described in the passage?

- (a) Influences by human activity are the only reasons for environmental problems.
- (b) Human activity in essence always has an ill effect on nature
- (c) Rampant usage of resources leads to a faltering ecosystem
- (d) Nature flourishes as long as human society's influence does not expand to biospheres.
- (e) Ecosystems are prominent and recover when intrusion subsists.

Q54. In what way(s) is biodiversity crucial?

- (a) A flourishing biodiversity is crucial for the ecological balance of nature.
- (b) Biodiversity provides several incentives to human living
- (c) No human intervention of biodiversity ensures sustenance of species in nature.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) All of these

Q55. How does the concept of biosphere reserves bear fruit?

- (a) No effects of human construction or industry reaches there.
- (b) They're established where there is a concentration of flora and fauna.
- (c) They ensure no disturbance of bio diversity from human interference
- (d) In the absence of humans, the natural cycle flourishes.
- (e) It completely eliminates human intervention to protect nature from any form of deterioration.

Q56. Which of the following statements is untrue regarding the information in the passage?

- (a) Setting up of biosphere reserves is enough to counter the ecological imbalance that exists today.
- (b) Biosphere reserves are a way to ensure that there is no further disturbance to the environment due to humans.
- (c) UNESCO has long advocated the idea of biosphere reserves.
- (d) Biosphere reserves give humanity a chance for survival on this planet
- (e) The biosphere network has been increasing in India since 2000.

Q57. Which of the following is/are indicated by the last statement of the passage?

- (a) Countries like India and Sri Lanka have many regions which are possible prospects for biosphere reserves
- (b) The current number of biosphere reserves is not sufficient in terms of ecological sustainability
- (c) An increase in biosphere reserves in South Asia is anticipated in the coming time
- (d) both (a) and (b)
- (e) All of the above

Q58. Which of the following can replace the blank in the passage?

- (a) need of moment
- (b) point of view
- (c) statement of importance
- (d) call of duty
- (e) acceptance of agreement

Q59. Which of the following words can act as a synonym to the highlighted word in the passage "inexorably" with accordance to its intended meaning in the passage?

- (a) comparably
- (b) unavoidably
- (c) atrociously
- (d) gradually
- (e) unwillingly

Q60. Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the word "countless" as it is used in the passage?

- (a) established
- (b) reported
- (c) framed
- (d) limited

Directions (61-67): Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions. Certain parts have been highlighted to help answer the questions.

The lingering COVID-19 crisis is a good time to **revive** an issue that is, oddly, slow to come to life in India — universal health care (UHC). Meanwhile, UHC has become a well-accepted objective of public policy around the world. It has even been largely realised in many countries, not only the richer ones (minus the United States) but also a growing number of other countries such as Brazil, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Some of them, such as Thailand, made a decisive move towards UHC at a time (20 years ago) when their per capita GDP was no higher than India's per capita GDP today. The time has come for India — or some Indian States at least — to take the plunge.

The basic idea of UHC is that no one should be deprived of quality health care for the lack of ability to pay. This idea was well expressed — in archaic words perhaps — by Aneurin Bevan, the fiery founder of the National Health Service (NHS) in Britain. "No society," he said, "can legitimately call itself civilised if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means." The same idea inspired the Bhoré Committee report of 1946, where a case was made for India to create its own NHS-type health-care system.

In concrete terms, UHC typically relies on one or both of two basic approaches: public service and social insurance. In the first approach, health care is provided as a free public service, just like the services of a fire brigade or public library. If this sounds like socialist thinking, that is what it is. Interestingly, however, this socialist project has worked not only in communist countries such as Cuba but also in the capitalist world (well beyond the United Kingdom). The second approach allows private as well as public provision of health care, but the costs are mostly borne by the social insurance fund(s), not the patient, so the result is similar: everyone has access to quality health care. Social insurance is very different from a private insurance market. The simplest variant is one where insurance is **compulsory** and universal, financed mainly from general taxation, and run by a single non-profit agency in the public interest. That is how it works in Canada (province-wise), and to varying extents in other countries with "national health insurance" (e.g., Australia and Taiwan).

Q61. What is/are the underlying motive(s) behind Universal health care?

- (a) Universal health care program is launched to provide vaccines in every country
- (b) Its aim is to make healthcare services available in rural and outskirts areas
- (c) UHC is to make medical services accessible to everyone irrespective of his or her paying capability.
- (d) All of these
- (e) None of these

Q62. According to 'Aneurin Bevan', what is the salient component of a country for being civilized?

- (a) Any country that is civilized should not depend on other countries for medical supply
- (b) In a country, the absence of means should not be the reason for refusing medical aid to anyone
- (c) A country should provide medical aid to other countries in case of emergency like pandemic
- (d) A country's government should allocate more funds to boost medical research.
- (e) None of these

Q63. What does the first approach of UHC i.e., 'public service' imply?

- (a) Providing free medical services only
- (b) Medical inaccessibility shouldn't be the reason for mortality
- (c) Health care services are provisioned as a free public service
- (d) Getting reimbursement of all exorbitant medical tests and medicine
- (e) None of these

Q64. Which of the following statements describe(s) the simplest variant of social insurance?

- (a) The insurance which is managed by the single non-profit agency
- (b) Insurance which is mandatory and common for all
- (c) Insurance which is chiefly financed by the tax collected by the government
- (d) All of these
- (e) None of these

Q65. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE as per the information given in the passage?

- (a) Universal Health Care counts on one or two basic approaches
- (b) UHC has been considered not only in affluent but in other countries also
- (c) Social insurance scheme made quality health services accessible to everyone
- (d) Thailand moved towards UHC when its per capita GDP was higher than India's current GDP
- (e) None of these

Q66. Which of the following words is/are synonym of 'REVIVE' given in the passage?

- (a) reinvigorate
- (b) reckless
- (c) hailed
- (d) convene
- (e) All of these

Q67. Which of the following words is an antonym of 'COMPULSORY' given in the passage?

- (a) enormous
- (b) attrition
- (c) attain
- (d) voluntary
- (e) resolute

Directions (68-73): Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions. Certain parts have been highlighted to help answer the questions.

The World Bank pared its 2022 growth projections for South Asian economies to 6.6%, from an estimate of 7.6%, emphasising that post-pandemic growth was already uneven and **fragile** before the Russia-Ukraine conflict triggered fresh challenges. The ripple effect of high oil and food prices that prevailed even before the war and were exacerbated, are key factors worrying the Bank as people's real incomes take a hit. India's GDP, the Bank reckons, may now grow by 8% in 2022-23, not 8.7% as it had earlier forecast, before dropping further to 7.1% in 2023-24. The Bank's ch

ief economist has said that their overall assessment is that GDP growth could actually be 1.3 percentage points lower, or 7.4%, but they refrained from making an adjustment of that magnitude in their headline projection due to some positive surprises in recent data such as strong digital services exports. The tepid post-COVID recovery in India's household consumption will be further hemmed in by high inflation and the incomplete labour market revival. More importantly, a nowcast of high frequency indicators by the Bank's mandarins suggests India's growth was already experiencing a relative slowdown in the January to March 2022 quarter, compared to previous quarters. India's recovery varies widely across sectors and manufacturing remains troubled due to weak demand and increasing input costs. This is borne out by the latest industrial output data.

The World Bank's prognostications about India's growth prospects seem more sanguine than some others. The Asian Development Bank expects India's GDP for the year to rise 7.5% with retail inflation of around 5.8%. Monetary and fiscal policy mandarins need to address inflation more aggressively, lest it derails the recovery which the Bank has warned could renew pressure on improving bank and corporate balance sheets. The farm sector, that has so far been _____ through the pandemic's worst phases and could now gain due to high global food prices, needs careful handling too. While the normal monsoon forecast bodes well for the kharif crop and hopefully, rural demand, the cost of inputs — be it fertilizers or chicken feed — is rising sharply for farmers too.

Q68. What is/are the cause(s) of concern for World Bank?

- (a) Turmoil in global politics and the probability of occurrence of world war
- (b) Constant decline in various global trade and global GDP
- (c) Aggravated ripple effect of high oil and food prices that was prevalent even before the war
- (d) Rise in inflation rate and increase in population living under poverty line
- (e) None of these

Q69. Why World Bank's chief is abstaining from making an adjustment in India's GDP projection?

- (a) Because World Bank is expecting India to increase its domestic production at a fast pace
- (b) Because the Bank doesn't have any information about GDP rate accessed by authentic data
- (c) Because of the possibility of having stress from India by revealing actual GDP rate
- (d) Because it is considering some positive indication such as strong digital service exports
- (e) None of these

Q70. Which of the following will further dampen the slowed Indian post-COVID recovery?

- (a) Increased petrol price due to war between Russia and Ukraine
- (b) Partial labour market recovery and high rate of inflation
- (c) Absence of government policies for Indian economic recovery
- (d) Estimated fourth wave of COVID-19 in nearby future
- (e) None of these

Q71. What could be the consequence of the Monetary and Fiscal policy failure of addressing inflation?

- (a) Failure to tackle inflation will disrupt the recovery of the economy
- (b) Revival of stress on improving bank and corporate balance sheets
- (c) Steep rise in unemployment, inflation and fall in GDP rate in India
- (d) All of these
- (e) Only (a) & (b)

Q72. Which of the following words can fit into the given blank provided in the passage?

- (a) loophole
- (b) rampant
- (c) decisive
- (d) resilient
- (e) None of these.

Q73. Which of the following can replace “**Fragile**” in the given passage?

- (a) flimsy
- (b) anarchy
- (c) sinister
- (d) carnage
- (e) None of these

Directions (74-79): Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions. Certain parts have been highlighted to help answer the questions

One of the key objectives of reforms has been to reduce the distortions generated by the earlier **excessive** micromanagement of the economy. With internal economic liberalisation, openness to international trade, and investment, an open free market economy has emerged. Improving the ease of doing business continues to be a major priority. But even more important is the cost of doing business. For this, action is needed to reduce government policy-induced pricing distortions which add to the cost of doing business. In our open economy, these pricing distortions have become a source of competitive disadvantage to domestic value addition and job creation. India’s relative lack of success in manufacturing and employment generation is the outcome.

As with all reforms, it would need leadership and investment of political capital in generating a consensus and steering change. Reformers, who **advocate** that a crisis is the best time for difficult reforms, take an irresponsible undemocratic view and serve the political leadership poorly. The origin of government policy induced pricing distortions lies in the political need to find a way out for a cash-strapped government to raise resources. Or, to provide affordable goods and services to those in need through a cross subsidy within the sector without having to find money for direct subsidy payments. It is time for an informed discussion on these distortions.

Q74. Which of the following factor(s) led to the origination of an open free market economy?

- (a) Freer internal trade
- (b) Freer international trade
- (c) Freer investment
- (d) both (b) and (c)
- (e) All of these

Q75. Which of the following is a direct consequence of price distortions?

- (a) It frequently causes price shocks and mismanagement
- (b) It deters employment generation and production
- (c) It disrupts internal competition in the market
- (d) It causes turmoil in markets and makes it unfavorable for investment
- (e) None of these

Q76. Which of the following step(s) should be taken to regulate the cost of doing business?

- (a) Market's internal factors which cause price distortions should be eliminated
- (b) Penalties imposed by the government for non-compliances should be revoked
- (c) Market structures which give rise to high prices should be avoided
- (d) Government policies which cause price distortions should be opposed
- (e) All of these

Q77. What is/are the reason(s) for government policy-induced price distortions?

- (a) Undergoing substantial market change only on the basis of known information set.
- (b) Political necessity to find the solution for the impecunious government to acquire resources
- (c) Providing reasonably priced goods and services to the needy through cross subsidy
- (d) Only (b) & (c)
- (e) Only (a) & (c)

Q78. Which of the following words is an antonym of 'excessive' given in the passage?

- (a) subtle
- (b) moderate
- (c) cognizant
- (d) tremble
- (e) None of these

Q79. Which of the following words is a synonym of 'advocate' given in the passage?

- (a) timid
- (b) denigrate
- (c) uphold
- (d) perpetuate
- (e) None of these

Directions (80-87): Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Many of the costs of poor sleep go unnoticed. Medical conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, develop over long periods of time and result from a number of factors, such as genetics, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise. Insufficient sleep has also been linked to these and other health problems, and is considered an important risk factor. Although scientists have just begun to identify the connections between insufficient sleep and disease, most experts have concluded that getting enough high-quality sleep may be as important to health and well-being as nutrition and exercise. Falling short on sleep can take a serious toll on your daytime energy, productivity, emotional balance, and even your weight. Unhealthy daytime habits and lifestyle choices can leave you tossing and turning at night and adversely affect your mood, brain and heart health, immune system, creativity, vitality, and weight. Getting in sync with your body's natural sleep-wake cycle, or circadian rhythm, is one of the most important strategies for sleeping better. Among lots of other health benefits, eating a balanced breakfast can help sync up your biological clock by letting your body know that it's time to wake up and get going. Skipping breakfast on the other hand, can delay your blood sugar rhythms, lower your energy, and increase your stress, factors that may disrupt sleep.

Melatonin is a naturally occurring hormone controlled by light exposure that helps regulate your sleep-wake cycle. Your brain secretes more melatonin when it's dark—making you sleepy—and less when it's light—making you more alert. However, many aspects of modern life can alter your body's production of melatonin and shift your circadian rhythm. Eating lots of sugar and refined carbs such as white bread, white rice, and pasta during the day can trigger wakefulness at night and pull you out of the deep, restorative stages of sleep. You might be surprised to know that caffeine can cause sleep problems up to ten to twelve hours after drinking it. Similarly, smoking is another stimulant that can disrupt your sleep, especially if you smoke close to bedtime. Avoid big meals at night.

Residual stress, worry, and anger from your day can make it very difficult to sleep well. Taking steps to **manage** your overall stress levels and learning how to curb the worry habit can make it easier to unwind at night. You can also try developing a relaxing bedtime ritual to help you prepare your mind for sleep, such as practicing a relaxation technique, taking a warm bath, or _____ (A) _____ the lights and listening to soft music or an audiobook. Problems clearing your head at night can also stem from your daytime habits. The more overstimulated your brain becomes during the day, the harder it can be to slow down and unwind at night. Then when it comes to getting to sleep at night, your brain is so accustomed to seeking fresh stimulation, it becomes difficult to unwind. How much sleep a person needs will vary. There are some who need 8 hours while others may be fine with 6 hours. Keeping a sleep diary may help you determine what is affecting your sleep.

Q80. How is eating a balanced breakfast helpful in maintaining a healthy sleeping pattern?

- (a) Balanced breakfast has components which can fix your sleeping habits and automatically put you to sleep at night.
- (b) Having breakfast alerts your system about getting into the flow of things and to get going about your day.
- (c) Timing of your breakfast can set the timing for your whole day and all your habits fall in place consequently.
- (d) None of the above
- (e) All of the above

Q81. How can the intake of sugar in your diet cause difficulty in sleeping at night?

- (a) Foods with a lot of sugar content can keep you awake at night and prevent you from falling into deep sleep.
- (b) Excess sugar can raise your blood sugar and send you spiralling at the edge of diabetes.
- (c) Sugar is scientifically proven not to be harmful at all to your health as well as your sleeping pattern.
- (d) None of the above
- (e) All of the above

Q82. How does the author suggest one can track the elements that are disturbing your sleep?

- (a) Online resources are extremely helpful to help one keep track of what is not helpful for your sleep.
- (b) Tracking your food intake and the number of hours you are awake
- (c) Making a list of all the habits you have cultivated to sleep better.
- (d) Developing a habit to journal after you wake up from your sleep.
- (e) None of the above

Q83. Choose the statement that describes the consequences of poor sleep habits.

- (a) Haphazard sleeping habits can become one of the factors in developing heart diseases.
- (b) Sleeping in frequent intervals instead of complete 8 hours can train individual to function with less sleep.
- (c) Poor sleeping habits can take away your attention from the vital tasks you have to perform in the day.
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above

Q84. Which of the following statement(s) is/are TRUE?

- (I) Getting high-quality sleep is of the least importance as compared to intake of healthy food and exercise.
 - (II) The hormone which is responsible for an individual's fluctuating sleep cycle is called Melatonin.
 - (III) A person being regular with their breakfast can end up with low energy and more stress which can result in them missing out on a healthy sleep.
- (a) Both I and III
 - (b) Only II
 - (c) Only III
 - (d) Only I
 - (e) Both II and III

Q85. Select the statement(s) which is/are FALSE, according to the given information in the passage.

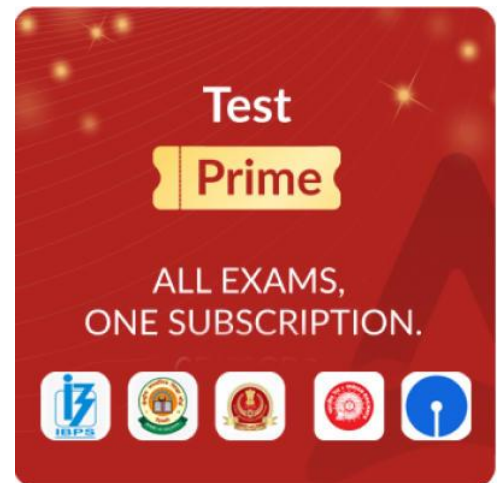
- (I) When your brain is very active in the day, it helps one relax more at night and sleep better.
 - (II) Studies show that each and every human being needs only 8 hours of sleep, no more or less than that.
 - (III) The feelings of stress and anxiety from the events that occur in the day can make it harder to fall asleep at night.
- (a) Only I
 - (b) Both I and III
 - (c) Only II
 - (d) Both I and II
 - (e) Only III

Q86. Amongst the given option, which word is the most similar to **MANAGE as highlighted in the passage?**

- (a) attend
- (b) dictate
- (c) handle
- (d) lecture
- (e) profess

Q87. Choose the word which will complete the phrase '_____ the light' to help make the sentence contextual sense.

- (a) dimming
- (b) crying
- (c) admitting
- (d) damaging
- (e) carrying



Directions (88-94): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/ phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The planet's biodiversity is under threat and the main culprit is the one who, paradoxically, depends on it most: human beings. Slowing down biodiversity loss, understood as the reduction or disappearance of the variety of living beings that inhabit the planet, is one of humanity's great challenges. Biodiversity is traditionally defined as the variety of life on Earth in all its forms. It comprises the number of species, their genetic variation and the interaction of these life forms within complex ecosystems. In a UN report published in 2019, scientists warned that one million species - out of an estimated total of eight million - are threatened with extinction, many within decades. Some researchers even consider we are in the middle of the sixth mass extinction event in Earth's history. Earlier known mass extinctions wiped out between 60% and 95% of all species. It takes millions of years for ecosystems to recover from such an event.

Healthy ecosystems provide us with many essentials we take for granted. Plants convert energy from the sun making it available to other life forms. Bacteria and other living organisms break down organic matter into nutrients providing plants with healthy soil to grow in. Pollinators are essential in plant reproduction, guaranteeing our food production. Plants and oceans act as major carbon sinks. In short, biodiversity provides us with clean air, fresh water, good quality soil and crop pollination. It helps us fight climate change and adapt to it as well as reduce the impact of natural hazards. Since living organisms interact in dynamic ecosystems, the disappearance of one species can have a far-reaching impact on the food chain. It is impossible to know exactly what the consequences of mass extinctions would be for humans, but we do know that for now the diversity of nature allows us to thrive. Protecting biodiversity is a very complex task because most of humanity's actions have a negative effect on ecosystems by weakening them. For instance, human activities generate pollution that affects living species. Deforestation destroys the habitat of many animals, insects, and plants. Our agriculture favors certain productions neglecting others and leading to the destruction of certain ecosystems like tropical forests and species like orangutans. In order to protect biodiversity, it would, therefore, be necessary to change our economic model of consumption to minimize our impact on the natural environment.

Trying to save the whole planet is a lofty goal, but it's not something you can do alone. It will take everyone making small changes in the way they live to create large, cumulative changes. **Purchase** products that are made with recycled materials. Plastic, paper, wood, and metal can all be recycled, so start there to make a difference. On the other side of the ____ (A) ____, recycle as much as you can. Campaign for recycling programs in your area. Everyone talks about reducing their carbon footprint, and the easiest way you can do this is to give up your gas guzzler in favor of a hybrid or electric car. These low- to no-emission vehicles have much less of an impact on the environment. If buying a new car isn't an option, try carpooling, public transportation, riding a bike or walking where you can.

Q88. How has the author explained the role of human beings in the rapid loss of biodiversity?

- (a) Humans have stopped the activities of afforestation
- (b) Studies show that overuse of gadgets like phones and computers, tablets, etc., directly affects the population of animals and flora and fauna.
- (c) Destruction of forests for selfish human purposes has led to a lot of displacement of animals and birds.
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above

Q89. Choose the statement(s) which are/is CORRECT according to the information given in the passage.

- (I) Our ecosystems have aided life on earth for human beings since the beginning of time by providing us with things like fresh water, top notch quality of soil, etc.
 - (II) If a species happens to go extinct, there will be zero to none consequences on the entire food chain as we know it.
 - (III) Recycled goods are of no use and cannot be a helping factor in helping save our environment.
- (a) Both II and III
 - (b) Only I
 - (c) Only III
 - (d) Both II and I
 - (e) Only II

Q90. What makes saving biodiversity a complicated and tedious task as per the author?

- (a) The condition of our environment is way too terrible to be able to save it, so the author states it is unsalvageable.
- (b) It has many elements which can get troublesome for humans to understand.
- (c) Humans may find it hard to conquer the said task because almost all our actions, ranging from small to huge, have a fatal impact on the ecosystem.
- (d) None of these
- (e) All of these

Q91. Choose the correct definition of biodiversity as explained in the passage.

- (a) Biodiversity is said to be a certain group of flora and fauna that is at the edge of extinction on Earth.
- (b) It is the study of diversity that is present in the human species on the basis of race, religion, gender, etc.
- (c) The definition of biodiversity is all the various fields of science that focus on life like biology, zoology, etc.
- (d) The wide range of species and life forms on Earth and how they all interact within our ecosystem.
- (e) None of the above

Q92. What is the author's intention behind writing this article?

- (a) To illustrate different types of harmful activities the corporations and industries are doing
- (b) The author highlights the working of nature and how it is selfless in providing humans with everything that they need on a regular basis.
- (c) The passage is written to educate the readers about the worth of biodiversity as it is being swiftly destroyed due to human activities and how we can take steps to undo the harm.
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above

Q93. Choose the word that is most similar to PURCHASE as highlighted in the passage.

- (a) argue
- (b) complain
- (c) guard
- (d) obtain
- (e) lighten

Q94. Which of the following words can be used to complete the phrase 'other side of the _____ (A) _____'?

- (a) trail
- (b) moon
- (c) dam
- (d) home
- (e) coin

Directions (95-101): Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions. Certain parts have been highlighted to help answer the questions.

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so **ubiquitous** it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.

Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II, so transforming the modern age that life without plastics would be unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets—saving fuel and pollution—and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.

The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture that reveals the material's dark side: today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

Most of the plastic trash in the oceans, Earth's last sink, flows from land. **Trash** is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.

Once at sea, sunlight, wind, and wave action break down plastic waste into small particles, often less than one-fifth of an inch across. These so-called microplastics are spread throughout the water column and have been found in every corner of the globe, from Mount Everest, the highest peak, to the Mariana Trench, the deepest trough.

Microplastics are breaking down further into smaller and smaller pieces. Plastic microfibers, meanwhile, have been found in municipal drinking water systems and drifting through the air.

Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabird eats plastics.

Most of the deaths to animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings. Microplastics have been found in more than 100 aquatic species, including fish, shrimp, and mussels destined for our dinner plates. In many cases, these tiny bits pass through the digestive system and are expelled without consequence. But plastics have also been found to have blocked digestive tracts or pierced organs, causing death. Stomachs so packed with plastics reduce the urge to eat, causing starvation.

Plastics have been consumed by land-based animals, including elephants, hyenas, zebras, tigers, camels, cattle, and other large mammals, in some cases causing death.

Q95. What are the reasons due to which plastic pollution is most visible in developing nations?

- (a) developing nations use more plastic than developed nations.
- (b) the garbage collection systems in developing nations are inefficient or non-existent.
- (c) both a and b are true.
- (d) the plastic manufacturing industries of developing nations do not function well.
- (e) none of the above options.

Q96. What are the positive impacts of plastic in modern world?

- (a) plastics have revolutionized medicine with life saving devices.
- (b) it has made space travel possible.
- (c) it has saved lives with helmets, incubators, and made equipment for clean drinking water.
- (d) only (b) and (c)
- (e) all are correct.

Q97. What is the tone of the passage?

- (a) jocular
- (b) ironic
- (c) apologetic
- (d) belligerent
- (e) aggressive

Q98. How is the plastic transported around the world?

- (I) it is transported through the canals.
- (II) it is transported by the humans.
- (III) it is transported by the major rivers.
- (a) only (I)
- (b) Both (II) and (III)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) Both (I) and (III)
- (e) All are correct

Q99. According to the passage which of the following statement is FALSE?

- (a) The garbage system in developing countries is inefficient
- (b) Plastics are over a century old
- (c) Plastic products accelerated after World War 2.
- (d) Plastic trash acts as a biodegradable which helps to restore the environment
- (e) All are true

Q100. Which of the following words is similar to the word "ubiquitous" as mentioned in passage given?

- (a) rare
- (b) scarce
- (c) omnipresent
- (d) hilarious
- (e) beneficial

Q101. Which of the following words is opposite to the word "trash" mentioned in the passage?

- (a) garbage
- (b) asset
- (c) junk
- (d) debris
- (e) none of the above options.

Solutions

S1. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct answer is (e). The passage specifically states that "**the act of automatically adopting a husband's surname is increasingly viewed as outdated**" and further criticizes it for perpetuating "**gender imbalances by prioritizing the husband's identity over the wife's.**" This reflects the societal shift towards viewing this tradition as outdated and biased against gender equality, directly supporting option (e). In contrast, options (a), (b), and (c) present viewpoints that are explicitly refuted by the passage as it notes the critical view and legal advancements against such practices. Option (d) inaccurately suggests the decision is entirely free from societal pressures and historical traditions, which is not supported by the passage's discussion of ongoing social pressures and expectations.

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. The discourse on surnames and identity primarily symbolizes in the context of societal change:

(d) The emphasis on challenging outdated traditions for individual identity and equal partnerships.

This conclusion is supported by various parts of the passage, particularly where it discusses the evolution of societal norms and the empowerment of women in relation to the tradition of surname change after marriage. The passage mentions:

"Historically, the practice of a woman taking her husband's surname post-marriage was rooted in patriarchal notions of ownership and family unity... However, as societies progress towards gender equality, the act of automatically adopting a husband's surname is increasingly viewed as outdated."

"This perspective emphasizes identity as a personal choice rather than a societal imposition."

"The discourse on surnames and identity is emblematic of the broader struggle for women's rights and gender equality. It highlights the importance of challenging outdated traditions and advocating for choices that reflect individual identities and equal partnerships."

These sections collectively underscore the shift away from traditional practices towards embracing individual autonomy and equality in partnerships. The discourse around surnames serves as a microcosm for the broader movement towards gender equality and challenging outdated societal norms, thus aligning with option (d).

S3. Ans.(e)

Sol. According to the passage, the significance of a woman's decision regarding her surname has evolved in society to:

(e) It is now viewed as a statement on autonomy, equality, and the right to self-determination.

This conclusion is directly supported by the passage's concluding remarks:

"As society continues to grapple with these issues, the decision over a surname becomes more than just a matter of personal preference—it becomes a statement on autonomy, equality, and the right to self-determination."

This sentence explicitly outlines how the perception of a woman choosing her surname post-marriage has shifted from being a matter of personal or trivial choice to embodying deeper societal values and principles. It underscores the evolved significance of this choice as reflective of broader themes of autonomy, gender equality, and an individual's right to self-determination, aligning with option (e).

S4. Ans.(c)

Sol. The contemporary debate on a woman's surname choice after marriage primarily explores:

(c) The intersection of tradition, law, and individual rights in shaping societal norms.

This is supported by the passage's introduction, which sets the stage for the discussion:

"This debate touches upon the intersection of tradition, law, and individual rights, offering a window into the evolving nature of societal norms and the empowerment of women."

This sentence highlights the core of the debate as focusing on how tradition, law, and individual rights converge and interact, influencing societal norms and the empowerment of women regarding their surname choices after marriage. It points to a broader examination of societal change and the roles that these elements play in shaping identities and legal rights, directly aligning with option (c).

S5. Ans.(d)

Sol. To determine the incorrect statement(s) based on the discussion, we will analyze each statement individually against the passage:

(I) "The tradition of a woman adopting her husband's surname is rooted in modern legal practices rather than historical patriarchal notions."

Incorrect: The passage explicitly states, **"Historically, the practice of a woman taking her husband's surname post-marriage was rooted in patriarchal notions of ownership and family unity."** This contradicts the statement, indicating that the tradition is historically rooted in patriarchal notions, not modern legal practices.

(II) "Societal progress towards gender equality views the automatic adoption of the husband's surname as increasingly outdated."

Correct: The passage supports this statement by mentioning, "**However, as societies progress towards gender equality, the act of automatically adopting a husband's surname is increasingly viewed as outdated.**" This aligns with the statement, indicating it is correct according to the passage.

(III) "**Legal systems worldwide uniformly resist changes, offering no support for a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage.**"

Incorrect: The passage counters this statement by noting, "**Legal systems worldwide have begun to reflect these changing attitudes, with many countries enacting laws that support a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage.**" This indicates that legal systems are not uniformly resistant but are increasingly supportive of a woman's right to choose her surname, making the statement incorrect.

Based on the analysis:

Statement (I) is incorrect because the tradition is described as rooted in historical patriarchal notions, not modern legal practices.

Statement (II) is correct and aligns with the passage's discussion.

Statement (III) is incorrect as it misrepresents the evolving support within legal systems for a woman's right to surname choice.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(d) Both (I) and (III)

S6. Ans.(b)

Sol. "**Progressive**" is the antonym of "traditional" within the context of this passage, contrasting with old or conventional practices by emphasizing forward-thinking or modern approaches.

S7. Ans.(c)

Sol. The statement that best implies the relationship between legal rights and societal norms regarding surname choice, based on the passage provided, is:

(c) There exists a gap between legal rights and societal norms, with social pressures still influencing traditional choices.

This conclusion is supported by the following excerpt from the passage:

"Yet, despite legal advancements, social pressures and expectations often still push women towards traditional choices, underscoring the gap between legal rights and societal norms."

This sentence explicitly mentions the gap between legal rights, which have begun to support a woman's right to choose her surname after marriage, and societal norms, where social pressures and expectations continue to influence women towards making traditional choices. It indicates that while legal systems may have evolved to recognize and support personal autonomy in surname choice, societal norms and expectations lag behind, still exerting influence towards traditional practices. This aligns with option (c), highlighting the ongoing discrepancy between legal advancements and societal norms regarding surname choice.

S8. Ans.(d)

Sol. The word from the passage that closely mirrors the meaning of "grapple" in the context of societal challenges is:

(d) Struggle

"Grapple" implies engaging in a hard fight or struggle to deal with a challenge. The passage mentions, "The discourse on surnames and identity is emblematic of the broader struggle for women's rights and gender equality." This use of "struggle" aligns with the concept of grappling with societal challenges, particularly in the context of advocating for change and addressing issues of gender equality and women's rights.

- (a) **Debate:** A formal discussion on a particular topic in a public meeting or legislative assembly, where opposing arguments are put forward.
- (b) **Advocate:** To publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy.
- (c) **Reflect:** To think deeply or carefully about something, or to show a representation of an image or sound.
- (e) **Transition:** The process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

S9. Ans.(c)

Sol. The word from the passage that best aligns with the meaning of "outmoded" or "obsolete" is:

(c) Outdated

This is directly supported by the passage's discussion on the view of automatically adopting a husband's surname after marriage: "**However, as societies progress towards gender equality, the act of automatically adopting a husband's surname is increasingly viewed as outdated.**" The term "outdated" is synonymous with "outmoded" and "obsolete," all of which imply something that is no longer in use, relevant, or accepted due to changes in society, technology, or beliefs.

- (a) **Autonomy:** Independence or freedom, as of the will or one's actions. The capacity to make an informed, uncoerced decision.
- (b) **Traditions:** Customs, beliefs, or practices passed down through generations or the established way of thinking or acting in a society.
- (d) **Norms:** Accepted standards or a way of behaving or doing things that most people agree with.
- (e) **Practices:** The repeated exercise or performance of an activity or skill so as to acquire or maintain proficiency in it.

S10. Ans.(b)

Sol. The discourse on surname choices ultimately signifies in the context of societal progress:

(b) An ongoing challenge against dated traditions for autonomy and equality.

This is supported by the overall discussion in the passage, which emphasizes the evolving nature of societal norms concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women. The passage highlights how challenging outdated traditions (like automatically adopting a husband's surname) is part of a broader struggle for women's rights, autonomy, and equality. It frames the debate around surname choices as emblematic of this larger fight, pointing towards the significance of such choices as statements of individual identity, partnership equality, and the right to self-determination.

S11. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is **(b) A moderate increase of 3.5%, signaling a slower growth pace than the previous year.** This is indicated in the passage where it states, "**According to the NSO, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has shown a modest increase of 3.5% over the past financial year, a figure that, while positive, indicates a slower pace of growth compared to the previous year's 4.8%.**" This line directly mentions the 3.5% increase in GDP, demonstrating a slower growth pace when compared to the 4.8% growth of the previous year, thus supporting option (b) as the accurate answer.

S12. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is **(c) Technology and renewable energy industries have shown significant advancement.** This is supported by the passage where it mentions, "**Despite these challenges, certain sectors, notably the technology and renewable energy industries, have exhibited robust growth, bolstering the overall economic landscape.**" This statement directly points out the technology and renewable energy industries as areas of significant advancement, aligning with option (c) as the accurate answer.

S13. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (c) **It points to a cautious yet stable economic environment with potential growth areas.** This inference is drawn from several parts of the passage, including the mention of a "**modest increase**" in GDP and the specific sectors showing "**robust growth**," as well as the statement that "**the government's budgetary deficit has narrowed to 2.9% of GDP, down from 3.4% the previous year.**" These points suggest that despite challenges and slower growth in some areas, there are clear signs of stability and potential for growth, particularly in technology and renewable energy sectors, and an overall improvement in fiscal management. The reduction in the budgetary deficit is a positive indicator of economic stability, showing a prudent balance between spending and revenue generation.

S14. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct answer is (e) **Increasing investment in infrastructure and public services by 6%.** This is directly supported by the passage where it states, "**Investment in infrastructure and public services has been a key focus, with the NSO report pointing out a 6% increase in capital expenditure.**" This statement clearly indicates that the focus of investment has been on enhancing infrastructure and public services, with a specified increase in capital expenditure by 6%, aligning with option (e) as the accurate answer.

S15. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (d) **Through increased revenue from taxes and stringent fiscal management.** This is directly supported by the passage, which mentions, "**This improvement is largely due to increased revenue from taxes and a stringent approach to fiscal management.**" This line explicitly states how the government has managed its fiscal responsibilities by enhancing tax revenues and applying a stringent management approach, which has contributed to reducing the budgetary deficit and improving economic stability, aligning with option (d) as the accurate answer.

S16. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct answer is (e) **A notable rise in service-oriented jobs with a decline in manufacturing employment.** This is explicitly mentioned in the passage, stating, "**The report further highlights a significant shift in the employment sector, with a notable rise in service-oriented jobs counterbalanced by a slight decline in manufacturing employment.**" This sentence clearly indicates the observed trend of increasing employment in the service sector alongside a reduction in manufacturing jobs, aligning with option (e) as the accurate answer.

S17. Ans.(c)

Sol. Let's analyze each statement based on the insights from the NSO report on national income data:
(I) The report does not suggest that the reduction in the budgetary deficit reflects reckless fiscal management. Instead, it indicates that this reduction is a positive sign of stability, highlighting an improvement largely due to increased revenue from taxes and a stringent approach to fiscal management. This contradicts statement I, making it incorrect.
(II) While the report mentions a 6% increase in capital expenditure on infrastructure and public services, it is framed positively as an investment aimed at stimulating economic activity, improving public amenities, and laying the groundwork for sustainable growth. The passage suggests these investments are for long-term benefits and sustainable growth rather than primarily intending to reduce government spending in the long term. Thus, statement II misrepresents the report's implications.

(III) The passage directly supports this statement, concluding that the NSO's latest national income data **"paints a picture of an economy facing complex challenges but also possessing distinct areas of growth and opportunity."** This line clearly aligns with statement III, indicating it is correct.

Based on the above analysis, the correct statements according to the passage are summarized in statement (III) only, making the correct answer:

(c) Only (III)

S18. Ans.(d)

Sol. The antonym of "fluctuating" is **"stable."** "Fluctuating" refers to something that is frequently changing in level or amount; thus, "stable" is its opposite, indicating something that does not change or varies little. The other options, such as "oscillating," "variable," "inconsistent," and "erratic," are synonyms or convey a similar meaning to "fluctuating," as they all imply a degree of change or unpredictability.

(a) Oscillating: Moving or swinging back and forth in a regular rhythm.

(b) Variable: Capable of changing or likely to change; not consistent.

(c) Inconsistent: Not staying the same throughout; lacking in uniformity.

(d) Stable: Not likely to change or fail; firmly established.

(e) Erratic: Not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable.

S19. Ans.(c)

Sol. "Bolstering" means to support or strengthen something. In the context of the passage, it refers to the technology and renewable energy industries strengthening the overall economic landscape. **"Supporting"** is the correct synonym, as it conveys the action of providing support or strength. The other options imply actions that would either weaken, neglect, or distract from the intended support, which are contrary to the meaning of "bolstering."

(a) Undermining: Reducing the power, effectiveness, or foundation of something gradually or secretly.

(b) Weakening: Making or becoming less strong or powerful.

(c) Supporting: Providing assistance, encouragement, or backing to someone or something.

(d) Ignoring: Refusing to take notice of or acknowledge; disregarding intentionally.

(e) Diverting: Changing the direction or use of something; turning aside from a path or course.

S20. Ans.(d)

Sol. "Comprehensive" refers to something that is complete and includes all or nearly all elements or aspects of something. **"Exhaustive"** is the synonym that best matches this meaning, indicating a thorough or complete approach. The other options suggest partial, limited, or insufficient attributes, which are opposite to the idea of being comprehensive.

(a) Superficial: Concerning only the obvious or apparent; shallow and not thorough.

(b) Limited: Confined within bounds; restricted in size, amount, or extent.

(c) Incomplete: Not having all parts or elements; lacking some necessary component.

(d) Exhaustive: Thorough and complete in execution; covering all aspects without omission.

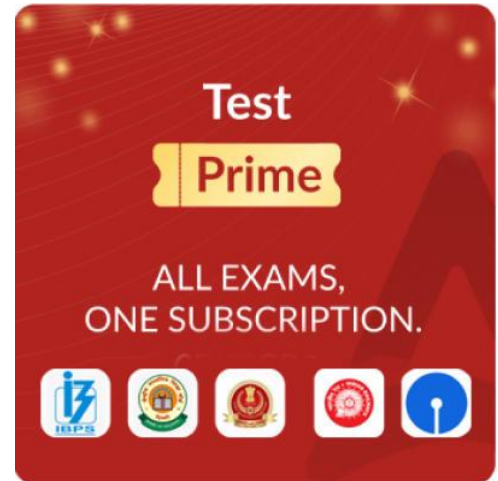
(e) Brief: Short in duration, extent, or length; concise and to the point.

S21. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct option is "They suggest that a woman should follow male figures in their lives and cultivate virtue."

The "Three Obediences" and "Four Virtues" in Confucian philosophy suggest that a woman should follow her father, husband, and son, while cultivating virtues such as morality, proper speech, modesty, and diligence.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: For instance, the "Book of Rites" outlines the "Three Obediences" and "Four Virtues" for women, which dictate that a woman should obey her father before marriage, her husband during marriage, and her son after her husband's death.

**S22. Ans.(d)**

Sol. The correct option is "Yang is active and dominant; yin is passive and nurturing."

In Confucian philosophy, yang is associated with masculine qualities like activity and dominance, while yin is linked to feminine qualities such as passivity and nurturing, reflecting distinct and complementary gender roles.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: yang (associated with masculinity) was active, dominant, and creative, and yin (associated with femininity) was passive, yielding, and nurturing.

S23. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct option is "It has emphasized an interpretation that aligns Confucian ethics with potential gender equality."

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: In contemporary times, there is a reexamination of Confucian texts to highlight the potential for gender equality within its ethical framework.

S24. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct option is "They focus on hierarchical and reciprocal roles, defining specific responsibilities for each participant."

Confucian philosophy primarily focuses on hierarchical and reciprocal roles, defining specific responsibilities for each participant in key relationships such as ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, elder and younger siblings, and friends. This structure is essential for maintaining social harmony and moral integrity.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Confucius (551-479 BCE) and his followers emphasized the importance of social harmony, moral integrity, and hierarchical relationships, which inherently included gender roles.

S25. Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct option is "Only (II)".

(I) is incorrect because Confucianism assigned distinct, not identical, roles to men and women.

Refer to the lines from the passage: In the context of gender, Confucianism traditionally placed men and women in distinct, complementary roles.

(II) is correct, as it addresses the reinforcement of traditional gender roles and the potential for reinterpretations to support gender equality.

Refer to the lines from the passage: Thus, while traditional Confucianism has reinforced specific gender roles, ongoing reinterpretations offer the potential for a more egalitarian perspective.

(III) is incorrect because Confucian philosophy influenced East Asian, not Southern Asian, social norms.
Refer to the lines from the passage: Confucian philosophy, a cornerstone of East Asian cultural and intellectual history, has significantly shaped social norms and values, including those related to gender.

S26. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct option is “analytical.”

The tone of the passage is analytical. It presents a balanced and informative examination of Confucian philosophy and its impact on gender roles, along with contemporary reinterpretations, without showing strong bias or emotion.

- (a) Critical - Expresses disapproval or negative judgment about the subject.
- (b) Sentimental - Evokes emotions and nostalgia, focusing on feelings rather than facts.
- (c) Analytical - Examines and interprets information in a detailed and objective manner.
- (d) Idealistic - Portrays a hopeful and often unrealistic view of the subject.
- (e) Pessimistic - Emphasizes negative aspects and a gloomy outlook on the subject.

S27. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct option is “condoned.”

In the passage, “justified” means that the division of gender roles was supported or validated by the concept of yin and yang. “Condoned” fits this context as it means accepted or approved, indicating that these roles were seen as appropriate and necessary within the philosophical framework.

- (a) Enlightened - Provided with intellectual or spiritual insight.
- (b) Deceived - Misled or caused to believe something that is not true.
- (c) Mortified - Humiliated or deeply embarrassed.
- (d) Discerned - Recognized or perceived clearly.
- (e) Condoned - Accepted or approved something considered wrong or inappropriate.

S28. Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct option is “relinquish.”

In the passage, “dictate” means to prescribe or command authoritatively that a woman should follow certain virtues. “Relinquish” is an antonym because it means to give up or surrender control, which is the opposite of prescribing or commanding.

- (a) Relinquish - To give up or surrender control or authority.
- (b) Defunct - No longer existing or functioning.
- (c) Reminisced - Recalled or remembered past events.
- (d) Withered - Shriveled or decayed, often due to lack of vitality.
- (e) Rational - Based on reason or logic, not emotions.

S29. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct option is “Determining effective government forms and power distribution.”

The passage highlights that political philosophy is primarily concerned with questions about government, power distribution, and individual liberties. Therefore, determining the most effective forms of government and power distribution is a core aspect of political philosophy, as stated in the correct option.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: It is deeply concerned with the ideals of political life, questioning what forms of government are best, how power should be distributed, what rights individuals should possess, and the responsibilities of citizens.

S30. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct option is "Advocating for the redistribution of resources to achieve societal equality and justice."

In the provided passage, it states that socialism argues for the redistribution of resources to ensure equality and justice for all members of society. This implies that socialism advocates for a system where resources are distributed in a manner that addresses socio-economic inequalities, aiming to create a more equitable society.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: socialism argues for the redistribution of resources to ensure equality and justice for all members of society.

S31. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct option is "The foundational principles and philosophies guiding political entities and their actions".

Reflecting the passage's focus, the primary aim of political philosophy's exploration is to comprehend the foundational principles and philosophies that guide political institutions and their practices, emphasizing a deeper understanding of the theoretical basis of governance and societal organization.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: political philosophy seeks to understand the principles underlying political institutions and practices, aiming to guide the creation of a just and equitable society.

S32. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct option is "Enhances understanding of political systems and their societal impact".

According to the passage, the framework arising from the intersection of political philosophy with ethics, metaphysics, and philosophy of law is aimed at understanding the impact of political systems on human behaviour and society.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: This field intersects with ethics, metaphysics, and philosophy of law, providing a framework for analyzing political systems and their impact on human behaviour and society.

S33. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct option is "All of the above".

(I) This statement accurately reflects the discussion in the passage about philosophers debating the extent to which governments should restrict individual liberties for the sake of social order and welfare.

Refer to the lines from the passage: Philosophers argue over the extent to which states should have the power to restrict individual liberties for the sake of social order and welfare.

(II) This statement correctly summarizes the role of philosophers like John Rawls in developing theories of justice aimed at creating fair and advantageous societal structures.

Refer to the lines from the passage: Philosophers like John Rawls have offered theories of justice that attempt to balance freedom and equality, suggesting principles for structuring society in a way that is both fair and beneficial to all.

(III) This statement accurately represents the discussion in the passage about liberalism emphasizing individual rights and freedoms while advocating for minimal state interference.

Refer to the lines from the passage: liberalism emphasizes individual rights and freedoms, advocating for minimal state interference

S34. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct option is “**Expository**”.

The tone of the passage is expository. Expository writing aims to inform, explain, or describe a topic in a clear and straightforward manner, presenting factual information without personal bias or emotional influence.

- (a) Introspective: Reflective and contemplative, focusing on inner thoughts and feelings.
- (b) Cynical: Distrustful of human nature and motives, often expressing skepticism or disbelief.
- (c) Speculative: Engaging in conjecture or theory without firm evidence, exploring possibilities.
- (d) Expository: Providing factual information or explanation in a clear and objective manner.
- (e) Humanistic: Emphasizing human values, potential, and dignity, often with a focus on compassion and empathy.

S35. Ans.(e)

Sol. The synonym of the word “**advocating**” highlighted in the passage is “**endorsing**”.

In the given context, the passage discusses liberalism's emphasis on individual rights and freedoms, specifically advocating for minimal state interference. Here, “advocating” means supporting or promoting the idea of minimal state interference in the affairs of individuals and society.

- (a) Perusing: Reading or examining carefully and thoroughly.
- (b) Describing: Presenting or explaining in detail through words.
- (c) Exacerbate: Making a situation worse or more severe.
- (d) Rendering: Presenting or translating something into a particular form or language.
- (e) Endorsing: Supporting or advocating for a particular idea, belief, or action.

S36. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct answer is “**all the above**” as all the given options are correct with the question.

- (a) **Technological advancements have driven progress in space exploration:** The passage highlights advancements in rocket engines, materials science, and reusable technologies as examples of technological breakthroughs driving space exploration.
- (b) **Significant scientific discoveries have propelled advancements in space exploration:** The passage mentions robotic exploration, research conducted on the International Space Station, and the quest for understanding the cosmos as examples of scientific discoveries contributing to advancements in space exploration.
- (c) **Human imagination has been a driving force behind the progress in space exploration:** The passage mentions that space exploration has captivated the imagination of humanity and has been a driving force behind pushing the boundaries of what is possible in this field.
- (d) **The vastness of the universe has inspired and motivated advancements in space exploration:** The passage emphasizes that advancements in space exploration have led to a growing understanding of the vastness and mysteries of the universe, which has in turn inspired and motivated further progress in this field.

S37. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is “**They have facilitated expedited and extended space travel.**”

This option is correct. The passage mentions that advancements in rocket engines have enabled spacecraft to travel faster and farther, reducing the time required to reach distant celestial bodies. This implies that rocket engines have facilitated expedited and extended space travel.

The incorrect options are:

- (a) **They have the inability to endure the harsh conditions:** This option is incorrect. The passage does not mention any inability of rocket engines to endure harsh conditions. In fact, it states that advancements in materials science have led to the creation of durable materials that can withstand the harsh conditions of space.
- (b) **They have decreased the safety of astronauts:** This option is incorrect. The passage does not indicate that advancements in rocket engines have decreased the safety of astronauts. On the contrary, it mentions that advancements in materials science and rocket engine technology have contributed to ensuring the safety of astronauts and equipment.
- (d) **They have retarded the quality of scientific experiments:** This option is incorrect. The passage does not suggest that advancements in rocket engines have negatively impacted the quality of scientific experiments. Instead, it implies that advancements in rocket engines have contributed to improved scientific experiments by providing reliable means of transportation and data collection.
- (e) **They have made space travel more limited to the public:** This option is incorrect. The passage indicates that advancements in rocket engines aim to make space travel more accessible, not limited, to the public. It mentions concepts like reusable rockets and spaceplanes that aim to make space travel more affordable and accessible.

S38. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is “**They are creating competition and innovation.**”

According to the passage, private space companies are emerging and bringing innovation and competition to the industry. This implies that their presence and activities are driving advancements and pushing the boundaries of space travel. By introducing competition, these companies foster innovation and encourage the development of new technologies, which ultimately contribute to the future of space travel.

The incorrect options are:

- (a) **They are conducting scientific research in space:** This option is not mentioned in the passage. While private space companies may conduct scientific research, the passage does not specifically mention it as a contribution to the future of space travel.
- (b) **They are exploring the mysteries of the universe:** This option is not mentioned in the passage. While private space companies may contribute to our understanding of the universe, the passage does not specifically mention exploration of the mysteries of the universe as their primary contribution to the future of space travel.
- (d) **They are focusing on human colonization of Mars:** This option is not mentioned in the passage. While the passage discusses ambitious missions to explore and colonize other planets like Mars, it does not attribute this specific focus to private space companies.
- (e) **They are collaborating with government space agencies:** This option is not mentioned in the passage. While collaboration with government space agencies is common in the space industry, the passage does not explicitly state it as a contribution of private space companies to the future of space travel.

S39. Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is “**Increased affordability and accessibility**”.

According to the passage, concepts like reusable rockets and spaceplanes aim to make space travel more affordable and accessible. By enabling the reuse of these vehicles, the cost of space missions can be significantly reduced, making it more feasible for more people and organizations to engage in space travel. This can lead to a broader participation in space exploration and a greater democratization of access to space.

The incorrect options are:

- (b) **Enhanced safety for astronauts:** While advancements in rocket technology can indirectly contribute to enhanced safety for astronauts, the passage does not specifically mention reusable rockets and spaceplanes as having a direct impact on astronaut safety. The focus of the passage is on the affordability and accessibility aspects of these technologies.
- (c) **Improved scientific experiments in space:** The passage does not mention how reusable rockets and spaceplanes directly contribute to improved scientific experiments in space. While these technologies may indirectly support scientific missions by enabling more frequent and cost-effective access to space, the passage does not provide explicit information about the impact on scientific experiments.
- (d) **Increased international cooperation:** The passage does not discuss the impact of reusable rockets and spaceplanes on international cooperation. While international collaboration is mentioned in the context of the International Space Station (ISS), it is not directly associated with the topic of reusable rockets and spaceplanes.
- (e) **Development of interplanetary civilizations:** The passage does not mention the direct impact of reusable rockets and spaceplanes on the development of interplanetary civilizations. While the future potential for missions to explore and potentially colonize other planets is mentioned, it is not specifically attributed to the use of reusable rockets and spaceplanes.

S40. Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct answer is “**It allows for long-duration space travel experiments.**”

This is supported by the passage, which mentions that the ISS has been used as a platform for conducting experiments and studying the effects of long-duration space travel on the human body.

The incorrect options are:

- (b) **It serves as a platform for human colonization:** This is not mentioned in the passage. The primary purpose of the ISS is scientific research and collaboration among international space agencies.
- (c) **It facilitates private space missions:** This is not mentioned in the passage. The ISS is primarily a collaborative project between multiple government space agencies.
- (d) **It increases competition among space companies:** This is not mentioned in the passage. The ISS is a collaborative project rather than a platform for competitive endeavors.
- (e) **It explores the mysteries of the universe:** While the ISS contributes to scientific research and discoveries, the passage does not specifically mention its role in exploring the mysteries of the universe.

S41. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is “**It provides valuable data about celestial bodies.**”

This is supported by the passage, which states that robotic exploration, including autonomous rovers and probes, has been sent to various celestial bodies to expand our knowledge of the cosmos.

The incorrect options are:

- (a) **It enables colonization of other planets:** This is not mentioned in the passage. Robotic exploration plays a role in gathering information and preparing for potential future human missions, but it does not directly enable colonization.
- (b) **It promotes international cooperation in space:** While international cooperation is mentioned in the passage in the context of the International Space Station (ISS), it is not specifically attributed to robotic exploration.

(d) **It supports research on the effects of space travel:** This is not directly mentioned in the passage. The passage discusses the role of the International Space Station in studying the effects of long-duration space travel, but robotic exploration is not mentioned in relation to this research.

(e) **It develops lightweight and durable materials:** The development of lightweight and durable materials is mentioned in the passage, but it is not specifically attributed to robotic exploration. It is discussed more broadly as an advancement in materials science.

S42. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct synonym of the word "**captivated**" is "**fascinated**".

The word "captivated" in the passage means to be deeply interested or engrossed in something. It implies a sense of fascination.

"**fascinated**" means to be intensely interested, captivated, or enthralled by something. It suggests a strong sense of curiosity, intrigue, or wonder. The passage states that space exploration has long captivated the imagination of humanity, indicating that it has deeply fascinated and engrossed people. The incorrect options are:

"**Detached**" means to be emotionally disconnected or not involved, which is the opposite of being captivated.

"**Revolted**" means to feel disgust or strong disapproval, which is not synonymous with captivated.

"**Offended**" means to feel resentful or upset, which is not synonymous with captivated.

"**Repelled**" means to be pushed away or strongly discouraged, which is not synonymous with captivated.

S43. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct word to fit appropriately in the given blank is "**expanding**".

The phrase "**ambitious missions opening doors to scientific breakthroughs and expanding our presence beyond Earth**" suggests that these missions are helping to broaden or extend our presence in space. It indicates that through these ambitious missions, humanity is aiming to go beyond Earth and establish a greater presence in the cosmos.

The incorrect options are:

(a) **applauding:** This does not fit in the context as it implies showing approval or admiration, which does not relate to the idea of expanding our presence in space.

(b) **praising:** means to declare enthusiastic approval. This option does not align with the concept of expanding our presence beyond Earth.

(c) **inflating:** This does not accurately convey the intended meaning of the sentence. Inflating refers to expanding or enlarging something by filling it with air or gas, which is not applicable in the given context.

(e) **stroking:** This term does not fit logically in the sentence. "Stroking" typically means to gently move a hand or an object over a surface, and it does not convey the idea of expanding our presence beyond Earth.

S44. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct antonym of the word "**ambitious**" is "**amenable**".

The word "ambitious" means having a strong desire and determination to achieve something significant or challenging. The antonym, "amenable," means open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled.

The incorrect options are:

- (a) **dynamic:** This does not serve as an antonym for "ambitious." "Dynamic" refers to being energetic, active, or characterized by constant change, which does not directly oppose the concept of ambition.
- (b) **fierce:** This word conveys intensity, aggression, or a strong and competitive nature, which does not serve as an antonym for "ambitious."
- (c) **energetic:** This word indicates having high levels of energy or enthusiasm, which does not directly oppose the meaning of "ambitious."
- (d) **assertive:** While assertiveness can be associated with determination and goal-oriented behavior, it does not serve as a direct antonym for "ambitious," as it refers more to being confident and proactive in expressing one's views or needs.

S45. Ans.(e)

Sol. Based on the mid-lines of the first paragraph, option (e) is the correct answer. The passage states that one of the primary motivations behind business acquisition is to expand market share rapidly. By acquiring a competitor or a complementary business, companies can penetrate new markets, access a larger customer base, and leverage economies of scale. Additionally, acquisitions facilitate the acquisition of valuable intellectual property rights, patents, and proprietary technology, giving the acquiring company a competitive edge. Moreover, acquiring businesses offer a quick and efficient way to diversify products or services, enter new geographical locations, and gain access to new distribution channels.

Therefore, all of the motivations mentioned in options (a), (b), (c), and (d) are supported by the information provided in the passage.

S46. Ans.(b)

Sol. Among the given alternatives, the correct answer is (b). Refer to the fourth line of the second paragraph for more clarity. The passage states that "cultural integration and organizational alignment present significant challenges in post-acquisition integration." This is because differing corporate cultures, management styles, and employee attitudes can impact the success of the acquisition.

Answers (a), (c), and (d) are incorrect because they do not accurately reflect the challenges that can arise in post-acquisition integration.

S47. Ans.(e)

Sol. Among the given alternatives, the correct answer is **(e) Both (a) and (b)**. Refer to the fourth and fifth lines of the third paragraph. According to the reference provided, antitrust and competition laws aim to prevent anti-competitive practices and maintain a level playing field in the market. This means that these laws aim to ensure fair competition and prevent actions that could harm consumers or limit competition.

Option (c) is incorrect because while antitrust and competition laws do explore the potential impact of acquisitions, it is not the main purpose of these laws. The main goal is to prevent anti-competitive practices rather than solely focusing on exploring the impact.

Option (d) is incorrect because antitrust and competition laws aim to prevent a concentration of market power rather than promoting it. The goal is to maintain competition and prevent one company from dominating the market, which is the opposite of concentration of market power.

S48. Ans.(b)

Sol. Among the given alternatives, the correct answer is **(b) Only (II)**. Refer to the sixth and seventh lines of the third paragraph, "Regulatory bodies review acquisitions to assess their potential impact on competition. They examine factors such as market concentration, potential for abuse of market power and impact on consumer welfare."

The explanation provided in the reference does not explicitly mention the market control held by the government or choices and higher quality for businesses as specific factors considered in the assessment. Therefore, only statement (II) is directly supported by the reference, while statements (I) and (III) are not explicitly mentioned.

S49. Ans.(a)

Sol. Among the given alternatives, the correct answer is **option (a)**. Refer to the second line of the second paragraph, "One of the key considerations is conducting thorough due diligence to assess the financial health, legal compliance, and overall viability of the target company."

Based on the given reference, conducting thorough due diligence is important in the acquisition process because it helps assess the financial health, legal compliance, and overall viability of the target company. Therefore, the correct answer is option (a). The reference clearly states that conducting thorough due diligence is a key consideration in assessing the mentioned aspects of the target company. This aligns with option (a) as the correct answer. The other options either negate or provide unrelated statements to the importance of conducting due diligence.

S50. Ans.(e)

Sol. Based on the given options, none of them is an appropriate synonym for the word 'leverage' as highlighted in the passage. The word 'leverage' typically means using something to gain an advantage or influence. It does not carry the same meaning as 'intimidate', 'subjugate', 'oppress', or 'forsake'. Therefore, the correct answer is (e) None of these.

Here's an explanation of the meanings of the other words provided:

(a) **intimidate:** This word means to frighten or threaten someone in order to make them do something or to create fear or apprehension. It involves instilling fear or a sense of inferiority in others to gain control or power.

(b) **subjugate:** This word means to bring someone or something under complete control or domination, often through force or oppression. It involves subjecting someone or something to one's authority or making them subservient.

(c) **oppress:** This word means to subject someone to unjust or cruel treatment, often through the exercise of authority or power. It involves burdening or suppressing individuals or groups, often leading to their mistreatment or lack of freedom.

(d) **forsake:** This word means to abandon or renounce someone or something, usually in a deliberate or intentional manner. It involves giving up or deserting someone or something, often resulting in their neglect or abandonment.

S51. Ans.(d)

Sol. The word 'compliance' refers to the act of obeying rules, laws, or commands. It implies adherence and conformity to established authority or regulations. In contrast, 'subversion' refers to the act of undermining or working against established authority or systems.

Considering the antonymic relationship between 'compliance' and 'subversion', it is evident that they represent opposing actions. While compliance involves following and conforming to rules, subversion involves actively working against or undermining those rules or established authority.

Therefore, '**subversion**' is the most appropriate antonym of '**compliance**' in the given context.

Explanation of the other words:

(a) **abdicate**: This word means to renounce or give up a position of power or responsibility, often formally or officially. It involves stepping down or relinquishing authority.

(b) **meekness**: This word refers to being submissive, gentle, or easily imposed upon. It conveys a sense of mildness or docility, often associated with a lack of assertiveness.

(c) **forswear**: This word means to renounce or reject something, usually by making a formal declaration or promise. It involves consciously and explicitly giving up or disavowing something.

S52. Ans.(c)

Sol. The most suitable option for the given sentence is **(c) grapples with**, as it aligns with the context of actively dealing with the challenges mentioned.

Here's a brief explanation of the options and their meanings:

(a) **leaves off**: This phrasal verb means to stop doing something or to not include something in a particular context.

(b) **takes for**: This phrasal verb means to mistakenly believe or assume something.

(c) **grapples with**: This phrasal verb means to struggle or deal with something difficult or challenging. It is the most appropriate option as it conveys the idea of actively addressing and handling the challenges in the integration plan.

(d) **learns by**: This phrasal verb means to acquire knowledge or understanding through the process of learning from experience or observation.

(e) **pulls out**: This phrasal verb means to withdraw or remove oneself or something from a particular situation or context.

S53. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (a) is wrong as environmental problems are caused naturally too. In option (b) Human actually does not always have negative effect on nature, thus, option (b) stands to be wrong too. Option (d) is wrong as the example of biosphere reserves proves that humans can exist cordially with nature. Option (e) does not represent a relation between human activity and biodiversity.

S54. Ans.(d)

Sol. The justification for the validity of statements given by option (a) and (b) are given in the first paragraph. The statement given by option (c), however may be inferred from the passage but it's not true. And to invalidate it only one fact exists and is enough, extinctions occur naturally in a fully-functioning ecosystem too. Thus, option (d) is the correct answer.

S55. Ans.(c)

Sol. Biosphere reserves protect the ecosystem from ill-effects of construction and industry and any human development there does not disrupt the ecosystem in a negative manner.

The statement given by option (a) is not correct. Same is the case with option (d) and option (e). Option (e) be incorrect because the passage highlights that biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, implying that human activities are managed, not completely eliminated. For justification refer to the lines in the third paragraph that state that, "biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, and where there..." Human influence doesn't need to be damaging to environment. Human influence can be positive, as shown by the example of biosphere reserves. Absence of humans is not needed for ecological balance, and it is just the actions that are destructive to nature that need to be moderated. Option (b) is not an advantage of biosphere reserves, and this is eliminated. Thus option (c) is the correct answer.

S56. Ans.(a)

Sol. The statement by option (a) is incorrect as

can be referred to from the third paragraph which states "They represent pockets of hope and proof that we are not inexorably headed towards a doomsday ecological scenario, provided we take appropriate action." This states that biosphere reserves give us only a chance at undoing the present damage to the environment and is not sufficient without more action in other ways.

The above quoted text prove the truth of option (d) though. Thus, option (d) gives a correct statement. For validity of option (b) refer to the third paragraph -

"Biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, and where there is an effective combination of sustainable development and nature conservation"

Seeing several instances of the involvement of UNESCO in the establishment and propogating the growth of biosphere reserves in 1971, 1977, and 2000, in the very least, and it's importance in the introduction of the concept proves the validity of option (c). Justifications for the same can be found in the last three paragraphs.

The last lines of the fifth paragraph state "The network has gone from strength to strength, and it now counts 12 sites, with Panna, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, as the latest inscription in 2020." These lines prove the validity of option (e)

Thus, option (a) is the correct answer, as it gives the only incorrect statement.

S57. Ans.(d)

Sol. The last statement of the passage states that, "we need many more biosphere reserves and pockets of hope, and the region offers countless options." The latter part of the sentence corroborates the truth of option (a) and the former part, of option (b). The statement given by option (c) cannot be verified to be true and the author does not give any indications of expectation or opinions on the current course of development regarding establishment of more natural reserves (but only of how much has been achieved at the present time according to the narrative, with emphasis on the fact that the achievement is not mentioned to be a part of any plan, thus eliminating the basis for definitive implication of any future plans). The author merely mentions the need of the moment which stems from their concern regarding the importance of ecological balance. Thus, seeing as how option (c) cannot be a correct answer to the question, option (d) comes out be the answer, as both (a) and (b) have enough basis on truth according to the passage.

S58. Ans.(b)

Sol. Only the substitution from the option (b) and works to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. Thus, option (b) is the correct answer.

S59. Ans.(b)

Sol. inexorably - in a way that is impossible to stop or prevent
unavoidably - in a way that cannot be avoided, prevented, or ignore
atrocious - extremely brutally

S60. Ans.(d)

Sol. countless - too many to be counted; very many
limited - restricted in size, amount, or extent; few, small, or short
scrutinised - examined or inspected closely and thoroughly

S61. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct choice is option (c) which can be inferred from the first paragraph which mentions, "The basic idea of UHC is that no one should be deprived of quality health care for the lack of ability to pay."

S62. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct choice is option (b) which can be inferred from the second paragraph which mentions, "This idea was well expressed — in archaic words perhaps — by Aneurin Bevan, the fiery founder of the National Health Service (NHS) in Britain. "No society," he said, "can legitimately call itself civilised if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means."

S63. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer can be inferred from the third paragraph which mentions, "In concrete terms, UHC typically relies on one or both of two basic approaches: public service and social insurance. In the first approach, health care is provided as a free public service, just like the services of a fire brigade or public library."

S64. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer can be inferred from the third paragraph which mentions, "Social insurance is very different from a private insurance market. The simplest variant is one where insurance is compulsory and universal, financed mainly from general taxation, and run by a single non-profit agency in the public interest."

S65. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option (d) is incorrect as per the passage.

For (a), refer to last paragraph which mentions, "In concrete terms, UHC typically relies on one or both of two basic approaches: public service and social insurance."

For (b), refer to the first paragraph which mentions, "Meanwhile, UHC has become a well-accepted objective of public policy around the world. It has even been largely realised in many countries, not only the richer ones (minus the United States) but also a growing number of other countries such as Brazil, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand."

For (c), refer to the last paragraph which mentions,” In concrete terms, UHC typically relies on one or both of two basic approaches: public service and social insurance.....The second approach allows private as well as public provision of health care, but the costs are mostly borne by the social insurance fund(s), not the patient, so the result is similar: everyone has access to quality health care.”

For (d), refer to the first paragraph which mentions,” Some of them, such as Thailand, made a decisive move towards UHC at a time (20 years ago) when their per capita GDP was no higher than India’s per capita GDP today”

S66. Ans.(a)

Sol. ‘Recover’ is a synonym of ‘revive’

Revive means give new strength or energy to.

reinvigorate means give new energy or strength to.

reckless means heedless of danger or the consequences of one's actions; rash or impetuous.

hailed means hail falls.

convene means come or bring together for a meeting or activity; assemble.

S67. Ans.(d)

Sol. ‘Voluntary’ is an antonym of ‘compulsory’

Compulsory means involving or exercising compulsion; coercive.

enormous means very large in size, quantity, or extent.

attrition means wearing away by friction; abrasion.

attain means succeed in achieving (something that one has worked for).

voluntary means done, given, or acting of one's own free will.

resolute means admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

S68. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct choice is option (c) which can be inferred from the first paragraph which mentions,” The World Bank pared its 2022 growth projections for South Asian economies to 6.6%, from an estimate of 7.6%, emphasising that post-pandemic growth was already uneven and fragile before the Russia-Ukraine conflict triggered fresh challenges. The ripple effect of high oil and food prices that prevailed even before the war and were exacerbated, are key factors worrying the Bank as people’s real incomes take a hit.”

S69. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct choice is option (d) which can be inferred from the first paragraph which mentions,” The Bank’s chief economist has said that their overall assessment is that GDP growth could actually be 1.3 percentage points lower, or 7.4%, but they refrained from making an adjustment of that magnitude in their headline projection due to some positive surprises in recent data such as strong digital services exports..”

S70. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct choice is option (b) which can be inferred from the first paragraph which mentions,” The tepid post-COVID recovery in India’s household consumption will be further hemmed in by high inflation and the incomplete labour market revival.”

S71. Ans.(e)

Sol. For correct choice refer to the second paragraph which mentions, "Monetary and fiscal policy mandarins need to address inflation more aggressively, lest it derails the recovery which the Bank has warned could renew pressure on improving bank and corporate balance sheets."

S72. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct word for the given blank is 'resilient'.

loophole means an ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules.

rampant means flourishing or spreading unchecked.

decisive means settling an issue; producing a definite result.

resilient means able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

S73. Ans.(a)

Sol. Only 'flimsy' can replace 'fragile'

Fragile means easily destroyed or threatened.

flimsy means insubstantial and easily damaged.

anarchy means a state of disorder due to absence or non-recognition of authority or other controlling systems.

sinister means giving the impression that something harmful or evil is happening or will happen.

carnage means the killing of a large number of people.

S74. Ans.(e)

Sol. For the answer, refer to the second line of the first paragraph, which states, "With internal economic liberalisation, openness to international trade, and investment, an open free market economy has emerged."

S75. Ans.(b)

Sol. For answer, refer to the lines of first paragraph, "In our open economy, these pricing distortions have become a source of competitive disadvantage to domestic value addition and job creation. India's relative lack of success in manufacturing and employment generation is the outcome."

S76. Ans.(d)

Sol. For answer, refer to the lines of first paragraph, "Improving the ease of doing business continues to be a major priority. But even more important is the cost of doing business. For this, action is needed to reduce government policy-induced pricing distortions which add to the cost of doing business."

S77. Ans.(d)

Sol. For answer, refer to the lines of second paragraph, "The origin of government policy induced pricing distortions lies in the political need to find a way out for a cash-strapped government to raise resources. Or, to provide affordable goods and services to those in need through a cross subsidy within the sector without having to find money for direct subsidy payments."

S78. Ans.(b)

Sol. 'Moderate' can act as an antonym of 'excessive'

Excessive means more than is necessary, normal, or desirable; immoderate.

moderate means average in amount, intensity, quality, or degree

subtle means so delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyse or describe.

cognizant means having knowledge or awareness.

tremble means shake involuntarily, typically as a result of anxiety, excitement, or frailty.

S79. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'uphold' is a synonym of 'advocate'

Advocate means a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.

timid means showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened.

denigrate means criticize unfairly; disparage.

perpetuate means make (something) continue indefinitely.

S80. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (b): *Having breakfast alerts your system about getting into the flow of things and to get going about your day.*

The answer is stated in the first paragraph: *Among lots of other health benefits, eating a balanced breakfast can help sync up your biological clock by letting your body know that it's time to wake up and get going.*

Hence, option (b) is the correct choice for the answer.

S81. Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (a): *Foods with a lot of sugar content can keep you awake at night and prevent you from falling into deep sleep.*

This answer is present in the second paragraph where it is mentioned that "*eating lots of sugar and refined carbs such as white bread, white rice, and pasta during the day can trigger wakefulness at night and pull you out of the deep, restorative stages of sleep.*"

Hence, option (a) is the correct choice for the answer.

S82. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (d): *Developing a habit to journal after you wake up from your sleep.*

This statement can be found in the last line of the last paragraph saying "*Keeping a sleep diary may help you determine what is affecting your sleep.*"

None of the other options are to be found in the passage.

Hence, option (d) is the correct choice for the answer.

S83. Ans.(a)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (a): *Haphazard sleeping habits can become one of the factors in developing heart diseases.*

This answer is mentioned in the first paragraph where it is said "*Medical conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, develop over long periods of time and result from a number of factors, such as genetics, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise. Insufficient sleep has also been linked to these and other health problems, and is considered an important risk factor.*"

Hence, option (a) is the correct choice for the answer.

S84. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (b): *Only II.*

Out of all the options, only statement II is the correct one because it says in the second paragraph - "*Melatonin is a naturally occurring hormone controlled by light exposure that helps regulate your sleep-wake cycle.*"

Statement I is not correct because it is mentioned in the first paragraph that *"Although scientists have just begun to identify the connections between insufficient sleep and disease, most experts have concluded that getting enough high-quality sleep may be as important to health and well-being as nutrition and exercise."* This means that getting high quality sleep is as important as nutrition or exercise and not less important than them.

Statement III is incorrect as well because the last line of the first paragraph said *"Skipping breakfast on the other hand, can delay your blood sugar rhythms, lower your energy, and increase your stress, factors that may disrupt sleep."* This is the opposite of the given statement making it untrue.

Hence, option (b) is the correct choice for the answer.

S85. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (d): *Both I and II.*

Both the statements I and II are false and we can see that in the last paragraph where statement I is mentioned saying *"The more overstimulated your brain becomes during the day, the harder it can be to slow down and unwind at night."* This means that the brain being active in the morning can only result in a person being unable to sleep at night.

Statement II is false as well because the last paragraph also says *"How much sleep a person needs will vary"* making it clear that each person requires a different amount of sleep.

Statement III is true here because the first line of the last paragraph says *"Residual stress, worry, and anger from your day can make it very difficult to sleep well."*

Hence, option (d) is the correct choice for the answer.

S86. Ans.(c)

Sol. Among all the given options, the only word similar to manage in its meaning is option (c): *handle*. *Handle* means to manage or take care of something. This meaning is the same as *manage*, hence, making it the correct answer.

Attend means be present at (an event, meeting, or function).

Dictate means state or order authoritatively.

Lecture means to talk seriously or reprovably to (someone).

Profess means to claim that one has (a quality or feeling), especially when this is not the case.

S87. Ans.(a)

Sol. *'Dimming'* means to make or become less bright or distinct.

Hence, we can clearly see that only *'dimming the light'* will give the sentence contextual sense. Others options cannot do so since they do not fit in the blank.

S88. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (c): *Destruction of forests for selfish human purposes has led to a lot of displacement of animals and birds.*

The answer is present in the latter half of the second paragraph where it says *"Deforestation destroys the habitat of many animals, insects, and plants."*

Hence, option (c) is the correct choice for the answer.

S89. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (b): *Only I.*

The beginning few lines of the second paragraph can be read to confirm our answer. The mentioned lines are: *Healthy ecosystems provide us with many essentials we take for granted. Plants convert energy from the sun making it available to other life forms. Bacteria and other living organisms break down organic matter into nutrients providing plants with healthy soil to grow in. Pollinators are essential in plant reproduction, guaranteeing our food production. Plants and oceans act as major carbon sinks. In short, biodiversity provides us with clean air, fresh water, good quality soil and crop pollination.*

Statement II is incorrect because below the previous lines, it says “*Since living organisms interact in dynamic ecosystems, the disappearance of one species can have a far-reaching impact on the food chain.*”

Statement III is incorrect because the last paragraph states ways to help save our environment and mentions how recycling is extremely important.

Hence, option (b) is the correct choice for the answer.

S90. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (c): *Humans may find it hard to conquer the said task because almost all our actions, ranging from small to huge, have a fatal impact on the ecosystem.*

This answer is found in the second paragraph where it is mentioned “*Protecting biodiversity is a very complex task because most of humanity’s actions have a negative effect on ecosystems by weakening them.*”

Hence, option (c) is the correct choice for the answer.

S91. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (d): *The wide range of species and life forms on Earth and interact within our ecosystem.*

This definition can be found in the first paragraph itself where it is mentioned “*Biodiversity is traditionally defined as the variety of life on Earth in all its forms. It comprises the number of species, their genetic variation and the interaction of these life forms within complex ecosystems.*”

The rest of the definitions of biodiversity are incorrect.

Hence, option (d) is the correct choice for the answer.

S92. Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (c): *The passage is written to educate the readers about the worth of biodiversity as it is being swiftly destroyed due to human activities and how we can take steps to undo the harm.*

When one reads the passage, we are made aware of the terrible conditions of the biodiversity around us and how we are on the brink of losing it if we continue to ignore the environment and not be careful of our actions. Next, we read about how important biodiversity is for human survival and how we ourselves are responsible for the rapid destruction of it. The author then provides many ways to remedy it, on an individual level that we can partake in on a regular basis.

Hence, option (c) is the correct choice for the answer.

S93. Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (d): *obtain*.

Obtain means to gain or attain usually by planned action or effort. This meaning is similar to that of purchase. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Argue means give reasons or cite evidence in support of an idea, action, or theory, typically with the aim of persuading others to share one's view.

Complain means to express dissatisfaction or annoyance about something.

Guard means to watch over in order to protect or control.

Lighten means to make or become lighter in weight, pressure, or severity.

S94. Ans.(e)

Sol. The correct choice for the answer is option (e): *coin*.

This phrase 'other side of the coin' is used to mention a different aspect of a situation.

Rest of the options do not fit the phrase.

Hence, option (e) is the correct choice for the answer.

S95. Ans.(b)

Sol. Reading the first paragraph of the passage it can be deduced that the correct answer is option (b)

The relevant sentences of the mentioned sentences have been quoted below:

"Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent."

S96. Ans.(e)

Sol. Reading the second paragraph of the passage it can be deduced that the correct answer is option (e)

The relevant sentences of the mentioned sentences have been quoted below:

"Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets—saving fuel and pollution—and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water".

S97. Ans.(b)

Sol. Reading the passage it can be deduced that the correct answer is option (b).

Jocular means funny

Ironic means expressing two contrasting ideas

Apologetic means regretful

Belligerent means hostile

Hence sarcastic is the suitable tone of this passage.

S98. Ans.(c)

Sol. Reading the last paragraph of the passage it can be deduced that the correct answer is option (c)

The relevant sentences of the mentioned sentences have been quoted below:

"**Trash** is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world."

S99. Ans.(d)

Sol. Reading the second paragraph of the passage it can be deduced that the correct answer is option (d)

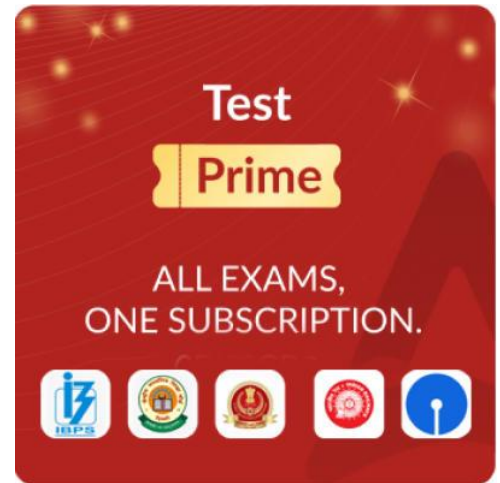
The relevant sentences of the mentioned sentences have been quoted below:

For option (a): "Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent."

For option (b): "Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old"

For option (c): "Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II"

For statement (d): "Most of the plastic trash in the oceans, Earth's last sink, flows from land."

**S100. Ans.(c)**

Sol. Among the given words, 'omnipresent' is the synonym of 'ubiquitous'. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

rare : hard to find, uncommon

scarce: insufficient

omnipresent: present everywhere

hilarious: very funny

ubiquitous: universal

S101. Ans.(b)

Sol. Among the given words, 'asset' is the antonym of 'trash'. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

Garbage: waste, worthless

Asset: meaningful, valuable

Junk: waste, crap

Debris: useless

Trash: worthless