

100 Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

Directions (1-8): Read the given passage to answer the questions.

The old belief that climatic stability accounts for the high level of species diversity in the Amazon River basin of South America emerged, strangely enough, from observations of the deep sea. Sanders discovered high diversity among the mud-dwelling animals of the deep ocean. He argued that such diversity could be attributed to the absence of significant fluctuations in climate and physical conditions, without which the extinction of species should be rare. In the course of time new species would continue to evolve, and so the rate of speciation would be greater than the rate of extinction, resulting in the accumulation of great diversity. Sanders argued that the Amazon tropical rain forest is analogous to the deep sea: because the rain forest has a stable climate, extinction should be rare. Evidence that some species of rain-forest trees have _____ for some 30 million years in the Amazon basin.

Recently however, several observations have cast doubt on the validity of the stability hypothesis and suggest that the climate of the Amazon basin has fluctuated significantly in the past. Haffer noted that different species of birds inhabit different corners of the basin in spite of the fact that essentially unbroken green forest spreads from the western edge to the eastern edge of the region. This pattern presented a puzzle to biologists studying the distributions of plants and animals: why would different species inhabit different parts of the forest if the habitat in which they lived had a stable climate? Haffer proposed a compelling explanation for the distribution of species. Observing that species found on high ground are different from those on low ground and knowing that in the Amazon lowlands are drier than uplands, he proposed that during the ice ages the Amazon lowlands became a near-desert arid plain; meanwhile, the more elevated regions became islands of moisture and hence served as refuges for the fauna and flora of the rain forest. Populations that were once continuous diverged and became permanently separated. The ice-age refuges would have protected existing species from extinction. But the periodic geographic isolation of related populations would have facilitated the development of new species as existing species on the lowlands adapted to changing climates. Although no conclusive proof has yet been found to support Haffer's hypothesis, it has led other researchers to **gaug**e the effects of climatic changes.

Q1. What was Sanders' argument regarding the high diversity of mud-dwelling animals in the deep ocean?

- (A). Mud-dwelling animals thrive in diverse conditions.
- (B). The absence of climate fluctuations leads to higher rate of speciation than extinction
- (C). The absence of climate fluctuations could potentially lead to mass extinction of species due to resource constraints.
- (D). Mud-dwelling animals are less resilient to changing physical conditions.
- (E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: Sanders argued that the high diversity of mud-dwelling animals in the deep ocean could be attributed to the absence of significant fluctuations in climate and physical conditions. According to him, if climate and physical conditions were stable, the extinction of species would be rare, allowing new species to evolve and resulting in the accumulation of great diversity. Thus, it would eventually lead to higher amount of variation(speciation) among species than extinction. Refer to the segment of first paragraph in response to the fact, "**He argued that such diversity could be attributed to the absence of significant fluctuations in climate and physical conditions, without which the extinction of species should be rare. In the course of time new species would continue to evolve, and so the rate of speciation would be greater than the rate of extinction,**"

Option (a) is wrong here as mud dwelling animals thrive or better to say evolve than extinct in stable condition.

Option (c) and (d) are exact opposite of the argument presented in the passage hence, wrong.

Q2. What explanation did Haffer give about the distribution of different species of birds in the Amazon elevated regions?

- (A). The stable climate of the Amazon basin led to the differentiation of bird species.
- (B). Different parts of the forest have different climates, resulting in the presence of distinct bird species.
- (C). The presence of moisture in the elevated regions of Amazon basin created diverse habitats for bird species.
- (D). The near-desert arid plain in the Amazon lowlands served as a refuge for bird species.
- (E). None of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: Haffer proposed that during the ice ages, the Amazon lowlands became a near-desert arid plain, while the more elevated regions became islands of moisture. These elevated regions served as refuges for the fauna and flora of the rainforest, leading to the differentiation of species. The periodic geographic isolation of related populations facilitated the

development of new species as they adapted to changing climates. Here, refer to the second paragraph of the passage to justify the fact, “ **Haffer proposed a compelling explanation for the distribution of species. Observing that species found on high ground are different from those on low ground and knowing that in the Amazon lowlands are drier than uplands, he proposed that during the ice ages the Amazon lowlands became a near-desert arid plain; meanwhile, the more elevated regions became islands of moisture and hence served as refuges for the fauna and flora of the rain forest.**”

Option (a) is eliminated when we refer to the first sentence of the second paragraph, “ **Recently however, several observations have cast doubt on the validity of the stability hypothesis and suggest that the climate of the Amazon basin has fluctuated significantly in the past.**”

Option (b) is wrong here because amazon rainforest has facilitated deviation within a single species due to change in moisture level. But, the option suggested different species hence eliminated.

Option (d) is wrong because it was not the lowlands that played as the refuge but the elevated land.

Q3. Which statement accurately reflects recent observations regarding the climate of the Amazon basin?

- (A). The stability hypothesis regarding the climate of the Amazon basin has been proven valid.
- (B). The Amazon basin has experienced significant climate fluctuations in the past.
- (C). The rainforest in the Amazon basin has remained unchanged for millions of years.
- (D). Different corners of the Amazon basin exhibit similar climatic conditions.
- (E). The Amazon lowlands have always been a near-desert arid plain.

Ans.(B)

Solution: Recent observations have cast doubt on the validity of the stability hypothesis and suggest that the climate of the Amazon basin has fluctuated significantly in the past. Haffer's proposal regarding the ice ages and the differentiation of species supports the idea that the climate of the Amazon basin has experienced fluctuations. The first few sentences of the second paragraph strengthen the answer, “ **Recently however, several observations have cast doubt on the validity of the stability hypothesis and suggest that the climate of the Amazon basin has fluctuated significantly in the past. Haffer noted that different species of birds inhabit different corners of the basin in spite of the fact that essentially unbroken green forest spreads from the western edge to the eastern edge of the region.**”

From the referred section we can eliminate option (a) and (c).

Option (d) is eliminated as the Amazon rainforest has significantly varied climate structure where lower part is near desert arid and upper part is fertile.

Option (e) is eliminated on referring to the segment of the same paragraph, “**he proposed that during the ice ages the Amazon lowlands became a near-desert arid plain; meanwhile, the more elevated regions became islands of moisture and hence served as refuges for the fauna and flora of the rain forest**”. Thus, it would be wrong to say that the lower land of the forest has always been arid.

Q4. What was the significance of the ice-age refuges proposed by Haffer?

- (A). They protected existing species from extinction.
- (B). They facilitated the development of new species.
- (C). They contributed to the stability hypothesis of the Amazon rainforest.
- (D). Only (a) and (b)
- (E). All of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: Haffer proposed that during the ice ages, the more elevated regions in the Amazon basin served as refuges for the fauna and flora of the rainforest. These refuges protected existing species from extinction, as populations that were once continuous became permanently separated, where lower land habitats adapted to the changes and facilitated development of new species.

Thus both (a) and (b) are correct.

We can easily eliminate option (c) by referring to the first statement of the second paragraph, “

Recently however, several observations have cast doubt on the validity of the stability hypothesis and suggest that the climate of the Amazon basin has fluctuated significantly in the past.”



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Q5. What effect did the periodic geographic isolation of related populations have on species development?

- (A). It led to the accumulation of great diversity.
- (B). It caused the extinction of existing species.
- (C). It resulted in stable climate conditions.
- (D). It prevented the evolution of new species.
- (E). It facilitated the migration of species to new habitats.

Ans.(A)

Solution: The periodic geographic isolation of related populations, as proposed by Haffer, facilitated the development of new species as existing species on the lowlands adapted to changing climates. This process led to the accumulation of great diversity over time. To corroborate the fact, refer to the segment of the second paragraph, “ **Observing that species found on high ground are different from those on low ground and knowing that in the Amazon lowlands are drier than uplands, he proposed that during the ice ages the Amazon lowlands became a near-desert arid plain; meanwhile, the more elevated regions became islands of moisture and hence served as refuges for the fauna and flora of the rain forest. Populations that were once continuous diverged and became permanently separated.**”

Option (b) is eliminated when we refer to the segment, “ **The ice-age refuges would have protected existing species from extinction**”

Option (c) is eliminated when we refer to the segment, “ **Recently however, several observations have cast doubt on the validity of the stability hypothesis and suggest that the climate of the Amazon basin has fluctuated significantly in the past.**”

Option (d) is wrong as according to Haffer geographic isolation is one of the key attributor of evolution of new species.

Option (e) is wrong as geographic isolation does not facilitate migration of species to new habitat but species started getting adapted to the new climatic condition by changing their existing characteristics. Refer second paragraph for better understanding, “ **But the periodic geographic isolation of related populations would have facilitated the development of new species as existing species on the lowlands adapted to changing climates**”

Q6. How do the observations made by Haffer and Sanders differ in their explanations of species diversity?

- (A). Sanders focuses on climate stability, while Haffer emphasizes geographical isolation.
- (B). Sanders and Haffer both emphasize the role of climate stability in species diversity.
- (C). Sanders and Haffer have conflicting explanations regarding the influence of human interference.
- (D). Sanders and Haffer agree that the Amazon basin's diversity is primarily influenced by geological features.
- (E). None of these

Ans.(A)

Solution: Although not explicitly stated in the passage, we can infer that Sanders focuses on the role of climate stability in explaining the high diversity of mud-dwelling animals in the deep ocean. Sanders argues that the absence of significant fluctuations in climate and physical conditions allows for a lower rate of species extinction, leading to continuous evolution and high diversity.

On the other hand, Haffer emphasizes geographical isolation as a factor contributing to species diversity in the Amazon basin. Haffer proposes that during the ice ages, the Amazon lowlands became arid plains, while elevated regions served as refuges for the rainforest's fauna and flora. This geographic isolation led to the differentiation and development of new species.

By considering the general concepts discussed in the passage, we can conclude that option (a) is a possible correct answer.

Sander and Haffer have difference in their argument and their proposed statement varied greatly from each other as we can see after proceeding through the passage. Hence option (b) and (d) cannot be true.

Option (c) talks about human interference but neither of them gave any significance of human interference in their arguments, so eliminated.

Q7. Which of the following words best fit into the blank given in the passage?

- (A). affected
- (B). fortified
- (C). persisted
- (D). perished
- (E). preached

Ans.(C)

Solution: (a) affected: Meaning: Influenced or impacted by something; experiencing a change or effect. Part of speech: Verb (past participle of "affect")

(b) fortified: Meaning: Strengthened or made stronger, often by adding additional protection or defense. Part of speech: Adjective (past participle of "fortify"), can also be used as a verb.

(c) persisted: Meaning: Continued to exist, endure, or pursue something despite difficulties, obstacles, or opposition. Part of speech: Verb (past tense of "persist")

(d) perished: Meaning: Died or was destroyed, often as a result of a tragic event or circumstance. Part of speech: Verb (past tense of "perish")

(e) preached: Meaning: Spoke or delivered a sermon or religious teachings; advocated or promoted a particular belief or ideology. Part of speech: Verb (past tense of "preach")

Q8. . Which of the given words is the synonym of 'gauge' as highlighted in the given passage?

(A). saturate

(B). transit

(C). camouflage

(D). estimate

(E). arbitrate

Ans.(D)

Solution: (a) saturate: Meaning: To soak, fill, or completely impregnate something with a substance until it cannot absorb any more. Part of speech: Verb

(b) transit: Meaning: The act or process of moving from one place to another; transportation. Part of speech: Noun or verb (depending on usage)

(c) camouflage: Meaning: The use of disguises, coloration, or other methods to blend in with the surroundings and avoid detection. Part of speech: Noun or verb (depending on usage)

(d) estimate: Meaning: An approximate calculation or judgment of the value, amount, or extent of something. Part of speech: Noun or verb (depending on usage)

(e) arbitrate: Meaning: To act as a neutral third party in resolving a dispute or conflict by making a decision or judgment. Part of speech: Verb

Directions (9-16): 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.

Q16. Choose an antonym for the word "dictate" as it is used in the passage.

- (A). relinquish
- (B). defunct
- (C). reminisced
- (D). withered
- (E). rational

Ans.(A)

Solution: 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.

Q9. 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.

Ans.(B)

Solution: 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.

Q10. 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.

Ans.(D)

Solution: 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.

Q11. 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.

Ans.(C)

Solution: 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.

Q12. 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.

Ans.(C)

Solution: 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.

Q13. 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

Ans.(A)

Solution: 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.

Q14. What is the tone of the passage?

- (A). critical
- (B). sentimental
- (C). analytical
- (D). idealistic
- (E). pessimistic

Ans.(C)

Solution: 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.

Q15. Choose a synonym for the word "justified" as it is used in the passage.

- (A). enlightened
- (B). deceived
- (C). mortified
- (D). discerned
- (E). condoned

Ans.(E)

Solution: 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.

Directions (17-24): Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

The sighting of a dolphin in the Bronx River, a waterway long associated with pollution and industrial waste, marks a significant environmental milestone. The Bronx River, located in New York City, has a history of being one of the most polluted rivers in the United States. For decades, it suffered from neglect, becoming a dumping ground for industrial waste and raw sewage. However, recent years have seen substantial efforts to restore the river's health, and the appearance of a dolphin serves as proof of these successful conservation efforts.

Scientists have made several statements about this extraordinary event. Marine biologist Dr. Linda Rogers commented, "The presence of a dolphin in the Bronx River indicates a significant improvement in water quality and habitat restoration. Dolphins are sensitive to pollution, and their presence suggests that the river's ecosystem is becoming more hospitable to marine life." Similarly, ecologist Dr. James Mitchell noted, "This sighting is a testament to the hard work and dedication of environmental groups and local communities who have been **preserving** the Bronx River for future generations."

The Bronx River has undergone a remarkable transformation due to various initiatives aimed at reducing pollution and improving water quality. Projects have included the installation of green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff, the creation of wetland areas to filter pollutants, and the enforcement of stricter regulations on industrial discharges. These efforts have led to a gradual return of wildlife, including fish, birds, and now, a dolphin.

Local residents and environmentalists alike are thrilled by the dolphin sighting. For many, it is a hopeful sign that the river is on a path to full recovery. The sight of the dolphin **frolicking** in the water has brought joy and a sense of accomplishment to those who have worked tirelessly to clean up the river. It is not just a symbol of environmental success but also a reminder of the importance of preserving natural habitats for future generations.

The author's feelings after seeing the dolphin can be inferred as a mixture of pride and optimism. The dolphin's presence in the Bronx River is seen as **proof** that concerted conservation efforts can lead to significant environmental improvements, fostering a renewed sense of hope for the future of the river and its ecosystem.

Q17. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word "proof" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). tenor
- (B). core
- (C). essence
- (D). guess
- (E). evidence

Ans.(E)

Solution: In the passage, the word "proof" is used to indicate that the sighting of a dolphin in the Bronx River serves as verification or confirmation of the river's improved environmental health. It is a term that refers to something that demonstrates or validates a fact or a claim.

Reviewing the options provided for the most appropriate synonym:

- (a) **Tenor** refers to the general meaning, sense, or content of something, which doesn't align with the idea of proof.
- (b) **Core** refers to the central, most important part of something, not necessarily proof.
- (c) **Essence** captures the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, which is not specifically about proof.
- (d) **Guess** involves an estimate or conjecture without sufficient information for certainty, clearly not a synonym for proof.
- (e) **Evidence** directly corresponds to proof as it refers to the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

The correct answer is: (e) **Evidence**

This option aligns perfectly as a synonym for "proof," as both terms are used to describe factual support for a claim or assertion.

Q18. How does the author feel after seeing the dolphin?

- (A). Passive
- (B). Stoic
- (C). Sanguine
- (D). Concerned
- (E). Skeptical

Ans.(C)

Solution: Based on the passage and the provided options, the most suitable word to describe the author's feelings after seeing the dolphin is:

(c) **Sanguine**

This choice perfectly captures the author's optimistic and hopeful reaction to the sighting of the dolphin, reflecting the significant environmental improvements in the Bronx River. "Sanguine" implies a cheerful optimism, which aligns with the author's pride and renewed sense of hope for the future of the river and its ecosystem as detailed in the passage.

Here's a brief explanation of why the other options are incorrect:

- (a) **Passive** - Suggests a lack of reaction or emotion, which contradicts the author's positive and active response to the environmental improvements indicated by the dolphin sighting.
- (b) **Stoic** - Implies indifference or a lack of visible emotion, which does not align with the author's described feelings of pride and optimism.
- (d) **Concerned** - Indicates worry or anxiety, which is the opposite of the hopeful and positive sentiments expressed by the author.
- (e) **Skeptical** - Means having doubts or reservations, also opposite to the optimism and positive reception detailed in the passage.

These options fail to capture the positive and hopeful tone conveyed by the author, making them unsuitable choices given the context.

Q19. What did Dr. Linda Rogers suggest about the presence of a dolphin in the Bronx River?

- (A). It signifies a rise in industrial activity and pollution levels near the river.
- (B). It signifies major enhancement in water quality and ecosystem rehabilitation.
- (C). It shows that dolphins have adapted to thrive in highly polluted environments.
- (D). It suggests a reduction in the variety of marine species within the river.
- (E). It highlights the inefficacy of local conservation and environmental protection efforts.

Ans.(B)

Solution: To answer what Dr. Linda Rogers suggested about the presence of a dolphin in the Bronx River, let's refer to the specific lines from the passage:

Marine biologist Dr. Linda Rogers commented, " **The presence of a dolphin in the Bronx River indicates a significant improvement in water quality and habitat restoration. Dolphins are sensitive to pollution, and their presence suggests that the river's ecosystem is becoming more hospitable to marine life.**"

Based on Dr. Rogers' comments, the most accurate interpretation of the dolphin's presence is:

(b) It signifies major enhancement in water quality and ecosystem rehabilitation.

This option directly reflects Dr. Rogers' statement about the improvement in water quality and the positive change in the river's habitat, aligning perfectly with her observation that the ecosystem has become more hospitable for marine life.

Q20. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word "preserving" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). arranging
- (B). concerting
- (C). dealing
- (D). conserving
- (E). conspiring

Ans.(D)

Solution: In the passage, the word "preserving" relates to the context of environmental or community efforts, particularly in the sense of maintaining and protecting something valuable, such as the Bronx River's ecosystem or its health.

Here's a breakdown of the options provided:

(a) Arranging - This term usually means organizing or putting in a proper order, which doesn't directly relate to protection or maintenance.

(b) Concerting - While "concerting" can mean planning or devising together, it doesn't inherently carry the sense of ongoing protection or maintenance.

(c) Dealing - This implies managing or handling situations or transactions, not specifically preserving or protecting.

(d) Conserving - This is directly synonymous with preserving, as it means protecting or safeguarding something, especially in an environmental or resource-based context.

(e) Conspiring - Generally refers to making secret plans jointly to commit an unlawful or harmful act, which is clearly unrelated.

Given these definitions, the most appropriate synonym for "preserving" as used in the passage is:

(d) Conserving

This choice accurately captures the essence of maintaining and protecting environmental health and integrity, aligning perfectly with the context of the passage.

Q21. What specific measure was taken to reduce pollutants in the Bronx River?

- (A). Constructing dams to regulate water flow and control flooding.
- (B). Dredging the riverbed to remove accumulated sediments.
- (C). Introducing new fish species to maintain the ecological balance.
- (D). Planting trees along the riverbanks to prevent soil erosion.
- (E). Establishing wetland zones to naturally purify and eliminate pollutants.

Ans.(E)

Solution: To determine the specific measures taken to reduce pollutants in the Bronx River, we should look for details in the passage about initiatives aimed at improving water quality:

" **The Bronx River has undergone a remarkable transformation due to various initiatives aimed at reducing pollution and improving water quality. Projects have included the installation of green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff, the creation of wetland areas to filter pollutants, and the enforcement of stricter regulations on industrial discharges.**"

Based on this description, the measure specifically mentioned in the passage that addresses reducing pollutants is:

(e) Establishing wetland zones to naturally purify and eliminate pollutants.

This option aligns directly with the passage's mention of creating wetland areas, which serve as a natural filtration system to remove pollutants from the water. This approach is an effective method for enhancing water quality and supporting the river's ecological health.

Q22. Identify the incorrect statements based on the passage:

- (I) The Bronx River, located in New York City, is celebrated for being one of the least contaminated rivers in the United States.
- (II) The view of the dolphin playing in the water has delivered happiness and a feeling of achievement to those who have dedicated themselves to cleaning the river.
- (III) The sighting of dolphins in the Bronx River by Dr. James has confirmed the presence of different breeds in the river.

- (A). Only (III)
- (B). Both (II) and (III)
- (C). Only (I)
- (D). Both (I) and (III)
- (E). All of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: To identify the incorrect statements based on the passage, let's analyze each statement:

(I)The Bronx River, located in New York City, is celebrated for being one of the least contaminated rivers in the United States.

This statement is incorrect. The passage states that the Bronx River has a history of being one of the most polluted rivers in the United States.

(II)The view of the dolphin playing in the water has delivered happiness and a feeling of achievement to those who have dedicated themselves to cleaning the river.

This statement is correct. The passage mentions that the sight of the dolphin frolicking in the water has brought joy and a sense of accomplishment to those who have worked to clean up the river.

(III) The sighting of dolphins in the Bronx River by Dr. James has confirmed the presence of different breeds in the river.

This statement is incorrect. The passage does not mention Dr. James confirming the presence of different breeds. It mentions Dr. James Mitchell noting the dolphin sighting as a testament to environmental efforts.

Therefore, the incorrect statements are (I) and (III).

Q23. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word "frolicking" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). dancing
- (B). mopping
- (C). relieving
- (D). stewing
- (E). taunting

Ans.(D)

Solution: In the context of the passage, "frolicking" refers to playful, carefree movement, particularly how the dolphin was seen enjoying itself in the water. To find the most appropriate antonym, we need a word that implies the opposite — a state of being that is static, serious, or burdensome.

Reviewing the options:

- (a) **Dancing** — This still implies a form of joyful or rhythmic movement, similar to frolicking.
- (b) **Mopping** — Involves cleaning, which is more task-oriented but doesn't inherently suggest a stark contrast to playful activity.
- (c) **Relieving** — Typically means easing or removing stress or pain, which is not directly opposite in nature to frolicking.
- (d) **Stewing** — Generally means to worry, fret, or simmer slowly in anger or anxiety, which can be considered a direct contrast to the lightheartedness of frolicking.
- (e) **Taunting** — Involves provoking or mocking, which, while negative, doesn't necessarily convey the opposite of playful movement.

Given these meanings, the best antonym that contrasts the lightness and joy of frolicking would be:

(d) **Stewing**

This option suggests being in a state of worry or simmering anger, which effectively captures a mood and state diametrically opposed to the carefree, joyful activity denoted by "frolicking."

Q24. According to the passage, what inference can be made about the event of dolphin sighting?

- (A). Researchers and ecologists have started studying the improved conditions for marine life in the Bronx River.
- (B). The Bronx River has shown significant environmental recovery, making it more hospitable for marine life.



★Topper's Choice

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- (C). The Bronx River has become a major tourist attraction due to the dolphin sighting.
(D). New regulations have been implemented to control industrial waste dumping into the Bronx River.
(E). The Bronx River's pollution levels have driven away all forms of wildlife.

Ans.(B)

Solution: Passage Summary:

The Bronx River, historically polluted, has undergone significant restoration. The dolphin sighting is seen as proof of improved water quality and successful conservation efforts. The sighting indicates a healthier ecosystem, making the river more hospitable for marine life.

Analysis:

(a) Researchers have started studying the improved conditions for marine life in the Bronx River.

This option suggests that researchers are now focusing on the improved conditions for marine life due to the dolphin sighting. While this could be true, the passage does not explicitly mention researchers starting new studies as a direct result of the sighting. It mainly discusses the dolphin sighting as evidence of improved water quality and habitat restoration.

Conclusion: This option is not the best inference based on the passage.

(b) The Bronx River has shown significant environmental recovery, making it more hospitable for marine life.

This option accurately reflects the main point of the passage. The sighting of the dolphin is seen as evidence of significant environmental recovery in the Bronx River, indicating that the river is now more hospitable for marine life due to successful conservation efforts.

Conclusion: This option is correct based on the passage.

(c) The Bronx River has become a major tourist attraction due to the dolphin sighting.

This option suggests that the dolphin sighting has turned the Bronx River into a tourist attraction. The passage does not mention any increase in tourism or the river becoming a major attraction due to the sighting. The focus is on the environmental milestone and the successful restoration efforts.

Conclusion: This option is incorrect based on the passage.

(d) New regulations have been implemented to control industrial waste dumping into the Bronx River.

This option suggests that new regulations have been introduced to manage industrial waste. While the passage does mention stricter regulations as part of the restoration efforts, it does not directly link new regulations to the dolphin sighting event.

Conclusion: This option is not the best inference based on the passage.

(e) The Bronx River's pollution levels have driven away all forms of wildlife.

This option contradicts the passage. The passage states that the dolphin sighting and the return of other wildlife (fish, birds) are signs of improved environmental conditions, not that pollution levels have driven away wildlife.

Conclusion: This option is incorrect based on the passage.

Correct Answer:

(b) The Bronx River has shown significant environmental recovery, making it more hospitable for marine life.

Directions (25-32): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some parts have been highlighted to aid in answering the questions.

The evolution of automotive engines from gas-guzzling machines to zero-emission vehicles represents a pivotal shift in the quest for sustainability and efficiency in transportation. This transformative journey began in the late 19th century with the invention of the internal combustion engine (ICE). These early engines, powered by gasoline, were notorious for their inefficiency and environmental pollution, converting only a small fraction of the fuel's energy into mechanical power while emitting a significant amount of greenhouse gases.

As the 20th century progressed, the environmental impact of these gas guzzlers became increasingly untenable, especially with the rapid urbanization and growth in vehicle ownership. This **prompted** the automotive industry to seek improvements in engine technology. Innovations such as fuel injection systems, more efficient carburetors, and the introduction of catalytic converters helped increase fuel efficiency and reduce emissions. However, despite these advances, the fundamental limitations of ICEs, including their reliance on fossil fuels and contribution to air pollution, remained a pressing issue.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries marked a turning point with the advent of electric vehicles (EVs). Unlike their ICE counterparts, EVs run on electric motors powered by batteries, offering a zero-emission alternative to conventional vehicles. The development of lithium-ion batteries with higher energy densities and lower costs revolutionized the EV market, making electric cars more accessible and practical for everyday use.

Today, the automotive industry is increasingly focused on zero-emission technologies, with major manufacturers committing to electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. This shift is driven by both environmental considerations and advancements in technology, including improvements in battery storage, charging infrastructure, and vehicle design. The evolution from gas guzzlers to zero-emission engines is not just a testament to technological progress but also reflects a growing awareness of the need for sustainable transportation solutions. As we move towards a future dominated by electric vehicles, the legacy of the internal combustion engine as a **pioneering** yet environmentally damaging technology is giving way to a new era of clean, efficient, and sustainable mobility.

Q32. What is the tone of the passage on the evolution of automotive engines?

- (A). Pessimistic
- (B). Critical
- (C). Optimistic
- (D). Neutral
- (E). Satirical

Ans.(C)

Solution: The tone of the passage on the evolution of automotive engines is **(c) Optimistic**. This can be inferred from the passage's focus on the progress and advancements made in the automotive industry towards sustainability and efficiency. The passage highlights the transition from internal combustion engines, which are inefficient and polluting, to zero-emission electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. It speaks of "**technological progress**" and a "**growing awareness of the need for sustainable transportation solutions**," indicating a positive outlook on the advancements and the future of transportation. The overall tone reflects hope and a positive perspective on the changes and developments in the automotive sector.

Q25. Which factor significantly influenced the automotive industry's shift to electric vehicles (EVs)?

- (A). Minor adjustments to ICEs significantly reduced environmental concerns, prompting a shift.
- (B). A decline in consumer interest in gasoline cars spurred the development of EVs.
- (C). Breakthroughs in lithium-ion batteries made EVs more practical and affordable.
- (D). A fossil fuel shortage prompted an immediate industry shift to electric vehicles.
- (E). Consumer preferences for EV designs over ICEs drove the industry's transition.

Ans.(C)

Solution: The factor that significantly influenced the automotive industry's shift to electric vehicles (EVs) is highlighted by the passage where it mentions, "**The development of lithium-ion batteries with higher energy densities and lower costs revolutionized the EV market, making electric cars more accessible and practical for everyday use.**" This statement directly supports the notion that breakthroughs in lithium-ion battery technology made electric vehicles more practical and affordable for consumers, thus driving the shift towards electric vehicles.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(c) Breakthroughs in lithium-ion batteries made EVs more practical and affordable.

Q26. Determine the accuracy of the following statements based on the information provided in the passage.

- (I) Early internal combustion engines were efficient in converting fuel's energy into mechanical power.
 - (II) Technological innovations in the 20th century fully addressed the fundamental limitations of internal combustion engines (ICEs).
 - (III) The shift towards electric vehicles (EVs) is largely driven by advancements in battery technology and environmental considerations.
- (A). False, False, True
 - (B). True, True, False
 - (C). True, False, True
 - (D). False, True, False
 - (E). False, True, True

Ans.(A)

Solution: Based on the passage, we can assess the accuracy of each statement as follows:

(I) The passage states, " **These early engines, powered by gasoline, were notorious for their inefficiency and environmental pollution, converting only a small fraction of the fuel's energy into mechanical power,**" indicating that early internal combustion engines were **not** efficient in converting fuel's energy into mechanical power. Therefore, statement I is **False**.

(II) While the passage mentions, " **Innovations such as fuel injection systems, more efficient carburetors, and the introduction of catalytic converters helped increase fuel efficiency and reduce emissions,**" it also states, " **However, despite these advances, the fundamental limitations of ICEs, including their reliance on fossil fuels and contribution to air pollution, remained a pressing issue.**" This shows that technological innovations did not fully address the fundamental limitations of ICEs. Therefore, statement II is **False**.

(III) Regarding the shift towards electric vehicles, the passage mentions, " **The late 20th and early 21st centuries marked a turning point with the advent of electric vehicles (EVs)... The development of lithium-ion batteries with higher energy densities and lower costs revolutionized the EV market, making electric cars more accessible and practical for everyday use.**" Additionally, it is noted, " **This shift is driven by both environmental considerations and advancements in technology, including improvements in battery storage, charging infrastructure, and vehicle design.**" This supports that the shift towards EVs is indeed largely driven by advancements in battery technology and environmental considerations, making statement III **True**.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(a) False, False, True

Q27. What aspect of the internal combustion engine's impact was deemed increasingly untenable with urbanization and growth in vehicle ownership?

- (A). The engines' notable role in contributing to the degradation of visual aesthetics in urban settings.
- (B). Their generation of noise pollution, intensifying urban stress levels and adverse health outcomes.
- (C). The inefficiency in their fuel consumption, resulting in escalated operational expenses for vehicle owners.
- (D). Their considerable emissions of greenhouse gases, significantly adding to environmental pollution.
- (E). The challenge of accommodating an increasing number of vehicles, leading to a parking space shortage.

Ans.(D)

Solution: The passage highlights that the internal combustion engine's impact deemed increasingly untenable with urbanization and growth in vehicle ownership was " **Their considerable emissions of greenhouse gases, significantly adding to environmental pollution.**" This is supported by the line:

" **As the 20th century progressed, the environmental impact of these gas guzzlers became increasingly untenable, especially with the rapid urbanization and growth in vehicle ownership.**"

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(d) Their considerable emissions of greenhouse gases, significantly adding to environmental pollution.

Q28. Indicate whether the following statements are True or False based on the passage.

- (I) Major automotive manufacturers have only recently begun to consider electric vehicles as a viable product offering.
 - (II) The transition to electric vehicles is solely motivated by technological advancements, with environmental considerations playing no role.
 - (III) The movement towards zero-emission technologies is part of a broader shift towards sustainable transportation solutions.
- (A). True, True, False
 - (B). True, False, True
 - (C). False, True, False
 - (D). False, False, True
 - (E). False, False, False

Ans.(D)

Solution: Based on the passage:

(I) False. The passage indicates that major automotive manufacturers are increasingly focused on zero-emission technologies, including electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. This shift is driven by environmental considerations and advancements in technology, suggesting that electric vehicles have been considered a viable product offering for some time now, rather than only recently.

(II) False. The transition to electric vehicles is motivated by both technological advancements and environmental considerations. The passage explicitly states that this shift is " **driven by both environmental considerations and advancements in technology,**" highlighting that environmental considerations play a significant role alongside technological advancements.

(III) True. The passage concludes by mentioning that " **the evolution from gas guzzlers to zero-emission engines is not just a testament to technological progress but also reflects a growing awareness of the need for sustainable transportation solutions.**" This statement clearly indicates that the movement towards zero-emission technologies is part of a broader shift towards sustainable transportation solutions.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(d) False, False, True.**

Q29. What marks the beginning of the transformative journey towards sustainability and efficiency in transportation according to the passage?

- (A). The development of electric vehicles in the early 20th century as a response to environmental concerns.
- (B). The invention of the internal combustion engine in the late 19th century, starting the evolution of automotive engines.
- (C). The introduction of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in the mid-20th century to address the inefficiency of traditional engines.
- (D). The creation of lithium-ion batteries in the late 20th century, making electric vehicles more accessible.
- (E). The shift towards solar-powered vehicles in the early 21st century as a means to combat global warming.

Ans.(B)

Solution: According to the passage, the beginning of the transformative journey towards sustainability and efficiency in transportation is marked by **(b) The invention of the internal combustion engine in the late 19th century,** starting the evolution of automotive engines. The passage specifically states, " **This transformative journey began in the late 19th century with the invention of the internal combustion engine (ICE).**" This invention set the stage for the evolution of automotive engines from gas-guzzling machines to zero-emission vehicles, leading to the developments and shifts in technology and environmental considerations that followed.

Q30. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word "prompted" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). pushed
- (B). exhorted
- (C). adjured
- (D). incited
- (E). quashed

Ans.(E)

Solution: The word "prompted" in the passage is used in the context of causing or encouraging an action, specifically referring to the automotive industry seeking improvements in engine technology due to the environmental impact of internal combustion engines. The most appropriate antonym for "prompted" in this context would be **(e) quashed,** which means to suppress or put an end to something. Unlike the other options, which all imply a form of encouragement or instigation similar to "prompted," "quashed" conveys the opposite action of stopping or suppressing an initiative or movement.

- (a) **pushed** - To exert force on someone or something in order to move them away from oneself, or to promote or advocate for something vigorously.
- (b) **exhorted** - To strongly encourage or urge someone to do something.
- (c) **adjured** - To urge or request someone solemnly or earnestly to do something.
- (d) **incited** - To encourage or stir up violent or unlawful behavior, or to urge or persuade someone to act in a way that could provoke or cause trouble.

Q31. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word "pioneering" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). orthodox
- (B). customary
- (C). revolutionary
- (D). established
- (E). traditional

Ans.(C)

Solution: The most appropriate synonym for "pioneering" as highlighted in the passage, which describes something that introduces new methods, ideas, or products, is:

(c) **revolutionary** - This word perfectly captures the essence of "pioneering," as it refers to involving or causing a complete or dramatic change, which aligns with the innovative and trailblazing connotations of "pioneering."

(a) **orthodox** - Adhering to what is traditionally accepted or established, especially in religion, but also in other contexts. It suggests conventional or standard beliefs and practices.

(b) **customary** - According to the customs or usual practices associated with a particular society, place, or set of circumstances. It implies something that is done out of habit or tradition.

(d) **established** - Recognized, accepted, and respected, often over a long period of time. It refers to something or someone that has been in existence for a long time and is therefore well-known and accepted.

(e) **traditional** - Following or belonging to the ways of behaving or beliefs that have been established for a long time. It emphasizes adherence to the old and tried, rather than new methods or innovations.

Directions (33-39): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Riverside County, already facing a growing wildfire, was placed under multiple extreme weather advisories on Friday as a tropical storm **threatened** to bring high winds, lightning, flooding and mudslides to the area in Southern California. By Thursday evening, the Fairview fire had burned more than 27,000 acres of Riverside County, killing two people. Only 5 percent of the blaze has been contained. The state firefighting agency, Cal Fire, had deployed 2,153 firefighters, and more than 18,500 people had been ordered to evacuate. Emergency officials were also on alert for a looming storm. The National Weather Service placed the county under an excessive heat warning, a flood watch and a high wind warning as Tropical Storm Kay, previously categorized as a hurricane, approached the coast of Baja California in Mexico early Friday.

The overlapping advisories might set off a chain reaction that makes the response to each event more difficult, according to local officials. While they expected the rain to suppress some fires, they were prepared for the storm to bring lightning, which could start new blazes. Strong winds — up to 75 miles an hour in the mountains and desert — could speed the fire's spread, too. Firefighters also braced for flash floods and mudslides. The National Weather Service forecast up to seven inches of rain in areas of Riverside County. The blaze, emergency officials said, has made the earth more susceptible to erosion from rain. Hundreds of officers in the Riverside County Sheriff's Department were going door to door on Thursday night to enforce the evacuation order, which covered about 18,500 residents around Hemet, a city of 85,000. About 10 percent of the people they had reached complied with the order, the department said. "We could go from a fire _____ event into significant rain, water rescues, mudslides, debris," Deputy Chief Jeff Veik of Cal Fire's Riverside unit said in a news conference on Thursday. "We have challenging days ahead." The combination of wildfires and flooding has happened before in California. In 2018, at least 21 people were killed by the **sudden** flooding and mudslides that followed the Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara County. In 2019, waves of heavy rain in Marin County triggered mudslides in communities that had been scorched by wildfires the previous year, uprooting trees, washing out roads and sending homes sliding down hills.

Q33. Which of the following statements regarding the disasters Riverside County South California can be considered to be true?

- (A). Forest fires in the area have spread across several thousand acres and even claimed human lives.
- (B). Tropical storms are expected to further worsen the damage brought about by wildfires.
- (C). Drought has caused the extinction of various living creatures crucial for the ecological balance in the region.
- (D). Both (a) and (b)
- (E). All of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: To validate the answer, refer to the first paragraph which mentions, "Riverside County, already facing a growing wildfire, was placed under multiple extreme weather advisories on Friday as a tropical storm threatened to bring high winds, lightning, flooding and mudslides to the area in Southern California. By Thursday evening, the Fairview fire had burned more than 27,000 acres of Riverside County, killing two people."

Q34. Which of the following is/are a part of the disaster response by the authorities?

- (A). Countrywide warnings against possible flooding, heat and strong winds have been issued.
- (B). Firefighters stand vigilant against any increases or new eruptions of wildfires brought about the storm.
- (C). Residents of areas lying on the storm's course were asked to evacuate for safety.
- (D). Both (a) and (b)
- (E). All of these

Ans.(E)

Solution: To validate the answer, refer to the first paragraph which mentions, “The state firefighting agency, Cal Fire, had deployed 2,153 firefighters, and more than 18,500 people had been ordered to evacuate. Emergency officials were also on alert for a looming storm. The National Weather Service placed the county under an excessive heat warning, a flood watch and a high wind warning as Tropical Storm Kay, previously categorized as a hurricane, approached the coast of Baja California in Mexico early Friday.”

Q35. Which of these is one of the challenges the officials are facing?

- (A). It has been difficult to get the citizens in affected areas to relocate.
- (B). A multitude of instructions could adversely affect disaster relief measures.
- (C). Many regions are facing a shortage of proper disaster relief equipment.
- (D). Harsh terrain makes timely relief to the affected areas more difficult.
- (E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: To validate the answer, refer to the second paragraph which mentions, “‘The overlapping advisories might set off a chain reaction that makes the response to each event more difficult,’ according to local officials.”

Q36. Which of the following words can fit grammatically and contextually into the blank given in the passage?

- (A). compassion
- (B). rejuvenation
- (C). suppression
- (D). opulent
- (E). None of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: The correct word for the given blank is ‘suppression’ compassion means sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. rejuvenation means the action or process of giving new energy or vigour to something. suppression means the action of suppressing something such as an activity or publication. opulent means wealthy.

Q37. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect against the information given in the passage?

- (i) California has a history of disasters and wildfires plaguing the region. (ii) Soil erosion is another threat the residents of California could face. (iii) Riverside County Sheriff’s Department claims that only seven percent of the people in the region have vacated.
- (A). Only (iii)
 - (B). Only (ii)
 - (C). Both (i) and (iii)
 - (D). Both (ii) and (iii)
 - (E). None of these

Ans.(A)

Solution: Only option (iii) is incorrect as per the information given in the passage. For option (i), refer to the third paragraph which mentions, “The combination of wildfires and flooding has happened before in California.” For option (ii), refer to the second paragraph which mentions, “The blaze, emergency officials said, has made the earth more susceptible to erosion from rain” For option (iii), refer to the second paragraph which mentions, “Hundreds of officers in the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department were going door to door on Thursday night to enforce the evacuation order, which covered about 18,500 residents around Hemet, a city of 85,000. About 10 percent of the people they had reached complied with the order, the department said.”

Q38. Which of the following words is a synonym of ‘threatened’ given in the passage?

- (A). menaced
- (B). supervene
- (C). oppressed
- (D). plunder
- (E). None of these

Ans.(A)

Solution: 'Menaced' is a synonym of 'threatened' Menaced means be a threat or possible danger to. supervene means occur as an interruption or change to an existing situation. oppressed means subject to harsh and authoritarian treatment. plunder means steal goods from (a place or person), typically using force and in a time of war or civil disorder.

Q39. Which of the following words is an antonym of 'sudden' given in the passage?

- (A). noxious
- (B). fervent
- (C). gradual
- (D). flout
- (E). None of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: 'Gradual' is an antonym of 'sudden' noxious means harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant. fervent means having or displaying a passionate intensity. gradual means taking place or progressing slowly or by degrees. flout means openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention).

Directions (40-46): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some words have been highlighted to help you locate them while answering the questions.

Plastics are integral part of society and have varied application. Plastics are composed of a network of molecular monomers bound together to form macromolecules. There are increasing concerns due to non degradability and generation of toxic gases on combustion during **incineration**. Due to fabrication of desired shape, color and specification convenient to customers there is increasing application in packaging, agriculture, automobiles and biomedical. They are indispensable to the modern generation due to development in information technology, intelligent and smart packaging system. Efforts are in progress for development of efficient and precise conversion of renewable raw materials into innovative polymeric product through recent technologies which are superior in terms of performance, environmental and cost perspectives. In rivers and at coastal regions the marine pollution is increasing at a faster rate due to indiscriminate disposal by the consumers. R&D studies are now centered for investigating whether consumption of plastic debris by marine organism transmits into toxic exposures for people who consume seafood with particular relevance to plasticizers, stabilizers, heavy metals viz. phthalates, BPA, lead cadmium, methyl mercury. Biological effects from pollution are linked with resulting economic effects and losses. A cornerstone of sustainable development is the establishment of affordable, effective and truly sustainable waste management practices in developing countries.

Government notifies Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021. Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns will be banned, the government said. Come July next year, the manufacture of a range of plastic products will be banned. These include earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic flags, ice-cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plates, cups, cutlery such as forks, spoons and knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes. The Environment Ministry on Friday notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibit specific single-use plastic items which have "low utility and high littering potential" by 2022. Plastic packaging waste is not yet covered under the phase-out of single-use plastic items. The Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha in July its proposal to phase out some categories of single-use plastic by 2022.

They had been "requested" for setting up of a special task force for elimination of single-use plastic and effective implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. A national-level task force had also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single-use plastic items and effective implementation of the waste management rules, 2016.

Among all solid waste, 1–4% of waste is coming from plastic waste, out of which most plastic generates from household use, industrial product, food packaging and water bottles. Inappropriate dumping of such waste collected outside the villages and cities which creates unhealthy and **chaotic** conditions which not only affect the health of the people staying around it but also create landfill problems results in major environmental _____ contributing to pollution of ground water. To minimize the consumption of plastic, efforts have to be taken considering the use of renewable raw material to innovative products through recent development in technology. Also, daily use of plastic should be avoided. A sustainable solution is to recycle the plastic waste towards reducing environmental losses.



Q40. What measures are to be taken to minimize the plastic waste in order to protect the environment?

- (i) appropriate dumping of plastic waste should be avoided.
- (ii) renewable raw material should be used to make plastic products.
- (iii) single use plastic products should be avoided.
- (iv) maximum plastic waste should be recycled.

- (A). both option (i) and (ii)
- (B). only option (iii)
- (C). both option (ii) and (iii)
- (D). only option (ii),(iii) and (iv)
- (E). all of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: Correct answer for the given question can be inferred from the statement 'Efforts are in progress for development of efficient and precise conversion of renewable raw materials into innovative polymeric product through recent technologies which are superior in terms of performance, environmental and cost perspectives. They had been "requested" for setting up of a special task force for elimination of single-use plastic and effective implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, A sustainable solution is to recycle the plastic waste towards reducing environmental losses.' statement(ii) , (iii)and (iv) are correct . Hence, the correct answer choice is option (d).

Q41. Why are the plastic products indispensable to the modern generation?

- (A). plastic is non degradable and it produces toxic smoke on combustion.
- (B). plastic products can take shape, color and specifications which are convenient to customers.
- (C). plastic has various applications in packaging, automobile and biomedical.
- (D). plastic products are very cheap.
- (E). only option (b) and (c)

Ans.(E)

Solution: Correct answer for the given question can be inferred from the statement 'Due to fabrication of desired shape, color and specification convenient to customers there is increasing application in packaging, agriculture, automobiles and biomedical. They are indispensable to the modern generation due to development in information technology, intelligent and smart packaging system.' Statements (b) and (c) are correct . Hence, the correct answer choice is option (e).

Q42. What is the function of plastic waste management amendment rules, 2021 notified by the environment ministry?

- (A). renewable raw materials will be used for innovative polymeric product through recent technologies which are superior in terms of performance, environmental and cost perspectives.
- (B). this rule will ban Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns.
- (C). both option (b) and (d).
- (D).

(d) this rule will prohibit single-use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.

- (E). none of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: Correct answer for the given question can be inferred from the statement 'Government notifies Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021. Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns will be banned, the government said. The Environment Ministry on Friday notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibit specific single-use plastic items which have "low utility and high littering potential" by 2022.' statement(b) and (d) are correct. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (c).

Q43. Which of the following statement is/are false in context of the given passage?

- (A). In rivers and at coastal regions the marine pollution is increasing at a faster rate due to inappropriate disposal of plastic waste by the consumers.
- (B). A national-level task force has been constituted by the Ministry for effective implementation of the waste management rules.
- (C). 4-5% of total plastic waste is coming from industrial sector which pollutes our rivers.
- (D). environmental issues can be reduced by recycling the plastic waste.
- (E). none of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: Correct answer for the given question can be inferred from the statement 'Among all solid waste, 1–4% of waste is coming from plastic waste, out of which most plastic generates from household use, industrial product, food packaging and water bottles.' All other options are correct. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (c).

Q44. Which of the following is similar in meaning to 'incineration' as used in the passage?

- (A). extinguish
- (B). blaze
- (C). pivotal
- (D). malady
- (E). none of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: Incineration- the destruction of something, especially waste material, by burning.

Blaze-a large and often dangerous fire

Extinguish- to cause something to stop burning

Pivotal-role, point or figure in something is one that is very important and affects the success of that thing

Malady- a serious problem

Q45. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to 'chaotic' as used in the passage?

- (A). tumultuous
- (B). anarchic
- (C). deranged
- (D). calm
- (E). none of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: Chaotic- in a state of chaos, completely confused or disordered.

Calm- not excited, worried or angry; quiet

Tumultuous- very noisy, because people are excited

Anarchic- without rules or laws

Deranged- thinking and behaving in a way that is not normal, especially because of mental illness

Q46. Select appropriate filler for the blank given in the passage.

- (A). implications
- (B). abhorrent
- (C). horrid
- (D). obnoxious
- (E). atrocity

Ans.(A)

Solution: Implications-the effect that something will have on something else in the future

Abhorrent-that makes you feel hate or disgust

Horrid-very unpleasant or unkind

Obnoxious-extremely unpleasant, especially in a way that offends people

Atrocity-very cruel treatment of somebody/something

Directions (47-52): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some parts have been highlighted to aid in answering the questions.

The Jim Corbett National Park, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, is not only a testament to India's rich biodiversity but also a **hotbed** for debates on tourism and conservation. Recently, this iconic national park became the center of controversy as the state government proposed an increase in tourist activities within its premises. The proposal aims to boost local tourism and economy but has sparked concerns among environmentalists and conservationists about its potential impact on wildlife and the park's ecosystem.

The park, known for its significant tiger population, has been a pioneer in tiger conservation since its establishment. It offers a delicate balance between promoting eco-tourism and safeguarding its wildlife habitats. However, the recent proposal has raised questions about the sustainability of increased human activity in such a sensitive environment. Critics argue that while tourism is essential for generating revenue and increasing awareness about conservation, it should not come at the expense of the very treasures it seeks to protect.

Supporters of the proposal, on the other hand, believe that with proper management and regulation, it is possible to accommodate more tourists without harming the park's ecological balance. They propose implementing stricter guidelines for tourist behavior, limiting the number of visitors in certain areas, and investing in sustainable infrastructure to mitigate the impact of tourism.

The debate on the Jim Corbett National Park case highlights the broader issue of how to reconcile economic development with environmental preservation. It is a clear example of the slippery slope that conservation efforts face when pitted against the lure of economic gains from tourism. As this case continues to unfold, it serves as a reminder of the complex challenges involved in maintaining the sanctity of natural reserves in the face of growing human interest and intervention. The outcome of this debate could set a precedent for how similar conflicts are addressed in conservation areas worldwide, making it a crucial juncture for the future of wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism.

Q47. What prompted the controversy surrounding the Jim Corbett National Park recently?

- (A). The introduction of a new species into the park's ecosystem
- (B). A government proposal to reduce the park's protected area
- (C). Plans to increase tourist activities within the park's premises
- (D). A significant decrease in the park's tiger population
- (E). Efforts to completely ban tourism in the park for conservation

Ans.(C)

Solution: The controversy surrounding the Jim Corbett National Park recently was prompted by "**(c) Plans to increase tourist activities within the park's premises.**" This is supported by the lines from the passage: "**Recently, this iconic national park became the center of controversy as the state government proposed an increase in tourist activities within its premises. The proposal aims to boost local tourism and economy but has sparked concerns among environmentalists and conservationists about its potential impact on wildlife and the park's ecosystem.**"

Q48. What could be a potential outcome of the Jim Corbett National Park case for future conservation efforts?

- (A). A decrease in global interest in tiger conservation projects
- (B). An increase in unrestricted tourist activities in natural reserves
- (C). A reduction in funding for wildlife conservation due to decreased tourism
- (D). A shift towards prioritizing economic gains over environmental concerns
- (E). A precedent for addressing conflicts between tourism and conservation

Ans.(E)

Solution: The potential outcome of the Jim Corbett National Park case for future conservation efforts, as highlighted by the passage, would indeed be setting a precedent for addressing conflicts between tourism and conservation. The passage mentions, "**The outcome of this debate could set a precedent for how similar conflicts are addressed in conservation areas worldwide, making it a crucial juncture for the future of wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism.**" This indicates that the handling of this situation could serve as a model or example for similar situations globally, impacting how conservation and tourism conflicts are managed in the future.

Therefore, the correct answer is: **(e) A precedent for addressing conflicts between tourism and conservation.**

Q49. What underlying assumption drives the supporters' proposal for managing increased tourism in the park?

- (A). Tourism is key to regional economic growth.
- (B). Human activity barely affects large conservation areas.
- (C). Economic benefits outweigh conservation efforts.
- (D). Management can balance tourism and conservation.
- (E). More tourism is needed for conservation awareness.

Ans.(D)

Solution: The underlying assumption driving the supporters' proposal for managing increased tourism in the park is "**(d) Management can balance tourism and conservation.**" This is inferred from the passage where it mentions: "**Supporters of the proposal, on the other hand, believe that with proper management and regulation, it is possible to accommodate more tourists without harming the park's ecological balance.**"

Q50. Based on the passage, which of the following strategies are proposed to manage the impact of tourism in Jim Corbett National Park?

- (I) Enhancing the park's infrastructure for better wildlife protection.
 - (II) Implementing stricter guidelines for tourist behavior.
 - (III) Investing in sustainable infrastructure to mitigate tourism's impact.
- (A). Only (I)
(B). Only (II)
(C). Only (III)
(D). Both (I) and (III)
(E). Both (II) and (III)

Ans.(E)

Solution: Based on the passage, the strategies proposed to manage the impact of tourism in Jim Corbett National Park are:

- (II) Implementing stricter guidelines for tourist behavior.
- (III) Investing in sustainable infrastructure to mitigate tourism's impact.

These strategies are directly mentioned in the passage as follows:

For (II): "**They propose implementing stricter guidelines for tourist behavior,**" indicates a strategy aimed at regulating how tourists behave in the park to minimize their impact on the environment and wildlife.

For (III): "**...and investing in sustainable infrastructure to mitigate the impact of tourism,**" suggests a focus on building or enhancing facilities in a way that they do not harm the park's ecosystem and are sustainable in the long term.

Statement (I), "**Enhancing the park's infrastructure for better wildlife protection,**" is not explicitly mentioned in the passage. The passage does discuss investing in sustainable infrastructure, but it is specifically in the context of mitigating the impact of tourism, rather than enhancing wildlife protection per se.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(e) Both (II) and (III)**, as these are the strategies proposed in the passage to manage the impact of tourism in Jim Corbett National Park.

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Q51. Which argument best encapsulates the critics' viewpoint on the proposed increase in tourism within Jim Corbett National Park?

- (A). Tourism is detrimental and should be strictly limited to protect the park's treasures.
- (B). Increasing tourism can coexist with conservation if it's carefully managed.
- (C). While tourism is crucial for awareness and revenue, it shouldn't harm the park's essence.
- (D). The park's environment is robust enough to sustain a significant increase in tourism.
- (E). Sustainable tourism is not feasible in such a sensitive and valuable ecological setting.

Ans.(C)

Solution: The argument that best encapsulates the critics' viewpoint on the proposed increase in tourism within Jim Corbett National Park is "**(c) While tourism is crucial for awareness and revenue, it shouldn't harm the park's essence.**" This viewpoint is reflected in the passage where it states: "**Critics argue that while tourism is essential for generating revenue and increasing awareness about conservation, it should not come at the expense of the very treasures it seeks to protect.**" This statement indicates the critics' belief in the importance of tourism for its benefits but emphasizes that these benefits should not compromise the park's natural and ecological integrity.

Q52. What is the synonym of "hotbed" as used in the context of Jim Corbett National Park in the passage?

- (A). Refuge
- (B). Nursery
- (C). Desert
- (D). Oasis
- (E). Glacier

Ans.(B)

Solution: "Hotbed" in the context refers to a place of intense activity or a breeding ground for certain actions or ideas, making "Nursery" the closest synonym.

Directions (53-62): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

A raging controversy across the world on the misuse of Pegasus spyware — a great deal of which is mired in facts, suppositions, false trails, allegations and counter-allegations, but nevertheless contains more than a kernel of truth — has reignited a debate on the role of cyber weapons. From an occasional and sporadic instance of a cyberattack previously, cyberattacks on institutions such as banks and on critical infrastructure have proliferated to an alarming extent, signalling the emergence of the cyber weapon epoch. The Pegasus spyware is by no means the ultimate cyberweapon. It has, however, compelled nations to emerge from their deep slumber about the threat posed by such new age weapons, even though it has been quite a few decades since the world saw the advent of cyberweapons, albeit more primitive than those in vogue today.

One of the earliest instance of this kind occurred in the 1990s when Yahya Abd-al-Latif Ayyash, who served as the chief bomb maker for Hamas, was assassinated by Israel's domestic Intelligence Agency, Shin Bet, using a doctored phone containing explosives, when he responded to a call from an unknown person. Many daring exploits of the past, which took months of effort, and the utilisation of large numbers of people and resources to achieve, are, in the cyber era, possible with far less effort and resources; the destruction of the Vemork power station (in Norway) during the Second World War which took months of planning, and the extensive resources of the Allied Powers (and involved loss of lives), for instance, could be achieved in 2019 with a fraction of this effort. In 2019, Norsk Hydro, aluminium and energy producer, became the victim of a cyberattack which was accomplished remotely and anonymously, and in the shortest possible time, but with the same telling effort.

What is noteworthy is that while all of these rate as among the many dramatic transformations brought about by cyber technologies since the turn of the century, what merits contemplation is that while Moore's Law democratised access to computing, and the Internet opened a whole new avenue for communication, all this is coming at a price. Privacy has been eroded and the Internet — true to its origins in Cold War strategy — has become a powerful weapon in the hands of those seeking to exploit its various facets. Cyber is often touted as the fifth dimension of warfare — in addition to land, sea, air and space. However, it needs to be understood that cyber, as the domain of military and national security, also co-exists with cyber as a domain of everyday life. It is the same domain. The war is no longer out there. It is now directly inside one's drawing room, with cyberweapons becoming the weapon of choice.

Israelis, though not the cyber pioneers, today dominate the cyber domain along with the Chinese, Russians, Koreans and, of course, the Americans. Already by the first decade of the 21st century, cyberspace had graduated from being merely the new domain of warfare, into becoming fundamentally a civilian space. From its very inception, cyberweapons ranked as special weapons, not unlike nuclear devices of earlier times. Following the joint U.S.-Israeli effort in unleashing the Stuxnet Worm in 2010 — which helped disable several hundred centrifuges at the Iranian nuclear facility in Natanz — it became still more apparent that mankind had indeed unleashed a new weapon, and had in a sense crossed the Rubicon. The linkage between sabotage and intrusive surveillance is but a short step. There are many stories in circulation of the employment of the Pegasus spyware well before the present controversy, for in 2019, WhatsApp had sued NSO over allegations that several hundreds of its users were the targets of the Pegasus spyware. The Israeli company's claim that the spyware is sold only to governments and official agencies is, however, unproven. Israel, for its part, identifies Pegasus as a cyberweapon, and claims that its exports are controlled. The Pegasus spyware it is stated can copy messages that are sent or received, 'harvest photos and record calls, secretly film through the phone's camera, or activate the microphone to record conversations. It can potentially pinpoint where you are, where you have been, and whom you have met. Once installed on a phone, the spyware can harvest more or less any information or extract any file'. Ongoing efforts by the NSO Group, the makers of Pegasus, are devoted to making the spyware difficult to detect.

Q53. What is the reason behind the need for the advent of the cyber weapon era?

- (A). surge in cyber threats has demanded development of cyber armament to provide protection from cyber crime
- (B). causing threat by mushrooming of cyberattacks frequently evokes the need for cyberweapon age
- (C). the ameliorated cyber weapon is needed as Pegasus infects a device that compromises the confidential data
- (D). All of the above are the reason for the advent of the cyber weapon era
- (E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: The correct choice is option (b) which can be inferred from first paragraph which mentions, "From an occasional and sporadic instance of a cyberattack previously, cyberattacks on institutions such as banks and on critical infrastructure have proliferated to an alarming extent, signalling the emergence of the cyber weapon epoch."

Q54. How can we say that the cyber era could have a favorable impact on exploits?

- (A). tracking and hacking have played an important role which has become prominent in the cyber era.
- (B). In the cyber era it has become easier to block any software from governmental agencies.
- (C). it makes exploits convenient by providing digital access to formulas and resources.
- (D). cyber era minimizes the usage of human capital, resources and efforts needed for the operation.
- (E). None of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: The correct choice is option (d) which can be inferred from second paragraph which mentions, "Many daring exploits of the past, which took months of effort, and the utilisation of large numbers of people and resources to achieve, are, in the cyber era, possible with far less effort and resources; the destruction of the Vemork power station (in Norway) during the Second World War which took months of planning, and the extensive resources of the Allied Powers (and involved loss of lives), for instance, could be achieved in 2019 with a fraction of this effort."

Q55. According to the passage, which of the following is/are the disadvantage(s) of having cyber technologies?

- (i) it has been used ubiquitously for spreading awareness about social enigmas and evils
 - (ii) its availability has rendered dissipation of privacy and bestows exploiters with a powerful weapon
 - (iii) it has become an additional aspect of war and is present in almost everyone's daily life
- (A). Both (i) and (iii)
 - (B). Both (iii) and (ii)
 - (C). Only (ii)
 - (D). Only (i) and (ii)
 - (E). Only (iii)

Ans.(B)

Solution: The correct choice is option (b) i.e. both statement (ii) and statement (iii) are correct. For correct choice refer to the third paragraph which mentions, "Privacy has been eroded and the Internet — true to its origins in Cold War strategy — has become a powerful weapon in the hands of those seeking to exploit its various facets. Cyber is often touted as the fifth dimension of warfare — in addition to land, sea, air and space. However, it needs to be understood that cyber, as the domain of military and national security, also co-exists with cyber as a domain of everyday life. It is the same domain. The war is no longer out there. It is now directly inside one's drawing room, with cyberweapons becoming the weapon of choice."

Q56. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to the Pegasus?

- (i) Efforts have been put by the producers to make Pegasus undetectable
 - (ii) Pegasus can replicate any data stored in phones and computers
 - (iii) The producer of spyware had already faced allegations by another communicating company
- (A). Both (i) and (iii)
 - (B). All of these
 - (C). Only (ii)
 - (D). Only (i) and (ii)
 - (E). Only (iii)

Ans.(B)

Solution: The correct choice is option (b). All three given statements are correct with reference to the paragraph. For statement (i), refer to the last paragraph which mentions, "Ongoing efforts by the NSO Group, the makers of Pegasus, are devoted to making the spyware difficult to detect."

For statement (ii), refer to the last paragraph which mentions, "The Pegasus spyware it is stated can copy messages that are sent or received, 'harvest photos and record calls, secretly film through the phone's camera, or activate the microphone to record conversations." For statement (iii), refer to the fourth paragraph which mentions, "There are many stories in circulation of the employment of the Pegasus spyware well before the present controversy, for in 2019, WhatsApp had sued NSO over allegations that several hundreds of its users were the targets of the Pegasus spyware. "

Q57. A sentence has been given in bold in paragraph which may or may not contain an error. If there's an error, choose the appropriate part with the error as your answer. If the sentence doesn't require any correction, choose option (e) i.e., "No correction required" as your answer.

One of the earliest instance of this kind occurred in the 1990s when Yahya Abd-al-Latif Ayyash, who served as the chief bomb maker for Hamas, was assassinated by Israel's domestic Intelligence Agency, Shin Bet, using a doctored phone containing explosives, when he responded to a call from an unknown person

- (A). One of the earliest instance of this kind occurred in the 1990s when
- (B). Yahya Abd-al-Latif Ayyash, who served as the chief bomb maker for Hamas,
- (C). was assassinated by Israel's domestic Intelligence Agency, Shin Bet,
- (D). using a doctored phone containing explosives, when he responded to a call from an unknown person
- (E). (e)No correction required

Ans.(A)

Solution: The error lies in option (a). Replace 'instance' with 'instances' because the noun or a pronoun used after the phrase "one of" is always in the plural form (as we are talking of one person/place/thing out of many).

Q58. Which of the following would be the appropriate title for the passage?

- (A). The needed spy for international peace
- (B). Software for confidential operations
- (C). The upgrading digital technologies
- (D). Pegasus for national welfare
- (E). Spy in hands; the breaching security

Ans.(E)

Solution: The passage is talking about the misuse of spyware and proliferation in cyberattacks which is endangering the personal data and information of people across the countries hence the correct choice of title will be "Spy in hands; the breaching security".

Q59. Which of the following alternatives among the five options provides the MOST SIMILAR meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage?

Sporadic

- (I) intermittent (II) vindicate (III) sabotage (IV) infrequent
- (A). Only (III)
- (B). Only (I) and (IV)
- (C). Only (I), (II) and (III)
- (D). Only (II), (III) and (IV)
- (E). All are correct

Ans.(B)

Solution: 'Sporadic' means 'not done or happening regularly' and 'intermittent' and 'infrequent' are synonyms. intermittent means stopping for a short time and then starting again several times.

vindicates means to prove that something is true or that you were right about doing something, especially when other people thought differently. sabotage means damage that is done on purpose and secretly in order to prevent an enemy or a competitor from being successful, for example by destroying machinery, roads, bridges, etc. infrequent means not happening often.

Q60. Which of the following alternatives among the five options provides the MOST SIMILAR meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage?

Contemplation

- (I) scrutiny (II) inspect (III) pondering (IV) trodden
- (A). Only (III)
- (B). Only (II) and (IV)
- (C). Only (I), (III) and (IV)
- (D). Only (I), (II) and (III)
- (E). All are correct

Ans.(D)

Solution: 'Contemplation' means 'long, hard thinking about something' and 'inspect', 'scrutiny' and 'pondering' are synonyms. Inspect means to look at something closely or in great detail. pondering means to think about something carefully or for a long time. scrutiny means looking at something really closely, like when you are checking a test for mistakes. trodden means walk in a specified way.

Q61. Which of the following alternatives among the five options provides the MOST OPPOSITE meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage?

Accomplished

(I) dominion (II) incompetent (III) plausible (IV) relinquish

- (A). Only (II)
- (B). Only (II) and (IV)
- (C). Only (I), (II) and (III)
- (D). Only (II), (III) and (IV)
- (E). All are correct

Ans.(A)

Solution: 'Accomplished' means 'to succeed in doing something difficult that you planned to do' and incompetent means not having or showing the necessary skills to do something successfully. Hence, it is an antonym. dominion means the power to rule and control. plausible means that you can believe; reasonable. relinquish means to stop having or doing something.

Q62. Which of the following alternatives among the five options provides the MOST OPPOSITE meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage?

Slumber

(I) consciousness (II) drowsy (III) awaken (IV) accentuate

- (A). Only (III)
- (B). Only (II) and (IV)
- (C). Only (I) and (III)
- (D). Only (II), (III) and (IV)
- (E). All are correct

Ans.(C)

Solution: 'Slumber' means 'to be deeply asleep' and 'consciousness' and 'awaken' are antonyms. Consciousness means the state of realizing or noticing that something exists. drowsy means not completely awake. awaken means to wake up; to make somebody/something wake up. accentuate means to emphasize something or make something easier to notice.

Directions (63-69): Read the following passage and answer the given questions based on it.

Reliabilist epistemology, a significant branch of contemporary philosophical thought, stands as a counterpoint to classical foundationalism by shifting focus from the justification of beliefs to their production mechanism. This theory posits that a belief is justified if it is produced by a process that is reliably **truth-conducive**. In essence, if the method by which we arrive at our beliefs is consistently accurate in leading us to the truth, then those beliefs are considered justified. The appeal of reliabilism lies in its pragmatic approach, evaluating the reliability of cognitive processes such as perception, memory, introspection, and reasoning in their natural environments.

At the core of reliabilism is the distinction between two key concepts: the internalism of traditional epistemology, which insists that the justifiers of a belief must be accessible to the believer's consciousness, and the externalism of reliabilism, which argues that factors external to one's consciousness and cognitive processes can justify beliefs. This externalist stance allows for the inclusion of processes that are not directly accessible to consciousness, such as the workings of the brain and environmental factors that influence belief formation.

Critics of reliabilism often highlight potential pitfalls, such as the theory's handling of the "new evil demon problem," where a person's belief-forming processes are **manipulated** by a deceptive entity, yet those beliefs remain unjustified despite being produced by what appears to be reliable means. Despite such challenges, reliabilism has evolved, incorporating refinements that address these objections, including the development of modal and proper functionalist versions that seek to more precisely define what constitutes a "reliably truth-conducive" process.

Reliabilism not only broadens the epistemological landscape by emphasizing the importance of the reliability of belief-forming processes but also underscores the complex interplay between the internal cognition and external validation of our beliefs, offering a **robust** framework for understanding the foundations of knowledge.

Reliabilism enriches epistemology by emphasizing the reliability of belief-forming processes over the cognitive accessibility of justifiers. This shift challenges traditional views and broadens the criteria for justified beliefs. As philosophical debates progress, reliabilism's influence on our understanding of knowledge and justification is poised to make a lasting impact in the field.

Q63. How does the "new evil demon problem" challenge reliabilist epistemology?

- (A). Seemingly trustworthy processes could become unreliable due to constant candour.
- (B). Reliable processes may fail to lead to truth under external manipulation.
- (C). Reliable and Justified beliefs require balance within internal and external influences.
- (D). Reliability depends on recognizing internal factors of manipulative interference.
- (E). None of the above

Ans.(B)

Solution: The correct option is "Reliable processes may fail to lead to truth under external manipulation."

The "new evil demon problem" challenges reliabilist epistemology by suggesting that reliable processes may fail to lead to truth when subjected to external manipulation.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Critics of reliabilism often highlight potential pitfalls, such as the theory's handling of the "new evil demon problem," where a person's belief-forming processes are manipulated by a deceptive entity, yet those beliefs remain unjustified despite being produced by what appears to be reliable means.

Q64. What is the primary distinction between internalism in traditional epistemology and externalism in reliabilism?

- (A). Internalism prioritizes the content of beliefs, while externalism considers the environmental context.
- (B). Internalism mandates observable justifiers, while externalism allows inferred justifiers.
- (C). Internalism requires justifiers accessible to consciousness, while externalism accepts external justifiers.
- (D). Internalism emphasizes the emotional basis of beliefs, while externalism focuses on logical structure.
- (E). Internalism relies on societal norms, while externalism bases justification on individual experiences.

Ans.(C)

Solution: The correct option is "Internalism requires justifiers accessible to consciousness, while externalism accepts external justifiers."

In simple terms, internalism says that for a belief to be justified, the reasons behind it must be something the person is aware of or can access in their mind. Externalism, on the other hand, believes that the reasons for a belief can come from outside a person's consciousness, like the environment or processes they're not directly aware of. So, while internalism focuses on what's happening in your head, externalism looks at factors beyond your immediate awareness.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: At the core of reliabilism is the distinction between two key concepts: the internalism of traditional epistemology, which insists that the justifiers of a belief must be accessible to the believer's consciousness, and the externalism of reliabilism, which argues that factors external to one's consciousness and cognitive processes can justify beliefs.

Q65. How does reliabilist epistemology approach the justification of beliefs?

- (A). Prioritizing empirical evidence with cognitive processes to support the belief.
- (B). Assessing a belief's alignment with pre-existing knowledge within consciousness.
- (C). Considering the level of consensus among experts regarding the belief.
- (D). Focusing on the argumentative structure and logical consistency of beliefs.
- (E). Evaluating the reliability of cognitive processes that produce beliefs.

Ans.(E)

Solution: The correct option is "Evaluating the reliability of cognitive processes that produce beliefs."

Reliabilist epistemology justifies beliefs by looking at how reliable the processes are that lead us to those beliefs. In simple terms, it asks whether the ways we come to believe things are generally trustworthy and likely to lead to true beliefs. So, if our thinking processes tend to give us accurate information most of the time, reliabilism considers those beliefs justified.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: The appeal of reliabilism lies in its pragmatic approach, evaluating the reliability of cognitive processes such as perception, memory, introspection, and reasoning in their natural environments.

Q66. How does reliabilist epistemology address its critics' concerns, such as those arising from the "new evil demon problem"?

- (A). Analyzes hypotheticals to clarify their relevance to epistemology's fundamental principles.
- (B). Reviews modal processes to confirm their reliability and acknowledge potential errors.
- (C). Incorporates modal and functionalist aspects to enrich the theory and address critiques.
- (D). Incorporates functionalist insights for enhanced robustness against external manipulation.
- (E). Investigates the interplay between internal processes and external factors for comprehensive

Ans.(C)

Solution: The correct option is "Incorporates modal and functionalist aspects to enrich the theory and address critiques."

The correct option means that the theory of reliabilist epistemology is improved by adding ideas about possibilities and the roles of belief-forming processes, making it stronger against criticisms.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Despite such challenges, reliabilism has evolved, incorporating refinements that address these objections, including the development of modal and proper functionalist versions that seek to more precisely define what constitutes a "reliably truth-conducive" process.

Q67. How is the concept of "truth-conduciveness" defined within the framework of reliabilist epistemology?

- (A). Characterized by the theory's adherence to established norms and ethical standards.
- (B). Determined by how often a method produces outcomes accepted as truth by various communities.
- (C). Ensured by a consistent level of accuracy in the process that invariably leads us towards the discovery of truth.
- (D). Requiring rigorous empirical testing for each belief to confirm its factual accuracy.
- (E). Both (a) & (b)

Ans.(C)

Solution: The correct option is "Ensured by a consistent level of accuracy in the process that invariably leads us towards the discovery of truth."

The correct option explains that in this theory, something is considered good at leading to the truth if it consistently does so accurately. This means that the processes or methods we use to form our beliefs are reliable if they regularly help us find out what's true without leading us astray.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: This theory posits that a belief is justified if it is produced by a process that is reliably **truth-conducive**. In essence, if the method by which we arrive at our beliefs is consistently accurate in leading us to the truth, then those beliefs are considered justified.

Q68. Which of the following is the synonym of the word "manipulated" highlighted in the passage?

- (A). confounded
- (B). deciphered
- (C). flustered
- (D). maneuvered
- (E). agitated

Ans.(D)

Solution: The synonym of the word "manipulated" highlighted in the passage is "maneuvered".

In the context of the passage, "manipulated" refers to how a person's belief-forming processes can be controlled or influenced in a deceptive manner by an external force, such as a hypothetical evil demon. The synonym "maneuvered" closely matches this meaning because it implies being skillfully or strategically directed or influenced, which captures the essence of being manipulated without the connotation of consent or awareness by the person being influenced.

(a) Confounded: Caused confusion or perplexity in someone, making it hard to understand.

(b) Deciphered: Successfully interpreted or made sense of something complicated or obscure.



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- (c) Flustered: Made someone agitated or confused, especially in a moment of pressure.
(d) Maneuvered: Skilfully or carefully guided or manipulated something or someone into a desired position.
(e) Agitated: Stirred up or provoked a state of nervousness or unrest in someone.

Q69. Which of the following is the antonym of the word “robust” highlighted in the passage?

- (A). debilitated
(B). conjugated
(C). analyzed
(D). adulterated
(E). rumpled

Ans.(A)

Solution: The antonym of the word “robust” highlighted in the passage is “debilitated”.

The word "robust" in the passage is used to describe a strong and sturdy framework. The antonym of "robust" would be something weak or feeble, which is best represented by the word "debilitated".

- (a) debilitated - weakened or made less effective.
(b) conjugated - joined together or unified.
(c) analyzed - examined or studied in detail.
(d) adulterated - made impure by adding inferior substances.
(e) rumpled - wrinkled or creased, typically due to being crushed or folded.

Directions (70-77): Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

Organic farming has gained significant attention in recent years due to its potential benefits for crop production and environmental sustainability. One of the key areas of focus within organic farming is the production of essential oil essence, particularly from crops like wheat and maize. This practice not only enhances crop yield but also adds value to agricultural produce, making it more profitable for farmers. Organic farming methods emphasize the use of natural fertilizers and pest control measures, which help to **plug** the gap in the nutrient cycle and reduce the reliance on synthetic chemicals.

In regions like Jammu and Kashmir, organic farming has seen a substantial return in interest and practice, particularly due to initiatives like the Aeromission project. This project aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices by encouraging farmers to adopt organic farming techniques. The unique climatic conditions of Jammu and Kashmir make it an ideal location for growing high-quality wheat and maize, which are essential for the production of oil essence. The Aeromission project provides farmers with the necessary training and resources to transition from conventional to organic farming methods. This includes education on soil health, crop rotation, and the use of organic inputs.

The benefits of organic farming extend beyond the production of oil essence. By _____ synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, organic farming helps to maintain soil fertility and biodiversity. This, in turn, supports the long-term sustainability of agricultural ecosystems. Farmers who adopt organic practices often see a return on their investment through higher crop yields and premium prices for their produce. Additionally, organic farming can help to plug the gap in food security by providing a more resilient agricultural system that is less susceptible to pests and diseases.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Aeromission project has shown promising results. Farmers have reported increased yields of wheat and maize, which are essential for the production of oil essence. The project has also helped to improve the overall quality of life for farmers by providing them with a sustainable and profitable way to cultivate their land. The movement towards organic farming can **return** the focus to local food systems, strengthening community resilience and food security.

Overall, the focus on organic farming and essential oil essence production in Jammu and Kashmir highlights the potential for sustainable agricultural practices to benefit both farmers and the environment. By plugging the gap in conventional farming methods, organic farming offers a viable return to traditional, environmentally-friendly agriculture.

Q70. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word “return” as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). survival
(B). revenue
(C). revival
(D). outlay
(E). charge

Ans.(C)

Solution: In the context of the passage, the word "return" is used to describe the resurgence or renewed interest in organic farming practices in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly through initiatives like the Aeromission project. This implies a comeback or restoration of a previous state or condition.

Let's evaluate the options provided for a synonym:

- (a) **Survival** — This implies continuing to live or exist, especially in spite of danger or hardship, which doesn't quite capture the context of a renewal or comeback.
- (b) **Revenue** — Refers to income, especially when of a company or organization and of a substantial nature. It doesn't fit the context of reestablishment or resurgence.
- (c) **Revival** — Means an improvement in the condition or strength of something; a restoration to use, acceptance, activity, or vigor after a decline. This aligns perfectly with the use of "return" in the passage.
- (d) **Outlay** — Refers to an amount of money spent on something, which is not relevant to the context of resurgence or renewal.
- (e) **Charge** — Can mean a price asked for goods or services, or to rush forward in an attack, neither of which applies here.

Based on the provided options, the most suitable synonym for "return" as used in the passage is:

(c) **Revival**

This option accurately captures the essence of the resurgence in interest and practice of organic farming in the region, as described in the passage.

Q71. How does the Aeromission project assist farmers in transitioning to organic farming?

- (A). By advocating for the use of synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides.
- (B). By providing financial incentives to convert to monoculture farming techniques.
- (C). By providing education and resources centered on eco-friendly farming methods.
- (D). By promoting the adoption of high-yield genetically modified crops.
- (E). By encouraging the abandonment of traditional farming methodologies.

Ans.(C)

Solution: To determine how the Aeromission project assists farmers in transitioning to organic farming, we need to review the specifics provided in the passage about the support offered by the project:

" The Aeromission project provides farmers with the necessary training and resources to transition from conventional to organic farming methods. This includes education on soil health, crop rotation, and the use of organic inputs."

Based on this information from the passage, the most accurate description of how the Aeromission project assists farmers is:

(c) By providing education and resources centered on eco-friendly farming methods.

This option directly aligns with the passage's description of the project's approach, focusing on training, educational support, and resources that promote organic and sustainable farming practices, thereby facilitating the shift from conventional methods to organic farming.

Q72. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word "plug" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). undue
- (B). widen
- (C). bridge
- (D). cloak
- (E). occur

Ans.(B)

Solution: In the passage, the word "plug" is used metaphorically to describe the act of addressing and filling gaps in the nutrient cycle and food security through the implementation of organic farming practices. "Plug" means to fill or block a gap or hole. The correct antonym is "widen"

"Widen" means to make a gap or hole broader or larger, which is the opposite of filling or blocking it.

- (a) Undue: Not appropriate or proper; excessive or unwarranted.
- (b) Widen: To make something broader, larger, or more extensive.
- (c) Bridge: To connect or reduce the gap between two things.
- (d) Cloak: To cover or conceal something.
- (e) Occur: To happen or take place.

Considering these meanings, the most appropriate antonym for "plug" in this context would be:

(b) **widen**

Q73. What is one economic advantage of organic farming for farmers?

- (A). Decreased market value resulting from lower consumer demand for organic produce.
- (B). Elevated expenses linked to the extensive use of synthetic chemicals.
- (C). Reduced efficiency in crop production compared to conventional farming methods.
- (D). Heavy reliance on governmental subsidies to maintain sustainable practices.
- (E). Enhanced financial returns via higher outputs and top market pricing.

Ans.(E)

Solution: To find the economic advantage of organic farming for farmers mentioned in the passage, we focus on how organic farming financially benefits them:

" Farmers who adopt organic practices often see a return on their investment through higher crop yields and premium prices for their produce."

This statement directly points out the economic advantage of organic farming, highlighting that organic farming can lead to better financial outcomes for farmers through higher yields and the ability to charge premium prices due to the higher perceived value of organic products in the market. Based on this, the most accurate option provided is:

(e) Enhanced financial returns via higher outputs and top market pricing.

This choice accurately captures the economic benefits of organic farming described in the passage, emphasizing the increased profitability due to premium pricing and potentially higher yields that can be achieved with organic methods.

Q74. Identify the incorrect statements based on the passage:

- (I) Organic agriculture may compromise food security by rendering agricultural systems more prone to pests and diseases.
 - (II) The unique meteorological conditions of Jammu and Kashmir make it perfect for cultivating superior wheat and maize for oil essence.
 - (III) Farmers have noted reduced outputs of wheat and maize, despite the project's attempts to enhance their living conditions.
- (A). Only (I)
 - (B). Both (I) and (II)
 - (C). Only (II)
 - (D). Both (I) and (III)
 - (E). Only (III)

Ans.(D)

Solution: To determine the incorrect statements based on the passage, let's analyze each statement:

Statement I: " Organic agriculture may compromise food security by rendering agricultural systems more prone to pests and diseases."

The passage states that organic farming can help to **" plug the gap in food security by providing a more resilient agricultural system that is less susceptible to pests and diseases."** This contradicts Statement I, which claims the opposite.

Statement II: " The unique meteorological conditions of Jammu and Kashmir make it perfect for cultivating superior wheat and maize for oil essence."

This statement is consistent with the information in the passage, which mentions, **" The unique climatic conditions of Jammu and Kashmir make it an ideal location for growing high-quality wheat and maize, which are essential for the production of oil essence."**

Statement III: " Farmers have noted reduced outputs of wheat and maize, despite the project's attempts to enhance their living conditions."

The passage actually notes that farmers **" have reported increased yields of wheat and maize,"** which directly contradicts Statement III.

Based on this analysis, the incorrect statements, according to the passage, are I and III:

(d) Both (I) and (III)

These statements are not supported by the passage and contradict the details provided about the benefits and successes of organic farming and the Aeromission project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Q75. What is the central theme of the passage?

- (A). The increased reliance on synthetic fertilizers and chemicals to boost crop yields.
- (B). The merits of ecological farming and essential oil extraction in Jammu and Kashmir.
- (C). The challenges and inefficiencies associated with organic farming in modern agriculture.
- (D). The detrimental effects of climate variability on agricultural productivity in Jammu and Kashmir.
- (E). The dominance of conventional farming techniques over organic farming practices.

Ans.(B)

Solution: Based on the content of the passage, which extensively discusses the benefits of organic farming, including environmental sustainability and the economic benefits of essential oil essence production, the central theme focuses on promoting and highlighting the advantages of organic farming methods in Jammu and Kashmir. Here's a breakdown of why other options don't fit:

- (a) **The increased reliance on synthetic fertilizers and chemicals to boost crop yields.** - The passage actually promotes organic farming, which eschews synthetic fertilizers and chemicals.
- (b) **The merits of ecological farming and essential oil extraction in Jammu and Kashmir.** - This option aligns well with the passage's discussion on the benefits of organic farming practices and the successful production of essential oils, reflecting the passage's central theme.
- (c) **The challenges and inefficiencies associated with organic farming in modern agriculture.** - The passage portrays organic farming positively, emphasizing its benefits rather than challenges or inefficiencies.
- (d) **The detrimental effects of climate variability on agricultural productivity in Jammu and Kashmir.** - The passage does not discuss climate variability; it mentions the ideal climatic conditions for organic farming in the region.
- (e) **The dominance of conventional farming techniques over organic farming practices.** - The passage emphasizes the benefits and return to organic farming, not the dominance of conventional methods.

Therefore, the most accurate option that reflects the central theme of the passage is:

(b) **The merits of ecological farming and essential oil extraction in Jammu and Kashmir.**

This choice correctly captures the focus of the passage on promoting and illustrating the advantages of sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

Q76. Choose the most appropriate word to fill the blank provided in the passage.

- (A). sterling
- (B). resembling
- (C). exceeding
- (D). avoiding
- (E). discerning

Ans.(D)

Solution: To choose the most appropriate word for the blank in the sentence, we need a word that logically fits into the context of how organic farming impacts soil fertility and biodiversity. The sentence is structured to indicate that organic farming maintains these aspects through a specific action related to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

Reviewing the options:

- (a) **Sterling** - Typically means excellent or valuable, which doesn't fit the context of an action related to the use of synthetic products.
- (b) **Resembling** - Means similar to or like, which doesn't apply here as it doesn't describe an action.
- (c) **Exceeding** - Means surpassing or going beyond, which isn't appropriate in the context of dealing with synthetic products.
- (d) **Avoiding** - Means to keep away from or stop oneself from doing something. This fits the context of not using synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- (e) **Discerning** - Means showing good judgment or taste, which isn't relevant to the action being described in the context of using or not using synthetic products.

The correct choice, based on the context provided, is:

(d) **Avoiding**

This choice directly fits into the sentence, explaining that by avoiding synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, organic farming practices help maintain soil fertility and biodiversity.

Q77. What is the primary objective of organic farming and essential oil essence production in Jammu and Kashmir?

- (A). To enhance reliance on synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides.
- (B). To convert traditional agricultural lands into large-scale industrial farming operations.
- (C). To limit the diversity of crops cultivated in the region.
- (D). To underscore environmentally conscientious practices that advantage both cultivators and the biosphere.
- (E). To highlight the inefficiency of organic farming methods compared to conventional practices.

Ans.(D)

Solution: The passage provides insights into the objectives of organic farming and essential oil essence production in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on environmental sustainability and enhancing the profitability and well-being of farmers:

" **Organic farming has gained significant attention in recent years due to its potential benefits for crop production and environmental sustainability... The focus on organic farming and essential oil essence production in Jammu and Kashmir highlights the potential for sustainable agricultural practices to benefit both farmers and the environment.** "

Based on this information, the primary objective of these initiatives is centered around promoting sustainable, environmentally friendly farming practices that are beneficial to both the local ecosystem and the farmers. Here are the option evaluations:

(a) To enhance reliance on synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides. - This is contrary to the principles of organic farming.

(b) To convert traditional agricultural lands into large-scale industrial farming operations. - There is no indication that this is the goal; rather, the focus is on sustainable practices.

(c) To limit the diversity of crops cultivated in the region. - The passage does not suggest limiting crop diversity as a goal.

(d) To underscore environmentally conscientious practices that advantage both cultivators and the biosphere. - This option aligns perfectly with the description in the passage, emphasizing sustainability and benefits for both farmers and the environment.

(e) To highlight the inefficiency of organic farming methods compared to conventional practices. - The passage actually highlights the advantages, not the inefficiencies, of organic farming.

Thus, the correct answer is:

(d) To underscore environmentally conscientious practices that advantage both cultivators and the biosphere.

This choice accurately reflects the passage's emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices that benefit both the environment and the farmers.

Directions (78-84): Read the passage and answer the given questions based on that

The goal of the EU's ambitious new "Green Deal" is to put Europe on a path toward zero emissions and sustainable growth decoupled from resource use. The plan marks a sharp departure from traditional ecological approaches that have typically called for reduction of consumption and, therefore, de-growth. Despite abundant warnings from scientists about the danger of climate change, fear of de-growth is why many governments and much of the business community have long shunned ecological issues. There was a widespread belief that ecological constraints through de-growth, however meritorious, would necessarily limit consumption and thus cut corporate profits. At the same time, there was the widespread belief that technology would solve the problem of scarcity of natural resources.

At the end of 2019, Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Union, presented the European Green Deal, an ambitious plan to make Europe an economy where: there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth is decoupled from resource use, no person and no place is left behind. The EU has committed 1 trillion euros to the plan under the Green Deal, Europe's economy would _____ reduce to zero emissions of greenhouse gases and grow without causing depletion of natural resources. The progressive reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions is an immense technology-change program, replacing fossil fuels with energy based on clean sources. However, growth de-coupled from resource use is a conceptually more complex problem. A partial answer, explicitly mentioned in the Green Deal, is provided by implementing a circular economy where human artifacts are continuously reused and redesigned. But only a fraction of a modern economy is capable to become circular. Moreover, due to negative entropy flow, circularity requires large amounts of energy and the energy gap is hard to achieve.

Under the Green Deal's ecological constraints, economic growth can be achieved by increasing the quality of products and services – but only if it's taken into account. Qualitative growth is essentially a process of increasing information and complexity of an economy without use of natural resources.

Under the Green Deal, sources of energy based on fossil fuels will be replaced by a new generation of clean energy. Under such **constraints**, firms will find it difficult to grow in the classical sense by manufacturing more products. They must therefore seek to innovate and create products of higher quality and, ultimately, complexity. Simply put, firms will create information and complexity – for example, the aesthetic dimension of artifacts, including buildings and cities, art, culture, health care and medicine, food, intelligent travel. It will be the creative effort of firms and governments that will produce qualitative growth.

Q78. Which of the following statements is/are correct about de-growth as mentioned in the passage?

(A). It is a complete halt in economic activities to retribute for the ecological imbalance

(B). It emphasizes the need of reducing global consumption and advocates an ecologically sustainable society

(C). Through the conscious consumption it puts the fear of contraction in business activities and reduction in corporate profit.

(D). Only (a) and (b)

(E). Only (b) and (c)

Ans.(E)

Solution: The first paragraph of the passage deals with the concept of de-growth. We know, when it comes to ecology and sustainable development, the idea that the current economic model based on growth is the root of the environmental problems we are facing, is becoming widespread. The concept of de-growth propagates the idea of reduction in consumption or thoughtful consumption, which could potentially lead to contraction in economy and corporate profits.

Q79. Which of the following is not mentioned in the ambitious plan of European Green deal?

- (A). Complete abatement of greenhouse gases by 2050
- (B). 500% increase in the desalination process
- (C). Dissociating economic growth from natural resources, so that former can be achieved without impacting the latter.
- (D). Inclusion of every person and every place in Green deal
- (E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: On referring to the second paragraph of the passage, we can conclude that all the given options are mentioned in the ambitious plan of European green deal except option (b). For better understanding refer, "At the end of 2019, Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Union, presented the European Green Deal, an ambitious plan to make Europe an economy where: there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth is decoupled from resource use, no person and no place is left behind."

Q80. What is qualitative growth?

- (A). It is a conceptual framework for attaining economic growth without depleting the natural resources
- (B). It is an economic process of equating growth with the ability of accumulating material goods and expansion of services.
- (C). It is the idea of collective growth that includes each person of that economy
- (D). It is an idea of economic practice that gives more focus on non-monetary aspects of the society i.e., health and well-being of its people
- (E). None of these

Ans.(A)

Solution: The third paragraph of the passage gives the clear description of qualitative growth. Refer to the section, "Qualitative growth is essentially a process of increasing information and complexity of an economy without use of natural resources."

Q81. Which of the following is/are TRUE about the circular economy as mentioned in the passage?

- (A). In order to reduce ecological footprint, circular economy endorses reusage and redesigning of human used objects
- (B). Only a handful of modern economies have structured in a way to acclimatize the circular model.
- (C). The energy gap in reusing material resources is an abyss and is not bridgeable.
- (D). Only (a) and (b)
- (E). All of these

Ans.(E)

Solution: To validate the answer, refer to the second paragraph of the passage, where it mentions "A partial answer, explicitly mentioned in the Green Deal, is provided by implementing a circular economy where human artifacts are continuously reused and redesigned. But only a fraction of a modern economy is capable to become circular. Moreover, due to negative entropy flow, circularity requires large amounts of energy and the energy gap is hard to achieve"

Q82. How can a firm achieve quantitative growth as mentioned in the passage?

- (A). By hiring competent workforce that is skilled enough to deliver required output for qualitative growth
- (B). By embracing quality and innovative products to attain the objective of qualitative growth
- (C). Transitioning from conventional to creative model of production that is coupled with the idea of qualitative growth
- (D). only (a) and (b)
- (E). Only (b) and (c)

Ans.(E)

Solution: By referring the last few sentences of the passage, we can conclude that option (b) and (c) are coherent whereas option (a) is nowhere mentioned. Refer, "Under such constraints, firms will find it difficult to grow in the classical sense by

manufacturing more products. They must therefore seek to innovate and create products of higher quality and, ultimately, complexity. Simply put, firms will create information and complexity – for example, the aesthetic dimension of artifacts, including buildings and cities, art, culture, health care and medicine, food, intelligent travel. It will be the creative effort of firms and governments that will produce qualitative growth.”

Q83. Which of the following words can fit into the given blank?

- (A). regressively
- (B). apathetically
- (C). progressively
- (D). cynically
- (E). conservatively

Ans.(C)

Solution: The word that is best fitted in the given blank is “progressively”

Regressively: decreasing in rate as the base increases

Apathetically: having or showing little or no emotion

Progressively: in a forward-looking, innovative manner

Cynically: in a distrustful way that expresses a belief that people are motivated purely by self-interest.

Conservatively: in a sober and conventional way

Q84. Which of the following words serves as a synonym of the highlighted word “constraint”?

- (A). impediments
- (B). liberation
- (C). segregation
- (D). impunity
- (E). ensconced

Ans.(A)

Solution: “Constraint” means “a limitation or restriction.” Thus, its synonym is “impediments” which means a “a hindrance or obstruction in doing something.”

Liberation: the action of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression; release

Segregation: the action or state of setting someone or something apart from others

Impunity: exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action

Ensconced: establish or settle (someone) in a comfortable, safe place.

Directions (85-92): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

In recent times, right-leaning economists have been arguing that the Government does not need to do anything with the economy and that it will revive by itself. These economists reason that, like after the Great Depression, the economy rebounded worldwide, and so will it with us. The argument is **fallacious** on some accounts:

The first factor, demand. In the case of the Great Depression, demand was created by the Second World War effort. Especially in the United States, which was largely spared of the destruction, its industrial capabilities could be used as a supply base for the entire Allied effort. In the current scenario, there is no war to create demand. On top of it, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in demand destruction. This is because many jobs have been lost, and even where jobs were retained, there have been pay cuts. From the point of view of the Indian exporter, rising freight costs and non-availability of containers is a significant **impediment** along with structural issues such as a strong rupee relative to major competitors. Only the Indian IT sector is placed well to capitalise on rising demand in the world markets.

Next is inflation. India is suffering from stagnant growth to low growth in the last two quarters. At best, any growth in the current quarter will be illusionary because it comes on top of substantial negative growth in the first quarter of last year, **perpetuating** a statistical phenomenon known as the “low base effect”. The base effect states that when measuring year-over-year growth, we take the previous year’s numbers as the base instead of actual base year and measure the growth as a percentage. As in the low initial base set by last year, almost any growth this year is seen as a significant growth percentage. In comparison, the absolute growth figure is negligible.

Inflation in India is being imported through a combination of high commodity prices and high asset price inflation caused by ultra-loose monetary policy followed across the globe. Foreign portfolio investors have directed a portion of the liquidity towards our markets. Compared to a developed capital market, India has a relatively low market capitalisation. It, therefore, cannot absorb the enormous capital inflow without asset prices inflating. This might be seen as a welcome move, but it is to be noted that most of India's population do not own equity or bonds, which means that they cannot cash in on asset inflation. The wealthy upper class gets richer due to access to financial assets. The middle and lower-middle-class get destitute due to regressive indirect taxes and high inflation, with their wealth eroding due to said inflation. Especially in the case of the lower middle class, inflation is lethal as they do not have access to any hard assets, including the most fundamental hard asset, gold.

Q85. What is the contradiction of economists in economic recovery on the demand side?

- (A). disruption in demand is caused by decline in production and shortage of supply in the market
- (B). there was an economic improvement in the last few months after the decline in the Covid-19 cases
- (C). unlike second world war, there is no stimulus to increase demand in the economy
- (D). there is a great depression throughout the world and this causes absence of a support base like the U.S. has
- (E). None of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: The correct choice is option (c) which can be inferred from second paragraph which mentions, "The first factor, demand. In the case of the Great Depression, demand was created by the Second World War effort. Especially in the United States, which was largely spared of the destruction, its industrial capabilities could be used as a supply base for the entire Allied effort. In the current scenario, there is no war to create demand."

Q86. How does 'low base effect' cause illusionary growth in the economy?

- (A). Base year change every year and this gives rise to variation in the methods and results over the year
- (B). It changes the reference point for comparison between two sets of data and has insignificant results
- (C). To conceal actual data sometimes changes have been made and this has erroneous results
- (D). It is difficult to record actual data in this huge economy so economists use an approximation of the conclusion
- (E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: To validate the answer refer to the third paragraph which mentions, "The base effect states that when measuring year-over-year growth, we take the previous year's numbers as the base instead of actual base year and measure the growth as a percentage. As in the low initial base set by last year, almost any growth this year is seen as a significant growth percentage."

Q87. Which of the following is the reason for increasing inflation in the economy?

- (A). cost of inputs increase when there is an increase in production to meet higher demand
- (B). prices rise when there is an abundance of outputs which is due to a lack of demand in the market
- (C). higher non-adjustable liquidity in the economy causes hike in prices of various goods and services
- (D). All of these
- (E). None of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: To validate the correct choice refer to the last paragraph which mentions, "Foreign portfolio investors have directed a portion of the liquidity towards our markets. Compared to a developed capital market, India has a relatively low market capitalisation. It, therefore, cannot absorb the enormous capital inflow without asset prices inflating."

Q88. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the last paragraph with reference to *inflation*?

- (A). There is variation in consequences of inflation with respect to the number of assets different classes possess
- (B). Inflation has a uniform effect on every sector and household due to limited resources in the economy



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ALL EXAMS
MOCK TESTS

SUBSCRIPTION

- (C). Richer people are fortunate enough to have a higher capacity to compensate by increasing their income source
(D). People living in penury get subsidies from the government when they get distressed by higher inflation
(E). None of these

Ans.(A)

Solution: The correct choice is option (a), which can be inferred from last lines of last paragraph which mentions, "The wealthy upper class gets richer due to access to financial assets. The middle and lower-middle-class get destitute due to regressive indirect taxes and high inflation, with their wealth eroding due to said inflation. Especially in the case of the lower middle class, inflation is lethal as they do not have access to any hard assets, including the most fundamental hard asset, gold."

Q89. Which of the following given statement(s) is/are incorrect with reference to the paragraph?

- (i) Economists are urging government to take necessary steps towards the economic downfall.
(ii) Lower foreign direct investment is the reason for the inflation in any economy.
(iii) India is suffering from sluggish growth since last half year.
(A). Only (iii)
(B). Both (i) and (iv)
(C). Both (ii) and (iii)
(D). Only (i) and (ii)
(E). All of these

Ans.(D)

Solution: The correct choice is option (d). Both statement (i) and statement (ii) are incorrect. For falsity of statement (i), refer to the first paragraph which mentions, "In recent times, right-leaning economists have been arguing that the Government does not need to do anything with the economy and that it will revive by itself." For falsity of statement (ii), refer to the fourth paragraph which mentions, "Foreign portfolio investors have directed a portion of the liquidity towards our markets. Compared to a developed capital market, India has a relatively low market capitalisation. It, therefore, cannot absorb the enormous capital inflow without asset prices inflating." For statement (iii), refer to the third paragraph which mentions, "India is suffering from stagnant growth to low growth in the last two quarters."

Q90. Which of the following is similar in meaning to 'Fallacious' as used in the passage?

- (A). appease
(B). imprecise
(C). minute
(D). dissipate
(E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: The correct choice is option (b). 'Fallacious' means 'incorrect, wrong' and 'imprecise' is synonym which means 'not clear or exact'. Appease means to make somebody calmer or less angry by agreeing to what he/she wants. Minute means very small. Dissipate means to slowly become less until it disappears; to make something weaker until it disappears.

Q91. Which of the following is similar in meaning to 'Impediment' as used in the passage?

- (A). captivate
(B). prominent
(C). restrain
(D). animosity
(E). None of these

Ans.(C)

Solution: The correct choice is option (c). 'Impediment' means 'something that makes it difficult for a person or thing to move or progress' and restrain is synonym which means 'to keep somebody or something under control; to prevent somebody or something from doing something'. Captive means kept as a prisoner; (used about animals) kept in a cage, etc. Prominent means important or famous. Animosity means a strong feeling of anger and of not liking somebody/something.

Q92. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to 'Perpetuating' as used in the passage?

- (A). mawkish
- (B). cease
- (C). dismal
- (D). fortify
- (E). None of these

Ans.(B)

Solution: The correct choice is option (b). 'Perpetuating' means to cause something to continue for a long time and 'cease' is antonym which means to stop or end. mawkish means sentimental in an exaggerated or false way. dismal means causing a mood of gloom or depression. fortify means provide (a place) with defensive works as protection against attack.

Directions (93-100): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some parts have been highlighted to aid in answering the questions.

India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) have been in discussions to forge a comprehensive economic partnership agreement. EFTA, consisting of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, represents a significant opportunity for India to deepen its economic ties with these high-income European countries. This potential agreement is seen as a strategic move to enhance trade and investment flows between India and the EFTA member states, providing a fresh stance in India's trade policy and economic diplomacy.

The negotiations, which have seen renewed vigor in recent months, aim to reduce trade barriers and foster a **conducive** environment for increased business exchanges. This includes the liberalization of trade in goods, services, and investment, alongside the easing of norms for the movement of professionals. For India, the deal promises to open up new markets for its **burgeoning** IT and services sectors, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agricultural products. It is expected to provide a significant boost to exports and contribute to economic growth.

From the EFTA countries' perspective, India, with its vast market, offers a plethora of opportunities for businesses in areas such as precision instruments, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and renewable energy. Moreover, the agreement is seen as a gateway for EFTA countries to strengthen their economic presence in Asia, leveraging India's strategic position in the region.

However, the negotiations have not been without challenges. Key issues such as intellectual property rights, data protection, and access to financial services have required careful deliberation to address concerns on both sides. Despite these hurdles, both parties have expressed a commitment to finding common ground, highlighting the importance of this partnership in the current global economic landscape.

This fresh stance in India's approach towards the EFTA deal underscores its ambitions to diversify its trade partnerships and secure a place in the global economic order. By forging a path toward closer economic cooperation with the EFTA, India not only aims to boost its own economy but also to strengthen its geopolitical ties with Europe.

Q93. What signifies the importance of the partnership between India and EFTA in the current global economic landscape?

- (A). The partnership is primarily focused on enhancing military and defense cooperation globally
- (B). It represents a strategic move to strengthen cultural ties and promote global peace
- (C). The deal is a step towards establishing a global currency to rival the Euro and the Dollar
- (D). The dedication of both parties to identifying mutual interests underscores its importance.
- (E). The partnership is seen as a model for future extraterrestrial colonization projects

Ans.(D)

Solution: The correct answer is (d) **The dedication of both parties to identifying mutual interests underscores its importance.**

This is supported by the passage, where it states, " **Despite these hurdles, both parties have expressed a commitment to finding common ground, highlighting the importance of this partnership in the current global economic landscape.**" This line emphasizes the dedication of both India and the EFTA countries to overcome challenges and reach an agreement, indicating the significance of the partnership in the broader context of global economics. None of the other options are mentioned or implied as aspects of the partnership's importance in the provided text.

Q94. Why do EFTA countries view India as an attractive partner for this agreement?

- (A). Alignment with India's environmental conservation efforts
- Top of Form
- (B). India's stability ensures reliability for long-term ties
- (C). Interest in India's space technology and research
- (D). Potential in tourism and cultural exchanges due to rich heritage
- (E). Prospects in precision instrumentation and renewable industries

Ans.(E)

Solution: EFTA countries view India as an attractive partner for this agreement due to " **Prospects in precision instrumentation and renewable industries,**" as stated in the passage. Specifically, it mentions, " **From the EFTA countries' perspective, India, with its vast market, offers a plethora of opportunities for businesses in areas such as precision instruments, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and renewable energy.**" This indicates that the attractive aspects of the partnership for EFTA countries include the potential for business in these sectors, aligning with option (e). The passage does not explicitly mention India's stability, space technology research, tourism and cultural exchanges, or environmental conservation efforts as reasons for EFTA's interest, making (e) the correct choice.

Q95. What is the primary objective of the negotiations between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?

- (A). Establishing cultural exchanges with EFTA states
- (B). Boosting trade and investment with EFTA.
- (C). Initiating a defense pact for regional security
- (D). Collaborating on environmental conservation
- (E). Developing a joint space exploration program

Ans.(B)

Solution: The primary objective of the negotiations between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is **(b) Boosting trade and investment with EFTA.** This is directly stated in the passage, which describes the potential agreement as " **This potential agreement is seen as a strategic move to enhance trade and investment flows between India and the EFTA member states, providing a fresh stance in India's trade policy and economic diplomacy.**" The negotiations aim to reduce trade barriers and foster a conducive environment for increased business exchanges, including the liberalization of trade in goods, services, and investment, and easing norms for the movement of professionals. This focus on improving trade and investment relations is clear and directly addressed, making option (b) the correct answer.

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Q96. What challenges have been encountered during the negotiations between India and EFTA?

- (A). Military and defense cooperation strategy disagreements
- (B). Cultural exchange and visa policy differences
- (C). Intellectual property, data, financial service issues
- (D). Environmental policy and climate commitment conflicts
- (E). Educational program and academic collaboration variances

Ans.(C)

Solution: The challenges encountered during the negotiations between India and EFTA are related to " **Intellectual property, data, financial service issues.**" As mentioned in the passage, " **Key issues such as intellectual property rights, data protection, and access to financial services have required careful deliberation to address concerns on both sides.**" This indicates that the negotiations have faced hurdles in aligning the policies and expectations concerning intellectual property rights, data protection, and the access to financial services between India and the EFTA countries. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer, as it directly reflects the content of the passage.

Q97. Based on the passage, which of the following statements is/are INCORRECT?

- (I) The negotiations aim primarily at increasing military cooperation between India and EFTA.
- (II) The agreement will limit India's access to markets in Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.
- (III) A key objective of the discussions is to ease norms for the movement of professionals between India and EFTA countries.

- (A). Only (I)
- (B). Only (II)
- (C). Only (III)
- (D). Both (I) and (II)
- (E). Both (II) and (III)

Ans.(D)

Solution: Let's analyze each statement based on the information provided in the passage:

(I) The passage does not mention military cooperation as an aim of the negotiations. Instead, it focuses on enhancing trade and investment, liberalizing trade in goods, services, and investment, and easing norms for the movement of professionals. Therefore, statement I is incorrect.

(II) The agreement is described as a strategic move to enhance trade and investment flows between India and the EFTA member states, including opening up new markets for India's sectors such as IT, services, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agricultural products. This implies that the agreement aims to increase, not limit, India's access to markets in Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. Thus, statement II is incorrect.

(III) The passage explicitly states that the negotiations aim to foster a conducive environment for increased business exchanges, which includes " **the easing of norms for the movement of professionals.**" This makes statement III correct as it aligns with the passage's information.

Based on this analysis, the incorrect statements are (I) and (II), making the correct answer **(d) Both (I) and (II)**.

Q98. Based on the passage, which of the following outcomes is directly attributed to India's renewed approach to the EFTA deal?

- (I) Increasing India's military presence in Europe.
 - (II) Diversifying India's trade partnerships and securing a global economic position.
 - (III) Enhancing India's cultural and educational ties with European countries.
- (A). Only (I)
 - (B). Only (II)
 - (C). Only (III)
 - (D). Both (I) and (III)
 - (E). Both (II) and (III)

Ans.(B)

Solution: Analyzing the outcomes attributed to India's renewed approach to the EFTA deal based on the passage:

(I) There is no mention of increasing India's military presence in Europe as an outcome of the renewed approach to the EFTA deal. The focus is on economic and trade aspects rather than military or defense cooperation.

(II) The passage explicitly mentions that the fresh stance in India's approach towards the EFTA deal underscores its ambitions to diversify its trade partnerships and secure a place in the global economic order. It states, " **This fresh stance in India's approach towards the EFTA deal underscores its ambitions to diversify its trade partnerships and secure a place in the global economic order,**" indicating that diversifying trade partnerships and securing a global economic position is a direct outcome of India's renewed approach.

(III) While the agreement aims to enhance trade and investment and ease norms for the movement of professionals, there is no specific mention of enhancing cultural and educational ties with European countries as a direct outcome of the renewed approach to the EFTA deal. The focus is on economic benefits and trade relations rather than cultural and educational exchanges.

Based on this analysis, the correct answer is **(b) Only (II)**, as it is the outcome directly attributed to India's renewed approach to the EFTA deal according to the information provided in the passage.

Q99. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word "burgeoning" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). mounting
- (B). bulking
- (C). cresting
- (D). budding
- (E). shriveling

Ans.(E)

Solution: The most appropriate antonym of the word "burgeoning" as highlighted in the passage is:

(e) shriveling

"Burgeoning" refers to something that is growing or expanding rapidly. "Shriveling" means to shrink, wither, or become wrinkled, often implying a reduction in size or vitality, making it the correct antonym among the given options.

- (a) **mounting:** Increasing, escalating, or rising.
- (b) **bulking:** Becoming larger, swelling, or adding bulk.
- (c) **cresting:** Reaching a peak or the highest point.
- (d) **budding:** Beginning to develop or showing signs of future potential.

Q100. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word "conductive" as highlighted in the passage.

- (A). deleterious
- (B). adverse
- (C). propitious
- (D). nocuous
- (E). ominous

Ans.(C)

Solution: The most appropriate synonym of the word "conductive" as highlighted in the passage is:

(c) propitious

"Conductive" means making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible. "Propitious" similarly refers to presenting favorable conditions; thus, it aligns closely with the meaning of "conductive."

- (a) **deleterious:** Harmful or damaging.
- (b) **adverse:** Unfavorable or harmful.
- (d) **nocuous:** Harmful, poisonous, or noxious.
- (e) **ominous:** Suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future.

