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CSAT-ENG PYQ



UPSC (2011-2024)

HIGHLIGHTS

- CSAT - English Comprehension PYQs Year wise as asked in UPSC
- Year wise Answer keys as released by UPSC

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Passage 1

For achieving inclusive growth there is a critical need to rethink the role of the State. The early debate among economists about the size of the Government can be misleading. The need of the hour is to have an enabling Government. India is too large and complex a nation for the State to be able to deliver all that is needed. Asking the Government to produce all the essential goods, create all the necessary jobs, and keep a curb on the prices of all goods is to lead to a large cumbersome bureaucracy and widespread corruption. The aim must be to stay with the objective of inclusive growth that was laid down by the founding fathers of the nation and also to take a more modern view of what the State can realistically deliver.

This is what leads to the idea of an enabling State, that is, a Government that does not try to directly deliver to the citizens everything that they need. Instead, it (1) creates an enabling ethos for the market so that individual enterprise can flourish and citizens can, for the most part, provide for the needs of one another, and (2) steps in to help those who do not manage to do well for themselves, for there will always be individuals, no matter what the system, who need support and help. Hence we need a Government that, when it comes to the market, sets effective, incentive-compatible rules and remains on the sidelines with minimal interference, and, at the same time, plays an important role in directly helping the poor by ensuring that they get basic education and health services and receive adequate nutrition and food.

1. According to passage:

1. The objective of inclusive growth was laid down by the founding fathers of the nation.
2. Need of the hour is to have an enabling Government.
3. The Government should engage in maximum interference in market processes.

4. There is a need to change the size of the Government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2. According to the passage, the strategy of inclusive growth can be effected by focusing on

- (a) Meeting all the needs of every citizen in the country.
- (b) Increasing the regulations over the manufacturing sector.
- (c) Controlling the distribution of manufactured goods.
- (d) Delivery of the basic services to the deprived sections of the society

3. What constitutes an enabling Government?

1. A large bureaucracy.
2. Implementation of welfare programmes through representatives.
3. Creating an ethos that helps individual enterprise
4. Providing resources to those who are underprivileged.
5. Offering direct help to the poor regarding basic services.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

4. Why is the State unable to deliver "all that is needed"?

1. It does not have sufficient bureaucracy.
2. It does not promote inclusive growth.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

5. What is the essential message being conveyed by the author of the passage?

- (a) The objectives of inclusive growth laid down by the founding fathers of the nation should be remembered.
- (b) The Government needs to make available more schools and health services.
- (c) The Government needs to establish markets and industries to meet the needs of the poor strata of the society.
- (d) There is a need to rethink the role of the State in achieving inclusive growth.

Passage 2

The concept of 'creative society' refers to a phase of development of a society in which a large number of potential contradictions become articulate and active. This is most evident when oppressed social groups get politically mobilized and demand their rights. The upsurge of the peasants and tribals, the movements for regional autonomy and self-determination, the environmental movements, and the women's movements in the developing countries are signs of emergence of creative society in contemporary times. The forms of social movements and their intensity may vary from country to country and place to place within a country. But the very presence of movements for social transformation in various spheres of a society indicates the emergence of a creative society in a country.

6. What does the author imply by "creative society"?

- 1. A society where diverse art forms and literary writings seek incentive.
- 2. A society where social inequalities are accepted as the norm.
- 3. A society where a large number of contradictions are recognized.

4. A society where the exploited and the oppressed groups grow conscious of their human rights and upliftment.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7. What according to the passage are the manifestations of social movements?

- 1. Aggressiveness and being incendiary.
- 2. Instigation by external forces.
- 3. Quest for social equality and individual freedom.
- 4. Urge for granting privileges and self-respect to disparaged sections of the society.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

8. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

- 1. To be a creative society, it is essential to have a variety of social movements.
- 2. To be a creative society, it is imperative to have potential contradictions and conflicts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 3

Ecosystems provide people with a variety of goods and services; food, clean water, clean air, flood control, soil stabilization, pollination, climate regulation, spiritual fulfilment and aesthetic enjoyment, to name just a few. Most of these benefits either are irreplaceable or the technology

necessary to replace them is prohibitively expensive. For example, potable fresh water can be provided by desalinating sea-water, but only at great cost.

The rapidly expanding human population has greatly modified the Earth's ecosystems to meet their increased requirements of some of the goods and services, particularly food, fresh water, timber, fibre and fuel. These modifications have contributed substantially to human well being and economic development. The benefits have not been equally distributed. Some people have actually been harmed by these changes.

Moreover, short-term increases in some ecosystem goods and services have come at the cost of the long-term degradation of others. For example, efforts to increase the production of food and fibre have decreased the ability of some ecosystems to provide clean water, regulate flooding and support biodiversity.

9. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements.

Expanding human population has an adverse effect on:

1. Spiritual fulfilment
2. Aesthetic enjoyment
3. Potable fresh water
4. Production of food and fibre
5. Biodiversity

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10. The passage mentions that "some people have actually been harmed by these changes."

What does it imply?

1. The rapid expansion of population has adversely affected some people.
2. Sufficient efforts, have not been made to increase the production of food and fibre.
3. In the short term some people may be harmed, but in the long term everyone will benefit from modifications in the Earth's ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

1. It is imperative to modify the Earth's ecosystems for the well-being of mankind.
2. Technology can never replace all the goods and services provided by ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 4

A moral act must be our own act; must spring from our own will. If we act mechanically, there is no moral content in our act. Such action would be moral, if we think it proper to act like a machine and do so. For, in doing so, we use our discrimination. We should bear in mind the distinction between acting mechanically and acting intentionally. It may be moral of a king to pardon a culprit. But the messenger carrying out the order of pardon plays only a mechanical part in the king's moral act. But if the messenger were to carry out the king's order considering it to be his duty, his action would be a moral one. How can a man understand morality who does not use his own intelligence and power of thought, but lets himself be swept along like a log of wood by a current? Sometimes a man defies convention and acts on his own with a view to absolute good.

12. Which of the following statements best describe/describes the thought of the writer?

1. A moral act calls for using our discretion.
2. Man should react to a situation immediately.
3. Man must do his duty.
4. Man should be able to defy convention in order to be moral.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

13. Which of the following statements is the nearest definition of moral action, according to the writer?

- (a) It is a mechanical action based on official orders from superiors.
- (b) It is an action based on our sense of discretion.
- (c) It is a clever action based on the clarity of purpose.
- (d) It is a religious action based on understanding.

14. The passage contains a statement "lets himself be swept along like a log of wood by a current." Among the following statements, which is/are nearest in meaning to this?

- 1. A person does not use his own reason.
- 2. He is susceptible to influence/ pressure.
- 3. He cannot withstand difficulties/ challenges.
- 4. He is like a log of wood.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Passage 5

A country under foreign domination seeks escape from the present in dreams of a vanished age, and finds consolation in visions of past greatness. That is a foolish and dangerous pastime in which many of us indulge. An equally questionable practice for us in India is to imagine that we are still spiritually great though we have come down in the world in other respects. Spiritual or any other greatness cannot be founded on lack of freedom and opportunity, or on starvation and misery. Many western writers have encouraged that notion that Indians are other worldly. I suppose the poor and unfortunate in every country become to some

extent other-worldly, unless they become revolutionaries, for this world is evidently not meant for them. So also subject peoples.

As a man grows to maturity he is not entirely engrossed in, or satisfied with, the external objective world. He seeks also some inner meaning, some psychological and physical satisfactions. So also with peoples and civilizations as they mature and grow adult. Every civilization and every people exhibit these parallel streams of an external life and an internal life. Where they meet or keep close to each other, there is an equilibrium and stability. When they diverge conflict arises and the crises that torture the mind and spirit.

15. The passage mentions that "this world is evidently not meant for them". It refers to people who

- 1. seek freedom from foreign domination.
- 2. live in starvation and misery.
- 3. become revolutionaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following assumptions:

- 1. A country under foreign domination cannot indulge in spiritual pursuit.
- 2. Poverty is an impediment in the spiritual pursuit.
- 3. Subject peoples may become other-worldly.

With reference to the passage, which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

17. The passage thematically centres on

- (a) the state of mind of oppressed people
- (b) starvation and misery
- (c) the growth of civilization

(d) body, mind and spirit of people in general

18. According to the passage, the torture of the mind and spirit is caused

- (a) by the impact of foreign domination.
- (b) by the desire to escape from foreign domination and find consolation in visions of past greatness.
- (c) due to lack of equilibrium between an external life and an internal life.
- (d) due to one's inability to be either revolutionary or other-worldly.

Passage 6

A species that exerts an influence out of proportion to its abundance in an ecosystem is called a keystone species. The keystone species may influence both the species richness of communities and the flow of energy and materials through ecosystems. The sea star *Pisaster ochraceus*, which lives in rocky intertidal ecosystems on the Pacific coast of North America is also an example of a keystone species. Its preferred prey is the mussel *Mytilus californianus*. In the absence of sea-stars, these mussels crowd out other competitors in a broad belt of the intertidal zone. By consuming mussels, sea star creates bare spaces that are taken over by a variety of other species.

A study at the University of Washington demonstrated the influence of *Pisaster* on species richness by removing sea stars from selected parts of the intertidal zone repeatedly over a period of five years. Two major changes occurred in the areas from which sea stars were removed. First, the lower edge of the mussel bed extended farther down into the intertidal zone, showing that sea stars are able to eliminate mussels completely where they are covered with water most of the time. Second, and more dramatically, 28 species of animals and algae disappeared from the sea star removal zone. Eventually only *Mytilus*, the dominant competitor, occupied the entire substratum. Through its effect on competitive relationships, predation by *Pisaster* largely determines which species live in these rocky intertidal ecosystems.

19. What is the crux of the passage?

- (a) Sea star has a preferred prey.
- (b) A preferred prey determines the survival of a keystone species.
- (c) Keystone species ensures species diversity.
- (d) Sea star is the only keystone species on the Pacific coast of North America.

20. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

1. Mussels are generally the dominant species in intertidal ecosystems.
2. The survival of sea stars is generally determined by the abundance of mussels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. Which of the following is/are implied by the passage?

1. Mussels are always hard competitors for sea stars.
2. Sea stars of the Pacific coast have reached the climax of their evolution.
3. Sea stars constitute an important component in the energy flow in intertidal ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following assumptions:

1. The food chains/food web in an ecosystem are influenced by keystone species.
2. The presence of keystone species is a specific characteristic of aquatic ecosystems.
3. If the keystone species is completely removed from an ecosystem, it will lead to the collapse of the ecosystem.

With reference to the passage, which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 7

Now India's children have a right to receive at least eight years of education, the gnawing question is whether it will remain on paper or become a reality. One hardly needs a reminder that this right is different from the others enshrined in the Constitution, that the beneficiary, a six year old child cannot demand it, nor can she or he fight a legal battle when the right is denied or violated. In all cases, it is the adult society which must act on behalf of the child. In another peculiarity, where a child's right to education is denied, no compensation offered later can be adequate or relevant. This is so because childhood does not last. If a legal battle fought on behalf of a child is eventually won, it may be of little use to the boy or girl because the opportunity missed at school during childhood cannot serve the same purpose later in life. This may be painfully true for girls because our society permits them only a short childhood, if at all. The Right to Education (RTE) has become law at a point in India's history when the ghastly practice of female infanticide has resurfaced in the form of foeticide. This is "symptomatic of a deeper turmoil" in society which compounding the traditional obstacles to the education of girls. Tenacious prejudice against the intellectual potential of girls runs across our cultural diversity and the system of education has not been able to address it.

23. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

1. When children are denied education, adult society does not act on behalf of them.
2. Right to Education as a law cannot be enforced in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

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

24. According to the passage, what could be the traditional obstacles to the education of girls?

1. Inability of parents to fight a legal battle when the Right to Education is denied to their children.
2. The traditional way of thinking about girls role in society.
3. The prejudice against the intellectual potential of girls.
4. Improper system of education.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

25. On the basis of the passage, consider the following statements:

1. Right to Education is a legal right and not a fundamental right.
2. For realizing the goal of universal education, the education system in the country must be made identical to that of developed countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Which one of the following statements conveys the key message of the passage?

- (a) India has declared that education is compulsory for its children.
- (b) Adult society is not keen on implementing the Right to Education.
- (c) The Right to Education, particularly of a girl child, needs to be safeguarded.
- (d) The system of education should address the issue of Right to Education.

27. Which one of the following statements conveys the inference of the passage?

- (a) The society has a tenacious prejudice against the intellectual potential of girls.
- (b) Adults cannot be relied upon to fight on behalf of children for their Right to Education.
- (c) The legal fight to get education for children is often protracted and prohibitive.
- (d) There is no sufficient substitute for education received in childhood.

Passage 8

He walked several miles that day but could not get anything to eat or drink except some dry bread and some water, which he got from cottagers and farmers. As night fell, he slept under a haystack lying in a meadow. He felt frightened at first, for the wind blew awfully over the empty fields. He felt cold and hungry, and was feeling more lonely than he had ever felt before. He however, soon fell asleep, being much tired with his long walk. When he got up next day, he was feeling terribly hungry so he purchased a loaf of bread with a few coins that he had.

28. When the night fell, he slept

- (a) in the open field
- (b) under a pile of dry grass
- (c) in a farmer's cottage
- (d) under a tree

29. He soon fell asleep because

- (a) He was exhausted
- (b) He was all alone
- (c) He had not slept for days
- (d) He was very frightened

30. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

1. He was walking through the countryside,
2. The cottagers and farmers gave him enough food so that he could sleep at night without feeling hungry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Passage 9

I opened the bag and packed the boots in; and then, just as I was going to close it, a horrible idea occurred to me. Had I packed my toothbrush? I don't know how it is, but I never do know whether I've packed my toothbrush. My toothbrush is a thing that haunts me when I'm travelling and makes my life a misery, I dream that I haven't packed it, and wake up in a cold perspiration, and get out of bed and hunt for it. And, in the morning, I pack it before I have used it, and it is always the last thing I turn out of the bag; and then I repack and forget it, and have to rush upstairs for it at the last moment and carry it to the railway station, wrapped up in my pocket-handkerchief.

31. When he was going to close the bag, the idea that occurred to him was

- (a) unpleasant
- (b) sad
- (c) fantastic
- (d) amusing

32. What makes his life miserable whenever he undertakes travelling?

- (a) Going to railway station
- (b) Forgetting the toothbrush
- (c) Packing his bag
- (d) Bad dreams

33. His toothbrush is finally

- (a) in his bag
- (b) in his bed
- (c) in his handkerchief
- (d) lost

Passage 10

In spring, polar bear mothers emerge from dens with three month old cubs. The mother bear has fasted for as long as eight months but that does not stop the young from demanding full access to her remaining reserves. If there are triplets, the most persistent stands to gain an extra meal and it may have the meal at the expense of others. The smallest of the litter forfeits many meals to

stronger siblings. Females protective of their cubs but tend to ignore family rivalry over food. In 21 years of photographing polar bears, I've only once seen the smallest of triplets survive till autumn.

34. Female polar bears give birth during

- (a) spring
- (b) summer
- (c) autumn
- (d) winter

35. Mother bear

- (a) takes sides over cubs
- (b) lets the cubs fend for themselves
- (c) feeds only their favourites
- (d) see that all cubs get an equal share

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

1. Polar bears fast as long as eight months due to non-availability of prey.
2. Polar bears always give birth to triplets.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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



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Passage 1

The poor especially in market economics, need the strength that collectivities offer for creating more economic, social and political space for themselves, for enhancing their socio-economic well-being and voice, and as a protection against free market individualism. It has been argued that a group approach to farming, especially in the form of bottom up agricultural production collectivities, offers substantial scope for poverty alleviation and empowering the poor as well as enhancing agricultural productivity. To realise this potential, however, the groups would need to be voluntary in nature, small in size, participative in decision making and equitable in work sharing and benefit distribution. There are many notable examples of such collectivities to be found in varied contexts, such as in transition economies. All of them bear witness to the possibility of successful cooperation under given conditions. And although the gender impact of the family cooperatives in the transition economies are uncertain, the Indian examples of women-only groups farming offer considerable potential for benefiting women.

1. Agricultural collectivities such as group based farming can provide the rural poor

1. empowerment
2. increased agricultural productivity.
3. safeguard against exploitative markets.
4. surplus production of agricultural commodities.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2. What does the author imply by "gender impact"?

- (a) Women are doubtful participants in cooperatives.
- (b) Family cooperatives may not include women
- (c) Women benefitting from group farming.
- (d) Women's role in transition economies is highly restrictive.

3. Consider the following assumptions:

1. It is imperative for transition economies to have agricultural collectivities.
2. Agricultural productivity can be increased by group approach to farming.

With reference to the above passage which of these assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 2

In a typical Western liberal context, deepening of democracy invariably leads to consolidation of 'liberal values'. In the Indian context, democratization is translated into greater involvement of people not as 'individuals' which is a staple to liberal discourse, but as communities or groups. Individuals are getting involved in the public sphere not as 'atomized' individuals but as members of primordial communities drawn on religious or caste identity. Community-identity seems to be the governing force. It is not therefore surprising that the so-called peripheral groups continue to maintain their identities with reference to the social groups {caste, religion or sect} to which they belong while getting involved in the political processes despite the fact that their political goals remain more or less identical. By helping to articulate the political voice of the marginalized, democracy in India has led to 'a loosening of social strictures' and empowered the peripherals to be confident of their ability to improve the socio- economic conditions in which

they are placed. This is a significant political process that had led to a silent revolution through a meaningful transfer of power from the upper caste cities to various subaltern groups within the democratic framework of public governance

4. According to the passage, what does "deepening of democracy" mean in the Western context?

- (a) Consolidation of group and class identities.
- (b) Democratization translated as greater involvement of people.
- (c) Democratization as greater involvement of 'atomized' individuals in the public sphere.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context.

5. Greater democratization in India has not necessarily led to

- (a) the dilution of caste and communal identities in the public sphere.
- (b) irrelevance of community identity as governing force in Indian politics.
- (c) marginalization of elite groups in society.
- (d) relative unimportance of hereditary identities over class identities.

6. What is the "silent revolution" that has occurred in the Indian democratic process?

- (a) Irrelevance of caste and class hierarchies in political processes
- (b) Loosening of social strictures in voting behavior and patterns.
- (c) Social change through transfer of power from upper caste elites to subaltern groups.
- (d) All the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above are correct in this context.

Passage 3

Education, without a doubt, has an important functional, instrumental and utilitarian dimension. This is revealed when one asks questions such as 'what is the purpose of education?'. The answers, too often, are 'to acquire qualifications for employment/upward mobility', 'wider/higher (in terms of income) opportunities', and 'to meet the needs for trained human power in diverse fields for national development'. But in its deepest sense

education is not instrumentalist. That is to say, it is not to be justified outside of itself because it leads to the acquisition of formal skills or of certain desired psychological- social attributes. It must be respected in itself. Education is thus not a commodity to be acquired or possessed and then used, but a process of inestimable importance to individuals and society, although it can and does have enormous use value. Education then, is a process of expansion and conversion, not in the sense of converting or turning students into doctors or engineers, but the widening and turning out of the mind - the creation, sustenance and development of self-critical awareness and independence of thought. It is an inner process of moral-intellectual development.

7. What do you understand by the 'instrumentalist' view of education?

- (a) Education is functional and utilitarian in its purposes.
- (b) Education is meant to fulfill human needs.
- (c) The purpose of education is to train the human intellect.
- (d) Education is meant to achieve moral development.

8. According to the passage, education must be respected in itself because

- (a) it helps to acquire qualifications for employment.
- (b) it helps in upward mobility and acquiring social status.
- (c) it is an inner process of moral and intellectual development
- (d) All the (a), (b) and (c) given above are correct in this context.

9. Education is a process in which

- (a) students are converted into trained professionals.
- (b) opportunities for higher income are generated.
- (c) individuals develop self-critical awareness and independence of thought.
- (d) qualifications for upward mobility are acquired.

Passage 4

Chemical pesticides lose their role in sustainable agriculture if the pests evolve resistance. The evolution of pesticide resistance is simply natural selection in action. It is almost certain to occur when vast numbers of a genetically variable population are killed. One or a few individuals may be unusually resistant (perhaps because they possess an enzyme that can detoxify the pesticide). If the pesticide is applied repeatedly, each successive generation of the pest will contain a larger proportion of resistant individuals. Pests typically have a high intrinsic rate of reproduction, and so a few individuals in one generation may give rise to hundreds or thousands in the next, and resistance spreads very rapidly in a population.

This problem was often ignored in the past, even though the first case of DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) resistance was reported as early as 1946. There is an exponential increase in the numbers of invertebrates that have evolved resistance and in the number of pesticides against which resistance has evolved. Resistance has been recorded in every family of arthropod pests (including dipterans such as mosquitoes and house flies, as well as beetles, moths, wasps, fleas, lice and mites) as well as in weeds and plant pathogens. Take the Alabama leaf worm, a moth pest of cotton, as an example. It has developed resistance in one or more regions of the world to aldrin, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, lindane and toxaphene.

If chemical pesticides brought nothing but problems- if their use was intrinsically and acutely unsustainable then they would already have fallen out of widespread use. This has not happened. Instead, their rate of production has increased rapidly. The ratio of cost to benefit for the individual agricultural producer has remained in favour of pesticide use. In the USA, insecticides have been estimated to benefit the agricultural products to the tune of around \$5 for every \$1 spent.

Moreover, in many poorer countries, the prospect of imminent mass starvation, or of an epidemic disease, are so frightening that the social and health costs of using pesticides have to be ignored. In general the use of pesticides is justified by objective measures such as 'lives saved',

'economic efficiency of food production' and 'total food produced'. In these very fundamental senses, their use may be described as sustainable. In practice, sustainability depends on continually developing new pesticides that keep at least one step ahead of the pests - pesticides that are less persistent, biodegradable and more accurately targeted at the pests.

10. "The evolution of pesticide resistance is natural selection in action." What does it actually imply?

- (a) It is very natural for many organisms to have pesticide resistance.
- (b) Pesticide resistance among organisms is a universal phenomenon.
- (c) Some individuals in any given population show resistance after the application of pesticides
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct.

11. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

1. Use of chemical pesticides has become imperative in all the poor countries of the world.
2. Chemical pesticides should not have any role in sustainable agriculture
3. One pest can develop resistance to many pesticides

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Though the problems associated with the use of chemical pesticides is known for a long time, their widespread use has not waned. Why?

- (a) Alternatives to chemical pesticides do not exist at all.
- (b) New pesticides are not invented at all.
- (c) Pesticides are biodegradable.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct.

13. How do pesticides act as agents for the selection of resistant individuals in any pest population?

1. It is possible that in a pest population the individuals will behave differently due to their genetic makeup.
2. Pests do possess the ability to detoxify the pesticides.
3. Evolution of pesticide resistance is equally distributed in pest population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Why is the use of chemical pesticides generally justified by giving the examples of poor and developing countries?

1. Developed countries can afford to do away with use of pesticides by adapting to organic farming but it is imperative for poor and developing countries to use chemical pesticides.
2. In poor and developing countries, the pesticide addresses the problem of epidemic diseases of crops and eases the food problem
3. The social and health costs of pesticide use are generally ignored in poor and developing countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. What does the passage imply?

- (a) Alternative options to chemical pesticides should be promoted.
- (b) Too much use of chemicals is not good for the ecosystem.
- (c) There is no scope for the improvement of pesticides and making their use sustainable
- (d) Both the statements (a) and (b) above are correct.

Passage 5

Today's developing economies use much less energy per capita than developed countries such as the United States did at similar incomes, showing the potential for lower-carbon growth. Adaptation and mitigation need to be integrated into a climate-smart development strategy that increases resilience, reduces the threat of further global warming, and improves development outcomes. Adaptation and mitigation measures can advance development, and prosperity can raise incomes and foster better institutions. A healthier population living in better – built houses and with access to bank loans and social security is better equipped to deal with a changing climate and its consequences. Advancing robust, resilient development policies that promote adaptation is needed today because changes in the climate, already begun, will increase even in the short term.

The spread of economic prosperity has always been intertwined with adaptation to changing ecological conditions. But as growth has altered the environment and as environmental change has accelerated, sustaining growth and adaptability demands greater capacity to understand our environment, generate new adaptive technologies and practices, and diffuse them widely. As economic historians have explained, much of humankind's creative potential has been directed at adapting to the changing world. But adaptation cannot cope with all the impacts related to climate change, especially as larger changes unfold in the long term.

Countries cannot grow out of harm's way fast enough to match the changing climate. And some growth strategies, whether driven by the government or the market, can also add to vulnerability - particularly if they overexploit natural resources. Under the Soviet development plan, irrigated cotton cultivation expanded in water-stressed Central Asia and led to the near disappearance of the Aral Sea, threatening the livelihoods of fishermen, borders and farmers. And clearing mangroves- the natural coastal buffers against storm surges to make way for intensive farming or housing development, increases the

physical vulnerability of coastal settlements, whether in Guinea or in Louisiana.

16. Which of the following conditions of growth can add to vulnerability?

1. When the growth occurs due to excessive exploitation of mineral resources and forests
2. When the growth brings about a change in humankind's creative potential.
3. When the growth is envisaged only for providing houses and social security to the people.
4. When the growth occurs due to emphasis on farming only.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

17. What does low-carbon growth imply in the present context?

1. More emphasis on the use of renewable sources of energy.
2. Less emphasis on manufacturing sector and more emphasis on agricultural sector.
3. Switching over from monoculture practices to mixed farming
4. Less demand for goods and services.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) None of the above implies low-carbon growth

18. Which of the following conditions is/are necessary for the sustainable economic growth?

1. Spreading of economic prosperity more.
2. Popularising/spreading of adaptive technologies widely
3. Investing on research in adaptation and mitigation technologies.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

19. Which of the following inferences can be made from the passage?

1. Rainfed crops should not be cultivated in irrigated areas.
2. Farming under water-deficient areas should not be a part of development strategy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

20. Consider the following assumptions:

1. Sustainable economic growth demands the use of creative potential of man.
2. Intensive agriculture can lead to ecological backlash.
3. Spread of the economic prosperity can adversely affect the ecology and environment

With reference to the passage, which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

21. Which one of the following statements constitutes the central theme of this passage?

- (a) Countries with greater economic prosperity are better equipped to deal with the consequences of climate change.
- (b) Adaptation and mitigation should be integrated with development strategies
- (c) Rapid economic growth should not be pursued by both developed and developing economies.
- (d) Some countries resort to over exploitation of natural resources for the sake of rapid development.

Invasions of exotic species into new geographical areas sometimes occur naturally without human agency. However, human actions have increased this trickle to a flood. Human-caused introductions may occur either accidentally as a consequence of human transport, or intentionally but illegally to serve some private purpose or legitimately to procure some hoped-for public benefit by bringing a pest under control, producing new agricultural products or providing novel recreational opportunities. Many introduced species are assimilated into communities without much obvious effect. However some have been responsible for dramatic changes to native species and natural communities. For example, the accidental introduction of the brown tree snake, *Boiga irregularis* into Guam, an island in the Pacific, has through nest predation reduced 10 endemic forest bird species to the point of extinction.

One of the major reasons for the world's great biodiversity is the occurrence of centers of endemism so that similar habitats in different parts of the world are occupied by different groups of species that happen to have evolved there. If every species naturally had access to everywhere on the globe, we might expect a relatively small number of successful species to become dominant in each biome. The extent to which this homogenization can happen naturally is restricted by the limited powers of dispersal of most species in the face of the physical barriers that exist to dispersal. By virtue of the transport opportunities offered by humans, these barriers have been breached by an ever-increasing number of exotic species. The effects of introductions have been to convert a hugely diverse range of local community compositions into something much more homogenous.

It would be wrong, however, to conclude that introducing species to a region will inevitably cause a decline in species richness there. For example, there are numerous species of plants, invertebrates and vertebrates found in continental Europe but absent from the British Isles (many because they have so far failed to recolonize after the last glaciations). Their introduction would be likely to augment British

biodiversity. The significant detrimental effect noted above arises where aggressive species provide a novel challenge to endemic biotas ill-equipped to deal with them.

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

- (a) Introduction of exotic species into new geographical areas always leads to reduced biodiversity.
- (b) Exotic species introduced by man into new areas have always greatly altered the native ecosystems.
- (c) Man is the only reason to convert a hugely diverse range of local community compositions into more homogenous ones.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b), and (c) is correct in this context.

23. Why does man introduce exotic species into new geographical areas?

- 1. To breed exotic species with local varieties.
- 2. To increase agricultural productivity.
- 3. For beautification and landscaping

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

24. How is homogenization prevented under natural conditions?

- (a) Evolution of groups of species specific to local habitats.
- (b) Presence of oceans and mountain ranges
- (c) Strong adaptation of groups of species to local physical and climatic conditions
- (d) All the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above are correct in this context.

25. How have the human beings influenced the biodiversity?

- 1. By smuggling live organisms
- 2. By building highways
- 3. By making ecosystems sensitive so that new species are not allowed.

4. By ensuring that new species do not have major impact on local species.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

26. What can be the impact of invasion of exotic species on an ecosystem?

- 1. Erosion of endemic species.
- 2. Change in the species composition of the community of the ecosystem

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Passage 7

Most champions of democracy have been rather reticent in suggesting that democracy would itself promote development and enhancement of social welfare - they have tended to see them as good but distinctly separate and largely independent goals. The detractors of democracy, on the other hand, seemed to have been quite willing to express their diagnosis of what they see as serious tensions between democracy and development. The theorists of the practical spirit - "Make up your mind: do you want democracy, or instead, do you want development?" - often came, at least to start with, from East Asian countries, and their voice grew in influence as several of these countries were immensely successful through the 1970s and 1980s and even later in promoting economic growth without pursuing democracy.

To deal with these issues we have to pay particular attention to both the content of what can be called development and to the interpretation of democracy (in particular to the respective roles of voting and of public reasoning). The assessment of development cannot be divorced from the lives that people can lead and the real freedom that they enjoy. Development can scarcely be seen

merely in terms of enhancement of inanimate objects of convenience, such as a rise in the GNP (or in personal incomes), or industrialization important as they may be as means to the real ends. Their value must depend on what they do to the lives and freedom of the people involved, which must be central to the idea of development. If development is understood in a broader way, with a focus on human lives, then it becomes immediately clear that the relation between development and democracy has to be seen partly in terms of their constitutive connection, rather than only through their external links. Even though the question has often been asked whether political freedom is "conductive to development", we must not miss the crucial recognition that political liberties and democratic rights are among the "constitutive components" of development. Their relevance for development does not have to be established indirectly through their contribution to the growth of GNP.

27. According to the passage, why is a serious tension perceived between democracy and development by the detractors of democracy?

- (a) Democracy and development are distinct and separate goals.
- (b) Economic growth can be promoted successfully without pursuing a democratic system of governance.
- (c) Non-democratic regimes deliver economic growth faster and far more successfully than democratic ones.
- (d) All the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above are correct in this context.

28. According to the passage, what should be the ultimate assessment/ aim/view of development?

- (a) Rise in the per capita income and industrial growth rates.
- (b) Improvement in the Human Development Index and GNP.
- (c) Rise in the savings and consumption trends.
- (d) Extent of real freedom that citizens enjoy.

29. What does a "constitutive" connection between democracy and development imply?

- (a) The relation between them has to be seen through external links.
- (b) Political and civil rights only can lead to economic development
- (c) Political liberties and democratic rights are essential elements of development.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context.

Passage 8

The need for Competition Law becomes more evident when foreign direct investment (FDI) is liberalized. The impact of FDI is not always pro-competitive. Very often FDI takes the form of a foreign corporation acquiring a domestic enterprise or establishing a joint venture with one. By making such an acquisition the foreign investor may substantially lessen competition and gain a dominant position in the relevant market, thus charging higher prices. Another scenario is where the affiliates of two separate multinational companies (MNCs) have been established in competition with one another in a particular developing economy, following the liberalisation of FDI. Subsequently, the parent companies overseas merge. With the affiliates no longer remaining independent, competition in the host country may be virtually eliminated and the prices of the products may be artificially inflated. Most of these adverse consequences of mergers and acquisitions by MNCs can be avoided if an effective competition law is in place. Also, an economy that has implemented an effective competition law is in a better position to attract FDI than one that has not. This is not just because most MNCs are expected to be accustomed to the operation of such a law in their home countries and know how to deal with such concerns but also that MNCs expect competition authorities to ensure a level playing field between domestic and foreign firms.

30. With reference to the passage, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is desirable that the impact of Foreign Direct Investment should be pro-competitive.
- 2. The entry of foreign investors invariably leads to the inflated prices in domestic markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. According to the passage, how does a foreign investor dominate the relevant domestic market?

- 1. Multinational companies get accustomed to domestic laws.
- 2. Foreign companies establish joint ventures with domestic companies.
- 3. Affiliates in a particular market/ sector lose their independence as their parent companies overseas merge.
- 4. Foreign companies lower the cost of their products as compared to that of products of domestic companies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

32. What is the inference from this passage?

- (a) Foreign investors and multinational companies always dominate the domestic market.
- (b) It is not in the best interest of domestic economy to allow mergers company.
- (c) With competition law, it is easy to ensure a level playing field between domestic and foreign firms.
- (d) For countries with open economy Foreign Direct investment is essential for growth.

Passage 9

For fourteen and a half months I lived in my little cell or room in Dehradun jail, and I began to feel as if I was almost a part of it. I was familiar with every bit of it, I knew every mark and dent on the whitewashed walls and on the uneven floors and on the ceiling with its moth-eaten rafters. In the little yard outside I greeted little tufts of grass and odd bits of stone as old friends. I was not alone in my cell, for several colonies of wasp and hornets

lived there, and many lizards found a home behind the rafters, emerging in the evening in the search of prey.

33. Which of the following explains best the sentence in the passage "I was almost a part of it"?

- (a) I was not alone in the cell
- (b) I was familiar with every bit of the cell
- (c) I greeted little tufts of grass like old friends.
- (d) I felt quite at home in the cell

34. The passage attempts to describe:

- (a) the general conditions of the country's jails.
- (b) the prisoner's capacity to notice the minute details of his surroundings
- (c) the prisoner's conscious efforts to overcome the loneliness
- (d) the prisoner's ability to live happily with other creatures

35. The author of the passage seems to suggest that

- (a) it is possible to adjust oneself to uncongenial surroundings.
- (b) the conditions in Indian prisons are not bad
- (c) it is not difficult to spend one's time in a prison
- (d) there is a need to improve the conditions in our jails.

Passage 10

We started pitching the highest camp that has been ever made. Everything took five times as long as it would have taken in a place where there was enough air to breathe; but at last we got tent up, and when we crawled in, it was not too bad. There was only a light wind and inside it was not too cold for us to take off our gloves. At night most climbers take off their boots; but I prefer to keep them on. Hilary, on the other hand took his off and lain them next to his sleeping bag.

36. What does the expression "pitching the highest camp" imply?

- (a) They reached the summit of the highest mountain in the world.
- (b) Those who climbed that far earlier did not pitch any camp.

(c) So far nobody climbed that high.

(d) They were too many climbers and needed to pitch a big camp.

37. They took a long time to finish the work because

- (a) they were very tired.
- (b) there was not enough air to breathe
- (c) it was very cold
- (d) it was very dark

38. When they crawled into the tent

- (a) they took off their gloves because it was not very cold.
- (b) they could not take off their gloves because it was very cold.
- (c) they took of their gloves though it was very cold.
- (d) they did not take off their gloves though it was not cold.

Passage 11

A local man, staying on the top of the floor of an old wooden house, was awakened at midnight by fire. Losing his way in the smoke-filled passage, he missed the stairway and went into another room. He picked a bundle to protect his face from fire and immediately fell through the floor below where he managed to escape through a clear doorway. The "bundle" proved to be the baby of the Mayor's wife. The "hero" was congratulated by all.

39. The man went to another room because

- (a) he did not know where the stairway was
- (b) the passage was full of smoke
- (c) he was extremely nervous
- (d) he stumbled on bundle

40. The man was called hero because

- (a) expressed his willingness to risk his life to save others
- (b) managed to escape from the fire
- (c) showed great courage in fighting the fire.
- (d) saved a life

Passage 1

Ecological research over the last quarter of the century has established the deleterious effects of habitat fragmentation due to mining, highways and such other intrusions on forests. When a large block of forests gets fragmented into smaller bits, the edges of all these bits come into contact with human activities resulting in the degradation of the entire forests. Continuity of forested landscapes and corridors gets disrupted affecting several extinction-prone species of wildlife. Habitat fragmentation, is therefore considered as the most serious threat to biodiversity conservation. Ad hoc grants of forest lands to mining companies coupled with rampant, illegal mining is aggravating this threat.

1. What is the central focus of this passage?

- (a) Illegal mining in forests
- (b) Extinction of wildlife
- (c) Conservation of nature
- (d) Disruption of habitat

2. What is the purpose of maintaining the continuity of forested landscapes corridors?

- 1. Preservation of biodiversity.
- 2. Management of mineral resources.
- 3. Grant of forest lands for human activities.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Passage 2

The law in many parts of the world increasingly restricts the discharge of agricultural slurry into watercourses. The simplest and often the most economically sound practice returns the material to the land as semisolid manure or as sprayed

slurry. This dilutes its concentration in the environment to what might have occurred in a more primitive and sustainable type of agriculture and converts pollutant into fertilizer. Soil microorganisms decompose the organic components of sewage and slurry and most of the mineral nutrients become available to be absorbed again by the vegetation.

The excess input of nutrients, both nitrogen and phosphorus - based, from agricultural runoff (and human sewage) has caused many 'healthy' oligotrophic lakes (low nutrient concentrations, low plant productivity with abundant water weeds, and clear water) to change to eutrophic condition where high nutrient inputs lead to high phytoplankton productivity (sometimes dominated by bloom-forming toxic species). This makes the water turbid, eliminates large plants and, in the worst situations, leads to anoxia and fish kills; so called cultural eutrophication. Thus, important ecosystem services are lost, including the provisioning service of wild-caught fish and the cultural services associated with recreation.

The process of cultural eutrophication of lakes has been understood for some time. But only recently did scientists notice huge 'dead zones' in the oceans near river outlets, particularly those draining large catchment areas such as the Mississippi in North America and the Yangtze in China. The nutrient-enriched water flows through streams, rivers and lakes, and eventually to the estuary and ocean where the ecological impact may be huge, killing virtually all invertebrates and fish in areas up to 70,000 km² in extent. More than 150 sea areas worldwide are now regularly starved of oxygen as a result of decomposition of algal blooms, fuelled particularly by nitrogen from agricultural runoff of fertilizers and sewage from large cities. Oceanic dead zones are typically associated with industrialized nations and usually lie off countries that subsidize their agriculture, encouraging farmers to increase productivity and use more fertilizer.

3. According to the passage, why should the discharge of agricultural slurry into watercourses be restricted?

1. Losing nutrients in this way is not a good practice economically.
2. Watercourses do not contain the microorganisms that can decompose organic components of agricultural slurry.
3. The discharge may lead to the eutrophication of water bodies.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4. The passage refers to the conversion of "pollutant to fertilizer". What is pollutant and what is fertilizer in this context?

- (a) Decomposed organic component of slurry is pollutant and microorganisms in soil constitute fertilizer.
- (b) Discharged agricultural slurry is pollutant and decomposed slurry in soil is fertilizer.
- (c) Sprayed slurry is pollutant and watercourse is fertilizer.
- (d) None of the above expressions is correct in this context.

5. According to the passage, what are the effects of indiscriminate use of fertilizers?

1. Addition of pollutants to the soil and water.
2. Destruction of decomposer microorganisms in soil.
3. Nutrient enrichment of water bodies.
4. Creation of algal blooms.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

6. What is/are the characteristics of a water body with cultural eutrophication?

1. Loss of ecosystem services
2. Loss of flora and fauna
3. Loss of mineral nutrients

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

7. What is the central theme of this passage?

- (a) Appropriate legislation is essential to protect the environment.
- (b) Modern agriculture is responsible for the destruction of environment.
- (c) Improper waste disposal from agriculture can destroy the aquatic ecosystems.
- (d) Use of chemical fertilizers is undesirable in agriculture.

Passage 3

The miseries of the world cannot be cured by physical help only. Until man's nature changes, his physical needs will always arise, and miseries will always be felt, and no amount of physical help will remove them completely. The only solution of the problem is to make mankind pure. Ignorance is the mother of evil and of all the misery we see. Let men have light, let them be pure and spiritually strong and educated; then alone will misery cease in the world. We may convert every house in the country into a charitable asylum, we may fill the land with hospitals, but human misery will continue until man's character changes.

8. According to the passage, which of the following statements is most likely to be true as the reason for man's miseries?

- (a) The poor economic and social conditions prevailing in society.
- (b) The refusal on the part of man to change his character.
- (c) The absence of physical and material help from his society.
- (d) Ever increasing physical needs due to changing social structure.

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

1. The author gives primary importance to physical and material help in eradicating human misery.
2. Charitable homes, hospitals, etc. can remove human misery to a great extent.

Which of the assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 4

The subject of democracy has become severely muddled because of the way the rhetoric surrounding it has been used in recent years. There is, increasingly, an oddly confused dichotomy between those who want to 'impose' democracy on countries in the non-Western world (in these countries' 'own interest', of course) and those who are opposed to such 'imposition' (because of the respect for the countries' 'own ways'). But the entire language of 'imposition', used by both sides, is extraordinarily inappropriate since it makes the implicit assumption that democracy belongs exclusively to the West, taking it to be a quintessentially 'Western' idea which has originated and flourished only in the West.

But the thesis and the pessimism it generates about the possibility of democratic practice in the world would be extremely hard to justify. There were several experiments in local democracy in ancient India. Indeed, in understanding the roots of democracy in the world, we have to take an interest in the history of people participation and public reasoning in different parts of the world. We have to look beyond thinking of democracy only in terms of European and American evolution. We would fail to understand the pervasive demands for participatory living, on which Aristotle spoke with far-reaching insight, if we take democracy to be a kind of a specialized cultural product of the West.

It cannot, of course, be doubted that the institutional structure of the contemporary practice of democracy is largely the product of European and American experience over the last

few centuries. This is extremely important to recognize since these developments in institutional formats were immensely innovative and ultimately effective. There can be little doubt that there is a major 'Western' achievement here.

10. Which of the following is closest to the view of democracy as mentioned in the above passage?

- (a) The subject of democracy is a muddle due to a desire to portray it as a Western concept, 'alien' to non-Western countries.
- (b) The language or imposition of democracy is inappropriate. There is, however, a need to consider this concept in the backdrop of culture of 'own ways' of non-Western society.
- (c) While democracy is not essentially a Western idea belonging exclusively to the West, the institutional structure of current democratic practices has been their contribution.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct.

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

1. Many of the non-Western countries are unable to have democracy because they take democracy to be a specialized cultural product of the West.
2. Western countries are always trying to impose democracy on non-Western countries.

Which of the above is/are valid assumption/assumptions?

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

Passage 5

Corporate governance is based on principles such as conducting the business with all integrity and fairness, being transparent with regard to all transactions, making all the necessary disclosures and decisions, complying with all the laws of the land, accountability and responsibility towards the stakeholders and commitment to conducting business in an ethical manner. Another point which is highlighted on corporate governance is

the need for those in control to be able to distinguish between what are personal and corporate funds while managing a company. Fundamentally, there is a level of confidence that is associated with a company that is known to have good corporate governance. The presence of an active group of independent directors on the board contributes a great deal towards ensuring confidence in the market. Corporate governance is known to be one of the criteria that foreign institutional investors are increasingly depending on when deciding on which companies to invest in. It is also known to have a positive influence on the share price of the company. Having a clean image on the corporate governance front could also make it easier for companies to source capital at more reasonable costs. Unfortunately, corporate governance often becomes the centre of discussion only after the exposure of a large scam.

12. According to the passage, which of the following should be the practice/practices in good corporate governance?

1. Companies should always comply with labour and tax laws of the land.
2. Every company in the country should have a government representative as one of the independent directors on the board to ensure transparency.
3. The manager of a company should never invest his personal funds in the company.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

13. According to the passage, which of the following is/are the major benefit/benefits of good corporate governance?

1. Good corporate governance leads to increase in share price of the company.
2. A company with good corporate governance always increases its business turnover rapidly.

3. Good corporate governance is the main criterion for foreign institutional investors when they decide to buy a company.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Passage 6

Malnutrition most commonly occurs between the ages of six months and two years. This happens despite the child's food requirements being less than that of an older child. Malnutrition is often attributed to poverty, but it has been found that even in households where adults eat adequate quantities of food, more than 50 per cent of children-under-five do not consume enough food. The child's dependence on someone else to feed him/ her is primarily responsible for the malnutrition. Very often the mother is working and the responsibility of feeding the young child is left to an older sibling. It is therefore crucial to increase awareness regarding the child's food needs and how to satisfy them.

14. According to the passage, malnutrition in children can be reduced

- (a) if the children have regular intake of food.
- (b) after they cross the age of five.
- (c) if the food needs of younger children are known.
- (d) if the responsibility of feeding younger children is given to adults.

15. According to the author, poverty is not the main cause of malnutrition, but the fact that

1. taking care of younger ones is not a priority for working mothers.
2. awareness of nutritional needs is not propagated by the Public Health authorities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Passage 7

A number of empirical studies find that farmers are risk-averse, though only moderately in many cases. There is also evidence to show that farmers' risk aversion results in cropping patterns and input use designed to reduce risk rather than to maximize income. Farmers adopt a number of strategies to manage and cope with agricultural risks. These include practices like crop and field diversification, non-farm employment, storage of stocks and strategic migration of family members. There are also institutions ranging from share tenancy to kinship, extended family and informal credit agencies. One major obstacle to risk sharing by farmers is that the same type of risks can affect a large number of farmers in the region. Empirical studies show that the traditional methods are not adequate. Hence there is a need for policy interventions, especially measures that cut across geographical regions.

Policies may aim at tackling agricultural risks directly or indirectly. Examples of risk-specific policies are crop insurance, price stabilization and the development of varieties resistant to pests and diseases. Policies which affect risk indirectly are irrigation, subsidized credit and access to information. No single risk-specific policy is sufficient to reduce risk and is without side-effects, whereas policies not specific to risk influence the general situation and affect risks only indirectly. Crop insurance, as a policy measure to tackle agricultural risk directly, deserves careful consideration in the Indian context and in many other developing countries because the majority of farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture and in many areas yield variability is the predominant cause of their income instability.

16. The need for policy intervention to mitigate risks in agriculture is because

- (a) farmers are extremely risk-averse.
- (b) farmers do not know how to mitigate risks.
- (c) the methods adopted by farmers and existing risk sharing institutions are not adequate.

- (d) majority of farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture.

17. Which of the following observations emerges from the above passage?

- (a) One can identify a single policy that can reduce risk without any side-effect.
- (b) No single risk-specific policy is sufficient to reduce agricultural risk.
- (c) Policies which affect risk indirectly can eliminate it.
- (d) Government's policy intervention can mitigate agricultural risk completely.

18. Consider the following statements:

1. A primary group is relatively smaller in size.
2. Intimacy is an essential characteristic of a primary group.
3. A family may be an example of a primary group.

In the light of the above statements, which one of the following is true?

- (a) All families are primary groups.
- (b) All primary groups are families.
- (c) A group of smaller size is always a primary group.
- (d) Members of a primary group know each other intimately.

Passage 8

Financial markets in India have acquired greater depth and liquidity over the years. Steady reforms since 1991 have led to growing linkages and integration of the Indian economy and its financial system with the global economy. Weak global economic prospects and continuing uncertainties in the international financial markets therefore, have had their impact on the emerging market economies. Sovereign risk concerns, particularly in the Euro area, affected financial markets for the greater part of the year, with the contagion of Greece's sovereign debt problem spreading to India and other economies by way of higher-than-normal levels of volatility.

The funding constraints in international financial markets could impact both the availability and cost of foreign funding for banks and corporates. Since the Indian financial system is bank

dominated, banks' ability to withstand stress is critical to overall financial stability. Indian banks, however, remain robust, notwithstanding a decline in capital to risk-weighted assets ratio and a rise in non-performing asset levels in the recent past. Capital adequacy levels remain above the regulatory requirements. The financial market infrastructure continues to function without any major disruption. With further globalization, consolidation, deregulation, and diversification of the financial system, the banking business may become more complex and riskier. Issues like risk and liquidity management and enhancing skill therefore assume greater significance.

19. According to the passage, the financial markets in the emerging market economies including India had the adverse impact in recent years due to

1. weak global economic prospects.
2. uncertainties in the international financial markets.
3. sovereign risk concerns in the Euro area.
4. bad monsoons and the resultant crop loss.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

20. The Indian financial markets are affected by global changes mainly due to the

- (a) increased inflow of remittances from abroad.
- (b) enormous increase in the foreign exchange reserves.
- (c) growing global linkages and integration of the Indian financial markets.
- (d) contagion of Greece's sovereign debt problem.

21. According to the passage, in the Indian financial system, banks' ability to withstand stress is critical to ensure overall financial stability because Indian financial system is

- (a) controlled by the Government of India.
- (b) less integrated with banks.
- (c) controlled by Reserve Bank of India.

(d) dominated by banks.

22. Risk and liquidity management assumes more importance in the Indian banking system in future due to

1. further globalization.
2. more consolidation and deregulation of the financial system.
3. further diversification of the financial system.
4. more financial inclusion in the economy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Passage 9

Crude mineral oil comes out of the earth as a thick brown or black liquid with a strong smell. It is a complex mixture of many different substances, each with its own individual qualities. Most of them are combinations of hydrogen and carbon in varying proportions. Such hydrocarbons are also found in other forms such as bitumen, asphalt and natural gas. Mineral oil originates from the carcasses of tiny animals and from plants that live in the sea. Over millions of years, these dead creatures form large deposits under the sea-bed; and ocean currents cover them with a blanket of sand and silt. As this mineral hardens, it becomes sedimentary rock and effectively shuts out the oxygen, so preventing the complete decomposition of the marine deposits underneath. The layers of sedimentary rock become thicker and heavier. Their pressure produces heat, which transforms the tiny carcasses into crude oil in a process that is still going on today.

23. Mineral oil deposits under the sea do not get completely decomposed because they

- (a) are constantly washed by the ocean currents.
- (b) become rock and prevent oxygen from entering them.
- (c) contain a mixture of hydrogen and carbon.

(d) are carcasses of organisms lying in saline conditions.

24. Sedimentary rock leads to the formation of oil deposits because

- (a) there are no saline conditions below it.
- (b) it allows some dissolved oxygen to enter the dead organic matter below it.
- (c) weight of overlying sediment layers causes the production of heat.
- (d) it contains the substances that catalyze the chemical reactions required to change dead organisms into oil.

Passage 10

Seven-year-old Jim came home from the park without his new bicycle. "An old man and a little boy borrowed it," he explained. "They are going to bring it back at four o'clock." His parents were upset that he had given his expensive new bicycle, but were secretly proud of his kindness and faith. Came four o'clock, no bicycle. The parents were anxious. But at 4:30, the door bell rang, and there stood a happy man and a boy, with the bicycle and a box of chocolates. Jim suddenly disappeared into his bedroom, and then came running out. "All right," he said, after examining the bicycle. "You can have your watch back!"

25. When Jim came home without his bicycle, his parents

- (a) were angry with him.
- (b) were worried.
- (c) did not feel concerned.
- (d) were eager to meet the old man and the little boy.

26. Jim returned the watch to the old man and the little boy because

- (a) they gave him chocolates.
- (b) his father was proud of him.
- (c) he was satisfied with the condition of his bicycle.
- (d) they were late only by 30 minutes.

Passage 11

It was already late when we set out for the next town, which according to the map was about

fifteen kilometers away on the other side of the hills. There we felt that we would find a bed for the night. Darkness fell soon after we left the village, but luckily we met no one as we drove swiftly along the narrow winding road that led to the hills. As we climbed higher, it became colder and rain began to fall, making it difficult at times to see the road. I asked John, my companion, to drive more slowly. After we had travelled for about twenty kilometers, there was still no sign of the town which was marked on the map. We were beginning to get worried. Then without warning, the car stopped and we found we had run out of petrol.

27. The author asked John to drive more slowly because

- (a) the road led to the hills.
- (b) John was an inexperienced driver.
- (c) the road was not clearly visible.
- (d) they were in wilderness.

28. The travelers set out for the town although it was getting dark because

- (a) they were in a hurry.
- (b) the next town was a short distance away and was a hill-resort.
- (c) they were in wilderness.
- (d) the next town was a short distance away and promised a good rest for the night.

29. The travelers were worried after twenty kilometers because

- (a) it was a lonely countryside.
- (b) they probably feared of having lost their way.
- (c) the rain began to fall
- (d) it was getting colder as they drove.

Passage 12

A stout old lady was walking with her basket down the middle of a street in Petrograd to the great confusion of the traffic and no small peril to herself. It was pointed out to her that the pavement was the place for foot-passengers, but she replied, "I'm going to walk where I like. We've got liberty now." It did not occur to the dear lady that if liberty entitled the foot-passenger to walk down the middle of the road it also entitled the

taxi-driver to drive on the pavement, and that the end of such liberty would be universal chaos. Everything would be getting in everybody else's way and nobody would get anywhere. Individual liberty would have become social anarchy.

30. It was pointed out to the lady that she should walk on the pavement because she was

- (a) a pedestrian.
- (b) carrying a basket.
- (c) stout.
- (d) an old lady.

31. The lady refused to move from the middle of the street because

- (a) she was not afraid of being killed.
- (b) she felt that she is entitled to do whatever she liked.
- (c) she did not like walking on the pavement.
- (d) she was confused.

32. The old lady failed to realise that

- (a) she was not really free.
- (b) her liberty was not unlimited.
- (c) she was an old person.
- (d) roads are made for motor vehicles only.



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Passage 1

In recent times, India has grown fast not only compared to its own past but also in comparison with other nations. But there cannot be any room for complacency because it is possible for the Indian economy to develop even faster and also to spread the benefits of this growth more widely than has been done thus far. Before going into details of the kinds of micro-structural changes that we need to conceptualize and then proceed to implement, it is worthwhile elaborating on the idea of inclusive growth that constitutes the defining concept behind this Government's various economic policies and decisions. A nation interested in inclusive growth views the same growth differently depending on whether the gains of the growth are heaped primarily on a small segment or shared widely by the population. The latter is cause for celebration but not the former. In other words, growth must not be treated as an end in itself but as an instrument for spreading prosperity to all. India's own past experience and the experience of other nations suggests that growth is necessary for eradicating poverty but it is not a sufficient condition. In other words, policies for promoting growth need to be complemented with policies to ensure that more and more people join in the growth process and, further, that there are mechanisms in place to redistribute some of the gains to those who are unable to partake in the market process and, hence, get left behind.

A simple way of giving this idea of inclusive growth a sharper form is to measure a nation's progress in terms of the progress of its poorest segment, for instance the bottom 20 per cent of the population. One could measure the per capita income of the bottom quintile of the population and also calculate the growth rate of income; and evaluate our economic success in terms of these measures

that pertain to the poorest segment. This approach is attractive because it does not ignore growth like some of the older heterodox criteria did. It simply looks at the growth of income of the poorest sections of the population. It also ensures that those who are outside of the bottom quintile do not get ignored. If that were done, then those people would in all likelihood drop down into the bottom quintile and so would automatically become a direct target of our policies. Hence the criterion being suggested here is a statistical summing up of the idea of inclusive growth, which, in turn, leads to two corollaries: to wish that India must strive to achieve high growth and that we must work to ensure that the weakest segments benefit from the growth.

1. The author's central focus is on

- (a) applauding India's economic growth not only against its own past performance, but against other nations.
- (b) emphasizing the need for economic growth which is the sole determinant of a country's prosperity.
- (c) emphasizing inclusive growth where gains of growth are shared widely by the population.
- (d) emphasizing high growth.

2. The author supports policies which will help

- (a) develop economic growth
- (b) better distribution of incomes irrespective of rate of growth.
- (c) develop economic growth and redistribute economic gains to those getting left behind.
- (d) put an emphasis on the development of the poorest segments of society.

3. Consider the following statements

According to the author, India's economy has grown but there is no room for complacency as

1. growth eradicates poverty.
2. growth has resulted in prosperity for all.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 2

It is easy for the government to control State-owned companies through nods and winks. So what really needs to be done as a first step is to put petrol pricing on a transparent formula – if the price of crude is x and the exchange rate y , then every month or fortnight, the government announces a maximum price of petrol, which anybody can work out from the x and the y . The rule has to be worked out to make sure that the oil-marketing companies can, in general, cover their costs. This will mean that if one company can innovate and cut costs, it will make greater profits. Hence, firms will be more prone to innovate and be efficient under this system. Once the rule is announced, there should be no interference by the government. If this is done for a while, private companies will re-enter this market. And once a sufficient number of them are in the fray, we can remove the rule-based pricing and leave it truly to the market (subject to, of course, the usual regulations of anti-trust and other competition laws).

4. Consider the following statements:

According to the passage, an oil company can make greater profits, if a transparent formula for petrol pricing is announced every fortnight or month, by

1. promoting its sales.
2. undertaking innovation.
3. cutting costs.
4. selling its equity shares at higher prices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements:

According to the passage, private oil companies re-enter the oil producing market if

1. a transparent rule-based petrol pricing exists.
2. there is no government interference in the oil producing market.
3. subsidies are given by the government.
4. regulations of anti-trust are removed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Passage 3

Climate change poses potentially devastating effects of India's agriculture. While the overall parameters of climate change are increasingly accepted – a 1°C average temperature increase over the next 30 years, sea level rise of less than 10 cm in the same period, and regional monsoon variations and corresponding droughts – the impacts in India are likely to be quite site and crop specific. Some crops may respond favourable to the changing conditions, others may not. This emphasizes the need to promote agricultural research and create maximum flexibility in the system to permit adaptations.

The key ingredient for "drought proofing" is the managed recharge of aquifers. To ensure continued yields of important staple crops (e.g. wheat), it may also be necessary to shift the locations where these crops are grown, in response to temperature changes as well as to

water availability. The latter will be key factor in making long terms investment decisions.

For example, water runoff from the Himalayas is predicted to increase over the next 30 years as glaciers melt, but then decline substantially thereafter. It will be critical to provide incentives to plan for these large-scale shifts in agro-ecological conditions. India needs to make long term investment in research and development in agriculture. India is likely to experience changed weather patterns in future.

6. Consider the following statements:

Climate change may force the shifting of locations of the existing corps due to

1. melting of glaciers.
2. water availability and temperature suitability at other locations.
3. poor productivity of crops.
4. wider adaptability of crop plants.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7. According to the passage, why is it important to promote agricultural research in India?

- (a) To predict variations in monsoon patterns and to manage water resources.
- (b) To make long term investment decisions for economic growth
- (c) To facilitate wider adaptability of crops
- (d) To predict drought conditions and to recharge aquifers

Passage 4

It is essential that we mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gases and thus avoid some of the worst impacts of climate change that would take place in coming years and decades. Mitigation would require a major shift in the way we produce and consume energy. A shift away from overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels is now

long overdue, but unfortunately, technological development has been slow and inadequate largely because government policies have not promoted investments in research and development, myopically as a result of relatively low prices of oil. It is now, therefore, imperative for a country like India treating the opportunity of harnessing renewable energy on a large scale as a national imperative. This country is extremely well endowed with solar, wind and biomass sources of energy. Where we have lagged, unfortunately, is in our ability to develop and to create technological solutions for harnessing these resources.

One particular trajectory for carrying out stringent mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly shows the need for ensuring that global emissions of greenhouse gases peak no later than 2015 and reduce rapidly thereafter. The cost associated with such a trajectory is truly modest and would amount, in the estimation of IPCC, to not more than 3 percent of the global GDP in 2030. In other words, the level of prosperity that the world would have reached without mitigation would at worst be postponed by a few months or a year at the most. This is clearly not a very high price to pay for protecting hundreds of millions of people from the worst risks associated with climate change. Any such effort, however, would require lifestyles to change appropriately also. Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is not a mere technological fix, and clearly requires changes in lifestyles and transformation of a country's economic structure, whereby effective reduction in emissions is brought about, such as through the consumption of much lower quantities of animal protein. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has determined that the emissions from the livestock sector amount to 18 percent of the total. The reduction of emissions from this source is entirely in the hands of human beings, who have never questioned the impacts that their dietary habits of consuming more and more animal protein are

bringing about. Mitigation overall has huge co-benefits, such as lower air pollution and health benefits, higher energy security and greater employment.

8. According to the passage, which of the following would help in the mitigation of greenhouse gases?

1. Reducing the consumption of meat
2. Rapid economic liberalization
3. Reducing the consumerism
4. Modern management practices of livestock.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9. Why do we continue to depend on the fossil fuels heavily?

1. Inadequate technological development.
2. Inadequate funds for research and development.
3. Inadequate availability of alternative sources of energy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10. According to the passage, how does the mitigation of greenhouse gases help us?

1. Reduces expenditure on public health
2. Reduces dependence on livestock
3. Reduces energy requirements
4. Reduces rate of global climate change

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

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

11. What is the essential message of the passage?

- (a) We continue to depend on fossil fuels heavily
- (b) Mitigation of the greenhouse gases is imperative
- (c) We must invest in research and development
- (d) People must change their lifestyle

Passage 5

The Himalayan ecosystem is highly vulnerable to damage, both due to geological reasons and on account of the stress caused by increased pressure of population, exploitation of natural resources and other related challenges. These aspects may be exacerbated due to the impact of climate change. It is possible that climate change may adversely impact the Himalayan ecosystem through increased temperature, altered precipitation patterns, episodes of drought and biotic influences. This would not only impact the very sustenance of the indigenous communities in uplands but also the life of downstream dwellers across the country and beyond. Therefore, there is an urgent need for giving special attention to sustain the Himalayan ecosystem. This would require conscious efforts for conserving all the representative systems.

Further, it needs to be emphasized that the endemics with restricted distribution, and most often with specialized habitat requirements, are among the most vulnerable elements. In this respect the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot, with rich endemic diversity, is vulnerable to climate change. The threats include possible loss of genetic resources and species, habitats and concomitantly a decrease in ecosystem services. Therefore, conservation of endemic elements in representative ecosystems/habitats assumes a great significance while drawing conservation plans for the region.

Towards achieving the above, we will have to shift toward contemporary conservation approaches, which include a paradigm of landscape level interconnectivity between protected area systems. The concept advocates a shift from the species-habitat focus to an inclusive focus on expanding the biogeographic range so that natural adjustments to climate change can proceed without being restrictive.

12. Consider the following statements:

According to the passage, the adverse impact of climate change on an ecosystem can be a

1. permanent disappearance of some of its flora and fauna.
2. permanent disappearance of ecosystem itself.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Which one of the following statements best implies the need to shift toward contemporary conservation approach?

- (a) Exploitation of natural resources causes a stress on the Himalayan ecosystem.
- (b) Climate change alters precipitation patterns, causes episodes of drought and biotic interference.
- (c) The rich biodiversity, including endemic diversity, makes the Himalayan region a biodiversity hotspot.
- (d) The Himalayan biogeographic region should be enabled to adapt to climate change smoothly.

14. What is the most important message conveyed by the passage?

- (a) Endemism is a characteristic feature of Himalayan region.
- (b) Conservation efforts should emphasize on biogeographic ranges rather than on some species or habitats.

(c) Climate change has adverse impact on the Himalayan ecosystem.

(d) Without Himalayan ecosystem, the life of the communities of uplands and down-streams will have no sustenance.

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

1. To maintain natural ecosystems, exploitation of natural resources should be completely avoided.
2. Not only anthropogenic but also natural reasons can adversely affect ecosystems.
3. Loss of endemic diversity leads to the extinction of ecosystems.

Which of the above assumptions is/are correct?

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

Passage 6

It is often forgotten that globalization is not only about policies on international economic relationships and transactions, but has equally to do with domestic policies of a nation. Policy changes necessitated by meeting the internationally set conditions (by WTO etc.) of free trade and investment flows obviously affect domestic producers and investors. But the basic philosophy underlying globalization emphasizes absolute freedom to markets to determine prices and production and distribution patterns, and view government interventions as processes that create distortions and bring in inefficiency. Thus, public enterprises have to be privatized through disinvestments and sales; sectors and activities hitherto reserved for the public sector have to be opened to the private sector. This logic extends to the social services like education and health. Any restrictions on the adjustments in workforce by way of retrenchment of workers should also be removed and exit should be made easier by removing any restrictions on closures.

Employment and wages should be governed by free play of market forces, as any measure to regulate them can discourage investment and also create inefficiency in production. Above all, in line with the overall philosophy of reduction in the role of the State, fiscal reforms should be undertaken to have generally low levels of taxation and government expenditure should be kept to the minimum to abide by the principle of fiscal prudence. All these are policy actions on the domestic front and are not directly related to the core items of the globalization agenda, namely free international flow of goods and finance.

16. According to the passage, under the globalization, government interventions are viewed as processes leading to

- (a) distortions and inefficiency in the economy.
- (b) optimum use of resources.
- (c) more profitability to industries.
- (d) free play of market forces with regard to industries.

17. According to the passage, the basic philosophy of globalization is to

- (a) give absolute freedom to producers to determine prices and production.
- (b) give freedom to producers to evolve distribution patterns.
- (c) give absolute freedom to markets to determine prices, production and employment.
- (d) give freedom to producers to import and export.

18. According to the passage, which of the following is/are necessary for ensuring globalization?

- 1. Privatization of public enterprises
- 2. Expansionary policy of public expenditure
- 3. Free play of market forces to determine wages and employment.
- 4. Privatization of social services like education and health

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

19. According to the passage, in the process of globalization the State should have

- (a) expanding role.
- (b) reducing role.
- (c) statutory role.
- (d) none of the above roles.

Passage 7

Many nations now place their faith in capitalism and governments choose it as the strategy to create wealth for their people. The spectacular economic growth seen in Brazil, China and India after the liberalization of their economics is proof of its enormous potential and success. However, the global banking crisis and the economic recession have left many bewildered. The debates tend to focus on free market operations and forces, their efficiency and their ability for self correction. Issues of justice, integrity and honesty are rarely elaborated to highlight the failure of the global banking system. The apologists of the system continue to justify the success of capitalism and argue that the recent crisis was a blip.

Their arguments betray an ideological bias with the assumptions that an unregulated market is fair and competent, and that the exercise of private greed will be in the larger public interest.

Few recognize the bidirectional relationship between capitalism and greed; that each reinforces the other. Surely, a more honest conceptualisation of the conflicts of interest among the rich and powerful players who have benefited from the system, their biases and ideology is needed; the focus on the wealth

creation should also highlight the resultant gross inequity.

20. The apologists of the “Free Market System”, according to the passage, believe in

- (a) market without control by government authorities.
- (b) market without protection by the government
- (c) ability of market to self-correct
- (d) market for free goods and services

21. With reference to “ideological bias”, the passage implies that

- (a) free market is fair but not competent.
- (b) free market is not fair but competent.
- (c) free market is fair and competent.
- (d) free market is neither fair nor biased.

22. “The exercise of private greed will be in the larger public interest” from the passage

- 1. refers to the false ideology of capitalism.
- 2. underlies the righteous claims of the free market.
- 3. shows the benevolent face of capitalism.
- 4. ignores resultant gross inequity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 8

Net profits are only 2.2% of their total assets for central public sector undertakings, lower than for the private corporate sector. While the public sector or the State-led entrepreneurship played an important role in triggering India’s industrialization, our evolving development needs, comparatively less-than-satisfactory performance of the public sector enterprises, the maturing of our private sector, a much larger social base now available for expanding

entrepreneurship and the growing institutional capabilities to enforce competition policies would suggest that the time has come to review the role of public sector.

What should the portfolio composition of the government be? It should not remain static all times. The airline industry works well as a purely private affair. At the opposite end, rural roads, whose sparse traffic makes tolling unviable, have to be on the balance-sheet of the State. If the government did not own rural roads, they would not exist. Similarly, public health capital in our towns and cities will need to come from the public sector. Equally, preservation and improvement of forest cover will have to be a new priority for the public sector assets. Take the example of steel. With near-zero tariffs, India is a globally competitive market for the metal. Indian firms export steel into the global market, which demonstrates there is no gap in technology. Indian companies are buying up global steel companies, which shows there is no gap in capital availability. Under these conditions, private ownership works best.

Private ownership is clearly desirable in regulated industries, ranging from finance to infrastructure, where a government agency performs the function of regulation and multiple competing firms are located in the private sector. Here, the simple and clean solution – government as the umpire and the private sector as the players is what works best. In many of these industries, we have a legacy of government ownership, where productivity tends to be lower, fear of bankruptcy is absent, and the risk of asking for money from the tax payer is ever present. There is also the conflict of interest between government as an owner and as the regulator. The formulation and implementation of competition policy will be more vigorous and fair if government companies are out of action.

23. According to the passage, what is/are the reason/reasons for saying that the time has come to review the role of public sector?

1. Now public sector has lost its relevance in the industrialization process.
2. Public sector does not perform satisfactorily.
3. Entrepreneurship in private sector is expanding.
4. Effective competition policies are available now.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct in the given context?

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

24. According to the passage, rural roads should be in the domain of public sector only. Why?

- (a) Rural development work is the domain of government only.
- (b) Private sector cannot have monetary gains in this.
- (c) Government takes money from tax payers and hence it is the responsibility of government only.
- (d) Private sector need not have any social responsibility.

25. The portfolio composition of the government refers to

- (a) Public sector assets quality.
- (b) Investment in liquid assets.
- (c) Mix of government investment in different industrial sectors.
- (d) Buying Return on Investment yielding capital assets.

26. The author prefers government as the umpire and private sector as players because

- (a) Government prescribes norms for a fair play by the price sector.
- (b) Government is the ultimate in policy formulation.
- (c) Government has no control over private sector players.
- (d) None of the above statements is correct in this context.

2015

Passage 1

The richer States have a responsibility to cut down carbon emissions and promote clean energy investments. These are the States that got electricity, grew faster and now have high per capita income, making them capable of sharing India's burden of becoming eco-friendly. Delhi, for example, can help by generating its own clean electricity using solar rooftop panels or even help poor States finance their clean energy projects. It is no secret that State Electricity Boards, which control 95% of the distribution network, are neck-deep in losses. These losses further discourage State utilities from adopting renewable energy as it is more expensive than fossil fuels.

1. Which among the following is the most logical and rational assumption that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) The richer States must lead in the production and adoption of renewable energy.
- (b) The poor States always have to depend on rich States for electricity.
- (c) The State Electricity Boards can improve their finances by undertaking clean energy projects.
- (d) The high economic disparity between the rich and poor States is the major cause of high carbon emissions in India.

Passage 2

Set against a rural backdrop, 'Stench of kerosene' is the story of a couple, Guleri and Manak, who have been happily married for several years but do not have a child. Manak's mother is desperate to have a grandchild to carry on the family name. Hence, she gets Manak remarried in Guleri's absence. Manak, who acts as a reluctant but passive spectator, is meanwhile, informed by a friend that Guleri, on hearing about her husband's second marriage, poured kerosene on her clothes and set fire to them. Manak is heartbroken and begins to live as if he were a dead man. When his second wife delivers a son, Manak stares at the

child for a long time and blurts out, "Take him away! He stinks of kerosene."

2. This is a sensitive issue-based story which tries to sensitise the readers about

- (a) Male chauvinism and infidelity
- (b) Love and betrayal
- (c) Lack of legal safeguards for women
- (d) Influence of patriarchal mindset

Passage 3

The ultimate aim of government is not to rule or control by fear, nor to demand obedience, but conversely, to free every man from fear, that he may live in all possible security. In other words, to strengthen his natural right to exist and work without injury to himself or others. The object of government is not to change men from rational beings into beasts or puppets. It should enable them to develop their minds and bodies in security, and to employ their reason unshackled.

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

- (a) The true aim of government is to secure the citizens their social and political freedom.
- (b) The primary concern of government is to provide absolute social security to all its citizens.
- (c) The best government is the one that allows the citizens to enjoy absolute liberty in all matters of life.
- (d) The best government is the one that provides absolute physical security to the people of the country

Passage 4

Our municipal corporation are understaffed. The issue of skills and competencies of the staff poses an even greater challenge. Urban service delivery and infrastructure are complex to plan and execute. They require a high degree of specialization and professionalism. The current

framework within which municipal employees, including senior management, are recruited does not adequately factor in the technical and managerial competencies required. Cadre and recruitment rules only specify the bare minimum in academic qualifications. There is no mention of managerial or technical competencies, or of relevant work experience. This is the case with most municipal corporations. They also suffer from weak organisation design and structure.

4. Which among the following in the most logical and rational assumption that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) The task of providing urban services is a complex issue which requires the organisational expansion of municipal bodies all over the country,
- (b) Our cities can provide better quality of life if our local government bodies have adequate staff with required skills and competencies.
- (c) Lack of skilled staff is due to the absence of institutions which offer the requisite skills in city management.
- (d) Our country is not taking advantage of the demographic dividend to manage the problems associated with rapid urbanization.

Passage 5

Flamingos in large flocks in the wild are social and extremely loyal. They perform group mating dances. Parents are very fond of their chicks, gathering them into crèches for protection while both males and females fly off to search for food.

5. Which among the following is the most logical corollary to the above passage?

- (a) Mass nesting in all species of birds is essential to ensure complete survival of their offspring.
- (b) Only birds have the capacity to develop social behaviour and thus can do mass nesting to raise their chicks in safety.
- (c) Social behaviour in some species of birds increases the odds of survival in an unsafe world.
- (d) All species of birds set up creches for their chicks to teach them social behaviour and loyalty.

Passage 6

Vast numbers of Indian citizens without bank accounts live in rural areas, are financially and functionally illiterate, and have little experience with technology. A research study was conducted

in a particular area in which electronic wage payments in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are meant to go directly to the poor. It was observed that recipients often assume that the village leader needs to mediate the process, as was the case under the previous paper-based system. Among households under this research study area who claimed to have at least one bank account, over a third reported still receiving MGNREGS wages in cash directly from a village leader.

6. What is the most logical, rational and crucial message that is implied in the above passage?

- (a) MGNREGS should be extended only to those who have a bank account.
- (b) The paper-based system of payments is more efficient than electronic payment in the present scenario.
- (c) The goal of electronic wage payments was not to eliminate mediation by village leaders.
- (d) It is essential to provide financial literacy to the rural poor.

Passage 7

Individuals, groups and leaders who promote human development operate under strong institutional, structural and political constraints that affect policy options. But experience suggests broad principles for shaping an appropriate agenda for human development. One important finding from several decades of human development experience is that focusing exclusively on economic growth is problematic. While we have good knowledge about how to advance health and education, the causes of growth are much less certain and growth is often elusive. Further, an unbalanced emphasis on growth is often associated with negative environmental consequences and adverse distributional effects. The experience of China, with its impressive growth record, reflects these broader concerns and underlines the importance of balanced approaches that emphasize investments in the non-income aspects of human development.

7. With reference to the above passage, consider the following statements:

- 1. In developing countries, a strong institutional framework is the only requirement for human

development and policy options

- Human development and economic growth are not always positively inter-related.
- Focusing only on human development should be the goal of economic growth

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

- Higher economic growth is essential to ensure reduction in economic disparity.
- Environmental degradation is sometimes a consequence of economic growth

Which of the above is/are valid assumption/assumptions?

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

Passage 8

The mangroves can shed tons of leaves per acre every year; fungi and bacteria break down this leaf litter and consume it, they then are consumed by tiny worms and crustaceans, which in turn feed small fish, which feed larger fish and birds and crocodiles.

9. Which among the following is the most logical inference of the above statement?

- Coastal areas cannot have food chains without mangroves.
- Mangroves are an essential component of all marine ecosystems.
- Mangroves have a crucial role in some of the coastal food chains.
- The composition of marine flora and fauna is largely determined by mangroves.

Passage 9

"By liberty I mean the eager maintenance of that atmosphere in which men have the opportunity to be their best selves."

10. Which one of the following expresses the view implied in the above statement?

- Liberty is the absence of restraint on human action.
- Liberty is what law permits people to perform.
- Liberty is the ability to do what one desires.
- Liberty is the maintenance of conditions for the growth of human personality

Passage 10

Human history abounds in claims and theories confining the right of governing to a few select citizens. Exclusion of the many is justified on the ground that human beings may be rightfully segregated for the good of society and viability of the political process.

11. Which one of the following statements is least essential as a part of the argument in the above passage?

- Man seeks control over external things affecting him.
- In society, there are 'super' and 'sub' human beings.
- Exceptions to universal citizen participation are conducive to systemic efficacy.
- Governing implies recognition of disparities in individual capacities.

Passage 11

By 2050, the Earth's population will likely have swelled from seven to nine billion people. To fill all those stomachs - while accounting for shifting consumption patterns, climate change, and a finite amount of arable land and potable water - some experts say food production will have to double. How can we make the numbers add up? Experts say higher yielding crop varieties and more efficient farming methods will be crucial. So will waste reduction. Experts urge cities to reclaim nutrients and water from waste streams and preserve farmland. Poor countries, they say, can improve crop storage and packaging and rich nations could cut back on resource-intensive foods like meat.

12. Which one of the following statements best sums up the above passage?

- (a) The population of the world is growing very fast.
- (b) Food security is a perennial problem only in developing countries.
- (c) The world does not have enough resources to meet the impending food scarcity.
- (d) Food security is increasingly a collective challenge.

Passage 12

Many people in India feel that if we cut our defence expenditure on weapon-building, we can create a climate of peace with our neighbours, subsequently reducing the conflict or creating a no-war situation. People who proclaim such ideas are either the victims of war or the propagators of false argument.

13. With reference to the above passage, which of the following is the most valid assumption?

- (a) Building of weapons systems by us has instigated our neighbours to wage wars against us.
- (b) The greater spending on weapon-building by us would lessen the possibility of armed conflict with our neighbours.
- (c) It is necessary to have state of the art weapons systems for national security.
- (d) Many people in India believe that we are wasting our resources on weapon-building.

Passage 13

India accounts for nearly a fifth of the world's child deaths. In terms of numbers, it is the highest in the world - nearly 16 lakhs every year. Of these, more than half die in the first month of life. Officials believe that the reason for this is the absence of steps to propagate basic health practices relating to breast feeding and immunisation. Also the large reproductive population of 2.6 crore remains bereft of care during the critical phases of pregnancy and post-delivery. Added to this is the prevalence of child marriages, anaemia among young women and lack of focus on adolescent sanitation, all of which impact child death rates.

14. Which is the critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) A lot of Indians are illiterate and hence do not recognize the value of basic health practices.

(b) India has a very huge population and the government alone cannot manage public health services.

(c) Universalization and integration of maternal health and child health services can effectively address the problem.

(d) The nutrition of women in child bearing age does not affect child mortality rate.

Passage 14

Foods travel more than the people who eat them. Grocery stores and supermarkets are loaded with preserved and processed foods. This, however, often leads to environmental threats, such as pollution generated by long distance food transportation and wastage of food during processing and transportation, destruction of rain forests, reduced nutritional content, increased demand for preservation and packaging. Food insecurity also increases as the produce comes from regions that are not feeding their own population properly.

15. With reference to the above passage, which of the following statements is/are true?

1. Consuming regionally grown food and not depending on long travelled food is a part of eco-friendly behaviour.
2. Food processing industry puts a burden on our natural resources.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Passage 15

I must say that, beyond occasionally exposing me to laughter, my constitutional shyness has been of no disadvantage whatever. In fact I can see that, on the contrary, it has been all to my advantage. My hesitancy in speech, which was once an annoyance, is now a pleasure. Its greatest benefit has been that it has taught me the economy of words. I have naturally formed the habit of restraining my thoughts. And I can now give myself the certificate that a thoughtless word hardly ever escapes my tongue or pen. I do not recollect ever

having had to regret anything in my speech or writing. I have thus been spared many a mishap and waste of time. Experience has taught me that silence is part of the spiritual discipline of a votary of truth. Proneness to exaggerate, to suppress or modify the truth, wittingly or unwittingly, is a natural weakness of man, and silence is necessary in order to surmount it. A man of few words will rarely be thoughtless in his speech; he will measure every word. We find so many people impatient to talk. There is no chairman of a meeting who is not pestered with notes for permission to speak. And whenever the permission is given the speaker generally exceeds the time-limit, asks for more time, and keeps on talking without permission. All this talking can hardly be said to be of any benefit to the world. It is so much waste of time. My shyness has been in reality my shield and buckler. It has allowed me to grow. It has helped me in my discernment of truth.

16. The author says that a thoughtless word hardly ever escapes his tongue or pen. Which one of the following is not a valid reason for this?

- (a) He has no intention to waste his time.
- (b) He believes in the economy of words.
- (c) He believes in restraining his thoughts.
- (d) He has hesitancy in his speech.

17. The most appropriate reason for the author to be spared many a mishap is that

- (a) he hardly utters or writes a thoughtless word.
- (b) he is a man of immense patience.
- (c) he believes that he is a spiritual person.
- (d) he is a votary of truth.

18. For the author, silence is necessary in order to surmount

- (a) constitutional shyness.
- (b) hesitancy in speech.
- (c) suppression of thoughts.
- (d) tendency to overstate.

Passage 16

India has suffered from persistent high inflation. Increase in administered prices, demand and supply imbalances, imported inflation aggravated by rupee depreciation, and speculation - have combined to keep high inflation going. If there is an element common to all of them, it is that many of them are the outcomes of economic reforms.

India's vulnerability to the effects of changes in international prices has increased with trade liberalisation. The effort to reduce subsidies has resulted in a continuous increase in the prices of commodities that are administered.

19. What is the most logical, rational and crucial message that is implied in the above passage?

- (a) Under the present circumstances, India should completely avoid all trade liberalisation policies and all subsidies.
- (b) Due to its peculiar socio-economic situation, India is not yet ready for trade liberalisation process.
- (c) There is no solution in sight for the problems of continuing poverty and inflation in India in the near future.
- (d) Economic reforms can often high inflation economy.

Passage 17

No Right is absolute, exclusive or inviolable. The Right of personal property, similarly, has to be perceived in the larger context of its assumed legitimacy. The Right of personal property should unite the principle of liberty with that of equality, and both with the principle of cooperation.

20. In the light of the argument in the above passage, which one of the following statements is the most convincing explanation?

- (a) The Right of personal property is a Natural Right duly supported by statutes and scriptures.
- (b) Personal property is a theft and an instrument of exploitation. The Right of personal property is therefore violative of economic justice.
- (c) The Right of personal property is violative of distributive justice and negates the principle of cooperation.
- (d) The comprehensive idea of economic justice demands that the Right of each person to acquisition of property has to be reconciled with that of others.

Passage 18

The conflict between man and State is as old as State history. Although attempts have been made for centuries to bring about a proper adjustment between the competing claims of State and the individual, the solution seems to be still far off. This is primarily because of the dynamic nature of

human society where old values and ideas constantly yield place to new ones. It is obvious that if individuals are allowed to have absolute freedom of speech and action, the result would be chaos, ruin and anarchy.

21. The author's viewpoint can be best summed up in which of the following statements?

- (a) The conflict between the claims of State and individual remains unresolved.
- (b) Anarchy and chaos are the obvious results of democratic traditions.
- (c) Old values, ideas and traditions persist despite the dynamic nature of human society.
- (d) Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech is not in the interest of society.

Passage 19

Climate change is a complex policy issue with major implications in terms of finance. All actions to address climate change ultimately involve costs. Funding is vital for countries like India to design and implement adaptation and mitigation plans and projects. Lack of funding is a large impediment to implementing adaptation plans. The scale and magnitude of the financial support required by developing countries to enhance their domestic mitigation and adaptation actions are a matter of intense debate in the multilateral negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention squarely puts the responsibility for provision of financial support on the developed countries, taking into account their contribution to the stock of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Given the magnitude of the task and the funds required, domestic finances are likely to fall short of the current and projected needs of the developing countries. Global funding through the multilateral mechanism of the Convention will enhance their domestic capacity to finance the mitigation efforts.

22. According to the passage, which of the following is/are a matter of intense debate in the multilateral negotiations under UNFCCC regarding the role of developing countries in climate change?

- 1. The scale and size of required financial support.
- 2. The crop loss due to climate change in the developing countries.

3. To enhance the mitigation and adaptation actions in the developing countries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

23. In this passage, the Convention puts the responsibility for the provision of financial support on the developed countries because of

- 1. their higher level of per capita incomes.
- 2. their large quantum of GDP.
- 3. their large contribution to the stock of GHGs in the atmosphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

24. With regards to developing countries, it can be inferred from the passage that climate change is likely to have implications on their

- 1. domestic finances.
- 2. capacity for multilateral trade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

25. Which one of the following is essentially discussed in the passage?

- (a) Conflict between developed and developing countries regarding support for mitigation
- (b) Occurrence of climate change due to excessive exploitation of natural resources by the developed countries
- (c) Lack of political will on the part of all the countries to implement adaptation plans.
- (d) Governance problems of developing countries as a result of climate change

Passage 20

Climate change is already making many people hungry all over the world, by disrupting crop yields and pushing up prices. And it is not just food but nutrients that are becoming scarcer as the climate changes. It is the poorest communities that will suffer the worst effects of climate change, including increased hunger and malnutrition as crop production and livelihoods are threatened. On the other hand, poverty is a driver of climate change, as desperate communities resort to unsustainable use of resources to meet current needs.

26. Which among the following is the most logical corollary to the above passage?

- (a) Government should allocate more funds to poverty alleviation programmes and increase food subsidies to the poor communities.
- (b) Poverty and climate impacts reinforce each other and therefore we have to re-imagine our food systems.
- (c) All the countries of the world unite in fighting poverty and malnutrition and treat poverty as a global problem.
- (d) We must stop unsustainable agricultural practices immediately and control food prices.

Passage 21

The Global Financial Stability Report finds that the share of portfolio investments from advanced economies in the total debt and equity investments in emerging economies has doubled in the past decade to 12 percent. The phenomenon has implications for Indian policy makers as foreign portfolio investments in the debt and equity markets have been on the rise. The phenomenon is also flagged as a threat that could compromise global financial stability in a chain reaction, in the event of United States Federal Reserve's imminent reversal of its "Quantitative Easing" policy.

27. Which among the following is the most rational and critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Foreign portfolio investments are not good for emerging economies.
- (b) Advanced economies undermine the global financial stability.

(c) India should desist from accepting foreign portfolio investments in the future.

(d) Emerging economies are at a risk of shock from advanced economies.

Passage 22

Open defecation is disastrous when practised in very densely populated areas, where it is impossible to keep away human faeces from crops, wells, food and children's hands. Groundwater is also contaminated by open defecation. Many ingested germs and worms spread diseases. They prevent the body from absorbing calories and nutrients. Nearly one-half of India's children remain malnourished. Lakhs of them die from preventable conditions. Diarrhoea leaves Indians' bodies smaller on average than those of people in some poorer countries where people eat fewer calories. Underweight mothers produce stunted babies prone to sickness who may fail to develop their full cognitive potential. The germs released into environment harm rich and poor alike, even those who use latrines.

28. Which among the following is the most critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) The Central and State governments in India do not have enough resources to afford a latrine for each household.
- (b) Open defecation is the most important public health problem of India.
- (c) Open defecation reduces the human capital of India's workforce.
- (d) Open defecation is a public health problem in all developing countries.

Passage 23

We generally talk about democracy but when it comes to any particular thing, we prefer a belonging to our caste or community or religion. So long as we have this kind of temptation, our democracy will remain a phoney kind of democracy. We must be in a position to respect a man as a man and to extend opportunities for development to those who deserve them and not to those who happen to belong to our community or race. This fact of favouritism has been responsible for much discontent and ill-will in our country.

29. Which one of the following statements best sums up the above passage?

- (a) Our country has a lot of diversity with its many castes, communities and religions.
- (b) True democracy could be established by providing equal opportunities to all.
- (c) So far none of us have actually understood the meaning of democracy.
- (d) It will never be possible for us to establish truly democratic governance in our country.

Passage 24

The existence/establishment of formal financial institutions that offer safe, reliable and alternative financial instruments is fundamental in mobilising savings. To save, individuals need access to safe and reliable financial institutions, such as banks, and to appropriate financial instruments and reasonable financial incentives. Such access is not always available to all people in developing countries like India and more so, in rural areas. Savings help poor households manage volatility in cash flow, smoothen consumption, and build working capital. Poor households without access to a formal savings mechanism encourage immediate spending temptations.

30. With reference to the above passage, consider the following statements:

1. Indian financial institutions do not offer any financial instruments to rural households to mobilise their savings.
2. Poor households tend to spend their earnings/savings due to lack of access to appropriate financial instruments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. What is the crucial message conveyed in the passage?

- (a) Establish more banks.
- (b) Increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate

- (c) Increase the interest rate of bank deposits
- (d) Promote financial inclusion

Passage 25

Governments may have to take steps which would otherwise be an infringement on the Fundamental Rights of individuals, such as acquiring a person's land against his will, or refusing permission for putting up a building, but the larger public interest for which these are done must be authorized by the people (Parliament). Discretionary powers to the administration can be done away with. It is becoming more and more difficult to keep this power within limits as the government has many number of tasks to perform. Where discretion has to be used, there must be rules and safeguards to prevent misuse of that power. Systems have to be devised which minimise, if not prevent, the abuse of discretionary power. Government work must be conducted within a framework of recognised rules and principles, and decisions should be similar and predictable.

32. Which among the following is the most logical assumption that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Government should always be given wide discretionary power in all matters of administration.
- (b) The supremacy of rules and safeguards should prevail as opposed to the influence of exclusive discretion of authority.
- (c) Parliamentary democracy is possible only if the Government has wider discretionary power.
- (d) None of the above statements is a logical assumption that can be made from this passage.

2016

Passage 1

Accountability, or the lack of it, in governance generally, and civil services, in particular, is a major factor underlying the deficiencies in governance and public administration. Designing an effective framework for accountability has been a key element of the reform agenda. A fundamental issue is whether civil services should be accountable to the political executive of the day or to society at large. In other words, how should internal and external accountability be reconciled? Internal accountability is sought to be achieved by internal performance monitoring, official supervision by bodies like the Central Vigilance Commission and Comptroller and Auditor General, and judicial review of executive decisions. Articles 311 and 312 of the Indian Constitution provide job security and safeguards to the civil services, especially the All India Services. The framers of the Constitution had envisaged that provision of these safeguards would result in a civil service that is not totally subservient to the political executive but will have the strength to function in larger public interest. The need to balance internal and external accountability is thus built into the Constitution. The issue is where to draw the line. Over the years, the emphasis seems to have tilted in favour of greater internal accountability of the civil services to the political leaders of the day who in turn are expected to be externally accountable to the society at large through the election process. This system for seeking accountability to society has not worked out, and has led to several adverse consequences for governance.

Some special measures can be considered for improving accountability in civil services. Provisions of articles 311 and 312 should be reviewed and laws and regulations framed to

ensure external accountability of civil services. The proposed Civil Services Bill seeks to address some of these requirements. The respective roles of professional civil services and the political executive should be defined so that professional managerial functions and management of civil services are depoliticized. For this purpose, effective statutory civil service boards should be created at the centre and in the states. Decentralization and devolution of authority to bring government and decision making closer to the people also helps to enhance accountability.

1. According to the passage, which of the following factor/factors led to the adverse consequences for governance/public administration?

1. Inability of civil services to strike a balance between internal and external accountabilities
2. Lack of sufficient professional training to the officers of All India Services
3. Lack of proper service benefits in civil services
4. Lack of Constitutional provisions to define the respective roles of professional civil services vis-a-vis political executive in this context

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

1. Political executive is an obstacle to the accountability of the civil services to the society
2. In the present framework of Indian polity, the political executive is no longer accountable to the society

Which of these assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only

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

3. Which one of the following is the essential message implied by this passage?

- (a) Civil services are not accountable to the society they are serving
- (b) Educated and enlightened persons are not taking up political leadership
- (c) The framers of the Constitution did not envisage the problems being encountered by the civil services
- (d) There is a need and scope for reforms to improve the accountability of civil services

4. According to the passage, which one of the following is not a means of enhancing internal accountability of civil services?

- (a) Better job security and safeguards
- (b) Supervision by Central Vigilance Commission
- (c) Judicial review of executive decisions
- (d) Seeking accountability through enhanced participation by people in decision making process

Passage 2

In general, religious traditions stress our duty to god, or to some universal ethical principle. Our duties to one another derive from these. The religious concept of rights is primarily derived from our relationship to this divinity or principle and the implication it has on our other relationships. This correspondence between rights and duties is critical to any further understanding of justice. But, for justice to be practiced; rights and duties cannot remain formal abstraction. They must be grounded in a community (common unity) bound together by a sense of common union (communion). Even as a personal virtue, this solidarity is essential to the practice and understanding of justice.

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

- 1. Human relationships are derived from their religious traditions

- 2. Human beings can be duty bound only if they believe in god
- 3. Religious traditions are essential to practice and understand justice

Which of these assumption(s) is/are valid?

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

6. Which one of the following is the crux of this passage?

- (a) Our duties to one another derive from our religious traditions
- (b) Having relationship to the divine principle is a great virtue
- (c) Balance between and duties is crucial to the delivery of justice in a society
- (d) Religious concept of rights is primarily derived from our relationship to god

Passage 3

Biomass as fuel for power, heat, and transport has the highest mitigation potential of all renewable sources. It comes from agriculture and forest residues as well as from energy crops. The biggest challenge in using biomass residues is a long-term reliable supply delivered to the power plant at reasonable costs; the key problems are logistical constraints and the costs of fuel collection. Energy crops, if not managed properly, compete with food production and may have undesirable impacts on food prices. Biomass production is also sensitive to the physical impacts of a changing climate.

Projections of the future role of biomass are probably overestimated, given the limits to the sustainable biomass supply, unless breakthrough technologies substantially increase productivity. Climate-energy models project that biomass use could increase nearly four-fold to around 150 – 200 exajoules, almost a quarter of world primary energy in 2050. However the maximum sustainable technical potential of biomass

resources (both residues and energy crops) without disruption of food and forest resources ranges from 80 — 170 exajoules a year by 2050, and only part of this is realistically and economically feasible. In addition, some climate models rely on biomass-based carbon capture and storage, an unproven technology, to achieve negative emissions and to buy some time during the first half of the century. Some liquid biofuels such as corn-based ethanol, mainly for transport, may aggravate rather than ameliorate carbon emissions on a life-cycle basis. Second generation biofuels, based on ligno-cellulosic feedstocks — such as straw, bagasse, grass and wood — hold the promise of sustainable production that is high-yielding and emit low levels of greenhouse gases, but these are still in the R&D stage.

7. What is/are the present constraint/constraints in using biomass as fuel for power generation?

1. Lack of sustainable supply of biomass
2. Biomass production competes with food production
3. Bio-energy may not always be low carbon on a life-cycle basis

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

8. Which of the following can lead to food security problem?

1. Using agricultural and forest residues as feedstock for power generation
2. Using biomass for carbon capture and storage
3. Promoting the cultivation of energy crops

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9. In the context of using biomass, which of the following is/are the characteristic/characteristics of the sustainable production of biofuel?

1. Biomass as a fuel for power generation could meet all the primary energy requirements of the world by 2050
2. Biomass as a fuel for power generation does not necessarily disrupt food and forest resources
3. Biomass as a fuel for power generation could help in achieving negative emissions, given certain nascent technologies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

1. Some climate-energy models suggest that the use of biomass as a fuel for power generation helps in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions
2. It is not possible to use biomass as a fuel for power generation without disrupting food and forest resources

Which of these assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 4

We are witnessing a dangerous dwindling of biodiversity in our food supply. The green revolution is a mixed blessing. Over time farmers have come to rely heavily on broadly adapted, high yield crops to the exclusion of varieties adapted to the local conditions. Monocropping vast fields with the same genetically uniform seeds helps boost yield and meet immediate hunger needs. Yet high-yield varieties are also genetically weaker crops that require expensive chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. In our focus on increasing the

amount of food we produce today, we have accidentally put ourselves at risk for food shortages in future.

11. Which among the following is the most logical and critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) In our agricultural practices, we have become heavily dependent on expensive chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides only due to green revolution
- (b) Monocropping vast fields with high-yield varieties is possible due to green revolution
- (c) Monocropping with high-yield varieties is the only way to ensure food security to millions
- (d) Green revolution can pose a threat to biodiversity in food supply and food security in the long run

Passage 5

By killing transparency and competition, crony capitalism is harmful to free enterprise, opportunity and economic growth. Crony capitalism, where rich and the influential are alleged to have received land and natural resources and various licences in return for payoffs to venal politicians, is now a major issue to be tackled. One of the greatest dangers to growth of developing economies like India is the middle-income trap where crony capitalism creates oligarchies that slow down the growth.

12. Which among the following is the most logical corollary to the above passage?

- (a) Launching more welfare schemes and allocating more finances for the current schemes are urgently needed
- (b) Efforts should be made to push up economic growth by other means and provide licences to the poor
- (c) Greater transparency in the functioning of the government and promoting the financial inclusion are needed at present
- (d) We should concentrate more on developing manufacturing sector than service sector

Passage 6

Climate adaptation may be rendered ineffective if policies are not designed in the context of other development concerns. For instance, a comprehensive strategy that seeks to improve food security in the context of climate change may include a set of coordinated measures related to agricultural extension, crop diversification, integrated water and pest management and agricultural information series. Some of these measures may have to do with climate changes and others with economic development.

13. What is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) It is difficult to pursue climate adaptation in the developing countries
- (b) Improving food security is a far more complex issue than climate adaptation
- (c) Every developmental activity is directly or indirectly linked to climate adaptation
- (d) Climate adaptation should be examined in tandem with other economic development options

Passage 7

Understanding of the role of biodiversity in the hydrological cycle enables better policy-making. The term biodiversity refers to the variety of plants, animals, microorganisms, and the ecosystems in which they occur. Water and biodiversity are interdependent. In reality, the hydrological cycle decides how biodiversity functions. In turn, vegetation and soil drive the movement of water. Every glass of water we drink has, at least in part, passed through fish, trees, bacteria, soil and other organisms. Passing through these ecosystems, it is cleansed and made fit for consumption. The supply of water is a critical service that the environment provides.

14. Which among the following is the most critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) biodiversity sustains the ability of nature to recycle water
- (b) We cannot get potable water without the existence of living organisms
- (c) Plants, animals and microorganisms continuously interact among themselves
- (d) Living organisms could not have come into existence without hydrological cycle

Passage 8

In the last decade, the banking sector has been restructured with a high degree of automation and products that mainly serve middle-class and upper middle-class society. Today there is need for a new agenda for the banking and non-banking financial services that does not exclude the common man

15. Which one of the following is the message that is essentially implied in the above passage?

- (a) Need for more automation and more products of banks
- (b) Need for a radical restructuring of our entire public finance system
- (c) Need to integrate banking and non-banking institutions
- (d) Need to promote financial inclusion

Passage 9

Safe and sustainable sanitation in slums has immeasurable benefits to women and girls in terms of their health, safety, privacy and dignity. However, women do not feature in most of the schemes and policies on urban sanitation. The fact that even now the manual scavenging exists, only goes to show that not enough has been done to promote pour-flush toilets and discontinue the use of dry latrines. A more sustained and rigorous campaign needs to be launched towards the right to sanitation on a very large scale. This should primarily focus on the abolition of manual scavenging.

16. With reference to the above passage, consider the following statements:

- 1. Urban sanitation problems can be fully solved by the abolition of manual scavenging only

- 2. There is a need to promote greater awareness on safe sanitation practices in urban areas

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 10

To understand the nature and quantity of Government proper for man, it is necessary to attend to his character. As nature created him for social life, she fitted him for the station she intended. In all cases she made his natural wants greater than his individual powers. No one man is capable, without the aid of society, of supplying his own wants; and those wants, acting upon every individual, impel the whole of them into society.

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

- (a) Nature has created a great diversity in human society
- (b) Any given human society is always short of its wants
- (c) Social life is a specific characteristic of man
- (d) Diverse natural wants forced man towards social system

Passage 11

The nature of the legal imperatives in any given state corresponds to the effective demands that state encounters, and that these, in their turn, depend, in a general way, upon the manner in which economic power is distributed in the society which the state controls.

18. The statement refers to:

- (a) the antithesis of Politics and Economics
- (b) the interrelationship of Politics and Economics
- (c) the predominance of Economics over Politics
- (d) the predominance of Politics over Economics

Passage 12

About 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions come from agricultural practices. This includes nitrous oxide fertilizers; methane from livestock, rice production, and manure storage; and carbon dioxide (CO₂) from burning biomass, but this excludes CO₂ emissions from soil management practices, savannah burning and deforestation. Forestry, land use, and land-use change account for another 17 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions each year, three quarters of which come from tropical deforestation. The remainder is largely from draining and burning tropical peatland. About the same amount of carbon is stored in the world's peatlands as is stored in the Amazon rainforest.

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

- (a) Organic farming should immediately replace mechanised and chemical dependant agricultural practices all over the world
- (b) It is imperative for us to modify our land use practices in order to mitigate climate change.
- (c) There are no technological solutions to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions
- (d) Tropical areas are the chief sites of carbon sequestration

Passage 13

As we look to 2050, when we will need to feed two billion more people, the question of which diet is best has taken on new urgency. The foods we choose to eat in the coming decades will have dramatic ramifications for the planet. Simply put, a diet that revolves around meat and dairy a way of eating that is on the rise throughout the developing world, will take a greater toll on the world's resources than one that revolves around unrefined grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables.

20. What is the critical message conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) Our increasing demand for foods sourced from animals puts a greater burden on our natural resources
- (b) Diets based on grains, nuts, fruits and vegetables are best suited for health in developing countries
- (c) Human beings change their food habits from time to time irrespective of the health concerns
- (d) From a global perspective, we still do not know which type of diet is best for us

Passage 14

All humans digest mother's milk as infants, but until cattle began being domesticated 10,000 years ago, children once weaned no longer needed to digest milk. As a result, they stopped making the enzyme lactase, which breaks down the sugar lactose into simple sugars. After humans began herding cattle, it became tremendously advantageous to digest milk, and lactose tolerance evolved independently among cattle herders in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Groups not dependant on cattle, such as the Chinese and Thai, remain lactose intolerant.

21. Which among the following is the most logical assumption that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) About 10,000 years ago, the domestication of animals took place in some parts of the world
- (b) A permanent change in the food habits of a community can bring about a genetic change in its members
- (c) Lactose tolerant people only are capable of getting simple sugars in their bodies
- (d) People who are not lactose tolerant cannot digest any dairy product

Passage 15

"The conceptual difficulties in National Income comparisons between underdeveloped and industrialised countries are particularly serious because a part of the national output in various underdeveloped countries is produced without passing through the commercial channels."

22. In the above statement, the author implies that:

- (a) the entire national output produced and consumed in industrialized countries passes through commercial channels
- (b) the existence of a non-commercialized sector in different underdeveloped countries renders the national income comparisons over countries difficult
- (c) no part of national output should be produced and consumed without passing through commercial channels
- (d) a part of the national output being produced and consumed without passing through commercial channels is a sign of underdevelopment

Passage 16

An increase in human-made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could initiate a chain reaction between plants and microorganisms that would unsettle one of the largest carbon reservoirs on the planet soil. In a study, it was found that the soil, which contains twice the amount of carbon present in all plants and Earth's atmosphere combined, could become increasingly volatile as people add more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. This is largely because of increased plant growth. Although a greenhouse gas and a pollutant, carbon dioxide also supports plant growth. As trees and other vegetation flourish in a carbon dioxide-rich future, their roots could stimulate microbial activity in soil that may in turn accelerate the decomposition of soil carbon and its release into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

23. Which among the following is the most logical corollary to the above passage?

- (a) Carbon dioxide is essential for the survival of microorganisms and plants
- (b) Humans are solely responsible for the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
- (c) Microorganisms and soil carbon are mainly responsible for the increased plant growth
- (d) Increasing green cover could trigger the release of carbon trapped in soil

Passage 17

Historically, the biggest challenge to world agriculture has been to achieve a balance between demand for and supply of food. At the level of individual countries, the demand-supply balance can be a critical policy issue for a closed economy, especially if it is a populous economy and its domestic agriculture is not growing sufficiently enough to ensure food supplies, on an enduring basis; it is not so much and not always, of a constraint for an open, and growing economy, which has adequate exchange surpluses to buy food abroad. For the world as a whole, supply-demand balance is always an inescapable prerequisite for warding off hunger and starvation. However, global availability of adequate supply does not necessarily mean that food would automatically move from countries of surplus to countries of deficit if the latter lack in purchasing power. The uneven distribution of hunger, starvation, under or malnourishment, etc., at the world-level, thus owes itself to the presence of empty-pocket hungry mouths, overwhelmingly confined to the underdeveloped economies. In as much as 'a two-square meal' is of elemental significance to basic human existence, the issue of worldwide supply of food has been gaining significance, in recent times, both because the quantum and the composition of demand has been undergoing big changes, and because, in recent years, the capabilities of individual countries to generate uninterrupted chain of food supplies have come under strain. Food production, marketing and prices, especially price-affordability by the poor in the developing world, have become global issues that need global thinking and global solutions.

24. According to the above passage, which of the following are the fundamental solutions for the world food security problem?

1. Setting up more agro-based industries
2. Improving the price affordability by the poor
3. Regulating the conditions of marketing
4. Providing food subsidy to one and all

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

25. According to the above passage, the biggest challenge to world agriculture is:

- (a) to find sufficient land for agriculture and to expand food processing industries
- (b) to eradicate hunger in underdeveloped countries
- (c) to achieve a balance between the production of food and non-food items
- (d) to achieve a balance between demand for and supply of food

26. According to the above passage, which of the following helps/help in reducing hunger and starvation in the developing economies?

1. Balancing demand and supply of food
2. Increasing imports of food
3. Increasing purchasing power of the poor
4. Changing the food consumption patterns and practices

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

27. The issue of worldwide supply of food has gained importance mainly because of:

1. overgrowth of the population worldwide
2. sharp decline in the area of food production
3. limitation in the capabilities for sustained supply of food

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Passage 1

What climate change will undeniably do is cause or amplify events that hasten the reduction of resources. Competition over these diminishing resources would ensue in the form of political or even violent conflict. Resource-based conflicts have rarely been overt and are thus difficult to isolate. Instead, they take on veneers that appear more politically palatable. Conflicts over resources like water are often cloaked in the guise of identity or ideology.

1. What does the above passage imply?

- (a) Resource-based conflicts are always politically motivated.
- (b) There are no political solutions to resolve environmental and resource based conflicts.
- (c) Environmental issues contribute to resource stresses and political conflict.
- (d) Political conflict based on identity or ideology cannot be resolved.

Passage 2

The man who is perpetually hesitating which of the two things he will do first, will do neither. The man who resolves, but suffers his resolution to be changed by the first counter-suggestion of a friend—who fluctuates from opinion to opinion and veers from plan to plan—can never accomplish anything. He will at best be stationary and probably retrograde in all. It is only the man who first consults wisely, then resolves firmly and then executes his purpose with inflexible perseverance, undismayed by those petty difficulties which daunt a weaker spirit—that can advance to eminence in any line.

2. The keynote that seems to be emerging from the passage is that

- (a) we should first consult wisely and then resolve firmly
- (b) we should reject suggestions of friends and remain unchanged
- (c) we should always remain broad-minded

- (d) we should be resolute and achievement-oriented

Passage 3

During the summer in the Arctic Ocean, sea ice has been melting earlier and faster, and the winter freeze has been coming later. In the last three decades, the extent of summer ice has declined by about 30 per cent. The lengthening period of summer melt threatens to undermine the whole Arctic food web, atop which stand polar bears.

3. Which among the following is the most crucial message conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) Climate change has caused Arctic summer to be short but temperature to be high.
- (b) Polar bears can be shifted to the South Pole to ensure their survival.
- (c) Without the presence of polar bears, the food chains in Arctic region will disappear.
- (d) Climate change poses a threat to the survival of polar bears.

Passage 4

Why do people prefer open defecation and not want toilets or, if they have them, only use them sometimes? Recent research has shown two critical elements: ideas of purity and pollutions, and not wanting pits or septic tanks to fill because they have to be emptied. These are the issues that nobody wants to talk about, but if we want to eradicate the practice of open defecation, they have to be confronted and dealt properly.

4. Which among the following is the most crucial message conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) The ideas of purity and pollutions are so deep-rooted that they cannot be removed from the minds of the people.
- (b) People have to perceive toilet use and pit-emptying as clean and not polluting.
- (c) People cannot change their old habits.
- (d) People have neither civic sense nor sense of privacy.

Passage 5

In the last two decades, the world's gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by 50 percent, whereas inclusive wealth has increased by a mere 6 percent. In recent decades, GDP-driven economic performance, has only harmed inclusive wealth like human capital; and natural capital like forests, land and water. While the world's human capital which stands at 57 percent of total inclusive wealth grew by only 8 percent, the natural which is 23 percent of total inclusive wealth declined by 30 per cent worldwide in the last two decades.

5. Which of the following is the most crucial inference from the above passage?

- (a) More emphasis should be laid on the development of natural capital.
- (b) The growth driven by GDP only is neither desirable nor sustainable.
- (c) The economic performance of the countries of the world is not satisfactory.
- (d) The world needs more human capital under the present circumstances.

Passage 6

By 2020, when the global economy is expected to run short of 56 million young people, India, with its youth surplus of 47 million, could fill the gap. It is in this context that labour reforms are often cited as the way to unlock double-digit growth in India. In 2014, India's labour force was estimated to be about 40 per cent of the population, but 93 per cent of this force was in unorganized sector. Over the last decade, the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of employment has slowed to 0.5 per cent, with about 14 million jobs created during last year when the labour force increased by about 15 million.

6. Which of the following is the most rational inference from the above passage?

- (a) India must control its population growth so as to reduce its unemployment rate.
- (b) Labour reforms are required in India to make optimum use of its vast labour force productively
- (c) India is poised to achieve the double-digit growth very soon
- (d) India is capable of supplying skilled young people to oil countries.

Passage 7

The very first lesson that should be taught to us when are old enough to understand it, is that complete freedom from the obligation to work is unnatural, and ought to be illegal, as we can escape our share of the burden of work only by throwing it on someone else's shoulders. Nature ordains that the human race shall perish of famine if it stops working. We cannot escape from this tyranny. The question we have to settle is how much leisure we can afford to allow ourselves.

7. The main idea of the passage is that

- (a) it is essential for human beings to work
- (b) there should be a balance between work and leisure
- (c) working is a tyranny which we to face
- (d) human's understanding of the nature of work is essential

Passage 8

There is no harm in cultivating habits so long as they are not injurious. Indeed, most of us are little more than bundle of habits. Take away our habits and the residuum would hardly be worth bothering about. We could not get on without them. They simplify the mechanism of life. They enable us to do a multitude of things automatically, which, if we had to give fresh and original thought to them each time, would make existence an impossible confusion.

8. The author suggests that habits

- (a) tend to make our lives difficult
- (b) add precision to our lives
- (c) make it easier for us to live
- (d) tend to mechanize our lives

Passage 9

We have hard work ahead. There is no resting for any of us till we redeem our pledge in full, till we make all the people of India what destiny intends them to be. We are citizens of a great country, on the verge of bold advance, and we have to live up to that high standard. All of us, to whatever religion we may belong, are equally the children of India with equal rights, privileges and obligations. We cannot encourage communalism or narrow-mindedness, for no nation can be great whose people are narrow in thought or action.

9. The challenge the author of the above passage throws to the public is to achieve

- (a) a high standard of living, progress and privileges
- (b) equal privileges, fulfilment of destiny and political tolerance
- (c) spirit of adventure and economic parity
- (d) hard work, brotherhood and national unity

Passage 10

“The individual, according to Rousseau, puts his person and all his power in common under the supreme direction of the General Will and in our corporate capacity we receive each member as an indivisible part of the whole.”

10. In the light of the above passage, the nature of General Will is best described as

- (a) the sum total of the private wills of the individuals
- (b) what is articulated by the elected representatives of the individuals
- (c) the collective good as distinct from private wills of the individuals
- (d) the material interests of the community

Passage 11

In a democratic State, where a high degree of political maturity of the people obtains, the conflict between the will of the sovereign law-making body and the organized will of the people seldom occurs.

11. What does the above passage imply?

- (a) In a democracy, force is the main phenomenon in the actual exercise of sovereignty.
- (b) In a mature democracy, force to a great extent is the main phenomenon in the actual exercise of sovereignty.
- (c) In a mature democracy, use of force is irrelevant in the actual exercise of sovereignty.
- (d) In a mature democracy, force is narrowed down to a marginal phenomenon in the actual exercise of sovereignty.

Passage 12

A successful democracy depends upon widespread interest and participation in politics, in which voting is an essential part. To deliberately refrain from taking such an interest, and from voting, is a kind of implied anarchy, it is to refuse

one’s political responsibility while enjoying the benefits of a free political society.

12. This passage relates to

- (a) duty to vote
- (b) right to vote
- (c) freedom to vote
- (d) right to participate in politics

Passage 13

In a free country, the man who reaches the position of leader is usually one of outstanding character and ability. Moreover, it is usually possible to foresee that he will reach such a position, since early in life one can see his qualities of character. But this is not always true in the case of a dictator; often he reaches his position of power through chance, very often through the unhappy state of his country.

13. The passage seems to suggest that

- (a) a leader foresees his future position
- (b) a leader is chosen only by a free country
- (c) a leader must see that his country is free from despair
- (d) despair in a country sometimes leads to dictatorship

Passage 14

The greatest blessing that technological progress has in store for mankind is not, of course, an accumulation of material possessions. The amount of these that can be effectively enjoyed by one individual in one lifetime is not great. But there is not the same narrow limit to the possibilities of the enjoyment of leisure. The gift of leisure may be abused by people who have had no experience of making use of it. Yet the creative use of leisure by a minority in societies has been the mainspring of all human progress beyond the primitive level.

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

1. People always see the leisure time as a gift and use it for acquiring more material possessions.
2. Use of leisure by some people to produce new and original things has been the chief source of human progress.

Which of these assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only

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

Passage 15

There is more than a modicum of truth in the assertion that “a working knowledge of ancient history is necessary to the intelligent interpretation of current events”. But the sage who uttered these words of wisdom might well have added something on the benefits of studying particularly the famous battles of history for the lessons they contain for those of us who lead or aspire to leadership. Such a study will reveal certain qualities and attributes which enabled the winners to win—and certain deficiencies which caused the losers to lose. And the student will see that the same pattern recurs consistently, again and again, throughout the centuries.

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

1. A study of the famous battles in history would help us understand the modern warfare.
2. Studying the history is essential for anyone who aspires to be a leader.

Which of these assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 16

Disruption of traditional institutions, identifications and loyalties is likely to lead to ambivalent situations. It is possible that some people may renew their identification with traditional groups whereas others align themselves with new groups and symbols emergent from processes of political development. In addition, political development tends to foster group awareness of a variety of class, tribe, region, clan, language, religion, occupation and others.

16. Which one of the following is the best explanation of the above passage?

- (a) Political development is not a unilinear process for it involves both growth and decay.

- (b) Traditional societies succeed in resisting positive aspects of political development.
- (c) It is impossible for traditional societies to break away from lingering loyalties.
- (d) Sustenance of traditional loyalties is conducive to political development.

Passage 17

There has been a significant trend worldwide towards regionalism in government, resulting in a widespread transfer of powers downwards towards regions and communities since 1990s. This process, which involves the creation of new political entities and bodies at a sub-national level and an increase in their content and powers, is known as devolution. Devolution has been characterized as being made up of three factors—political legitimacy, decentralization of authority and decentralization of resources. Political legitimacy here means a mass demand from below for the decentralization process, which is able to create a political force for it to take place. In many cases, decentralization is initiated by the upper tier of government without sufficient political mobilization for it at the grassroots level, and in such cases the decentralization process often does not fulfil its objectives.

17. Which among the following is the most logical, rational and critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Emergence of powerful mass leaders is essential to create sub-national political entities and thus ensure successful devolution and decentralization.
- (b) The upper tier of government should impose devolution and decentralization on the regional communities by law or otherwise.
- (c) Devolution, to be successful, requires a democracy in which there is free expression of the will of the people at lower level and their active participation at the grassroots level.
- (d) For devolution to take place, a strong feeling of regionalism in the masses is essential.

Passage 18

We live in digital times. The digital is not just something we use strategically and specifically to do a few tasks. Our very perception of who we are, how we connect to the world around us, and the ways in which we define our domains of life,

labour and language are hugely structured by the digital technologies. The digital is everywhere and; like air, invisible. We live within digital systems, we live with intimate gadgets, we interact through digital media, and the very presence and imagination of the digital has dramatically restructured our lives. The digital, far from being a tool, is a condition and context that defines the shapes and boundaries of our understanding of the self, the society, and the structure of governance.

18. Which among the following is the most logical and essential message conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) All problems of governance can be solved by using digital technologies.
- (b) Speaking of digital technologies is speaking of our life and living.
- (c) Our creativity and imagination cannot be expressed without digital media.
- (d) Use of digital systems is imperative for the existence of mankind in future.

Passage 19

The IMF has pointed out that the fast growing economies of Asia face the risk of falling into 'middle-income trap'. It means that average incomes in these countries, which till now have been growing rapidly, will stop growing beyond a point—a point that is well short of incomes in the developed West. The IMF identifies a number of causes of middle-income trap—none of which is surprising—from infrastructure to weak institutions, to less than favourable macroeconomic conditions. But the broad, overall cause, says IMF, is a collapse in the growth of productivity.

19. Which among the following is the most logical, rational and critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Once a country reaches middle-income stage, it runs the risk of falling productivity which leads to stagnant incomes.
- (b) Falling into middle-income trap is a general characteristic of fast growing economies.
- (c) There is no hope at all for emerging Asian economies to sustain the growth momentum.
- (d) As regards growth of productivity, the performance of Asian economies is not satisfactory.

Passage 20

An innovative India will be inclusive as well as technologically advanced, improving the lives of all Indians. Innovation and R&D can mitigate increases in social inequality and relieve the pressures created by rapid urbanization. The growing divergence in productivity between agriculture and knowledge-intensive manufacturing and services threatens to increase income inequality. By encouraging India's R&D labs and universities to focus on the needs of poor people and by improving the ability of informal firms to absorb knowledge, an innovation and research agenda can counter this effect. Inclusive innovation can lower the cost of goods and services and create income – earning opportunities for the poor people.

20. Which among the following is the most logical and rational assumption that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Innovation and R&D is the only way to reduce rural to urban migration.
- (b) Every rapidly growing country needs to minimize the divergence between productivity in agriculture and other sectors.
- (c) Inclusive innovation and R&D can help create an egalitarian society.
- (d) Rapid urbanization takes place only when a country's economic growth is rapid.

Passage 21

Climate change is likely to expose a large number of people to increasing environmental risks forcing them to migrate. The international community is yet to recognize this new category of migrants. There is no consensus on the definition and status of climate refugees owing to the distinct meaning the term refugees carry under international laws. There are still gaps in understanding how climate change will work as the root cause of migration. Even if there is recognition of climate refugees, who is going to provide protection? More emphasis has been given to international migration due to climate change. But there is a need to recognize the migration of such people within the countries also so that their problems can be addressed properly.

21. Which of the following is the most rational inference from the above passage?

- (a) The world will not be able to cope with large scale migration of climate refugees.
- (b) We must find the ways and means to stop further climate change.
- (c) Climate change will be the most important reason for the migration of people in the future.
- (d) Relation between climate change and migration is not yet properly understood.

Passage 22

Many farmers use synthetic pesticides to kill infesting insects. The consumption of pesticides in some of the developed countries is touching 3000 grams/hectare. Unfortunately, there are reports that these compounds possess inherent toxicities that endanger the health of the farm operators, consumers and the environment. Synthetic pesticides are generally persistent in environment. Entering in food chain they destroy the microbial diversity and cause ecological imbalance. Their indiscriminate use has resulted in development of resistance among insects to insecticides, upsetting of balance in nature and resurgence of treated populations. Natural pest control using the botanical pesticides is safer to the user and the environment because they break down into harmless compounds within hours or days in the presence of sunlight. Plants with pesticidal properties have been in nature for millions of years without any ill or adverse effects on the ecosystem. They are easily decomposed by many microbes common in most soils. They help in the maintenance of biological diversity of predators and the reduction of environmental contamination and human health hazards. Botanical pesticides formulated from plants are biodegradable and their use in crop protection is a practical sustainable alternative.

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

- 1. Synthetic pesticides should never be used in modern agriculture.
- 2. One of the aims of sustainable agriculture is to ensure minimal ecological imbalance.
- 3. Botanical pesticides are more effective as compared to synthetic pesticides.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

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

23. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding biopesticides?

- 1. They are not hazardous to human health.
- 2. They are persistent in environment.
- 3. They are essential to maintain the biodiversity of any ecosystem.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 23

An air quality index (AQI) is a way to combine measurements of multiple air pollutants into a single number or rating. This index is ideally kept constantly updated and available in different places. The AQI is most useful when lots of pollution data are being gathered and when pollution levels are normally, but not always, low. In such cases, if pollution levels spike for a few days, the public can quickly take preventive action (like staying indoors) in response to an air quality warning. Unfortunately, that is not urban India. Pollution levels in many large Indian cities are so high that they remain well above any health or regulatory standard for large part of the year. If our index stays in the 'Red/Dangerous' region day after day, there is not much any one can do, other than getting used to ignoring it.

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

- (a) Our governments are not responsible enough to keep our cities pollution free.
- (b) There is absolutely no need for air quality indices in our country.
- (c) Air quality index is not helpful to the residents of many of our large cities.
- (d) In every city, public awareness about pollution problems should increase.

Passage 24

Productive jobs are vital for growth and a good job is the best form of inclusion. More than half of our population depends on agriculture, but the experience of other countries suggests that the number of people dependent on agriculture will have to shrink if per capita incomes in agriculture are to go up substantially. While industry is creating jobs, too many such jobs are low-productivity, non-contractual jobs in the unorganized sector, offering low incomes, little protection, and no benefits. Service jobs are relatively of high productivity, but employment growth in services has been slow in recent years.

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

- (a) We must create conditions for the faster growth of highly productive service jobs to ensure employment growth and inclusion.
- (b) We must shift the farm workers to the highly productive manufacturing and service sectors to ensure the economic growth and inclusion.
- (c) We must create conditions for the faster growth of productive jobs outside of agriculture even while improving the productivity of agriculture.
- (d) We must emphasize the cultivation of high-yielding hybrid varieties and genetically modified crops to increase the per capita income in agriculture.

Passage 25

A landscape-scale approach to land use can encourage greater biodiversity outside protected areas. During hurricane 'Mitch' in 1998, farms using eco agricultural practices suffered 58 percent, 70 percent and 99 percent less damage in Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala, respectively, than farms using conventional techniques. In Costa Rica, vegetative windbreaks and fencerows boosted farmers' income from pasture and coffee while also increasing bird diversity. Bee pollination is more effective when agricultural fields are closer to natural or seminatural habitat, a finding that matters because 87 percent of the world's 107 leading crops depend on animal pollinators. In Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Colombia silvopastoral systems that integrate trees with pastureland are improving the sustainability of cattle production, and diversifying and increasing farmers' income.

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

- (a) Agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity can often increase farm output and reduce the vulnerability to disasters.
- (b) All the countries of the world should be encouraged to replace ecoagriculture with conventional agriculture.
- (c) Ecoagriculture should be permitted in protected areas without destroying the biodiversity there.
- (d) The yield of food crops will be very high if ecoagricultural practices are adopted to cultivate them.

Passage 26

The medium term challenge for Indian manufacturing is to move from lower to higher tech sectors, from lower to higher value-added sectors, and from lower to higher productivity sectors. Medium tech industries are primarily capital intensive and resource processing; and high tech industries are mainly capital and technology intensive. In order to push the share of manufacturing in overall GDP to the projected 25 per cent, Indian manufacturing needs to capture the global market in sectors showing a rising trend in demand. These sectors are largely high technology and capital intensive.

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

- (a) India's GDP displays high value-added and high productivity levels in medium tech and resource processing industries.
- (b) Promotion of capital and technology intensive manufacturing is not possible in India.
- (c) India should push up the public investments and encourage the private investments in research and development, technology upgradation and skill development.
- (d) India has already gained a great share in global markets in sectors showing a rising trend in demand.

Passage 27

Over the last decade, Indian agriculture has become more robust with record production of food grains and oilseeds. Increased procurement,

consequently, has added huge of food grains in the granaries. India is one of the world's top producers of rice, wheat, milk, fruits and vegetables. India is still home the quarter of all undernourished people in the world. On an average, almost half of the total expenditure of nearly half of the households is on food.

- (c) rule of the poor
- (d) expropriation of the rich

28. Which among the following is the most logical corollary to the above passage?

- (a) Increasing the efficiency of farm-to-fork value chain is necessary to reduce the poverty and malnutrition.
- (b) Increasing the agricultural productivity will automatically eliminate the poverty and malnutrition in India.
- (c) India's agricultural productivity is already great and it is not necessary to increase it further.
- (d) Allocation of more funds for social welfare and poverty alleviation programmes will ultimately eliminate the poverty and malnutrition in India.

Passage 28

The States are like pearls and the Centre is the thread which turns them into a necklace; if the thread snaps, the pearls are scattered.

29. Which one of the following views corroborates the above statement?

- (a) A strong Centre and strong States make the federation strong.
- (b) A strong Centre is a binding force for national integrity.
- (c) A strong Centre is a hindrance to State autonomy.
- (d) State autonomy is a prerequisite for a federation.

Passage 29

Really I think that the poorest he that is in England has a life to live, as the greatest he, and therefore truly, I think it is clear that every man that is to live under a government ought first by his own consent to put himself under the government, and I do think that the poorest man in England is not at all bound in a strict sense to that government that he has not had a voice to put himself under.

30. The above statement argues for

- (a) distribution of wealth equally to all
- (b) rule according to the consent of the governed

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Passage 1

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

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

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

Passage 2

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

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

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

Passage 3

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

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

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

Passage 4

Though I have discarded much of past tradition and custom, and am anxious that India should rid herself of all shackles that bind and contain her and divide her people, and suppress vast numbers

of them, and prevent the free development of the body and the spirit; though I seek all this, yet I do not wish to cut myself off from that past completely. I am proud of that great inheritance that has been and is, ours and I am conscious that I too, like all of us, am a link in that unbroken chain which goes back to the dawn of history in the immemorial past of India.

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

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

Passage 5

All actions to address climate change ultimately involve costs. Funding is vital in order for countries like India to design and implement adaptation and mitigation plans and projects. The problem is more severe for developing countries like India, which would be one of the hardest hit by climate change, given its need to finance development. Most countries do indeed treat climate change as real threat and are striving to address it in a more comprehensive and integrated manner with the limited resources at their disposal.

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

- 1. Climate change is not a challenge for developed countries.
- 2. Climate change is a complex policy issue and also a development issue for many countries.
- 3. Ways and means of finance must be found to enable developing countries to enhance their adaptive capacity.

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 6

Cooking with biomass and coal in India is now recognized to cause major health problems, with

women and children in poor populations facing the greatest risk. There are more than 10 lakh premature deaths each year from household air pollution due to polluting cooking fuels with another 1.5 lakh due to their contribution to general outdoor air pollution in the country. Although the fraction of the Indian population using clean cooking fuels, such as LPG, natural gas and electricity, is slowly rising, the number using polluting solid fuels as their primary cooking fuel has remained static for nearly 30 years at about 70 crore.

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

- (a) Rural people are giving up the use of polluting solid fuels due to their increasing awareness of health hazards.
- (b) Subsidizing the use of clean cooking fuels will solve the problem of India's indoor air pollution.
- (c) India should increase its import of natural gas and produce more electricity.
- (d) Access to cooking gas can reduce premature deaths in poor households.

Passage 7

Scientific knowledge has its dangers, but so has every great thing. Over and beyond the dangers with which it threatens the present, it opens up as nothing else can, the vision of a possible happy world; a world without poverty, without war, with little illness. Science, whatever unpleasant consequences it may have by the way, is in its very nature a liberator.

7. Which one of the following is the most important implication of the passage?

- (a) A happy world is a dream of science.
- (b) Science only can build a happy world, but it is also the only major threat.
- (c) A happy world is not possible without science.
- (d) A happy world is not at all possible with or without science.

Passage 8

The Arctic's vast reserves of fossil fuel, fish and minerals are now accessible for a longer period in

a year. But unlike Antarctica, which is protected from exploitation by the Antarctic Treaty framed during the Cold War and is not subject to territorial claims by any country, there is no legal regime protecting the Arctic from industrialization, especially at a time when the world craves for more and more resources. The distinct possibility of ice-free summer has prompted countries with Arctic coastline to scramble for great chunks of the melting ocean.

8. Which one of the following is the most important implication of the passage?

- (a) India can have territorial claims in the Arctic territory and free access to its resources.
- (b) Melting of summer ice in the Arctic leads to changes in the geopolitics.
- (c) The Arctic region will solve the world's future problem of resource crunch.
- (d) The Arctic region has more resources than Antarctica.

Passage 9

Being a member of the WTO, India is bound by the agreements that have been signed and ratified by its members, including itself. According to Article 6 of the Agriculture Agreement, providing minimum support prices for agricultural products is considered distorting and is subject to limits. The subsidy arising from 'minimal supports' cannot exceed 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production for developing countries. PDS in India entails minimum support prices and public stockholding of food grains. It is possible that, in some years, the subsidy to producers will exceed 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production.

9. What is the crucial message conveyed by the above passage?

- (a) India should revise its PDS.
- (b) India should not be a member of WTO.
- (c) For India, food security collides with trade.
- (d) India provides food security to its poor.

Passage 10

India's educational system is modelled on the mass education system that developed in the 19th century in Europe and later spread around the

world. The goal of the system is to condition children as 'good' citizens and productive workers. This suited the industrial age that needed the constant supply of a compliant workforce with a narrow set of capabilities. Our educational institutes resemble factories with bells, uniforms and batch-processing of learners, designed to get learners to conform. But, from an economic point of view, the environment today is very different. It is a complex, volatile and globally interconnected world.

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

- 1. India continues to be a developing country essentially due to its faulty education system.
- 2. Today's learners need to acquire new-age skill-sets.
- 3. A good number of Indians go to some developed countries for education because the educational systems there are a perfect reflection of the societies in which they function.

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 11

The practice of dieting has become an epidemic; everyone is looking out for a way to attain that perfect body. We are all different with respect to our ethnicity, genetics, family history, gender, age, physical and mental and spiritual health status, lifestyles and preferences. Thereby we also differ in what foods we tolerate or are sensitive to. So we really cannot reduce so many complexities into one diet or diet book. This explains the failure of diets across the world in curbing obesity. Unless the reasons for weight gain are well understood and addressed and unless habits are changed permanently, no diet is likely to succeed.

11. What is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Obesity has become an epidemic all over the world.
- (b) A lot of people are obsessed with attaining a perfect body.
- (c) Obesity is essentially an incurable disease.
- (d) There is no perfect diet or one solution for obesity.

Passage 12

Monoculture carries great risks. A single disease or pest can wipe out swathes of the world's food production, an alarming prospect given that it's growing and wealthier population will eat 70% more by 2050. The risks are magnified by the changing climate. As the planet warms and monsoon rains intensify, farmlands in Asia will flood. North America will suffer more intense droughts, and crop diseases will spread to new latitudes.

12. Which of the following is the most logical, rational and crucial message given by the passage?

- (a) Preserving crop genetic diversity is an insurance against the effects of climate change.
- (b) Despite great risks, monoculture is the only way to ensure food security in the world.
- (c) More and more genetically modified crops only can save the world from impending shortages of food.
- (d) Asia and North America will be worst sufferers from climate change and the consequent shortage of food.

Passage 13

'Desertification' is a term used to explain a process of decline in the biological productivity of an ecosystem, leading to total loss of productivity. While this phenomenon is often linked to the arid, semi-arid and sub-humid ecosystems, even in the humid tropics, the impact could be most dramatic. Impoverishment of human-impacted terrestrial ecosystems may exhibit itself in a variety of ways: accelerated erosion as in the mountain regions of the country, salinization of land as in that semi-arid and arid 'green revolution' areas of the country, e.g., Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, and site quality decline—a common phenomenon

due to general decline in tree cover and monotonous monoculture of rice/ wheat across the Indian plains. A major consequence of deforestation is that it relates to adverse alterations in the hydrology and related soil and nutrient losses. The consequences of deforestation invariably arise out of site degradation through erosive losses. Tropical Asia, Africa and South America have the highest levels of erosion. The already high rates for the tropics are increasing at an alarming rate (e.g., through the major river systems-Ganga and Brahmaputra, in the Indian context), due to deforestation and ill-suited land management practices subsequent to forest clearing. In the mountain context, the declining moisture retention of the mountain soils, drying up of the underground springs and smaller rivers in the Himalayan region could be attributed to drastic changes in the forest cover. An indirect consequence is drastic alteration in the upland-lowland interaction, mediated through water.

The current concern the tea planter of Assam has is about the damage to tea plantations due to frequent inundation along the flood-plains of Brahmaputra, and the damage to tea plantation and the consequent loss in tea productivity is due to rising level of the river bottom because of siltation and the changing course of the river system. The ultimate consequences of site desertification are soil degradation, alteration in available water and its quality, and the consequent decline in food, fodder and fuel- wood yields essential for the economic well-being of rural communities.

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

1. Loss of topsoil
2. Loss of smaller rivers
3. Adverse effect on agricultural production
4. Declining of groundwater

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 14

A diversity of natural assets will be needed to cope with climate change and ensure productive agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. For example, crop varieties are needed that perform well under drought, heat, and enhanced CO₂. But the private-sector and farmer-led process of choosing crops favours homogeneity adapted to past or current conditions, not varieties capable of producing consistently high yields in warmer, wetter, or drier conditions. Accelerated breeding programmes are needed to conserve a wider pool of genetic resources of existing crops, breeds, and their wild relatives. Relatively intact ecosystems, such as

forested catchments, mangroves, wetlands, can buffer the impacts of climate change. Under a changing climate, these ecosystems are themselves at risk, and management approaches will need to be more proactive and adaptive. Connections between natural areas, such as migration corridors, may be needed to facilitate species movements to keep up with the change in climate.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 15

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

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

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

Passage 16

Some people believe that leadership is a quality which you have at birth or not at all. This theory is false, for the art of leadership can be acquired and can indeed be taught. This discovery is made in time of war and the results achieved can surprise even the instructors. Faced with the alternatives of going left or right, every soldier soon grasps that a prompt decision either way is better than an endless discussion. A firm choice of direction has an even chance of being right while to do nothing will be almost certainly wrong.

19. The author of the passage holds the view that

- (a) leadership can be taught through war experience only
- (b) leadership can be acquired as well as taught
- (c) the results of training show that more people acquire leadership than are expected
- (d) despite rigorous instruction, very few leaders are produced

Passage 17

The quest for cheap and plentiful meat has resulted in factory farms where more and more animals are squeezed into smaller lots in cruel and shocking conditions. Such practices have resulted in many of the world's health pandemics such as the avian flu. Worldwide, livestock are increasingly raised in cruel, cramped conditions, where animals spend their short lives under artificial light, pumped full of antibiotics and growth hormones, until the day they are slaughtered. Meat production is water intensive. 15000 litres of water is needed for every kilogram of meat

compared with 3400 liters for rice, 3300 litres for eggs and 255 litres for a kilogram of potatoes.

20. What is the most rational and crucial message given by the passage?

- (a) Mass production of meat through industrial farming is cheap and is suitable for providing protein nutrition to poor countries.
- (b) Meat-producing industry violates the laws against cruelty to animals.
- (c) Mass production of meat through industrial farming is undesirable and should be stopped immediately.
- (d) Environmental cost of meat production is unsustainable when it is produced through industrial farming.

Passage 18

A male tiger was removed from Pench Tiger Reserve and was relocated in Parma National Park. Later, this tiger trekked toward his home 250 miles away. The trek of this solitary tiger highlights a crisis. Many wildlife reserves exist as islands of fragile habitat in a vast sea of humanity, yet tigers can range over a hundred miles, seeking prey, mates and territory. Nearly a third of India's tigers live outside tiger reserves, a situation that is dangerous for both human and animal. Prey and tigers can only disperse if there are recognized corridors of land between protected areas to allow unmolested passage.

21. Which of the following is the most rational and crucial message given by the passage?

- (a) The conflict between man and wildlife cannot be resolved, no matter what efforts we make.
- (b) Safe wildlife corridors between protected areas is an essential aspect of conservation efforts.
- (c) India needs to declare more protected areas and set up more tiger reserves.
- (d) India's National Parks and Tiger Reserves need to be professionally managed.

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

- 1. The strategy of conversation of wildlife by relocating them from one protected area to another is not often successful.

2. India does not have suitable legislation to save the tigers, and its conservation efforts have failed which forced the tigers to live outside protected areas.

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 19

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

The right to education goes beyond free and compulsory education to include quality education for all. Quality is an integral part of the right to education. If the education process lacks quality, children are being denied their right. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act lays down that the curriculum should provide for learning through activities, exploration and discovery. This places an obligation on us to change our perception of children as passive receivers of knowledge, and to move beyond the convention of using textbooks as the basis of examinations. The teaching-learning process must become stress-free; and a massive programme for curricular reform should be initiated to provide for a child-friendly learning system that is more relevant and empowering. Teacher accountability systems and processes must ensure that children

are learning and that their right to learn in a child-friendly environment is not violated. Testing and assessment systems must be reexamined and redesigned to ensure that these do not force children to struggle between school and tuition centres, and bypass childhood.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

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

- (a) Ensuring regular attendance of children as well as teachers in school
- (b) Giving pecuniary benefits to teachers to motivate them
- (c) Understanding the socio-cultural background of children

(d) Inculcating learning through activities and discovery

26. What is the essential message in this passage?

(a) The Right to Education now is a Fundamental Right.

(b) The Right to Education enables the children of poor and weaker sections of the society to attend schools.

(c) The Right to Free and Compulsory Education should include quality education for all.

(d) The Government as well as parents should ensure that all children attend schools.



Passage 1

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only

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

Passage 2

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

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

- (a) Invasive species should be used to rehabilitate desert areas and wastelands of a country.
- (b) Laws against the introduction of foreign plants are unnecessary.
- (c) Sometimes, the campaigns against foreign plants are pointless.
- (d) Foreign plants should be used to increase the biodiversity of a country.

Passage 3

Diarrhoeal deaths among Indian children are mostly due to food and water contamination. Use of contaminated groundwater and unsafe chemicals in agriculture, poor hygiene in storage and handling of food items to food cooked and distributed in unhygienic surroundings; there are myriad factors that need regulation and monitoring. People need to have awareness of adulteration and ways of complaining to the relevant authorities. Surveillance of food-borne diseases involves a number of government agencies and entails good training of inspection

staff. Considering the proportion of the urban population that depends on street food for its daily meals, investing in training and education of street vendors is of great significance.

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 4

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

5. The passage seems to argue

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

Passage 5

A vast majority of Indians are poor, with barely 10 percent employed in the organised sector. We are being convinced that vigorous economic growth is generating substantial employment. But this is not so. When our economy was growing at 3 percent per year, employment in the organised sector was

growing at 2 percent per year. As the economy began to grow at 7 - 8 percent per year, the rate of growth of employment in the organised sector actually declined to 1 percent per year.

6. The above passage seems to imply that

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Passage 6

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

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

- (a) Efforts to bring people in India's hinterland into the banking system are not successful.
- (b) For meaningful financial inclusion, India's banking system needs more number of banking correspondents and other such last-mile workers.
- (c) Meaningful financial inclusion in India requires that banking correspondents have diverse skills

(d) Better banking outreach would be impossible unless each banking correspondent is allowed to serve a number of banks

Passage 7

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

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

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

Passage 8

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

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

- (a) Globalization is not in the interests of India as it undermines its socio-economic structures.

(b) India should be careful to protect its digital sovereignty in global trade talks.

(c) India should charge monopoly rents from multinational companies in exchange for Big Data.

(d) The loss of Big Data from India is proportional to the degree/value of its foreign trade.

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

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

Passage 9

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

11. What is the most logical and rational Corry to the above passage?

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

12. The above passage implies that

- 1. There is a potential problem of food insecurity in India.

2. India will have to strengthen its disaster management capabilities.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 10

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 11

Access to schooling for those coming of school age is close to universal, but access to quality exhibits a sharp gradient with socio-economic status. Quotas for the weaker sections in private schools is a provision introduced by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The quotas have imposed a debate on issues of social integration and equity in education that private actors had escaped by and large. The idea of

egalitarian education system with equality of opportunity as its primary goal appears to be outside the space that private school principals inhabit. Therefore, the imposition of the quotas has led to resistance, sometimes justified,

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

- 1. Making equality of opportunity a reality is the fundamental goal of the Indian education system.
- 2. The present Indian school system is unable to provide egalitarian education.
- 3. Abolition of private schools and establishment of more government schools is the only way to ensure egalitarian education.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 12

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

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

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

Passage 13

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

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

- (a) A better regulatory system will help India achieve the size of economy appropriate to its population.
- (b) In a competitive global economy, India must use regulations strategically.
- (c) Regulations in India do not favour its integration with today's hyper competitive global economy.
- (d) Job creation and economic growth should be dominant considerations in developing India's regulatory system.

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

In today's global economy,

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Passage 14

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 15

Temperatures have risen nearly five times as rapidly on the Western Antarctic Peninsula than the global average over the past five decades. Researchers have now found that melting glaciers are causing a loss of species diversity among benthos in the coastal waters off the Antarctic Peninsula, impacting an entire seafloor ecosystem. They believe increased levels of suspended sediment in water to be the cause of the dwindling biodiversity in the coastal region.

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 16

A research team examined a long-term owl roost. Owls prey on small mammals and the excreted remains of those meals that accumulated over the time, provide us an insight into the composition and structure of small mammals over the past millennia. The research suggested that when the Earth went through a period of rapid warming about 13,000 years ago, the small mammal community was stable and resilient. But, from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, human-made changes to the environment had caused an enormous drop in biomass and energy flow. This dramatic decline in energy flow means modern ecosystems are not adapting as easily as they did in the past.

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

1. Global warming is a frequently occurring natural phenomenon.

2. The impending global warming will not adversely affect small mammals.
3. Humans are responsible for the loss of the Earth's natural resilience.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 17

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Passage 18

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 19

Education plays a great transformatory role in life, particularly so in this rapidly changing and

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 20

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 21

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 22

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

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

- (a) Farmers who modernize their methods and diversify their fields will be in an advantageous position in future.

- (b) Climate change will adversely affect the crop diversity.

- (c) Shifting major crops to new croplands will lead to a great increase in the total area under cultivation and thus an increase in overall agricultural production.

- (d) Climate change is the most important factor affecting the agricultural economy in the future.

Passage 23

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

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

- (a) Different species having similar structure of hands is an example of biodiversity.

- (b) Limbs being used by different species for different kinds of work is an example of biodiversity.

- (c) Man and the aforementioned animals having similar structure of limbs is an example of coincidence in evolution.

- (d) Man and the aforementioned animals have a shared evolutionary history.

Passage 24

Around 56 million years ago, the Atlantic Ocean had not fully opened and animals, perhaps including our primate ancestors, could walk from Asia to North America through Europe and across Greenland. Earth was warmer than it is today, but as the Palaeocene epoch gave way to Eocene, it was about to get much warmer still — rapidly and radically. The cause was a massive geologically sudden release of carbon. During this period called Palaeocene - Eocene Thermal Maximum or PETM, the carbon injected into the atmosphere was roughly the amount that would be injected today if humans burned all the Earth's reserves of coal,

oil and natural gas. The PETM lasted for about 1,50,000 years, until the excess carbon was reabsorbed. It brought on drought, floods, insect plagues and a few extinctions. Life on Earth survived — indeed, it prospered — but it was drastically different.

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above are valid?

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



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Passage 1

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

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

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

Passage 2

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

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

- 1. State should have some institutions to ensure its appropriate role in a digital society.

- 2. State should ensure that private parties do not violate the citizens' right to privacy.
- 3. Digital economy is not compatible with the idea of not violating the citizens' privacy.

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 3

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

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

- (a) Rivers and other wetlands should be protected under Ramsar Convention.
- (b) Engineering water systems should be modernized and further augmented.
- (c) Wetlands need to be reinforced as more than just open sources or water.
- (d) Water supply should not be free of cost so as to prevent its misuse or overuse.

Passage 4

Asset allocation is the most important investment decision we will ever make, and sadly, most of us do not give that decision the importance it deserves. We are adamant about seeking predictability with our future. We tend to think of investing in risky assets as extremely volatile and value eroding. We also dislike fluctuating returns and the loss of control of investment. We think our

money is best left idle, unproductive but safe. There is no asset that is risk-free. We could lose our jobs, our homes can lose value, our banks can go bankrupt, our bonds can default, the government can collapse and companies we chose fondly may cease to exist. But we cannot live life assuming that all these extreme events are waiting to happen, and all at the same time. All these extreme forms or risks we know will not manifest at the same time.

4. Which one of the following statements best implies the suggestion given by the author of the passage?

- (a) Distribute your wealth across different kinds of assets so that your risks would be minimized.
- (b) Risk-taking behaviour should be a necessary component of your personality if you want to generate wealth.
- (c) While making investments, find a trustworthy asset management organization which would manage your wealth for you.
- (d) You should know that investing your money is a risky business.

Passage 5

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

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

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

Passage 6

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

human capital in India may prove inadequate for the diffusion.

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 7

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

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

1. Inter-linking of rivers should be undertaken.
2. A network of dams and canals should be built across the country for proper distribution of water.
3. Farmers should be provided easy loans for digging borewells.

4. Usage of water for agriculture should be regulated by law.

5. Distribution of river water among regions should be regulated by the Union Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 8

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 9

Our urban bodies cannot possibly ensure sustainable delivery of water in our cities unless financing mechanisms are put in place. Water

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 10

In India, agriculture still engages about half of workforce, and about 85 per cent of its farms small and marginal. Compared to China and Vietnam, which have experienced fast structural and rural transformation, India's story is of slow transformation. As a result, poverty reduction in India was at a much slower pace during 1988-2014, compared to China and Vietnam. India's poverty reduction was slow during 1988-2005, but during 2005-2012, it accelerated dramatically-

almost three times faster than during the earlier period. What did India do during this period? Research reveals that the relative price scenario changed significantly (by more than 50%) in favour of agriculture in the wake of rising global prices. This boosted private investments in agriculture by more than 50%. As a result, agri-GDP growth touched 4.1% during 2007-2012 as against 2.4% during 2002-2007. The net surplus or agri-trade touched \$25 billion in 2013-2014; real farm wages rose by 7% per annum. All this led to unprecedented fall in poverty.

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

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

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

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

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

Passage 11

Spanish ships in the late 16th century first brought the potato tuber from South America to Europe whereby in the early 19th century, it had become a reliable backup to cereal crops, particularly in the cold, rain-soaked soils of Ireland. The Irish were

soon almost wholly dependent on the potato as their staple food. And they were planting primarily one prodigious variety, the 'Lumper' potato, whose genetic frailty would be cruelly exposed by the fungus 'Phytophthora infestans'. In 1845, spores of the deadly fungus began spreading across the country, destroying nearly all the Lumpers in its path. The resulting famine killed or displaced millions.

14. Which one or the following statements best reflects the critical message of the passage?

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

Passage 12

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

15. With reference to the above passage, which of the following is/are the most rational and practical implication/Implications?

- 1. India's Public Distribution System should be monitored by the Union Government.
- 2. Girls should be encouraged to delay marriage and first pregnancy.

- 3. Mothers should be encouraged to breastfeed their children immediately after birth.
- 4. The supply of safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities to all should be ensured.
- 5. Authorities should ensure the vaccination as prescribed

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 13

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 14

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 15

Economic liberalization in India was shaped largely by the economic problems of the government than by the economic priorities of the people or by the long-term development objectives. Thus, there were limitations in conception and design which have been subsequently validated by experience. Jobless growth, persistent poverty

and rising inequality have mounted as problems since economic liberalization began. And all these years later, four quiet crises confront the economy: agriculture, infrastructure, industrialization and education as constraints on the country's future prospects. These problems must be resolved if economic growth has to be sustained and transformed into meaningful development.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 16

Bank credit to the industrial sector has started shrinking. Its decline has been a serious concern as credit growth is essential to revive investment. The problem's origins lie in the incomplete reforms of the last 25 years. An institutional

change that should have followed the 1991 reforms should have been setting up of a resolution corporation for banks. In a market economy with booms and busts, banks should be allowed to be set up and to fail. Today, we cannot shut down banks because there is no proper system to shut them down. Weak loss-making banks continue to need more capital.

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

- (a) Indian banking system is not able to help the country in its economic growth.
- (b) Economic reforms that started in 1991 have not helped in improving the economy to expected levels.
- (c) India lacks the institutional mechanism to deal with the failure of banks.
- (d) Encouraging the foreign investments in our industrial sector is a good alternative to this sector's dependence on banks for credit.

Passage 17

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

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

- (a) India's commitment to reduce emissions by 33% is unlikely to be achieved.
- (b) India should import gas rather than invest in renewable resources.
- (c) Getting renewable resources to market too soon may be costly.

(d) India should put in more efforts in the exploration of natural gas.

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

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

Passage 18

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/ are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Passage 19

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

24. In the context of India, which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message of the passage?

- (a) In India, the drainage networks are not separate for sewerage and storm water.
- (b) Urban local bodies do not have enough resources and legislative authority to deal with the problems of waste management.
- (c) Solid waste management should be integrated with the maintenance of drainage and sewerage networks.
- (d) Bad management of solid waste and sewerage systems by our municipalities is the reason for drinking water shortages in our cities.

Passage 20

In Part III of the Constitution, which assures people certain fundamental rights, Article 25 proclaims that "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion". What people fail to notice is that this proclamation is prefixed with the words "subject to public order, morality, health and to the other provisions of this Part", which set conditions precedent for the legal protection of religious practices of any community. The closing words of this prefatory rider in Article 25 virtually constitute a subordination clause placing other fundamental rights mentioned in Part III over and above the right to religious freedom. Among those other fundamental rights is the right to equality

before law and equal protection of laws—assured at the outset and elaborated in later articles to mean, inter alia, that the State shall not deny equal protection of laws to any person or group of persons on the basis of religion alone.

25. What is the most logical inference from the above passage?

- (a) State shall not interfere with the religious affairs of the Citizens.
- (b) Religious freedom under the Constitution is open to State intervention.
- (c) Religious freedom of the citizens is not covered under fundamental rights.
- (d) Religious practices of any Community are immune to State laws.

Passage 1

With respect to what are called denominations of religion, if everyone is left to be a judge of his own religion, there is no such thing as religion that is wrong; but if they are to be a judge of each other's religion, there is no such thing as a religion that is right, and therefore all the world is right or all the world is wrong in the matter of religion.

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

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

Passage 2

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

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

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

- (d) It is impossible for men to establish a good dominion

Passage 3

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Passage 4

Aristocratic government ruins itself by limiting too narrowly the circle within which power is confined; oligarchic government ruins itself by the incautious scramble for immediate wealth. But even democracy ruins itself by excess of democracy. Its basic principle is the equal right of all to hold office and determine public policy. This

is, at first glance, a delightful arrangement; it becomes disastrous because the people are not properly equipped by education to select the best rulers and the wisest courses. The people have no understanding and only repeat what their rulers are pleased to tell them. Such a democracy is tyranny or autocracy. – Plato

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

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

Passage 5

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

5. Which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message conveyed by the passage given above?

- (a) India's energy decision-making process is ever more complex and interconnected.
- (b) India's energy and climate policy is heavily tuned to sustainable development goals.
- (c) India's energy and climate actions are not compatible with its broader social, economic and environmental goals.
- (d) India's energy decision-making process is straightforward supply-oriented and ignores the demand side.

Passage 6

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

6. Which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message conveyed by the passage given above?

- (a) People should avoid consuming the products of animal farming.
- (b) Foods of animal origin should be replaced with foods of plant origin.
- (c) Using antibiotics on animals should be banned.
- (d) Antibiotics should only be used to treat diseases.

Passage 7

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

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

1. Oil producing countries are one of the reasons for high food prices.
2. If there is a food crisis in the world in the near future, it will be in the emerging economies.

Which of the above statements is/are valid?

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

Passage 8

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

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

1. Rising GDP is essential for a country to be a developed country.
2. Rising GDP guarantees a reasonable distribution of income to all households.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 9

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 10

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

10. Consider the following:

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

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

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

Passage 11

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

desktop counterparts. Hackers have already proved that they can take remote control of internet connected cars and pacemakers.

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

- (a) Computers are not completely safe.
- (b) Companies producing the software do not take cyber security seriously.
- (c) Stringent data security laws are needed.
- (d) The present trend of communication technologies will affect our lives in future.

Passage 12

A social and physical environment riddled with poverty, inequities, unhygienic and insanitary conditions generates the risk of infectious diseases. Hygiene has different levels: personal, domestic and community hygiene. There is no doubt that personal cleanliness brings down the rate of infectious diseases. But the entry of the market into this domain has created a false sense of security that gets conditioned and reinforced by the onslaught of advertisements. Experience in Western Europe shows that along with personal hygiene, general improvements in environmental conditions and components like clean water, sanitation and food security have brought down infant/child death/infections rates considerably. The obsession with hand hygiene also brings in the persisting influence of the market on personal health, overriding or marginalizing the negative impact on ecology and the emergence of resistant germs.

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

- 1. People who are obsessed with personal hygiene tend to ignore the community hygiene.
- 2. Emergence of multi-drug resistant germs can be prevented by personal cleanliness.
- 3. Entry of the market in the domain of hygiene increases the risk of infectious diseases.
- 4. Scientific and micro-level interventions are not sufficient to bring down the burden of infectious diseases.
- 5. It is community hygiene implemented through public health measures that is really effective in the battle against infectious diseases.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Passage 13

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

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

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

Passage 14

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 15

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

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

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

Passage 16

Researchers were able to use stem cells to gauge the neurotoxic effects of the environmental pollutant Bisphenol A (BPA). They used a combination of biochemical and cell-based assays to examine the gene expression profile during the differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells

upon treatment with BPA, a compound known to cause heart diseases, diabetes, and developmental abnormalities in humans. They were able to detect and measure BPA toxicity towards the proper specification of primary germ layers, such as endoderm and ectoderm, and the establishment of neural progenitor cells.

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

1. BPA may alter embryonic development in vivo.
2. Biochemical and cell-based assays are useful in finding out treatments for pollution-induced diseases.
3. Embryonic stem cells could serve as a model to evaluate the physiological effects of environmental pollutants.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Passage 17

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

17. Which one of the following statements best sums up the passage given above?

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

Passage 18

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

18. The idea which the first part of the passage mention is

- (a) agreement about telling lies.
- (b) disagreement about telling lies.
- (c) disagreement about telling the truth.
- (d) disagreement about the harm in telling the truth.

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

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

Passage 19

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

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

- 1. Modern democracies rely on the market forces to enable them to be welfare states.
- 2. Markets ensure sufficient economic growth necessary for democracies to be effective.

3. Government programmes are needed for those left behind in economic growth.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 20

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

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

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

Passage 21

The best universities like Harvard and MIT, despite having the luxury of having some truly excellent teachers on their payroll, are increasingly embracing the "flipped classroom" format, where students listen to video lectures at home, and spend class time applying their knowledge, solving problems, discussing examples, etc. Professors guide that discussion and fill in wherever necessary, explaining those bits that seem to be eluding the students and throwing in advanced

ideas that happen to be topical. These universities have made their video lectures available free for anyone in the world. They are also encouraging colleges and universities all over the world to integrate these online courses into their own pedagogy, picking the pieces that are appropriate for their needs and building a package around them.

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

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

Passage 22

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

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

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

the infrastructure and sustainability problems of India.

Passage 23

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

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

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

Passage 24

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Passage 25

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

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

- (a) Lending by the banks should be closely monitored and regulated by the Central Government.
- (b) Interest rates should be kept low so as to induce banks to lend more, promote credit growth and thereby boost economic activity.

- (c) Merger of many banks into a few large banks alone in the long-term solution to make them viable and prevent their bad performance.
- (d) Indian banking system requires structural reforms as a long-term solution for bad loans problem.

Passage 26

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

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

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

Passage 1

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

1. Unsustainability in production pattern is due to which of the following?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

2. Consider the following statements:

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 2

Unless the forces and tendencies which are responsible for destroying the country's environment are checked in the near future and afforestation of denuded areas is taken up on a massive scale, the harshness of the climatic conditions and soil erosion by wind and water will increase to such an extent that agriculture, which is the mainstay of our people, will gradually become impossible. The desert countries of the world and our own desert areas in Rajasthan are a grim reminder of the consequences of large-scale deforestation. Pockets of desert-like landscape are now appearing in other parts of the country including the Sutlej-Ganga Plains and Deccan Plateau. Where only a few decades back there used to be lush green forests with perennial streams and springs, there is only brown earth, bare of vegetation, without any water in the streams and springs except in the rainy season.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 3

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

4. Which one of the following statements best reflects the message of the author of the passage?

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

Passage 4

The poverty line is quite unsatisfactory when it comes to grasping the extent of poverty in India. It is not only because of its extremely narrow definition of 'who is poor' and the debatable methodology used to count the poor, but also because of a more fundamental assumption underlying it. It exclusively relies on the notion of poverty as insufficient income or insufficient purchasing power. One can better categorize it by calling it income poverty. If poverty is ultimately about deprivations affecting human well-being, then income poverty is only one aspect of it. Poverty of a life, in our view, lies not merely in the impoverished state in which the person actually lives, but also in the lack of real opportunity given by social constraints as well as personal circumstances—to choose other types of living. Even the relevance of low incomes, meagre possessions, and other aspects of what are standardly seen as economic poverty relate ultimately to their role in curtailing capabilities,

i.e., their role in severely restricting the choices people have to lead variable and valued lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passage 5

In some places in the world, the productivity of staples such as rice and wheat has reached a plateau. Neither new strains nor fancy agrochemicals are raising the yields. Nor is there much unfarmed land left that is suitable to be brought under the plough. If global temperature continues to rise, some places will become unsuitable for farming. Application of technology can help overcome these problems. Agricultural

technology is changing fast. Much of this change is brought about by affluent farmers in the West/Americas. Techniques developed in the West are being adapted in some places to make tropical crops more productive. Technology is of little use if it is not adapted. In the developing world, that applies as much to existing farming techniques as it does to the latest advances in genetic modification. Extending to the smallholders and subsistence farmers of Africa and Asia the best of today's agricultural practices, in such simple matters as how much fertilizers to apply and when, would lead to a greatly increased availability of food for humanity. So would things like better roads and storage facilities, to allow for the carriage of surpluses to markets and reduce wastage.

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

1. Development of agricultural technology is confined to developed countries.
2. Agricultural technology is not adapted in developing countries.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

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

1. Growing enough food for future generations will be a challenge.

2. Corporate farming is a viable option for food security in poor countries.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 6

Natural selection cannot anticipate future environments on the earth. Therefore, the set of existing organisms can never be fully prepared for environmental catastrophes that await life. An outcome of this is the extinction of those species which cannot overcome environmental adversity. This failure to survive, in modern terms, can be attributed to the genomes which are unable to withstand geological vagaries or biological mishaps (infections, diseases and so on). In biological evolution on the earth, extinction of species has been a major feature. The earth may presently have up to ten million species, yet more than 90% of species that have ever lived on the earth are now extinct. Once again, the creationist doctrines fail to satisfactorily address why a divine creator will firstly bother to create millions of species and then allow them to perish. The Darwinian explanation for extinct life is once again simple, elegant and at once convincing - organisms go extinct as a function of environmental or biological assaults for which their inheritance deems them ill-equipped. Therefore, the so-called Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all. Evolution happens-this is a fact. The mechanism of evolution (Darwin proposed natural selection) is amply supported by scientific data. Indeed, to date no single zoological, botanical, geological, paleontological, genetic or physical evidence has refuted either of the central two main Darwinian ideas. If religion is not taken into consideration, Darwinian laws are acceptable just like the laws proposed by Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and Einstein-sets of natural laws that explain natural phenomena in the universe.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

12. The passage suggests that Darwinian theory of evolution is not a theory at all because

- (a) it does not satisfy the creationist doctrine
- (b) extinction is a function of environment and biological assaults
- (c) there are no evidences to refute it
- (d) existence of organisms is attributed to a creator

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

1. Only species that have the ability to overcome environmental catastrophes will survive and perpetuate.
2. More than 90% of the species on the earth are in the danger of getting extinct due to drastic changes in the environment.
3. Darwin's theory explains all the natural phenomena,

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 7

With steady economic growth, higher literacy and increasing skill levels, the number of Indian

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

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

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

Passage 8

For two or three generations past, ever-increasing number of individuals have been living as workers merely, not as human beings. An excessive amount of labor is rule today in every circle of society, with the result that man's spiritual element cannot thrive. He finds it very difficult to spend his little leisure in serious activities. He does not want to think; or he cannot even if he wants to. He seeks not self-improvement, but entertainment which would enable him to be mentally idle and to forget his usual activities. Therefore, the so-called culture of our age is dependent more on cinema than on theatre, more on newspapers, magazines and crime stories than on serious literature.

15. The passage is based on the idea that

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

16. Man does not seek self-improvement because he

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

Passage 9

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

17. Which of the following would invariably happen in a country, when the demographic dividend has begun to operate?

- 1. The number of illiterate people will decrease.
- 2. The ratio of very old and very young will decrease for a while.
- 3. Population growth rate will quickly stabilize.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

- 1. Demographic dividend is an essential condition for a country to rapidly increase its economic growth rate.

2. Promotion of higher education is an essential condition for a country for its rapid economic growth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 10

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

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

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

Passage 11

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

more single-minded enjoyment into the happiness that come our way.

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

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

21. The author of the passage is against

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

Passage 12

The majority of people who fail to accumulate money sufficient for their needs, are generally, easily influenced by the opinions of others. They permit the newspapers and the gossiping neighbours to do their thinking for them. Opinions are the cheapest commodities on the earth. Everyone has a flock of opinions ready to be wished upon by anyone who will accept them. If you are influenced by opinions when you reach decisions, you will not succeed in any undertaking.

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

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

23. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (a) People should not be influenced by the opinions of others.
- (b) People should accumulate as much money as they can.

(c) People should neither give nor accept the opinions.

(d) People will succeed in any undertaking if they do not accept any opinion at all

Passage 13

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Passage 14

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

25. The author's assumption about scientific research is that

- (a) it is never very valuable
- (b) it is sometimes very valuable

- (c) it is never without some value
- (d) it is always very valuable

26. According to the author

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

Passage 15

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

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

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

Passage 1

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

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

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

- (a) Generation of energy from municipal solid waste is inexpensive.

(b) Biomethanation is the most ideal way of generating energy from municipal solid waste.

(c) Segregation of municipal solid waste is the first step in ensuring the success of waste-to-energy plants.

(d) The biodegradable component of India's municipal solid waste is not adequate to provide energy from waste efficiently/effectively.

Passage 2

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

Passage 3

Food consumption patterns have changed substantially in India over the past few decades. This has resulted in the disappearance of many nutritious foods such as millets. While food grain production has increased over five times since independence, it has not sufficiently addressed the issue of malnutrition. For long, the agriculture sector focused on increasing food production particularly staples, which led to lower production and consumption of indigenous traditional crops/grains, fruits and other vegetables, impacting food and nutrition security in the process. Further, intensive, monoculture agriculture practices can perpetuate the food and nutrition security problem by degrading the quality of land, water and food derived through them.

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

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

for grains and therefore they do not tend to consider crop diversity.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Passage 4

To tackle the problem of pollution in cities, policy makers think that drastic actions like temporary use of odd-even number scheme for vehicles, closing schools, factories, construction activities, and banning the use of certain type of vehicles are a way forward. Even then the air is not clean. Vehicles more than 15 years old comprise one percent of the total; and taking them off the road will not make any difference. Banning certain fuels and car types arbitrarily is not proper. Diesel engines produce more PM 2.5 and less CO₂ than petrol or CNG engines. On the other hand, both diesel and CNG engines produce more NO_x than petrol engines. No one has measured the amount of NO_x that CNG engines are emitting. Arbitrary bans on vehicles that have passed mandated fitness tests and periodic pollution tests are unfair. What is needed is the scientific and reliable information about the source of pollutants on a continuing basis and the technologies that will work to reduce pollution from them.

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

- (a) Arbitrary curbs on vehicles to reduce pollution are difficult to implement.
- (b) Knee-jerk reactions cannot solve the problem of pollution but an evidence-based approach will be more effective.
- (c) A heavy penalty should be enforced on those driving without periodic pollution tests.
- (d) In the absence of laws to deal with the problems of pollution, the administration tends to make arbitrary decisions.

Passage 5

Good corporate governance structures encourage companies to provide accountability and control. A fundamental reason why corporate governance has moved onto the economic and political agenda worldwide has been the rapid growth in international capital markets. Effective corporate governance enhance access to external financing by firms, leading to greater investment, higher growth and employment. Investors look to place their funds where the standards of disclosure, of timely and accurate financial reporting, and of equal treatment to all stakeholders are met.

7. Which of the following statements best reflects the logical inference from the passage given above?

- (a) It is an important agenda of the countries around the world to ensure access to good external financing.
- (b) Good corporate governance improves the credibility of the firms.
- (c) International capital markets ensure that the firms maintain good corporate governance.
- (d) Good corporate governance paves the way for robust supply chains.

Passage 6

Elephants are landscape architects, creating clearings in the forest, preventing overgrowth of certain plant species and allowing space for the regeneration of others, which in turn provide sustenance to other herbivorous animals. Elephants eat plants, fruits and seeds, propagating the seeds when they defecate in other places as they travel. Elephant dung provides nourishment to plants and animals and acts as a breeding ground for insects. In times of drought, they access water by digging holes which benefits other wildlife.

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

- (a) The home range of elephants needs to be a vast area of rich biodiversity.
- (b) Elephants are the keystone species and they benefit the biodiversity.

- (c) Rich biodiversity cannot be maintained in the forests without the presence of elephants.
- (d) Elephants are capable of regenerating forests with species as per their requirement.

Passage 7

The emissions humans put into the atmosphere now will affect the climate in the middle of the century and onwards. Technological change, meanwhile, could make a future transition away from fossil fuels cheap or it might not, leaving the world with a terrible choice between sharply reducing emissions at huge cost or suffering through the effects of unabated warming. Businesses that do not hedge against the threat of uncertain outcomes fail. The world cannot afford such recklessness on climate change.

9. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crucial message conveyed by the author of the passage?

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

Passage 8

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

10. Which one of the following statements best implies the most rational assumption that can be made from the passage?

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

Passage 9

Many people are not eating the right food. For some, it is simply a decision to stick with food they enjoy but which is not too healthy. This is leading to an increase in non-communicable disease. This in turn leads to major burden on our health-care systems that have the potential to derail the economic progress which is essential for the poor to improve their lives. For others, it is about limited access to nutritious food or a lack of affordability, leading to monotonous diets that do not provide the daily nutrients for them to develop fully. Part of the reason nutrition is under threat worldwide is that our food systems are not properly responding to nutritional needs. Somewhere along that long road from farm to fork, there are serious detours taking place.

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

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

Passage 10

We often hear about conflicts among different States in India over river waters. Of the 20 major river systems, 14 are already water-stressed; 75% of the population lives in water-stressed regions, a third of whom live in water-scarce areas. Climate

change, the demands of rising population and the need for agriculture to keep pace, and increased rate of urbanization and industrialization will exacerbate water stress. According to the Constitution of India, water is a State subject and not that of the Union, except for regulation of inter-State rivers. Key to ensuring balance between competing demands of various stakeholders is a basin-based approach to allocate water amongst constituent regions and States. Allocating fair share of water to them requires assessments based on objective criteria, such as specificities of the river basin, size of dependent population, existing water use and demand, efficiency of use, projected future use, etc. while ensuring the environmental needs of the river and aquifers.

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

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

Passage 11

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

will be more dependent on highly skilled workers, this poses a significant challenge. And it is one that really should be addressed given India's demographic outlook.

13. Which one the following statements best reflects what is implied by the passage?

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

Passage 12

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

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

- (a) Adaptation to climate change and mitigation response are basically the responsibilities of the government.
- (b) Climate change causes a change in government policies regarding land use patterns in the country.

- (c) Risk perceptions of farmers are important for motivating them for taking adaptation decisions.
- (d) Since mitigation is not possible, governments should come up with policies for quick response to climate change.

Passage 13

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are correct?

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

Passage 14

A global analysis of nitrogen use efficiency - a measure of the amount of nitrogen a plant takes in to grow versus what is left behind as pollution - says that using too much fertilizers will lead to increased pollution of waterways and the air. Currently, the global average for nitrogen use efficiency is approximately 0.4, meaning 40 per cent of the total nitrogen added to cropland goes into the harvested crop while 60 per cent is lost to the environment, says a study. More than half of the world's population is nourished by food grown with fertilizers containing synthetic nitrogen, which is needed to produce high crop yields. Plants take the nitrogen they need to grow, and the excess is left in the ground, water and air. This results in significant emissions of nitrous oxide, a

potent greenhouse and ozone depleting gas, and other forms of nitrogen pollution, including eutrophication of lakes and rivers and contamination of river water.

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

- (a) An enhanced efficiency of use of nitrogen is imperative for both food production and environment.
- (b) Production of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers cannot be stopped as it will adversely affect global food security.
- (c) Alternatives to crops that require excess of nitrogen should be identified and cultivated.
- (d) Conventional agriculture using synthetic fertilizers should be replaced with agroforestry, agroecosystems and organic farming.

Passage 15

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

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

- (a) Climate justice should be ingrained in detail in the rules of all the new climate compacts/agreements.
- (b) Environmental resources are unevenly distributed and exploited across the globe.

(c) There is an impending issue of dealing with a huge number of climate change victims/climate refugees.

(d) Climate change in all its connotations is mostly due to developed countries and therefore their share of burden should be more.

Passage 16

Sourcing food from non-agricultural lands (uncultivated systems such as forests, wetlands, pastures, etc) in addition to agricultural lands enables a systemic approach to food consumption. It allows rural and tribal communities to sustain themselves for the whole year and steer clear of natural disasters and season-induced shortfalls of agricultural food. Since the productivity of trees is often more resilient to adverse weather conditions than annual crops, forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages caused by crop failure; forest foods also make important contributions during seasonal crop production gaps.

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

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

Passage 17

While awareness on use/misuse and abuse of antibiotics is common knowledge, as is the impact of dosing poultry with antibiotics, the environmental impact of antibiotics-manufacturing companies not treating their waste has scarcely been discussed at any length or seriousness thus far. Pollution from antibiotics factories is fuelling the rise of drug-resistant infections. The occurrence of drug-resistant

bacteria surrounding the pharma manufacturing plants is well known.

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

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

Passage 18

Benefits of good quality school education accrue only when students complete and leave school after having acquired the gateway skills. Like one learns to walk before running, similarly one picks up advanced skills only after picking the basic foundational skills. The advent of the knowledge economy poses new challenges, and one of the severe consequences of having an uneducated workforce will be our inability to keep pace with the global economy. Without a strong learning foundation at the primary level, there can be no improvement in higher education or skill development.

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

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

Passage 19

The paradox of choice is illustrated by the story of Buridan's ass. Jean Buridan, the 14th century

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

21. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical message implied by the above passage?

- (a) Modern technology enfeebles societal structure and makes life difficult.
- (b) Modern life is full of uncertainties and endless difficult choices.
- (c) We are influenced by the opinion of others and have no courage to follow our own convictions.
- (d) In our lives, having too few choices may not be a good thing, but having too many can be equally as difficult.

Passage 20

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

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

- 1. A flexible environment is needed to develop solutions.

2. Households need customised solutions.
3. Innovations in financial technology are required.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Passage 21

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Passage 22

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

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

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

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Passage 23

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

25. Which one of the following statements most likely reflects as to what the author of the passage intends to say?

- (a) Enrolment in schools and colleges is high but there is no quality education.
- (b) Unemployment must be seen as a function of rising education and aspirations of young Indians.

(c) There are no labour-intensive industries to accommodate the huge number of unemployed people.

(d) The education system should be properly designed so as to enable the educated people to be self-employed.

Passage 24

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

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

(a) Modern statesmen need to be well trained in scientific methods and philosophical thinking to enable them to have a better perspective of their roles, responsibilities and goals.

(b) It is not desirable to have Governments managed by empirical statesmen unless well mixed with others who are grounded in learning and reflect wisdom.

(c) As the statesmen/bureaucrats are the products of a society, it is desirable to have a system of education in a society that focuses on training its citizens in scientific method and philosophical thinking from a very early age.

(d) It is desirable that all scientists need to be philosophers as well to make their work goal-oriented and thus purposeful and useful to the society.

Passage 25

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

27. Based on the above passage, which one of the following terms best expresses the ultimate goal of the state?

(a) Personal safety

(b) Health of body and mind

(c) Communal harmony

(d) Liberty

2024

Passage 1

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally. Food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption. The increasing wastage also results in land degradation by about 45%, mainly due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and excessive groundwater extraction. The energy spent over wasted food results in about 3.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide production every year. Decay also leads to harmful emissions of other gases in the atmosphere. Addressing the loss and wastage of food in all forms is critical to complete the cycle of food sufficiency and food sustainability.

1. Which of the following statements best reflect the most logical and rational inferences that can be made from the passage?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

Passage 2

As inflation rises, even governments previously committed to budget discipline are spending freely to help households. Higher interest rates announced by central banks are supposed to help produce modest fiscal austerity, because to maintain stable debts while paying more to borrow, governments must cut spending or raise taxes. Without the fiscal backup, monetary policy eventually loses traction. Higher interest rates become inflationary, not disinflationary, because they simply lead governments to borrow more to pay rising debt-service costs. The risk of monetary unmooring is greater when public debt rises, because interest rates become more important to budget deficits.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

Passage 3

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

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

- (a) Curriculum for urban planning courses should have diverse and interdisciplinary approach.
- (b) In India, city administration is under bureaucracy which lacks formal training in urban planning and management.

(c) In India, the management of urban areas is a local affair with a chronic problem of insufficient funds.

(d) With high density of population and widespread poverty in our urban areas, planned development in them is very difficult.

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 4

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

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

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

Passage 5

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

10. Which one of the following statements best reflects the central idea conveyed by the passage?

- (a) Total eradication of poverty in the country will resolve the issue of under-performance of our school- children.
- (b) Monetary incentives to parents and teachers is a strategy to improve the children's academic performance.
- (c) Public policy should ensure that competencies and achievements of young people are aligned with their expectations.
- (d) India is not going to take advantage of the demographic dividend unless some school pass-outs go back to agriculture.

Passage 6

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

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

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

Passage 7

"The history of science is the real history of mankind." In this striking epigram, a nineteenth-century writer links science with its background. Like most epigrams, its power lies in emphasizing

by contrast an aspect of truth which may be easily overlooked. In this case, it is easy to overlook the relations between science and mankind, and to treat the former as some abstract third party, which can sometimes be praised for its beneficial influences, but frequently and conveniently blamed for the horrors of war. Science and mankind cannot be divorced from time to time at men's convenience. Yet we have seen that, in spite of countless opportunities of improvement, the opening years of the present period of civilization have been dominated by international conflict. Is this the inevitable result of the progress of science or does the fault lie elsewhere?

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

1. Without science, mankind could not have continued to exist till today.
2. It is the science that will ultimately determine the destiny of mankind.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

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

Passage 8

Only with long experience and opening of his wares on many a beach where his language is not spoken, will the merchant come to know the worth of what he carries, and what is parochial

and what is universal in his choice. Such delicate goods as justice, love and honour, courtesy, and indeed all the things we care for, are valid everywhere but they are variously moulded and often differently handled, and sometimes nearly unrecognizable if you meet them in a foreign land, and the art of learning fundamental common values is perhaps the greatest gain of travel to those who wish to live at ease among their fellows.

14. When we meet other people while we travel, we learn to differentiate between

- (a) imagination and understanding
- (b) communities and nationalities
- (c) local values and universal values
- (d) friends and foes

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

1. Travel leads to an understanding of humans.
2. Travel helps those who wish to learn fundamental common values.
3. A person with long experience in travel can resolve differences amongst people.

Which of the assumptions given above are valid?

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

Passage 9

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

Passage 10

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

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

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

Passage 11

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

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

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

Passage 12

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

Passage 13

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

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

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

Passage 14

In a robust democracy, reality, howsoever inconvenient it may be, finds its expression both in the speech of political leaders and the other social forms of assertion. The existence of the real has to be transparent, both through its circulation in and by the media as well as its argumentative articulation in deliberative democracy. A normatively responsible media through its communication effect has the responsibility to circulate the content of reality without distortion.

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

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

Passage 15

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

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

- (a) Knowledge of consumer behaviour leads to more capital expenditure in manufacturing sector.
- (b) Knowledge of consumer behaviour stimulates the growth of commerce and trade and thus helps in the overall economic development of the country.

- (c) Interconnected devices give a lot of comfort to home users and improve the overall quality of life.
(d) Interconnected devices can be at security risk and home users may have privacy risk.

Passage 16

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

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

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

Passage 17

Unlike religion and science, poetry does not posit or expect any belief in absolute truths. Those forces or individuals who claim to have absolute truths in their grasp tend to turn dictatorial and tyrannical. Truth usually does not admit any contradictions or imperfections. It is unitarian. It is, therefore, not of much use for poetry. Poetry abides by the plurality of life and existence. Perhaps poetry follows reality which is plural, anachronistic, full of contradictions. Against the tyranny of truth, poetry remains a partisan of democratic reality. Against the arrogance of

power, wealth and hierarchy, poetry proposes both humility and defiance.

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

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

Passage 18

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

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

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

Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid?

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

UPSC 2011 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION A
Q. 2	OPTION D
Q. 3	OPTION C
Q. 4	OPTION D
Q. 5	OPTION D
Q. 6	OPTION C
Q. 7	OPTION C
Q. 8	OPTION C
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION D
Q. 12	OPTION D
Q. 13	OPTION B
Q. 14	OPTION B
Q. 15	OPTION B
Q. 16	OPTION C
Q. 17	OPTION A
Q. 18	OPTION C
Q. 19	OPTION C
Q. 20	OPTION D
Q. 21	OPTION D
Q. 22	OPTION C
Q. 23	OPTION D
Q. 24	OPTION B
Q. 25	OPTION D
Q. 26	OPTION C
Q. 27	OPTION D
Q. 28	OPTION B
Q. 29	OPTION A
Q. 30	OPTION A
Q. 31	OPTION A
Q. 32	OPTION B
Q. 33	OPTION C
Q. 34	OPTION D
Q. 35	OPTION B
Q. 36	OPTION D

UPSC 2012 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION B
Q. 2	OPTION C
Q. 3	OPTION B
Q. 4	OPTION C
Q. 5	OPTION B
Q. 6	OPTION C
Q. 7	OPTION A
Q. 8	OPTION C
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION C
Q. 11	OPTION B
Q. 12	OPTION D
Q. 13	OPTION B
Q. 14	OPTION C
Q. 15	OPTION D
Q. 16	OPTION A
Q. 17	OPTION A
Q. 18	OPTION B
Q. 19	OPTION D
Q. 20	OPTION D
Q. 21	OPTION B
Q. 22	OPTION D
Q. 23	OPTION D
Q. 24	OPTION D
Q. 25	OPTION A
Q. 26	OPTION C
Q. 27	OPTION B
Q. 28	OPTION D
Q. 29	OPTION C
Q. 30	OPTION A
Q. 31	OPTION B
Q. 32	OPTION C
Q. 33	OPTION B
Q. 34	OPTION C
Q. 35	OPTION A
Q. 36	OPTION C
Q. 37	OPTION B
Q. 38	OPTION A
Q. 39	OPTION B
Q. 40	OPTION D

UPSC 2013 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION D
Q. 2	OPTION A
Q. 3	OPTION C
Q. 4	OPTION B
Q. 5	OPTION B
Q. 6	OPTION B
Q. 7	OPTION C
Q. 8	OPTION B
Q. 9	OPTION D
Q. 10	OPTION C
Q. 11	OPTION D
Q. 12	OPTION A
Q. 13	OPTION A
Q. 14	OPTION C
Q. 15	OPTION B
Q. 16	OPTION C
Q. 17	OPTION B
Q. 18	OPTION D
Q. 19	OPTION B
Q. 20	OPTION C
Q. 21	OPTION D
Q. 22	OPTION A
Q. 23	OPTION B
Q.24	OPTION C
Q. 25	OPTION B
Q. 26	OPTION C
Q. 27	OPTION C
Q. 28	OPTION D
Q. 29	OPTION B
Q. 30	OPTION A
Q. 31	OPTION B
Q. 32	OPTION B

UPSC 2014 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION C
Q. 2	OPTION C
Q. 3	OPTION D
Q. 4	OPTION B
Q. 5	OPTION A
Q. 6	OPTION B
Q. 7	OPTION C
Q. 8	OPTION C
Q. 9	OPTION D
Q. 10	OPTION B
Q. 11	OPTION B
Q. 12	OPTION A
Q. 13	OPTION D
Q. 14	OPTION B
Q. 15	OPTION B
Q. 16	OPTION A
Q. 17	OPTION C
Q. 18	OPTION C
Q. 19	OPTION B
Q. 20	OPTION C
Q. 21	OPTION C
Q. 22	OPTION C
Q. 23	OPTION C
Q. 24	OPTION B
Q. 25	OPTION C
Q. 26	OPTION A

UPSC 2015 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION A
Q. 2	OPTION D
Q. 3	OPTION A
Q. 4	OPTION B
Q. 5	OPTION C
Q. 6	OPTION D
Q. 7	OPTION C
Q. 8	OPTION B
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION D
Q. 11	OPTION A
Q. 12	OPTION D
Q. 13	OPTION B
Q. 14	OPTION C
Q. 15	OPTION C
Q. 16	OPTION A
Q. 17	OPTION A
Q. 18	OPTION D
Q. 19	OPTION D
Q. 20	OPTION D
Q. 21	OPTION A
Q. 22	OPTION C
Q. 23	OPTION C
Q. 24	OPTION A
Q. 25	OPTION A
Q. 26	OPTION B
Q. 27	OPTION D
Q. 28	OPTION C
Q. 29	OPTION B
Q. 30	OPTION B
Q. 31	OPTION D
Q. 32	OPTION B

UPSC 2016 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION C
Q. 2	OPTION A
Q. 3	OPTION D
Q. 4	OPTION D
Q. 5	OPTION A
Q. 6	OPTION C
Q. 7	OPTION D
Q. 8	OPTION B
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION D
Q. 12	OPTION C
Q. 13	OPTION D
Q. 14	OPTION A
Q. 15	OPTION D
Q. 16	OPTION B
Q. 17	OPTION D
Q. 18	OPTION B
Q. 19	OPTION B
Q. 20	OPTION A
Q. 21	OPTION B
Q. 22	OPTION B
Q. 23	OPTION D
Q. 24	OPTION B
Q. 25	OPTION D
Q. 26	OPTION C
Q. 27	OPTION B

UPSC 2017 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION C
Q. 2	OPTION A
Q. 3	OPTION D
Q. 4	OPTION B
Q. 5	OPTION B
Q. 6	OPTION B
Q. 7	OPTION A
Q. 8	OPTION C
Q. 9	OPTION D
Q. 10	OPTION C
Q. 11	OPTION D
Q. 12	OPTION A
Q. 13	OPTION D
Q. 14	OPTION B
Q. 15	OPTION D
Q. 16	OPTION A
Q. 17	OPTION C
Q. 18	OPTION B
Q. 19	OPTION A
Q. 20	OPTION C
Q. 21	OPTION D
Q. 22	OPTION B
Q. 23	OPTION A
Q. 24	OPTION C
Q. 25	OPTION C
Q. 26	OPTION A
Q. 27	OPTION C
Q. 28	OPTION A
Q. 29	OPTION B
Q. 30	OPTION B

UPSC 2018 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION A
Q. 2	OPTION A
Q. 3	OPTION B
Q. 4	OPTION D
Q. 5	OPTION C
Q. 6	OPTION D
Q. 7	OPTION A
Q. 8	OPTION B
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION B
Q. 11	OPTION D
Q. 12	OPTION A
Q. 13	OPTION D
Q. 14	OPTION A
Q. 15	OPTION D
Q. 16	OPTION B
Q. 17	OPTION C
Q. 18	OPTION C
Q. 19	OPTION B
Q. 20	OPTION D
Q. 21	OPTION B
Q. 22	OPTION A
Q. 23	OPTION C
Q. 24	OPTION A
Q. 25	OPTION D
Q. 26	OPTION C

UPSC 2019 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION A
Q. 2	OPTION A
Q. 3	OPTION C
Q. 4	OPTION A
Q. 5	OPTION D
Q. 6	OPTION C
Q. 7	OPTION C
Q. 8	OPTION D
Q. 9	OPTION B
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION A
Q. 12	OPTION C
Q. 13	OPTION C
Q. 14	OPTION B
Q. 15	OPTION B
Q. 16	OPTION B
Q. 17	OPTION D
Q. 18	OPTION D
Q. 19	OPTION B
Q. 20	OPTION C
Q. 21	OPTION B
Q. 22	OPTION B
Q. 23	OPTION D
Q. 24	OPTION D
Q. 25	OPTION B
Q. 26	OPTION B
Q. 27	OPTION B
Q. 28	OPTION A
Q. 29	OPTION D
Q. 30	OPTION C

UPSC 2020 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION D
Q. 2	OPTION A
Q. 3	OPTION C
Q. 4	OPTION A
Q. 5	OPTION B
Q. 6	OPTION C
Q. 7	OPTION B
Q. 8	OPTION A
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION B
Q. 12	OPTION C
Q. 13	OPTION D
Q. 14	OPTION D
Q. 15	OPTION B
Q. 16	OPTION C
Q. 17	OPTION D
Q. 18	OPTION C
Q. 19	OPTION D
Q. 20	OPTION C
Q. 21	OPTION C
Q. 22	OPTION A
Q. 23	OPTION C
Q. 24	OPTION C
Q. 25	OPTION B

UPSC 2021 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION C
Q. 2	OPTION C
Q. 3	OPTION C
Q. 4	OPTION B
Q. 5	OPTION A
Q. 6	OPTION D
Q. 7	OPTION D
Q. 8	OPTION D
Q. 9	OPTION D
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION A
Q. 12	OPTION C
Q. 13	OPTION B
Q. 14	OPTION D
Q. 15	OPTION C
Q. 16	OPTION C
Q. 17	OPTION C
Q. 18	OPTION D
Q. 19	OPTION B
Q. 20	OPTION B
Q. 21	OPTION D
Q. 22	OPTION B
Q. 23	OPTION C
Q. 24	OPTION A
Q. 25	OPTION C
Q. 26	OPTION D
Q. 27	OPTION A

UPSC 2022 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION A
Q. 2	OPTION B
Q. 3	OPTION C
Q. 4	OPTION C
Q. 5	OPTION D
Q. 6	OPTION A
Q. 7	OPTION A
Q. 8	OPTION D
Q. 9	OPTION A
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION C
Q. 12	OPTION B
Q. 13	OPTION A
Q. 14	OPTION D
Q. 15	OPTION B
Q. 16	OPTION D
Q. 17	OPTION B
Q. 18	OPTION D
Q. 19	OPTION A
Q. 20	OPTION B
Q. 21	OPTION A
Q. 22	OPTION C
Q. 23	OPTION A
Q. 24	OPTION C
Q. 25	OPTION C
Q. 26	OPTION C
Q. 27	OPTION D

UPSC 2023 ANSWER KEY

<u>Q. NO</u>	<u>ANSWER</u>
Q. 1	OPTION D
Q. 2	OPTION C
Q. 3	OPTION B
Q. 4	OPTION C
Q. 5	OPTION B
Q. 6	OPTION B
Q. 7	OPTION B
Q. 8	OPTION B
Q. 9	OPTION C
Q. 10	OPTION A
Q. 11	OPTION B
Q. 12	OPTION A
Q. 13	OPTION D
Q. 14	OPTION C
Q. 15	OPTION D
Q. 16	OPTION A
Q. 17	OPTION A
Q. 18	OPTION D
Q. 19	OPTION A
Q. 20	OPTION A
Q. 21	OPTION D
Q. 22	OPTION A
Q. 23	OPTION B
Q. 24	OPTION C
Q. 25	OPTION B
Q. 26	OPTION B
Q. 27	OPTION D