XAT 2026 Question Paper

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Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation

1. In a battle, the commander-in-chief arranges his soldiers in a formation of three concentric circles. The radii of the circles are in an arithmetic progression: the smallest radius is 70m (meters) and the largest is 140m. If each soldier is to be separated from the adjacent soldiers standing on the same circle by 1m, how many soldiers are required to complete the formation? (Consider π = 22/7.)

A 660

B 1320

C 880

D 1980

E 440

2. In a business school, only three specializations are offered: marketing, finance and operations. A student can opt for either one, or two, or no specializations. In the current batch of 120 students, 60 are specializing in marketing, 50 are specializing in finance and 30 are specializing in operations. During the placement process, all students specializing either in marketing or in finance are shortlisted for consulting job interviews.
If 45 students are not shortlisted for consulting job interviews, what is the MINIMUM possible number of students specializing in both marketing and finance?

A 35

B 50

C 60

D 45

E 40

3. An archer, from the point A, is aiming at a target, placed on the top of a 56 feet tall tree. The base of the tree is at the point C. From the archer's position, the angle of elevation to the target is 45° from his eye level. The archer, facing the tree, moves backwards on the straight line joining the points A and C, to a new position at the point B. From the point B, the angle of elevation from his eye level to the target becomes 30°.
How far did the archer move from A to B (in feet) if his eye level is at a height of 6 feet from the ground?

A $50\sqrt{3}$

B $56\sqrt{3}$

C $50\left(\sqrt{3}-1\right)$

D $50\left(1-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$

E $\frac{50}{\sqrt{3}}$

4. Two buses travel between Jamshedpur and Kolkata in the opposite directions, on the same road. On that road, the maximum allowed speeds are different (but constant) for the opposite directions. Usually, both buses travel at the respective maximum allowed speeds to their respective destinations: the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata takes 4 hours, while the bus from Kolkata to Jamshedpur takes 3 hours.
One day, the two buses start at the same time. However, one hour after starting, the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata reduces its speed to half of its maximum allowed speed due to congestion on the road.
If both buses do not stop anywhere in between, how many hours after starting do they meet?

A 2 hours

B 23/12 hours

C 12/5 hours

D 21/11 hours

E 10/11 hours

Instructions [5 - 7]

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

Brijbhushan, a microfinancier, lends money at the rate of Rs.10 per square meter to small farmers at a village. He charges an annual interest rate of 10%. All the farming plots in that village are rectangular, with areas varying between a minimum of 1000 square meters and a maximum of 10,000 square meters.

This year, Brijbhushan has lent money only to five farmers: Aditya, Binod, Chhuttan, Dabloo and Govind. The perimeter of Chhuttan's plot is 250 meters, with the length and width being at a ratio of 4:1. Aditya's plot has an area three times the area of Govind's plot. The area of Aditya's plot is also the average of the areas of Govind's plot and Dabloo's plot. The plots belonging to Aditya, Binod and Dabloo are of the same width, but of different lengths. Moreover, the length of Binod's plot is the sum of the lengths of Aditya's plot and Dabloo's plot.

5. What is the interest owed by Chhuttan to Brijbhushan at the end of the year?

A Rs. 2000

B Rs. 3500

C Rs. 5000

D Rs. 4000

E Rs. 2500

6. What is the MAXIMUM possible value of the total loan Brijbhushan has given to these five farmers?

A None of the other options is correct

B Rs. 250,000

C Rs. 237,500

D Rs. 232,500

E Rs. 242,500

7. If the width of the Aditya's plot is 25 meters, what is the MINIMUM possible length of Binod's plot?

A 360 meters

B 320 meters

C 250 meters

D 400 meters

E 280 meters

8. Consider a seven-digit number 735x6y4, divisible by 44, where the two digits x and y are unknown.
Consider the following two additional pieces of information:
I. x and y are even numbers
II. x and y are equal
To determine the values of x and y UNIQUELY, which of the above pieces of information is/are MINIMALLY SUFFICIENT?

A I only

B Both I and II together

C II only

D Either I or II, by itself, is minimally sufficient

E The answer cannot be obtained even with both additional pieces of information

9. The swimming pool in an exclusive club is a circular strip. A water flow is artificially maintained in the strip, along a clockwise direction, at a constant speed of 3km/h (kilometers/hour). One morning, Ayub and Rana start swimming at the same time from two diametrically opposite points on the strip. Ayub swims in a counterclockwise direction, while Rana swims in a clockwise direction. They swim at constant, but different, speeds. When they meet for the first time, Ayub has covered 60m (meters). They meet again after Rana has covered 180m from the first meeting point.
If Rana swims at the speed of 3 km/h in still water, how long does Ayub take to complete one round of the circular strip, if he swims in the clockwise direction?

A 4 minutes 30 seconds

B 2 minutes 15 seconds

C None of the other options is correct

D 1 minute 48 seconds

E 54 seconds

10. 125 is multiplied by either 10 or 15. The resultant number is again multiplied by either 10 or 15. This process continues.
Which of the following CANNOT be a resultant number at any point in time?

A $2^{235}3^{453}5^{691}$

B $2^{253}3^{824}5^{1080}$

C $2^{689}3^{912}5^{1604}$

D $2^{476}3^{455}5^{1034}$

E $2^{689}3^{453}5^{1145}$

11. Three categories of candidates appear for an admission test: diligent (10%), lazy (30%) and confused (60%). A diligent candidate is 10 times more likely to clear the admission test compared to a lazy candidate.
If 40% of the candidates clearing the admission test are confused, what is the MAXIMUM possible value of the probability of a confused candidate clearing the test?

A 13/37

B 13/90

C 2/3

D 6/7

E 37/100

12. In a multiple-choice examination, there are 20 questions. Each correct answer is worth 4 marks, while 2 marks are to be deducted for every wrong answer. Further, 1 mark is to be deducted for every unattempted question. One student receives a total of 46 marks in the examination. However, before releasing the marks, the professor realizes that she has, by mistake, deducted 2 marks for every unattempted question and 1 mark for every wrong answer.
After correction, how many marks will the student get?

A 42

B 44

C 48

D 46

E 49

13. Let $f : R^2 \rightarrow R$ be a real-valued function defined as $f(0, y) = y + 1$ and $f(x + 1, y) = f(x, f(x, y)) + x$. What is the value of $f(2, 2)$?

A 6

B 7

C None of the other options is correct

D 5

E 4

14. Let $a_1 < a_2 < .... < a_n$ be the list of all prime numbers less than 25. Define $X_i = \frac{b_i}{a_i}$, where b_i is the sum of all a_k where k ranges from 1 to n, $k \neq i$. Let B be the set of all integer-valued X_i. What is the Smallest element of B?

A 1

B 19

C 11

D 17

E 23

15. Consider two circles, each having radius of 5cm (centimeters), touching each other at a point P. A direct tangent QR is drawn touching one circle at a point Q and the other circle at a point R. Inside the region PQR inscribed by the two circles and the tangent, a square ABCD is inscribed with its base AB on the tangent and the other side touching the two circles at points D and C, respectively.
Find the area of the square ABCD.

A $4\sqrt{2}$ sq. cm

B None of the other options is correct

C 40 sq. cm

D 4 sq. cm

E 100 sq. cm

16. Rajan is a fruit seller. On any day, he sells only one kind of fruit. On the first day, he buys 9 kg of blueberries. On the second day, he buys 22 kg of kiwis. On the third day, he buys 50 kg of peaches. The per kg purchase price of each fruit is an integer. Further, on each of these three days, he spends the same amount to purchase fruits. On the fourth day, he buys mangoes at Rs. 35/kg and spends Rs. 15 less than any of the previous three days.
If he then sells all the mangoes at Rs. 50/kg, what is his MINIMUM possible profit on the fourth day?

A Rs. 2130

B Rs. 2115

C Rs. 2085

D Rs. 2265

E None of the other options is correct

17. How many solutions (x, y, z) of the equation $x + y^2 + z^3 = 50$ exist, where x, y and z are positive integers?

A 17

B 15

C 16

D None of the other options is correct

E 18

18. A triangular plot is such that two of its sides, of lengths 90m (meter) and 60m, are perpendicular to each other. There is a housing complex in a rectangular region within the plot. The area of the rectangular region is 4/9th of the area of the triangular plot. Additionally, two sides of the rectangular region lie on the two perpendicular sides of the triangle, and one vertex is on the hypotenuse. The members of the housing complex want to construct a wall along the perimeter of the rectangular region.
If the cost of construction is Rs. 5000/m, what is the MINIMUM possible cost of building the wall?

A Rs. 777,777

B Rs. 700,000

C Rs. 666,667

D Rs. 766,667

E Rs. 433,333

19. During Durga Puja, for the purpose of lighting, one puja pandal in Kolkata used many identical structures made of wooden sticks. The design of the structures was as follows: each structure was constructed with the help of six wooden sticks by combining an isosceles triangular structure, and a square structure, with the bases of both structures being the same. Let us take one such structure. Call the triangle PAB, with PA = PB, and the square ABCD, with AB being the same wooden stick as a common base for the triangle and the square. To make the structure strong, the two equal sides of the triangular structure were tied with the opposite side of square's base, i.e., CD, at points E and F, in such a way that CE = EF = FD. The structure was hung from P.
If AB = 0.5m (meter), the total length of wooden sticks required for twenty such structures is:

A 70m

B $20\left(\sqrt{5}+1\right)m$

C $10\left(\sqrt{10}+4\right)m$

D $40\left(\sqrt{3}+1\right)m$

E $40\sqrt{3}m$

20. A park has two gates, Gate 1 and Gate 2. These two gates are connected via two alternate paths. If one takes the first path from Gate 1, they need to walk 80m (meters) towards east, then 80m towards south, and finally 20m towards west to arrive at Gate 2. The second path is a semi-circle connecting the two gates, where the diameter of the semi-circle is the straight-line distance between the two gates.
A person walking at a constant speed of 5 kilometers/hour enters the park through Gate 1, walks along the first path to reach Gate 2 and then takes the second path to come back to Gate 1.
Which of the following is the CLOSEST to the time the person takes, from entering the park to coming back to Gate 1, if she never stops in between?

A 4 minutes

B 3 minutes 30 seconds

C 4 minutes 30 seconds

D 5 minutes 30 seconds

E 6 minutes

21. Ronny uses a 5-digit key for a combination lock, where 5 digits need to be entered in a fixed sequence. While he remembers that the 5 digits are 9, 8, 7, 5 and 4, he has forgotten the sequence he uses. He also remembers that the sum of the first three digits is a multiple of 3, and so is the sum of the last three digits. Further, the sum of the last four digits is a multiple of 4.
Which of the following is DEFINITELY FALSE?

A 4 is the fourth digit of the key

B 9 is the third digit of the key

C 8 is the fourth digit of the key

D 4 is the second digit of the key

E 8 is the second digit of the key

22. There are three rectangular tanks in a building. The length, width and height of the first tank are m meters each, and the length, width and height of the second tank are n meters each. However, the length, width and height of the third tank are m meters, n meters and 1 meter, respectively.Initially, the first tank is full of water, while the second and the third are empty. When the second and the third tanks are completely filled with water transferred from the first tank, 85,000 liters of water is still left in the first tank.
If both m and n are positive integers, what is the value of m? (1 $meter^3$ =1000 liters)

A None of the other options is correct

B 7

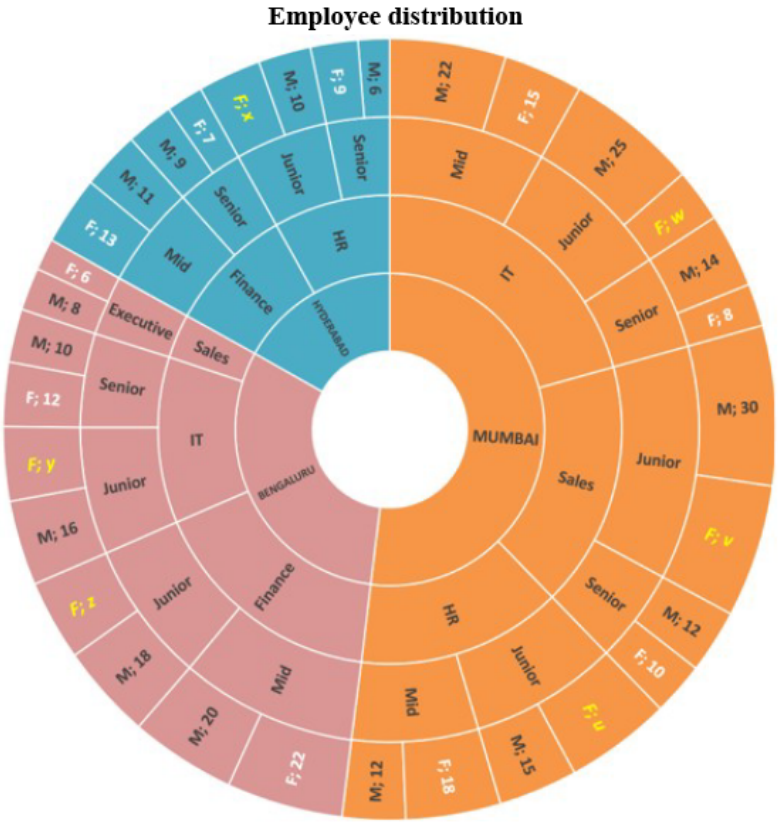
C 5

D 6

E 10

Instructions [23 - 25]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.
Light Chemicals is an industrial paint supplier with presence in three locations: Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The sunburst chart below shows the distribution of the number of employees of different departments of Light Chemicals. There are four departments: Finance, IT, HR and Sales. The employees are deployed in four ranks: junior, mid, senior and executive. The chart shows four levels: location, department, rank and gender (M: male, F: female). At every level, the number of employees at any location/department/rank/gender are proportional to the corresponding area of the region represented in the chart.
Due to some issues with the software, the data on junior female employees have gone missing. Notice that there are junior female employees in Mumbai HR, Sales and IT departments, Hyderabad HR department, and Bengaluru IT and Finance departments: the corresponding missing numbers are marked u, v, w, x, y and z in the diagram, respectively.
It is also known that:
a) Light Chemicals has a total of 210 junior employees.
b) Light Chemicals has a total of 146 employees in the IT department.
c) Light Chemicals has a total of 77 employees in the Hyderabad office.
d) In the Mumbai office, the number of junior female employees is 55.



23. Based on the given information and the sunburst chart, the MOST LIKELY values of u, v and w, respectively, are:

A 30, 20, 5

B 20, 25, 10

C 20, 20, 15

D 10, 40, 5

E 25, 20, 10

24. Based on the given information and the sunburst chart, which of the following has the HIGHEST number of employees?

A IT department, all offices together

B Bengaluru office

C Sales department of Mumbai office

D Cannot be answered uniquely based on the given information

E Mid-level, all offices together

25. Based on the given information and the sunburst chart, which of the following statements CANNOT BE TRUE?

A In the Hyderabad office, the number of senior employees is more than the number of junior employees.

B All three offices put together, the number of Sales employees is less than the number of Finance employees.

C In the Bengaluru office, the number of Finance employees is more than the number of IT employees.

D Number of female junior employees at Finance and IT departments in the Bengaluru office are equal.

E In the Mumbai office, the number of junior employees is more than the number of mid-level employees.

Instructions [26 - 28]

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.
An investment company, WinLose, recruits employees to trade in the share market. For newcomers, they have a one-year probation period. During this period, the employees are given Rs. 1 lakh per month to invest the way they see fit. They are evaluated at the end of every month, using the following criteria:
1. If the total loss in any span of three consecutive months exceeds Rs. 20,000, their services are terminated at the end of that 3-month period,
2. If the total loss in any span of six consecutive months exceeds Rs. 10,000, their services are terminated at the end of that 6-month period.
Further, at the end of the 12-month probation period, if there are losses on their overall investment, their services are terminated.
Ratan, Shri, Tamal and Upanshu started working for WinLose in January. Ratan was terminated after 4 months, Shri was terminated after 7 months, Tamal was terminated after 10 months, while Upanshu was not terminated even after 12 months. The table below, partially, lists their monthly profits (In Rs. '000) over the 12-month period, where x, y and z are masked information.
Note:
1. A negative profit value indicates a loss.
2. The value in any cell is an integer.
Illustration: As Upanshu is continuing after March, that means his total profit during January-March (2z+2z+0) ≥ – Rs.20,000. Similarly, as he is continuing after June, his total profit during January-June ≥ – Rs.10,000, as well as his total profit during April-June ≥ – Rs.20,000.

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ratan	-20	-10	x	-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shri	x	y	-25	-20	y/2	-20	-30	-	-	-	-	-
Tamal	-10	-10	x/2	y	x	-20	5	5	10	-z	-	-
Upanshu	2z	2z	0	-8	-10	0	-x	y	-20	-28	z	-15

26. What BEST can be said about the value of x?

A x is a non-negative even number less than or equal to 10

B x is an even number between 10 and 14, both inclusive

C x is a positive even number

D x is a non-negative even number less than or equal to 14

E x = 10

27. What BEST can be said about the value of y?

A y = 58

B y = 56 or 58

C y is an even number less than 60

D y = 56

E y is an even number greater than 50

28. What BEST can be said about the profit generated by Upanshu at the end of his probation period?

A At least Rs. 107,000

B At least Rs. 147,000

C Rs. 109,000 exactly

D Rs. 107,000 exactly

E At most Rs. 110,000

Decision Making

Instructions [29 - 31]

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

MultiKrack, one of the oldest FMCG companies in Eastern India, was run by the Malhotras, a traditional business family, for generations. The organization believed that key positions should be held only by family members and close friends.

But, as the organization grew in size, the top management decided to bring in fresh thinking and fill key positions from premier management institutions. The need for such a decision was also brought upon by changes in consumer preferences, which the top management felt could be best handled by recruiting premier talent from the younger generation (Gen Z).

MultiKrack drew the best talent, from premier management institutions, by offering highly attractive salaries. The first batch of Gen Z management trainees joined MultiKrack. Anindita was one of the seven management trainees recruited. She reported to Uday, a senior manager, who directly reported to the top management.

29. In one of the meetings, Uday was making a presentation on positioning their most popular product to make it more appealing to Gen Z. Unhappy with the discussion, Anindita candidly shared her concern regarding the assumptions Uday made about Gen Z. Uday immediately retorted: "Anindita, this is a discussion for adults. Kids, like you, should listen for a few months before sharing their opinion." Further, he remarked, "you Gen Z have opinions about everything regardless of the subject." Thereafter, he brushed aside any views Anindita attempted to share during the discussion. After the meeting, Anindita felt offended. However, when she discussed it with other management trainees, they did not find anything wrong with what Uday said. Even then, she decided to do something about such a treatment, since it would be seen as an approved behaviour.

Which of the following options will BEST help Anindita in taking an appropriate stand against Uday's behaviour?

A Urge other management trainees to petition the top management jointly with her.

B Meet up with the top management and lodge a formal complaint against Uday.

C Meet Uday in person and remind him why she, a Gen Z, was hired in the first place.

D Before actively participating in meetings, wait for a few months as Uday suggested.

E Ask her colleagues to talk to Uday on behalf of her.

30. Anindita was passionate about bringing a change in her organization. Thus, she went thoroughly prepared for every meeting. However, she soon realized that her ideas were not taken up for discussions during meetings. She often felt looked down upon by Uday who dismissed her suggestions without even hearing them out. When she discussed her experience with other management trainees from other departments, she came to know that this was a common practice across MultiKrack. They wanted to do something about it; however, they were clueless about the course of action, since their seniors did not seem to be interested in listening to them.

Which of the following actions by the management trainees will be MOST effective in improving the treatment of Gen Z at MultiKrack?

A Focus on proving themselves professionally, and be patient until attitudes change in general.

B Reach out to the top management and explain how the attitude of the seniors is affecting their morale.

C Seek informal meetings with seniors belonging to Gen X and try to explain the Gen Z point of view.

D Create an informal support group to deal with the duress of handling the MultiKrack seniors.

E Confront their colleagues directly whenever they come across as unfair and rude.

31. A few months passed. Anindita was a valuable member of her team and the top management was impressed with her. However, the other management trainees left the organization. In their exit interviews, they shared the condescending behavior of senior management as the reason for their departure. Some even left MultiKrack to join organizations that paid lesser than what MultiKrack paid. The top management understood that the seniors belonged to a different generation; they found it difficult to appreciate the intergenerational differences. The top management felt it was high time to do something about the senior management's behavior towards the juniors.

Which of the following actions, considered by the top management, will BEST enable change in the senior management's behavior?

A Keep management trainees in mostly independent roles to limit their interactions with senior management.

B Ask Gen Z to rate the senior management on their behavior every quarter.

C Hire more Gen Z and fast track them to senior management based on performance.

D Invest in diversity, equity and inclusion training, using mass exodus as a turning point for the organization to embrace.

E Issue a company-wide warning that any form of discrimination will result in disciplinary action.

Instructions [32 - 34]

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

Abhishek, a student of a prestigious business school, gets interested in Payeasy, a fintech firm, after listening to a pre-placement talk by Neha Bhupati, a senior leader at the firm, and an alumna of the same business school. He joins Payeasy through campus placement. Neha plays a key role in recruiting him, seeing great potential in him.

Abhishek starts working in the digital payments vertical under Mukesh Kumar, who reports directly to Neha. Mukesh, Abhishek's direct superior, is impressed by his performance and rates him very high in the first year. Abhishek understands that if Mukesh consistently rates him as "Excellent Performer" for the second year as well, his chances of getting promoted will improve. (The organization promotes individuals who are consistently rated as "Excellent Performer" for at least two years by their immediate superiors.)

Over time, Abhishek realizes that the learning opportunities in his current role have plateaued. Given his longstanding interest in blockchain and cryptocurrency, he starts exploring opportunities in that vertical within the company. This change is not possible without the consent of his immediate boss, Mukesh. When Abhishek brings this up with Mukesh, he acknowledges Abhishek's curiosity and enthusiasm; however, he emphasizes how Abhishek's competencies fit him rightly into the current vertical. Mukesh assures Abhishek of more challenging assignments in the future, provided he remains a good team player. Further, he shares his skepticism about the long-term prospects of cryptocurrency. Hence, Mukesh politely declines Abhishek's request.

32. Abhishek is not happy with Mukesh's decision. Abhishek is aware that he needs to be in the good books of Mukesh for his performance rating. However, he is passionate about cryptocurrency; hence, he considers approaching Neha directly to discuss a possible move. Neha can take such decisions independently, but Neha and Mukesh usually see eye to eye on most issues.B49

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST encourage Abhishek to reach out to Neha regarding his desired change to a different vertical?

A Neha is known to Abhishek as they are alumni of the same business school.

B Mukesh is infamous for not letting his team members go to any other vertical.

C A colleague got her vertical changed by presenting her case to the higher-ups, bypassing her immediate boss.

D Abhishek strongly feels that he cannot continue for one more year in his current role.

E The crypto team is always running short of talented employees.

33. Dissatisfied with Mukesh's response, Abhishek reaches out to Neha for a vertical change. Though she listens to Abhishek, she shares her displeasure with the request. In fact, she brushes his request off, telling him to resign from Payeasy if it does not charm him anymore. Abhishek gets worried as he has a huge educational loan to pay, and such a departure will put him in a fix.

Later that day, in one of the team meetings, Abhishek feels ignored as he is cut twice while he tries to share his project progress. Thereafter, he starts believing that Mukesh is not happy with him. This fear appears to get substantiated when Mukesh assigns an important project to another team member, which Abhishek wants to work on. His fear keeps growing regarding Neha and Mukesh not being happy with him. However, when he receives his annual rating, he finds out that Mukesh has rated him as the "best performer" of the year, based on his previous year's performance.

Abhishek wants his relationship with Mukesh to be back on track, as it was, before he reached out to Neha.

Which of the following options will BEST enable Abhishek rebuild his relationship with Mukesh?

A Abhishek should stay low profile for some time as time heals the past.

B Abhishek should double down on his performance to demonstrate his value to the team.

C Abhishek should request Mukesh for an open discussion to get rid of any misunderstandings.

D Abhishek should request Neha to help him in rebuilding his relationship with Mukesh.

E Abhishek should reach out to Mukesh and apologize for his perceived immaturity.

34. After two years at Payeasy, Abhishek applies to a competing firm and is called for an interview. The hiring manager, Amit, is impressed with Abhishek and tells him that he will take the final decision to select Abhishek in a day or two. After the interview, Amit wants to know more about Abhishek since Abhishek will be leading a team of 15 people and his people management skills are very important for the team's success. He calls Mukesh, Abhishek's superior. Mukesh is Amit's classmate who Amit trusts immensely. Mukesh informs Amit that though Abhishek is a good talent, he questions his superiors too often. Mukesh further shares that such a behavior makes it difficult for the superiors to manage the team.

Amit needs a good talent, but is confused if he should recruit Abhishek, given Mukesh's assessment of Abhishek.

Which of the following data will BEST enable Amit to take a decision on Abhishek's recruitment?

A Amit's organization is very democratic, where people are encouraged to share their critical views without any fear of consequences.

B Two years back, Mukesh discouraged Amit from offering a role to one of his subordinates, who later went to a competing firm and is now a star performer there.

C Payeasy has been seeing attrition of good talent to Amit's organisation in the recent past due to the high salaries that Amit's organization offers.

D Mukesh is known to be very possessive of his subordinates.

E Abhishek was kind and cooperative throughout the selection process of Amit's organization.

Instructions [35 - 37]

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

Fine Elements Inc. is an Indian organization with a substantial presence in South and East India. The company is recruiting talent to expand in North and West India. The organization's head of talent acquisition, Premnarayan, entrusts the interview process, a key stage in the recruitment process, to his line managers who take the responsibility of selecting candidates. Premnarayan, however, lays down stringent rules that the line managers need to follow to achieve consistent outcomes.

Joginder Mahato, a line manager, has been interviewing candidates. During the interview, Joginder realizes that one of the candidates, Animisha, called for the interview, does not satisfy the necessary condition of five years experience. Upon enquiring, he finds out that this happened due to an oversight by an inexperienced secretary who was asked to prepare the shortlist for the interview. However, as Animisha is present for the interview, he decides to conduct her interview. Joginder finds Animisha's candidature to be the best among the candidates he has interviewed so far.

35. Joginder wants to recommend Animisha for selection despite her not fulfilling the experience criterion.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST convince Joginder to recommend Animisha?

A The HR department has increased the experience criterion from 3 years to 5 years only this year.

B Animisha interned with one of the verticals of Fine Elements Inc. during her graduation.

C Animisha has a lucrative offer from a competing firm, for a similar role.

D Joginder was selected in his current role, a decade back, even though he had not satisfied many of the eligibility criteria.

E The role Animisha has applied for is one where getting good talent is not easy.

36. Joginder shares his preference for Animisha with Premnarayan, the talent acquisition head. However, while rolling out the offer, Premnarayan realizes that Animisha does not meet the eligibility criteria. Though the recommendation has come from Joginder, who is a senior, he wants to reject Animisha for the role.

Which of the following reasons will BEST help him in rejecting Animisha's candidature?

A Animisha was given a job offer while she interned with Fine Elements Inc. but she declined it.

B Premnarayan has overruled a few selection decisions of the seniors in the past.

C Animisha already holds a job offer from a rival firm at a competing salary.

D Joginder's team, though lean, has been performing well for many years.

E Other potential candidates were rejected because of the change in the experience criterion.

37. Joginder recommends Animisha's candidature only to be turned down by Premnarayan. However, he wants Premnarayan to reconsider his decision.

Hence, Joginder has compiled a list of reasons to persuade Premnarayan to reconsider Animisha's selection:

A. Animisha is academically strong and a gold medalist during her graduation.
B. Animisha's experience is falling short only by a few months for the role she has applied for.
C. The number of applicants applied for the role she has applied for is very small.
D. Animisha's college is known for producing the best business leaders for past many years.
E. Before he retired, Animisha's maternal uncle was associated with Fine Elements Inc. for over 10 years.
F. Average industry experience for the role she has applied for is much lower than what Fine Elements Inc. has advertised.

Which of the following combination of reasons will BEST convince Premnarayan to reconsider his decision regarding Animisha's selection for the role?

A B, C, E

B C, D, F

C A, D, E

D A, B, D

E D, E, F

Instructions [38 - 40]

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

Mr. Screwvala, a highly successful investment banker, had a career of nearly 25 years. In his circle, he was respected for his straight-shooter image and industrious behaviour. Screwvala loved travelling; he travelled extensively, both for his job and personal interests. He always wanted to share his life experiences with people at large.

He chanced upon such an opportunity when his old friend, Mr. Patel, a well-known publisher, offered Screwvala to publish a book based on his life experiences. Screwvala grabbed the opportunity; however, given his thorough nature, he took a three-year long sabbatical to finish the book.

During that period, Patel guided Screwvala at every step, reviewing every chapter personally. At the end, the book was probably as much Patel's, as it was Screwvala's!

On publication, the book turned out to be a bestseller, and Screwvala became famous.

38. Patel had a new proposal for Screwvala: he wanted Screwvala to work on a detective novel. Patel promised him good money but proposed that Screwvala would only write the final chapter of the novel, after his co-authors had completed the first nine chapters. Screwvala was surprised at the offer, since he never tried writing anything creative, and definitely not fiction. He wanted to be sure whether he could actually measure up with the co-authors who were established creative writers.

Which of the following, IF TRUE, will be the MOST compelling reason for Screwvala to accept the offer?

A Screwvala is earning a decent royalty on the sales of his first book.

B Patel is an experienced publisher who mentored many successful writers in the past.

C Screwvala loved taking up challenging assignments during his stint as an investment banker.

D Writing the novel will pay Screwvala to travel across the globe.

E Screwvala has enjoyed working on his first book and does not want to go back to investment banking.

39. Patel had a new proposal for Screwvala: he wanted Screwvala to work on a detective novel. Patel proposed that Screwvala would only write the final chapter of the detective novel, after his co-authors. Screwvala accepted the offer.

Though the project started on time, a few of the authors could not manage to submit their chapters within the given timeline. Hence, it created a delay for the authors to follow.

Having to wait endlessly for the other authors to finish their chapters, with no end in sight, Screwvala started getting impatient. In the meantime, he was offered another proposal from a rival publisher to write a travelogue on a country of his choice, which would involve all-expense-paid trips. Because of his love for travel, Screwvala felt inclined to accept the offer. However, this would mean getting out of the contract of the detective novel, which could cause a serious friction with Patel.

Which of the following, IF TRUE, will be the MOST compelling reason for Screwvala to continue with the detective-novel project?

A Screwvala has already invested considerable time in the detective novel.

B Patel did tell Screwvala that writing the detective novel would test his patience.

C Screwvala believes that he owes it to Patel for the help he has received in his journey as a writer.

D The rival publisher is not as well-known as Patel.

E Screwvala is not sure whether writing two books on similar topics consecutively will be well received.

40. Patel had a new proposal for Screwvala: he wanted Screwvala to work on a detective novel. Patel proposed that Screwvala would only write the final chapter of the detective novel, after his co-authors. Screwvala accepted the offer by signing a contract.

While waiting for his turn to come to write his chapter for the detective novel, Screwvala started writing a travel blog. Because of his radiant style, the blog became popular. Hence, he started mulling over converting the blog articles into a book.

When Screwvala shared this idea, Patel sprung a surprise by pointing out to a clause in their contract. The clause forbade Screwvala from publishing anything else until the detective novel got published. Screwvala signed the contract without reading it as he trusted Patel as a good friend. Further, Patel offered Screwvala an extra sum of money if he would delay the publication of his travel blog articles as a book.

Screwvala felt betrayed. Which of the following will be the MOST compelling reason for Screwvala to continue with publishing his blog as a book, ignoring the contract with Patel?

A Screwvala feels that most readers who like his writing style are already regular readers of his blog as well.

B Screwvala discovers that Patel replaced an originally contracted author from the project because of Patel's differences with the author.

C It is never Screwvala's nature to take it quietly when he realizes that he has been taken unfair advantage of.

D Screwvala is frustrated with the slow progress of the detective novel and has lost interest in it.

E Screwvala's lawyer believes that if Screwvala is desperate, he can try helping Screwvala in getting out of the contract, by offering Patel a reasonable compensation.

Instructions [41 - 43]

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

Vidya, a Bachelor of Commerce graduate, secured admission to one of India's premier business schools (B schools) called Best-Known School of Management (BKSM). Not long after her joining BKSM, she was struck by the calibre of her experienced peers. This, in turn, made her anxious about her placement. Hence, she reached out to one of her seniors, who had also joined BKSM as a fresher, for advice.

In conversations with the senior, Vidya learned that freshers were often advised to join student committees to strengthen their curriculum vitae (CVs) for placements. Confident of making it to one, she started preparing. Despite her confidence, she could not secure a spot in the prominent committees she aspired to join.

Frustrated and angry, Vidya began believing that committee selections were biased. Since the processes were entirely student-run, with minimal administrative oversight, she felt that she had no avenue to raise her concerns. Anjali, Vidya's roommate in BKSM, told her about Why MBA, a social media platform where students often voiced their grievances anonymously.

41. Impulsively, Vidya secretly recorded her next committee interview. The interview turned out to be particularly harsh. Now, she was even more determined to post the transcript of the interview on Why MBA to teach a lesson to her seniors. However, she contemplated the consequences she might face after posting the transcript.

Which of the following considerations will BEST stop her from sharing the transcript on Why MBA?

A Every interview is unique, and it will be easy to guess her identity from the transcript.

B In recent past, many such posts were shared on Why MBA, but not much changed in committee selection processes.

C A few seniors who never made it to committees still secured good placements.

D Sharing such posts on Why MBA may present the committee selection processes in a bad light.

E Sharing such posts on Why MBA may negatively impact the morale of student committee members.

42. Vidya secretly recorded her next committee interview. The very next day, Vidya was selected for the same committee for which she had recorded the interview. Relieved, she decided not to post anything on Why MBA.

However, a few days later, a post went viral on Why MBA about BKSM, accusing the student committees of unfair practices, claiming that seniors selected juniors based on personal preferences rather than objective criteria. The post created a stir in BKSM, making Vidya anxious.

Vidya's anxiety stemmed from the fact that Anjali, her confidant, knew about Vidya's intent to publish her interview transcript on Why MBA. Hence, Vidya feared that Anjali might assume that she was behind the viral post. Worse still, if Anjali shared Vidya's earlier intent with anyone at BKSM, her reputation and relationships could be damaged.

What BEST can Vidya do in the current situation so that she is NOT negatively impacted by the viral post?

A Request Why MBA to disclose the name of the person who shared the viral post.

B Share a post of admiration on Why MBA about the committee that has selected her.

C Do not worry about Anjali as Anjali has a limited friend circle.

D Inform the committee that, while Vidya had secretly recorded her interview with them, she had nothing to do with the viral post.

E Have a discussion with Anjali and clarify that Vidya had nothing to do with the viral post.

43. A few committee secretaries complained to the dean of BKSM about some anonymous posts on Why MBA that they felt were unfairly targeting them. Upon visiting the forums on Why MBA, the dean felt that while most of the posts were innocuous, some indeed crossed the line. Further, she felt that such posts tarnished the image of BKSM. Conversely, she observed that such posts led those targeted to reflect, mend their ways, and become more accountable. She wondered what she could do to save the reputation of BKSM being assailed in public forums through anonymous posts; however, she did not want to do anything disproportionately harsh.

What BEST can the dean do to take a sustainable decision to dissuade students from posting their grievances in public forums, presenting the college in a bad light?

A Ask the IT head to run digital surveillance, and catch students posting anything degrading about BKSM in any public forum.

B Announce that she will run daily open houses to hear student grievances.

C Create an anonymous in-house forum within BKSM, where the students could discuss anything without consequences.

D Announce that she will run all committee selections personally.

E Ban access to public forums like Why MBA on the campus.

Instructions [44 - 46]

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

Business schools' (B schools) curriculums are filled with group assignments and case competitions. Even when students have just joined the B schools, corporate houses try to catch good talent early by promising them internships based on case competitions. These competitions involve comprehending the problems presented by the organizations, analyzing the challenges they currently face, and presenting solutions in a manner that convinces the organizations' representatives who visit the B schools to evaluate various teams that present their solutions on such problems.

For students who are just joining a B school, the capability to actually solve such problems is quite limited. Because of that, the corporate houses generally are more focused on the presentations made by groups. Hence, the groups that communicate better, most often, win these competitions.

Abirami joins MBS, a B school. As a fresher, she believes she needs to learn a lot about how organizations work and wants to work with others who have joined MBS and have work experience.

44. The first step that Abirami wants to take is to join a group, having members with extensive work experience. Meanwhile, students with prior work experience have come together and formed groups. She reaches out to one such group. However, the group members are not interested since she is a fresher. They are unsure whether she can bring any value to case competitions that involve understanding, recommending and presenting solutions to organizational problems.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST convince the group members that Abirami will be a valuable member of the group for case competitions?

A She has closely observed her mother working and hence understands the way organizations work.

B The MNC, where her father is employed, floats the most popular case competition for MBS students.

C She is a good debater who can logically think and argue on the go.

D She is a good listener, and can grasp key aspects of the problem at hand very quickly.

E She has interned with her fathers' firm for two weeks, during her graduation.

45. Abirami cannot join groups having members with work experience; they reject her for being a fresher. Meanwhile, three of her batchmates, all freshers, are interested in forming a group with her. Abirami likes being with them as two of them are from her undergraduate college; however, Abirami fears that they may all come up with similar ideas during case discussions.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST persuade Abirami to join them?

A These three batchmates are Abirami's closest friend at MBS.

B These three batchmates were toppers in their respective streams during graduation.

C MBS's professors generally appreciate these three batchmates' inputs during case discussions.

D Students with work experience have formed their own groups, rejecting freshers.

E Some organizations prefer to offer internship opportunities to freshers over those with work experience.

46. Abirami eventually joins a group, largely comprised of students with work experience. Whenever competition calls are announced, the group meets to discuss the competition. As competitions go by, Abirami observes that her views are hardly heard in meetings, though the other group members make it a point to invite her to every meeting. Since Abirami doesn't get acknowledged for her ideas in group discussions, she starts reflecting on what she has gained so far by being a part of the group.

Which of the following pieces of information will BEST convince Abirami that being in the group is beneficial to her?

A Members of other groups shared with her that, while her group worked together, their groups rarely met, and worked in silos.

B She can focus on her academics and still reap benefits from the group's success, if any.

C Her only responsibility is to submit the final presentation to the company concerned after reviewing for language errors.

D Her group has already been shortlisted for the final rounds of three of the four competitions they have participated in, so far.

E The group meetings that she has attended so far have taught her a lot about how organizations work.

Instructions [47 - 49]

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

Selvam Tutorials offers exclusive face-to-face evening classes from Monday to Friday for students who are preparing for various entrance exams. Selvam Dindigul, the owner, operates from his ancestral house, situated in the middle of the city. There are several instructors, but each teaches only one of the following courses: quantitative ability, verbal ability and decision making. Selvam usually recruits fresh graduates, or those instructors who are working with other tutorials and seeking a job change.

As Selvam Tutorials has been expanding aggressively over the past few years, managing it alone becomes challenging for Selvam. Hence, he recruits Kanmani Gunaa, his niece, who has an online MBA with specializations in Accountancy and HR, as a manager. He asks Kanmani to introduce modern HR practices at Selvam Tutorials while managing cost effectively.

47. Soon after Kanmani takes over, she discovers that every instructor is paid differently even though they teach for the same number of hours. Moreover, these instructors have been recruited locally, having similar educational background. As she is introducing modern HR practices, she wants to equalize the salaries of all the instructors.

Which of the following is definitely NOT an option for Kanmani?

A Kanmani should create a new policy about equalizing salaries and get it approved by Selvam before implementing it.

B Kanmani should ask Selvam the reasons behind the salaries being unequal.

C Kanmani should suggest Selvam that all instructors are paid equally.

D Kanmani should not interfere with salaries, since it is a sensitive topic.

E Kanmani should find out what other tutorials are practising and follow the most popular practice.

48. One of the instructors meets Kanmani and urgently requests for a week-long leave because he needs to take care of his ailing father in a nearby village. Kanmani grants him leave. However, on the very next day, she is chastised by Selvam. He tells Kanmani, “while all instructors are legally eligible for leave, we cannot grant leave to instructors, given the tight schedule and continuous classes.” Selvam instructs Kanmani to ensure that, when classes are on, leaves are not granted.

Kanmani wants to allow instructors to avail leaves whenever they need them; however, she understands that there should be contingency arrangements in place so that the deliverables are not compromised.

Kanmani is contemplating the following contingency arrangements for the classes that may not be conducted due to faculty leave.

Which of the following will be the BEST contingency arrangement at the lowest possible cost without compromising on the deliverables?

A She should ask instructors, who want to take leave, to conduct make up classes for the missed classes over the weekend.

B She should ask instructors, who want to take leave, to find replacements from outside the tutorial, if at all they want to take leave.

C She should hire one extra instructor in each course and use them whenever any instructor needs leave.

D She should reward every instructor who does not take leave, with 2% of their wage, to encourage them not to take leave.

E She should ask instructors, who want to take leave, to squeeze in the content of the missed classes in the remaining classes.

49. Kanmani meets Selvam and requests his permission to recruit three extra instructors, who would be on the regular payroll. They will only chip in whenever the regular instructors go on leave. Selvam, having been running the tutorial for quite some time, believes that this would not be the right way to solve the problem of managing classes when instructors go on leave. He shares the following data with Kanmani to help her understand that this problem cannot be solved by recruiting more people:

a) The number of days that instructors go on leave of absence is usually two days a month on average.
b) Each instructor has a unique style of teaching that cannot be replicated by part-timers.
c) Classes are held for 5 days a week, allowing enough rest for the instructors.
d) Selvam tried with part-time instructors as back-ups previously but they were often unavailable when needed.
e) The extra instructors must be paid a monthly salary, even when they might not be teaching the entire month.

Which of the following combinations of data will BEST convince Kanmani not to recruit extra instructors on the regular payroll?

A c, d, e

B a, b, c

C b, d, e

D a, b, e

E a, c, e

Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

50. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. Everybody were late.
2. I will ask you if I need help.
3. Please revert to me at the earliest possible.
4. The report that the committee submitted was well received.
5. She is accustomed to work late.

Which of the following options consists of only grammatically CORRECT sentences?

A 4, 5

B 1, 3

C 1, 4

D 2, 4

E 3, 5

51. Read the following excerpt carefully.

When we encounter new situations, concepts, or problems, we make _____of them by_____them onto older experience and structures. Far from being a_____ mental shortcut, analogy is a process by which humans generalize, adapt, and grow in_____.

Which of the following options BEST fills up the blanks in the above excerpt?

A meaning, linking, inconsequential, life

B use, engaging, quick, confidence

C fun, connecting, serious, skills

D sense, mapping, minor, understanding

E most, relating, comprehensive, experiences

52.

"He tells it like it is."

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

A The truth is more powerful than manipulation.

B It is easier to trust selfish assurances, than altruistic promises.

C People prioritize certitude even if their interests are at stake.

D People submit to the honest hypocrites.

E Leaders should always be transparent with their intentions.

53. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. The hybrid workplace is failing to live up to expectations in a number of ways.
2. By one estimate, spending an average of three days each week in the office can limit encounters between any two workers by 64% compared with pre-pandemic norms.
3. Many people hanker after the socializing, camaraderie and shared experience, even if getting used to it may take time.
4. For one thing, it is no substitute for the buzz and the chatter of the pre-pandemic office.
5. Even small amount of remote work can have a big impact on the frequency of face-to-face interactions in the office.

Which of the following options BEST arranges the above sentences in a logical sequence?

A 5,1,2,4,3

B 1,4,3,5,2

C 1,4,2,5,3

D 2,5,3,4,1

E 3,4,5,2,1

54. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. She described about the journey.
2. We are awaiting her reply.
3. She is superior to us.

4. She requested for more time.
5. She is angry with her friend.
6. She insisted for an apology.

Which of the following options contains only grammatically INCORRECT sentences?

A 1, 4, 6

B 2, 3, 5

C 1, 3, 4

D 2, 4, 5

E 1, 2, 6

55. Read the following excerpt carefully.

Reliability is magnetic because humans are hardwired to avoid risk, so once you prove yourself trustworthy and reliable, you become the default choice for opportunities without ever asking for them.

Which of the following options, IF TRUE, will BEST CONTRADICT the idea of the excerpt?

A People gravitate towards those who consistently reduce uncertainty.

B Being dependable turns a person into the most favourite one.

C Predictability becomes a competitive advantage in a chaotic world.

D Opportunities only come to those who actively chase them.

E Those that are not preferred for critical tasks are unreliable.

56. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. Any viewer of crime dramas might think, though, that there is a better way.
2. What would really speed things up would be a means of sampling an entire habitat at one go.
3. But, these, too must first be detected and collected—and they will identify only the animal that dropped them.
4. Ecologists have thought of this, and it certainly works for things like animal droppings.
5. Just as DNA traces on an unwashed glass or a carelessly discarded cigarette butt can place a suspect as having been in a particular place, so can DNA shed by a creature as it goes about its business.

Which of the following options BEST arranges the above sentences in a logical sequence?

A 2,3,4,1,5

B 1,5,4,3,2

C 3,4,5,1,2

D 1,4,5,2,3

E 4,3,5,2,1

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

Of the six American winners of science Nobels this year, three were born outside the United States. In this century, the émigré fraction of U.S. Nobels in physics, chemistry and medicine now stands at 40 percent.

The nation's long history of scientific feats, exemplified by Nobels, helped build a number of trillion-dollar companies in Silicon Valley as well as the world's most dynamic economy and its wealth of social benefits, economists say.

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

A Immigration is the key to all scientific achievement in the USA.

B Silicon Valley must ensure that the government does not block immigration to the USA.

C Any government policy, that dissuades immigration of good talent to the USA, will impact the American economy.

D Immigrants have contributed immensely to the wealth of the USA through their scientific contributions.

E The government should dissuade immigration to increase the non-émigré fraction of U.S. Nobels.

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

When it comes to innovation and entrepreneurship, most of us now believe that failure isn't a bad thing. In fact, it is often a necessary ingredient on the road to success. Because we know that success might come after numerous attempts, many of which might fail but eventually add up to that elusive success. Yet, when it comes to our individual careers, if there is one thing we still consider taboo, it is the dreaded pay cut.

A pay cut is still considered as a mark of personal failure. We instinctively baulk from career options, no matter how interesting they might be, the moment we realize that we must accept a salary cut.

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

A If an employee cannot accept a pay cut, they cannot explore alternative career options.

B When attempting to switch careers, an employee should be ready to take some risks.

C Employees perceive their worth based on their current salaries.

D An employee who is willing to accept a pay cut is an entrepreneurial person.

E When an employee fails in their current job, prospective companies will hire them only if they accept a pay cut.

Instructions [59 - 61]

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

As the post-World War II generation of liberal democratic leaders forged new, highly successful domestic and international institutions and policies throughout the West, the weaknesses of liberal democracy that dominated the two decades after World War I faded from view. But they did not disappear.

First, because liberal democracy restrains majorities, it slows the achievement of goals that majorities support. This generates frustration with institutional restraints, and an unacknowledged envy of authoritarian systems that can act quickly and decisively. China can build huge cities in the time that it takes the United States to review the environmental impact of small highway projects. Liberal democracy requires more patience than many possess.

Second, liberal democracy requires tolerance for minority views and ways of life to which many citizens are deeply opposed. It is natural to feel that if we consider certain views or ways of life to be odious, we should use public power to suppress them. In many such cases, liberal democracy requires us to restrain this impulse, a psychological burden that some will find unbearable.

This leads directly to the third inherent problem of liberal democracy—the distinction it requires us to make between civic identity and personal or group identity. For example, although we may consider certain religious views false and even dangerous, we must, for civic purposes, accept those who hold these views as our equals. They may freely express these views; they may organize to promote them; they may vote, and their votes are given the same weight as ours. The same goes for race, ethnicity, gender, and all the particularities that distinguish us from one another.

This requirement often goes against the grain of natural sentiments. We want the public sphere to reflect what we find most valuable about our private commitments. Liberal democracy prevents us from fully translating our personal identities into our public lives as citizens. This too is not always easy to bear. The quest for wholeness —for a political community, or even a world, that reflects our most important commitments—is a deep yearning to which illiberal leaders can always appeal.

Nor is the fourth inherent difficulty of liberal democracy—the necessity of compromise—easy to bear. If what I want is good and true, why should I agree that public decisions must incorporate competing views? James Madison gives us the answer: in circumstances of liberty, diversity of views is inevitable, and unless those who agree with us form a majority so large as to be irresistible, the alternative to compromise is inaction, which is often more damaging, or oppression, which always is.

59. According to the passage, which of the following BEST explains why liberal democracy needs patience?

- **A** Because liberal democracy at its core is more conservative.
- **B** Because liberal democracy has to ensure that all views are considered before taking a decision.
- **C** Because liberal democratic institutions that enable protection of minorities restrain majorities from acting unilaterally.
- **D** Because liberal democracy believes that minority views matter more than majority views.
- **E** Because liberal democracy believes environmental impact is more important than human progress.

60. According to the passage, how does the second problem of liberal democracy lead to the third problem?

- **A** While some find certain views personally distasteful, they will permit those views to exist in the public sphere.
- **B** The more we find some views unacceptable, the more liberal democracy forces us to accept it in a public space.
- **C** We tolerate unpopular views since the view holder has a right to express and follow them.
- **D** By tolerating the views we disagree with, we suffer from multiple identities.
- **E** While we tolerate views that we disagree with, we have to demonstrate that we tolerate them by allowing them to coexist among us.

61. According to the passage, which of the following reasons BEST explains why "necessity of compromise" is a difficulty for liberal democracy?

- **A** We do not like compromising on anything we badly want.
- **B** Since our core beliefs define who we are, we want to see that reflected in public space.

C Liberal democracy makes us endure divergent behaviours in public sphere.

D While we believe our views are correct, to accept that others' views deserve merit is not always easy.

E Since liberal democracy is supposed to protect our rights, compromising on them seems incompatible with liberty.

Instructions [62 - 64]

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.
When people who are talking don't share the same culture, knowledge, values, and assumptions, mutual understanding can be especially difficult. Such understanding is possible through the negotiation of meaning. To negotiate meaning with someone, you have to become aware of and respect both the differences in your backgrounds and when these differences are important. You need enough diversity of cultural and personal experience to be aware that divergent world views exist and what they might be like. You also need patience, a certain flexibility in world view, and a generous tolerance for mistakes, as well as a talent for finding the right metaphor to communicate the relevant parts of unshared experiences or to highlight the shared experiences while deemphasizing the others. Metaphorical imagination is a crucial skill in creating rapport and in communicating the nature of unshared experience. This skill consists, in large measure, of the ability to bend your world view and adjust the way you categorize your experience. Problems of mutual understanding are not exotic; they arise in all extended conversations where understanding is important.

When it really counts, meaning is almost never communicated according to the CONDUIT metaphor, that is, where one person transmits a fixed, clear proposition to another by means of expressions in a common language, where both parties have all the relevant common knowledge, assumptions, values, etc. When the chips are down, meaning is negotiated: you slowly figure out what you have in common, what it is safe to talk about, how you can communicate unshared experience or create a shared vision. With enough flexibility in bending your world view and with luck and skill and charity, you may achieve some mutual understanding.

Communication theories based on the CONDUIT metaphor turn from the pathetic to the evil when they are applied indiscriminately on a large scale, say, in government surveillance or computerized files. There, what is most crucial for real understanding is almost never included, and it is assumed that the words in the file have meaning in themselves—disembodied, objective, understandable meaning. When a society lives by the CONDUIT metaphor on a large scale, misunderstanding, persecution, and much worse are the likely products.

62. Based on the passage, which of the following reasons BEST explains why metaphorical imagination is a crucial skill?

A Because it helps individuals to bridge the gap that occurs while sharing lived experiences.

B Because it explains complex ideas in the simplest and relatable ways.

C Because it builds empathy and social understanding.

D Because it helps in aligning individual's cultural knowledge with others.

E Because it turns the unfamiliar into something we can connect with.

63. Which of the following statements BEST conveys the premise of the passage?

A Large-scale communication systems, built on the CONDUIT metaphor, fuel misunderstanding and fracture social order.

B Effective communication is not merely an exchange of information, but it is an exchange of overview.

C For actual understanding in human interactions, we should acknowledge the limits of our own world view.

D For human interaction, effortless understanding is a rare convenience.

E Metaphors are not merely a part of speech, but a cognitive bridge between communicators.

64. Based on the passage, which of the following statements BEST explains the limitations of "CONDUIT metaphors" in communication?

A CONDUIT metaphors treat abstract ideas as tangibles rather than fluid and dynamic.

B CONDUIT metaphors ease the shared work needed to co-create understanding.

C CONDUIT metaphors aim at simplifying ideas rather than exploring the complexities.

D CONDUIT metaphors work on the assumption that words have inherent fixed meanings.

E CONDUIT metaphors ignore the significant efforts needed to interpret the messages.

Instructions [65 - 67]

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

Disparate as these targets might initially appear, there is a through line in the trolls' targeting practices: the concept of exploitability. Trolls believe that nothing should be taken seriously, and therefore regard public displays of sentimentality, political conviction, and/or ideological rigidity as a call to trolling arms. In this way, lulz functions as a pushback against any and all forms of attachment, a highly ironic stance given how attached trolls are to the pursuit of lulz.

The final marker of trolling is the trolls' insistence on and celebration of anonymity. The ability to obscure one' s offline identity has a number of immediate behavioral implications. Most obviously, anonymity allows trolls to engage in behaviors they would never replicate in professional or otherwise public settings, either because the specific behaviors would be considered socially unacceptable, or because the trolls' online persona would clash with their offline circumstances — for example, if the troll in question were a schoolteacher or nurse. Even if the person behind the troll avoided explicitly bigoted speech or behavior, his or her extracurricular interests would likely upset or merely baffle family members and coworkers, further reinforcing the importance, perhaps even necessity, of keeping one' s real-life identity under wraps.

Conversely, successful trolling is often dependent on the target's lack of anonymity, or at least their willingness to disclose real-life attachments, interests, and vulnerabilities. This, according to the troll, is grounds for immediate trolling, since in the trolls' minds, the Internet is — at least should be — an attachment-free zone. The trolling mantra "Nothing should be taken seriously" suggests as much, and functions both as a rallying cry and post hoc justification for trollish behavior. Trolls believe that, by wearing their hearts (or political affiliations, or sexual preferences, or other aspects of identity) on their sleeves, their targets are asking to be taught a lesson. Trolling is thus framed by trolls in explicitly pedagogical terms. Maybe next time, trolls argue, the target won' t be so stupid. Maybe next time they won' t be such obvious trollbait. In this way, trolls are — at least in their own minds — doing their targets a favor.

65. Based on the passage, which of the following can be BEST inferred about the behaviour of trolls?

A Trolls target those who are weak and likely to be hurt by the attacks.

B Trolls aggressively engage with those who are invested in what they care about.

C Trolls gravitate towards public forums to magnify the impact of their attacks.

D Trolls use offensive and provocative comments to emotionally upset the targets.

E Trolls attack those who they believe have wronged them or violated social norms.

66. Based on the passage, which of the following statements BEST conveys why trolls prefer anonymity?

A Anonymity frees trolls from biographical constraints to create caricatured versions of themselves.

B Anonymity allows trolls to express their impulses, aggressions and fascinations.

C Anonymity lets trolls go against the social norms and express their repressed selves covertly.

D Anonymity grants trolls freedom to pursue the interests they shy away from their visible lives.

E Anonymity helps trolls in liberating themselves from confronting their own moral contradictions.

67. Based on the passage, what does the author BEST convey by the statement, "trolls are — at least in their own minds — doing their targets a favor?"

A Trolls use their online harassment as a form of corrective social conditioning.

B Trolls help their victims in identifying and fixing their mistakes.

C Trolls make their targets strong and resilient against any kind of bullying.

D Trolls shame their subjects to introspect and reflect on what they share online.

E Trolls scare away their victims from being themselves ever again online.

Instructions [68 - 70]

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

Later, I realized that reviewing the history of nuclear physics served another purpose as well: It gave the lie to the naive belief that the physicists could have come together when nuclear fission was discovered (in Nazi Germany!) and agreed to keep the discovery a secret, thereby sparing humankind the nuclear burden. No. Given the development of nuclear physics up to 1938, development that physicists throughout the world pursued in all innocence of any intention of finding the engine of a new weapon of mass destruction—only one of them, the remarkable Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard, took that possibility seriously—the discovery of nuclear fission was inevitable. To stop it, you would have had to stop physics. If German scientists hadn't made the discovery when they did, British, French, American, Russian, Italian, or Danish scientists would have done so, almost certainly within days or weeks. They were all working at the same cutting edge, trying to understand the strange results of a simple experiment bombarding uranium with neutrons. Here was no Faustian bargain, as movie directors and other naifs still find it intellectually challenging to imagine. Here was no evil machinery that the noble scientists might have hidden from the politicians and the generals. To the contrary, here was a new insight into how the world works, an energetic reaction, older than the earth, that science had finally devised the instruments and arrangements to coax forth. "Make it seem inevitable," Louis Pasteur used to advise his students when they prepared to write up their discoveries. But it was. To wish that it might have been ignored or suppressed is barbarous. "Knowledge," Niels Bohr once noted, "is itself the basis for civilization." You cannot have the one without the other; the one depends upon the other. Nor can you have only benevolent knowledge; the scientific method doesn't filter for benevolence. Knowledge has consequences, not always intended, not always comfortable, not always welcome. The earth revolves around the sun, not the sun around the earth. "It is a profound and necessary truth," Robert Oppenheimer would say, "that the deep things in science are not found because they are useful; they are found because it was possible to find them."

...Bohr proposed once that the goal of science is not universal truth. Rather, he argued, the modest but relentless goal of science is "the gradual removal of prejudices." The discovery that the earth revolves around the sun has gradually removed the prejudice that the earth is the center of the universe. The discovery of microbes is gradually removing the prejudice that disease is a punishment from God. The discovery of evolution is gradually removing the prejudice that Homo sapiens is a separate and special creation.

68. Based on the passage, which of the following would the author BEST agree with?

A Science is not benevolent.

B Science is inconsiderate.

C Science is amoral.

D Science is the ultimate truth.

E Science is immoral.

69. Based on the passage, which of the following statements is DEFINITELY NOT true?

A Science gradually removes false beliefs about the world.

B Scientific discoveries are driven by utility not by the pursuit of truth.

C For a civilization, knowledge creation is its core activity regardless of its nature.

D Science does not promise only positive outcomes.

E The wheel of scientific progress cannot be stopped.

70. Based on the passage, which of the following statements can be BEST concluded?

A Scientists are driven by the urge to explore, not by who the exploration affects.

B Scientists do not care about the consequences of scientific discoveries.

C Relying on science to answer moral questions is futile.

D The future of mankind cannot be determined by scientific discoveries.

E Scientists are not responsible for the impact of their scientific discoveries.

Instructions [71 - 73]

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

A crucial moderating factor in how people experience comparison is self-esteem. Individuals with high self-esteem are more likely to interpret upward comparison as informative rather than threatening. They are more resilient in the face of others' success and more likely to believe they can improve. In contrast, people with low self-esteem are more prone to interpret comparison as judgment, reinforcing negative self-views and triggering feelings of inadequacy.

This dynamic creates a self-reinforcing loop. People who already doubt their worth are more vulnerable to upward comparison, which intensifies those doubts. Those with a secure sense of self are more likely to use comparison as a learning tool. The same external stimulus—a colleague's achievement, a peer's attractiveness, a friend's popularity—can have radically different effects depending on internal stability.

Self-esteem also influences how people choose their comparison targets. Research has found that individuals often engage in "selective comparison," seeking out those who confirm their existing beliefs about themselves. This can become a subtle form of self-sabotage. Someone who feels unworthy may unconsciously seek out targets that reinforce that sense, perpetuating a narrative of inferiority. One of the most promising antidotes to social comparison is temporal comparison—evaluating oneself not against others, but against one's own past. This strategy has been shown to increase motivation and satisfaction, especially when individuals can see concrete progress.

Temporal comparison activates the same reward circuits as social comparison but avoids the threat systems associated with social ranking. It also reinforces agency: individuals focus on what they can control and improve rather than what others possess. In therapeutic and coaching settings, temporal comparison is often used to help clients build self-efficacy and track growth over time.

Moreover, people who focus on self-improvement rather than social dominance are less likely to fall into cycles of envy or self-pity. They can still use others as inspiration, but they do so without attaching their self-worth to the outcome. This is not to say they never compare—but that they compare with awareness and perspective.

The most skilful approach to comparison may lie not in eliminating it, but in reframing it as feedback. When we interpret comparison as information rather than a verdict, we open the door to learning. Instead of asking, "Am I better or worse?" we can ask, "What can I learn from this?" This shift turns others into teachers rather than rivals.

Psychologists emphasize that the key variable here is mindset. A fixed mindset interprets comparison as a threat. If someone else is better, it means we are worse. A growth mindset sees comparison as a map. If someone else has reached a certain level, it means the path exists. This reframing is not just a cognitive trick. It changes the emotional tone of comparison, making it more likely to inspire than to wound.

Reframing also requires emotional regulation—the ability to notice an initial pang of envy or shame without reacting impulsively. With practice, individuals can learn to pause, reflect, and reinterpret their emotional responses. Over time, this builds resilience and self-trust, allowing comparison to become a catalyst rather than a cage.

71. Based on the passage, which of the following options will the author BEST agree with regarding the differences between temporal and social comparison?

A Temporal comparison relies on threat responses, whereas social comparison eliminates threat circuitry.

B Temporal comparison eliminates threat responses, whereas social comparison can activate threat circuitry.

C Temporal comparison relies on both reward and threat circuits, whereas social comparison relies only on the threat circuitry.

D Temporal comparison measures performance by embedding it in a hierarchy, whereas social comparison does not.

E Temporal comparison evokes objectivity by excluding emotional interpretation, whereas social comparison is externally anchored.

72. Based on the passage, which of the following will the author MOST agree with?

A High self-esteem ensures that the anchor of comparison is seen as opportunity for growth.

B High self-esteem ensures that upward comparison must yield positive results.

C High self-esteem affects upward comparison negatively, but resilience helps cope with the negativity.

D High self-esteem creates a reinforcing loop of adequacy making us look forward to upward social comparison.

E The need for upward comparison reduces when we have high self-esteem.

73. Based on the passage, which of the following is NOT true about comparison?

A The effect of negative comparisons can be altered when individuals approach it with a growth-oriented mindset.

B The impact of social comparison depends on how individual interpret comparisons with others.

C Individuals with low self-esteem prefer those comparisons that reinforce negative self-evaluation.

D People with high self-esteem do not require to rely on temporal comparison for learning.

E Variation in self-esteem influences how individuals perceive comparisons with others.

Instructions [74 - 75]

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

Beware of the old newspapers
stacked
on that little three legged stool over there.

Don't disturb them.
I know it for a fact
that snakes have spawned in between these
sheets.

Don't even look in that direction.
It's not because of breeze
that their corners are fluttering.

It's alive, that nest of newspapers.
New born snakes, coiling and uncoiling,
are turning their heads to look at you.

That white corner has spread its hood.
A forked tongue
shoots out of its mouth.

Keep your eyes closed.
Get rid of the whole goddamn pile if you
want to
in the morning.

74. What does the poet BEST convey about old newspapers when he says "that snakes have spawned in between these sheets?"

A Old newspapers stand for suppressed truths whose venom surfaces when disturbed.

B Old newspapers are society's voices that turn hostile over time.

C Old newspapers embody the decay of knowledge turning into toxic remnants.

D Old newspapers' unattended knowledge turns into future threats.

E Old newspapers symbolize the repressed stories that may confront the present.

75. Which of the following BEST captures what the poet communicates when he says, "Keep your eyes closed./ Get rid of the whole goddamn pile if you/ want to/ in the morning?"

A Acting on an unsettling past can help in overcoming the fear it instils.

B Staying away from the past helps in escaping what is unsettling.

C Being delusional about the disturbing past is the solution to handle it.

D Confrontation is not the best way in dealing with the disturbing past.

E Better to avoid the disturbing past rather than confronting it.

General Knowledge

76. Match the temple architectural terms in Column A with their descriptions in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Garbhagriha	a. Main gateway of a Dravidian temple
2. Gopuram	b. Inner sanctum where the deity resides
3. Mandapa	c. Stone disk at the top of a Nagara shikhara
4. Amalaka	d. Pillared assembly hall for devotees

A 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c

B 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a

C 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d

D 1-b, 2-d, 3-a, 4-c

E 1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-b

77. India recently achieved a milestone by placing its heaviest payload ever into orbit using the LVM3-M6 rocket. Which of the following is a satellite, launched as a part of this mission?

A Oceansat-3

B RISAT-2BR1

C GSAT-24

D BlueBird Block-2

E XAT-2026

78. Which of the following is NOT true about octopuses?

A Their blood emits a radium-like glow under moonlight.

B They have three hearts.

C They can eject a cloud of ink which creates smoke-screen effect, to escape predators.

D They usually have a lifespan of around 1-5 years.

E They can regrow their lost arms.

79. Who won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for the novel "James", a reimagining of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"?

A Rabih Alameddine

B Andrew Miller

C Percival Everett

D Hisham Matar

E David Szalay

80. Which of the following is a comet that flew very close to the Earth in December, 2025?

A C/2025 A6

B C/2024 G3

C 3I/ATLAS

D C/2025 R2

E Halley's Comet

81. Which of the following is the first Asian country to host the Commonwealth Games?

A India

B Bhutan

C China

D Japan

E Malaysia

82. Who was the RUNNER-UP in the 2025 Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Championship?

A Taylor Fritz

B Novak Djokovic

C Alexander Zverev

D Jannik Sinner

E Carlos Alcaraz

83. Who is credited for popularizing the telephone greeting “Hello”?

A Alexander Graham Bell

B Adele

C Lionel Ritchie

D Thomas Edison

E Thomas Watson

84. Who, among the following, is credited for designing the following ad campaigns: "Kuch khaas hai...zindagi mein" (Cadbury's), "Fevicol ka mazboot jod hai, tootega nahin" (Fevicol), and "Har ghar kuch kehta hai" (Asian Paints)?

A Alyque Padamsee

B Rajiv Rao

C Sonal Dabral

D Prasoon Joshi

E Piyush Pandey

85. Who was the player of the tournament in the ICC Women’s World Cup 2025?

A Shafali Verma

B Deepti Sharma

C Smriti Mandhana

D Sara Tendulkar

E Jemimah Rodrigues

86. What is common among the following celebrities: Val Kilmer, Diane Keaton, Robert Redford, Dharmendra Deol and B. Saroja Devi?

A These celebrities were the co-actors of Kamal Haasan in his 100th movie.

B These celebrities are posthumously nominated for 2026 Bharat Ratna Award.

C These celebrities passed away in 2025.

D These celebrities were born in the same year.

E These celebrities received Times Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2025.

87. Which Indian city has become home to the country's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum?

A Kolkata

B Pune

C Mumbai

D Hyderabad

E Bengaluru

88. India recently launched its first indigenous 64-bit dual-core microprocessor. What is it named?

A DHRUV64

B VEGA-X

C SHAKTI-64

D ARYA-Core

E PRITHVI-9

89. Match the legendary Indian Musician in Column A with the musical instruments they are famously associated with in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma	a. Sarod
2. Ustad Amjad Ali khan	b. Flute
3. Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia	c. Santoor
4. Ustad Bismillah Khan	d. Shehnai
5. U Srinivas	e. Mandolin

A 1-c, 2-d, 3-b, 4-e, 5-a

B 1-b, 2-e, 3-d, 4-a, 5-c

C 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-e, 5-d

D 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d, 5-e

E 1-e, 2-c, 3-d, 4-b, 5-a

90. Which of the following GST slabs was abolished, during GST rationalization, in September 2025?

A 25 Percent

B 12 Percent

C 18 Percent

D 5 Percent

E 40 Percent

91. Which of the following is the Oxford Word of the Year 2025?

A Rizz

B Rage bait

C Six-Seven

D Pookie

E Brain rot

92. Arrange the following generations from the oldest to the youngest:

1. Generation X
2. Silent Generation
3. Generation Alpha
4. Baby Boomers
5. Millennials

A 2, 4, 5, 1, 3

B 1, 2, 4, 5, 3

C 2, 1, 4, 5, 3

D 4, 2, 1, 5, 3

E 2, 4, 1, 5, 3

93. Which of the following BEST describes a startup that is resilient, built for a long-term survival, and is not focused on hyped-up valuation?

A Pegasus

B Unicorn

C Tortoise

D Leech

E Cockroach

94. What is the primary objective of “Project Suncatcher” that Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced recently?

A Building solar-powered smartphones.

B Deploying solar-powered AI data centers in space.

C Launching a global network of solar-powered drones.

D Creating a new AI model for weather prediction.

E Developing transparent solar panels for skyscrapers.

95. Which major Indian infrastructure project, featuring the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River, was fully integrated into the national network in 2025?

A Diamond Quadrilateral

B Namo Bharat RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System)

C Char Dham Highway Project

D Bharatmala Project

E USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link)

Answers

Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation

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

Decision Making

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

Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

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

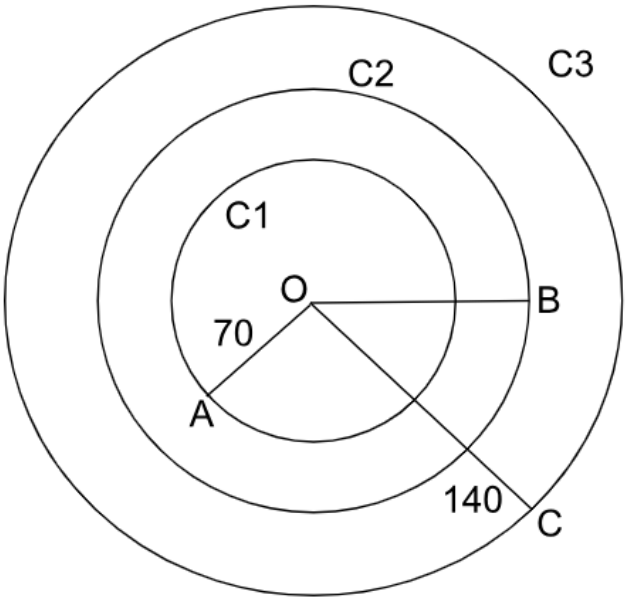
General Knowledge

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

Explanations

Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation

1. **D**



Three concentric circles C1, C2 and C3 with the radius OA, OB and OC are drawn.

OA, OB and OC are in AP (given).

OA = 70m, OB = (70 + d)m, OC = (70 + 2d)m , where, d is the common difference.

OC = 70+2d = 140 (given)

d = 35m

OB = 70 + 35 = 105m

The soldiers are standing on the circumference of these three circles at a distance of 1m. Hence, to find the total number of soldiers, we have the find the length of the circumference of all three circles.

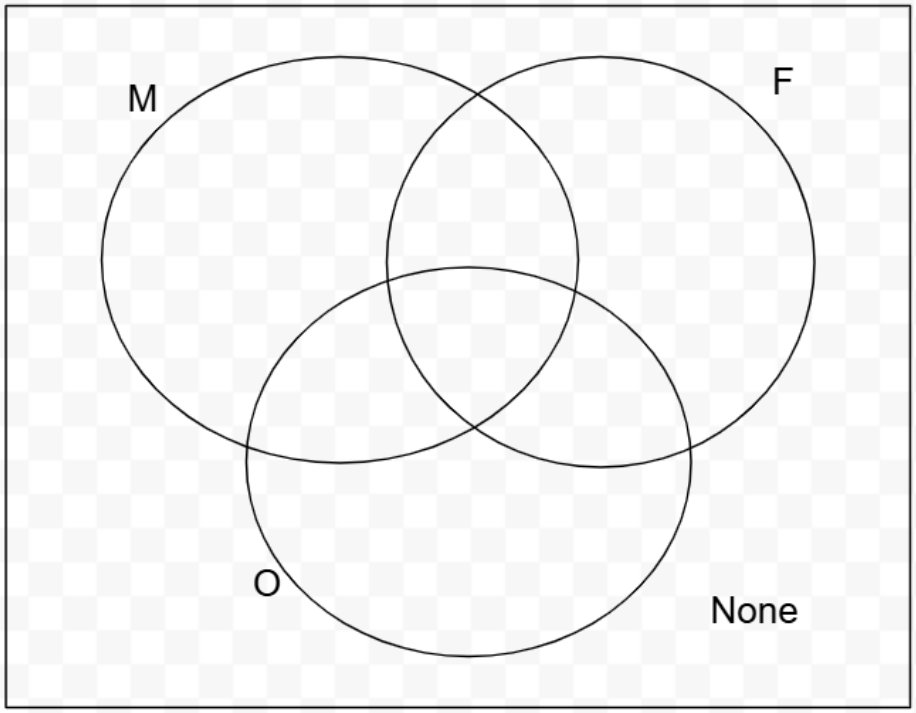
Total circumference = $2\pi\ (r1 + r2 + r3)$

= $2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times (70 + 105 + 140)$ = 1980

Hence, the total number of soldiers are 1980.

$\therefore$ The required answer is D.

2. **A**



In the above figure, let the number of students specializing in :

Only marketing = a, Only finance = b, Only operations = c

Both marketing and finance but not operations = d, Both marketing and operations but not finance = e, Both finance and operations but not marketing = f

All three subjects = g, None of the subjects = h

Now it is given that only students having an specialization in marketing or finance gets a consulting shortlist. So, we can say that students doing specialization only in operations and students not doing specialization in any of the 3 subjects will not get a shortlist.

Hence, c + h = 45 (given) $\longrightarrow i$

Number of students doing specialization in marketing = a + d + e + g = 60 (given) $\longrightarrow ii$

Number of students doing specialization in finance = b + d + g + f = 50 (given) $\longrightarrow iii$

Number of students doing specialization in operations = c + e + g + f = 30 (given) $\longrightarrow iv$

Number of students who received the consulting shortlist = a + b + d + e + f + g = 75 $\longrightarrow v$

By using equation iv and v, we get,

a + b + d + 30 - c = 75

a + b + d = 45 + c $\longrightarrow vi$

Add equation ii and iii,

a + b + d + (d + g) + e + f + g = 110 $\longrightarrow vii$

Now, using equation iv, vi and vii, we get,

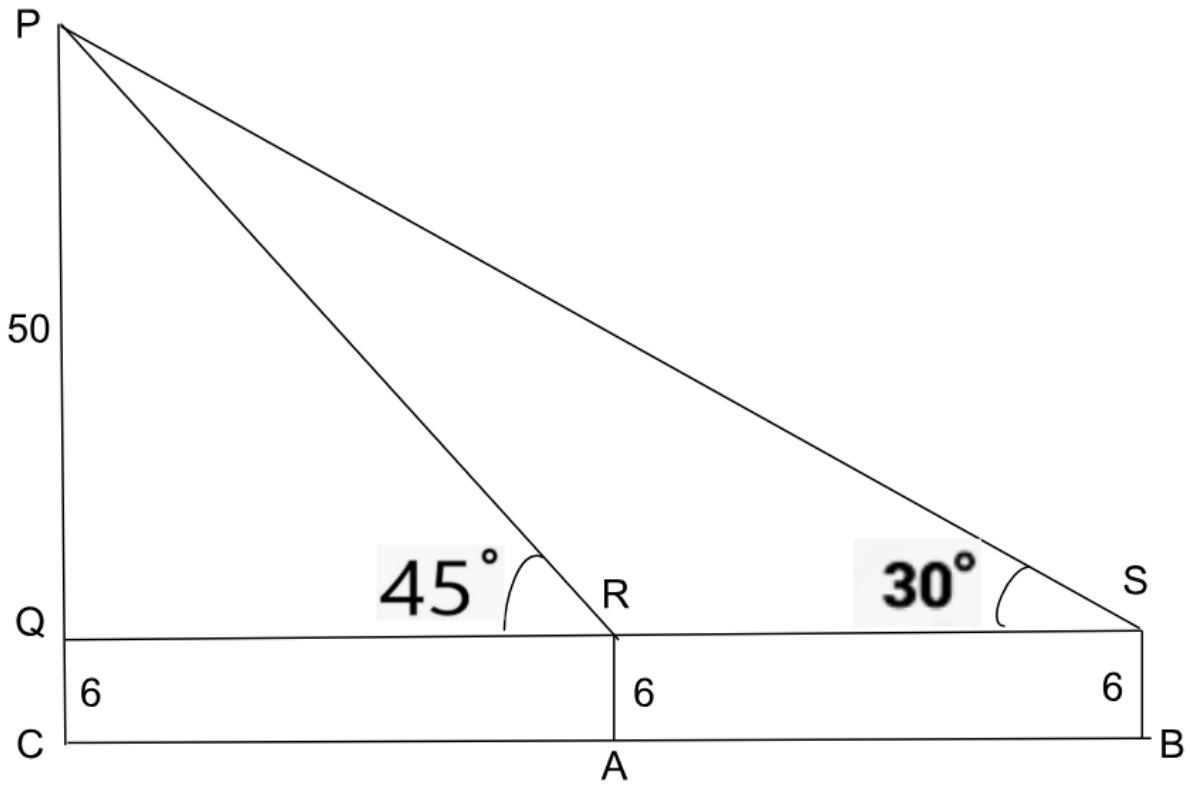
45 + c + (d + g) + 30 - c = 110

d + g = 35

Hence, the number of students specializing in marketing and finance = 35

$\therefore$ The required answer is A.

3. **C**



Let the tree be PC and the archer be RA.

Given : Height of the tree = 56ft, height of the archer up to the eye level = 6ft, angle of elevation at point A = 45° , angle of elevation at point B = 30°

To find : Length of AB

In △ PQR, $\tan\ 45^\circ\ =\ \frac{PQ}{QR}\ =\ \frac{50}{QR}$

QR = 50ft (as $\tan\ 45^\circ\ =\ 1$)

Now, in $\triangle\ PQS$,

$\tan\ 30^\circ\ =\ \frac{PQ}{QS}\ =\ \frac{PQ}{QR+RS}\ =\ \frac{50}{50+RS}$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\ =\ \frac{50}{50+RS}$

RS = $50\ \left(\sqrt{3}\ -1\right)$ ft

Since RS = AB, AB = $50\ \left(\sqrt{3}\ -1\right)$ ft

Hence, the length of AB is $50\ \left(\sqrt{3}\ -1\right)$ feet

∴ The required answer is C.

4. **D**

Let the maximum allowed speed from Jamshedpur to Kolkata be s1 kmph and the maximum allowed speed from Kolkata to Jamshedpur be s2 kmph. Since the bus is moving at the maximum allowed speed then we can say that the speed of the bus moving from Jamshedpur to Kolkata (Bus 1) is s1 kmph and the speed of the bus moving from Kolkata to Jamshedpur (Bus 2) is s2 kmph.

Time taken by Bus 1 to travel from Jamshedpur to Kolkata = 4 hrs

Distance travelled by Bus 1 = 4 × s1

Time taken by Bus 2 to travel from Kolkata to Jamshedpur = 3 hrs

Distance travelled by Bus 1 = 3 × s2

Since both the bus is travelling on the same road, the distance travelled by both the buses will be same.

4 × s1 = 3 × s2

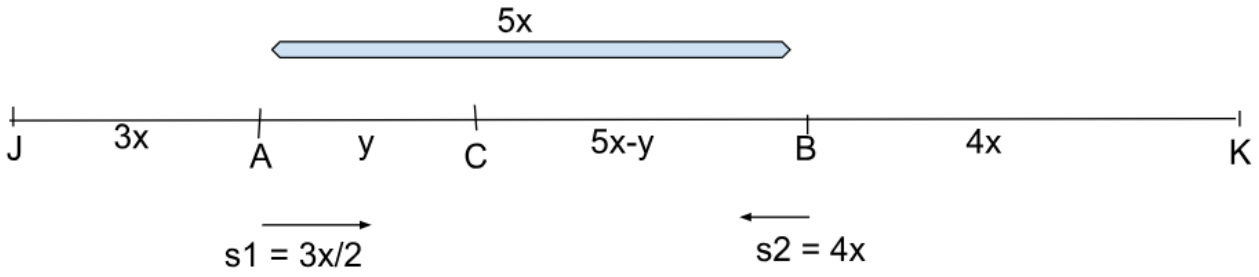
$\frac{s1}{s2} = \frac{3}{4}$

The ratio of speed of Bus 1 to the speed of Bus 2 is 3:4.

Hence, let the speed of Bus 1 be 3x kmph and the speed of Bus 2 be 4x kmph.

Total distance travelled by the buses = $4 \times\ 3x\ = 3 \times\ 4x = 12x$

Now, both the buses started at the same time and travelled at the maximum allowed speed for 1 hr.



Distance travelled by Bus 1= JA = $3x \times\ 1 = 3x$

Distance travelled by Bus 2= KB = $4x \times\ 1 = 4x$

Distance left to be travelled= AB = $12x - (3x + 4x) = 5x$

Now, the speed of Bus 1 is reduced to half due to congestion.

New speed of Bus 1 = $\frac{3x}{2}$

After the reduction of speed, let the two buses meet at point C and the time taken by both the buses to reach C is the same.

Let the distance travelled by Bus 1 from A to C be y km.

BC = 5x-y km

Hence, $\frac{y}{\frac{3x}{2}} = \frac{5x-y}{4x}$

y = $\frac{15x}{11}$

Time required = $\frac{\frac{15x}{11}}{\frac{3x}{2}} = \frac{10}{11}$ hrs

Total time required for both the buses to meet = $\frac{10}{11} + 1 = \frac{21}{11}$ hrs

Hence, both the buses will meet after $\frac{21}{11}$ hrs from starting.

$\therefore$ The required answer is D.

5. **E**

For Chhuttan,

Perimeter of his land = 2 (l + b) = 250m

l + b = 125m $\longrightarrow\ i$

$\frac{l}{b} = \frac{4}{1}$ (Given) $\longrightarrow\ ii$

From i and ii, we get,

4b + b = 125

b = 25m

l = 100m

Area of Chhuttan's land = 100 $\times$ 25 = 2500 m^2

Loan given to Chhuttan by Brijbhushan = 2500 $\times 10$ = Rs 25000

Interest rate of the loan = 10%

Interest owed by Chhuttan at the end of one year = 10% × Rs 25000 = Rs 2500

∴ The required answer is E.

6. **C**

Let the name of farmers be A,B,C,D,G for simplicity.

Let the area of G's plot be x m^2.

Area of A's plot = 3x m^2

Let area of D's plot be y m^2.

The area of A's plot is the average of the area of D's and G's plot.

3x = $\frac{x+y}{2}$

y = 5x m^2

The width of the plot of A,B and D is the same and the lengths are different. Let the length of the plot of A,B and D be l1,l2 and l3 respectively and the width be y.

We got the following table.

Farmers	Length	Width	Area
A	l1	y	3x
B	l2	y	
C	100	25	2500
D	l3	y	5x
G			x

From A's plot, $l1 \times y = 3x$

$l1 = \frac{3x}{y}$

From D's plot, $l3 \times y = 5x$

$l3 = \frac{5x}{y}$

The length of B's plot is the sum of the length of A's plot and D's plot.

l2 = l1 + l3 = $\frac{8x}{y}$

Hence, the area of B's plot = $l2 \times y = 8x$

The required final table is :

Farmers	Length	Width	Area
A	l1	y	3x
B	l2	y	8x
C	100	25	2500
D	l3	y	5x
G			x

Total area of all plots = 2500 + 17x

Total loan given by Brijbhushan = $Rs\ (2500 + 17x) \times\ 10$

Since, we have to maximize the loan amount, we have to maximize the value of x.

The largest area of a land = $10000\ m^2$ (Given)

Among the farmers, B will have the land with the largest area.

8x = 10000 m^2

x = 1250 m^2

Hence, maximum loan given by Brijbhushan = $Rs\ ((1250 \times\ 17) + 2500) \times\ 10$ = Rs 237500

$\therefore$ The required answer is C.

7. **B**

Let the name of farmers be A,B,C,D,G for simplicity.

Let the area of G's plot be x m^2.

Area of A's plot = 3x m^2

Let area of D's plot be y m^2.

The area of A's plot is the average of the area of D's and G's plot.

3x = $\frac{x+y}{2}$

y = 5x m^2

The width of the plot of A,B and D is the same and the lengths are different. Let the length of the plot of A,B and D be l1,l2 and l3 respectively and the width be y.

We got the following table.

Farmers	Length	Width	Area
A	l1	y	3x
B	l2	y	
C	100	25	2500
D	l3	y	5x
G			x

From A's plot, $l1 \times\ y = 3x$

$l1 = \frac{3x}{y}$

From D's plot, $l3 \times\ y = 5x$

$l3 = \frac{5x}{y}$

The length of B's plot is the sum of the length of A's plot and D's plot.

l2 = l1 + l3 = $\frac{8x}{y}$

Hence, the area of B's plot = $l2 \times\ y = 8x$

The required final table is :

Farmers	Length	Width	Area
A	l1	y	3x
B	l2	y	8x
C	100	25	2500
D	l3	y	5x
G			x

The width of A's plot = 25m

y = 25m

For B's plot, $l2 \times 25 = 8x$

To minimize the value of l2, we have to minimize the value of x.

Minimum possible area of land among the farmers = 1000 m^2

Smallest area of land = G's land = x m^2

x = 1000

Hence, minimum value of l2 = $\frac{8 \times 1000}{25} = 320\ m$

$\therefore$ The required answer is B.

8. **C**

A seven-digit number 735x6y4 is divisible by 44. It means that the number is also divisible by 4 and 11.

Divisibility rule of 4 = Last two digits of the number is divisible by 4.

Divisibility rule of 11 = Sum of odd digits starting from left - Sum of even digits starting from left

For the given number to be divisible by 4, y4 should be divisible by 4.

So, the possible values of y = 0,2,4,6,8

For the number to be divisible by 11, (7+5+6+4)-(3+x+y) = 19-(x+y) should be divisible by 11.

Case 1 : Both x and y are even numbers.

If y = 0, x = 8

If y = 2, x = 6

If y = 4, x = 4

If y = 6, x = 2

If y = 8, x = 0

In this case, we got 5 different combinations of values.

Case 2 : Both x and y are equal.

If y = 4, x = 4

In this case, we got a unique solution.

Hence, we only need condition 2 to uniquely determine the values of x and y.

$\therefore$ The required answer is C.

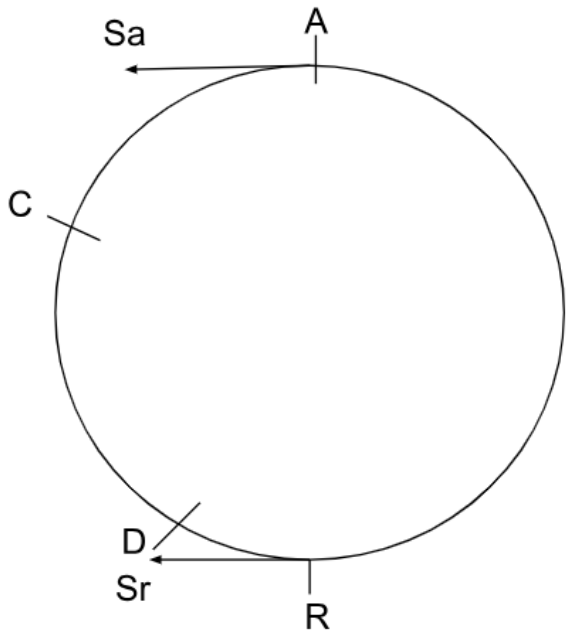
9. **D**

Let us denote Ayub and Rana as A and R respectively for simplicity.

Let the speed of A and B in still water be Sa and Sr respectively and the speed of river be r.

r = 3 kmph = 50 $\frac{m}{\min}$ (clockwise)

Sr = 3 kmph = 50 $\frac{m}{\min}$ (clockwise)



Since A is swimming in counter clockwise direction and R is swimming in clockwise direction, let C be the point where they meet for the first time.

Distance travelled by A = AC = 60m

Speed of A = (Sa-50) $\frac{m}{\min}$ (as he is travelling in counter clockwise direction which is upstream)

Time taken by A to reach C = $\frac{60}{Sa-50}\min$

Speed of R = (Sr+50) $\frac{m}{\min}$ (as he is travelling in clockwise direction which is downstream)

= 100 $\frac{m}{\min}$

Since, the time taken by R to reach C is the same as the time taken by A to reach C (as they started swimming at the same time), distance travelled by R = RC = $\frac{100\times 60}{Sa-50}m$

Total distance travelled by both A and R = AC + RC = $\frac{6000}{Sa-50}+60\ m$

As A and R travelled in opposite directions from exactly diametrical ends, the distance A to R will be half of the circumference of the circle.

$\pi\ r$ = $\frac{6000}{Sa-50}+60\ m\longrightarrow\ i$

Now, let's assume that they meet again at D after R travelled for 180m,

Time taken for them to meet again = $\frac{180}{100}\min$

Distance travelled by A = CD (in counter clockwise direction) = $\frac{(Sa-50)\times\ 180}{100}m$

Distance travelled by R = CD (in clockwise direction) = 180m

Total distance travelled = $\frac{(Sa-50)\times\ 180}{100}m$ + 180 m

This distance will be equal to the circumference of the circle.

Hence, $2\pi\ r$ = $\frac{(Sa-50)\times\ 180}{100}m$ + 180 m $\longrightarrow\ ii$

Take the value of $\pi\ r$ from equation i and substitute it in equation ii.

$\frac{12000}{Sa-50}+120=\frac{180(Sa-50)}{100}+180$

Let the value of Sa-50 be t.

$\frac{12000}{t}+120=\frac{180(t)}{100}+180$

$3t^2+100t-20000=0$

t = $\frac{200}{3}$, -100 (Not possible as the speed can't be negative)

Sa-50 = $\frac{200}{3}$

Sa = $\frac{350}{3}\ \frac{m}{\min}$

Use this value in equation ii to get, $2\pi\ r$ = 300m

Speed of A when he is swimming in clockwise direction = $\frac{350}{3} + 50$

= $\frac{500}{3}\ \frac{m}{\min}$

Time taken by A to complete one round of the circular strip = $\frac{300}{\frac{500}{3}}\ \min$

= $\frac{9}{5}\ \min$ = 1 min 48 sec

Hence, the time taken by A to complete one round of the circular strip is 1 min 48 sec.

$\therefore$ The answer is D.

10. **D**

125 = 5^3

10 = $2 \times\ 5$

15 = $3 \times\ 5$

In each step, we are multiplying 125 by either 10 or 15. So, the power of 5 and the power of either 2 or 3 will only increase by one in every step. So at any point of time, the difference between the power of 5 and the power of 2 and 3 combined will remain constant (which is 3).

Option A : Power of 5 = 691

Power of 2 = 235

Power of 3 = 453

Difference of powers = 691 - (235+453) = 3

Option B : Power of 5 = 1080

Power of 2 = 253

Power of 3 = 824

Difference of powers = 1080 - (235+824) = 3

Option C : Power of 5 = 1604

Power of 2 = 689

Power of 3 = 912

Difference of powers = 1604 - (689+912) = 3

Option D : Power of 5 = 1034

Power of 2 = 476

Power of 3 = 455

Difference of powers = 1034 - (476+455) = 103

Option E : Power of 5 = 1145

Power of 2 = 689

Power of 3 = 453

Difference of powers = 1145 - (689+453) = 3

Only in option D the difference of power is different than 3.

$\therefore$ The answer is D.

12. **C**

Let the number of correct and wrong questions be x and y respectively.

Number of unattempted questions = 20 - (x+y) $\longrightarrow i$

4 marks are awarded for every correct questions and 2 and 1 marks are deducted for every wrong and unattempted questions respectively.

Total original marks scored = 4x-2y-((20-(x+y)) = 5x-y-20 $\longrightarrow ii$

But the teacher deducted 1 and 2 marks for every wrong and unattempted questions respectively by mistake.

Total marks = 4x-y-2(20-x-y) = 6x+y-40

Total marks = 46 (given)

6x+y-40 = 46

6x+y = 86

The possible pairs of (x,y) are (14,2), (13,8), (12,14), ... , (1,80), (0,86).

x+y = 16, 21, 26, ... , 81,86

Only one case will be possible as (x+y) $\leq$ 20 (as equation i ≥ 0)

Hence, Number of correct questions = x = 14

Number of wrong questions = y = 2

Number of unattempted questions = 20 - (14+2) = 4

Hence, final marks = $(5 \times 14) - 2 - 20$ = 48 (from equation ii)

$\therefore$ The required answer is C.

13. **B**

Given : f(0,y) = y+1 and f(x+1,y) = f(x,f(x,y)) + x

To find : f(2,2)

f(x+1,y) = f(x,f(x,y)) + x

Let x=0

f(1,y) = f(0,f(0,y))

f(1,y) = f(0,y+1) (as f(0,y) = y+1 (given))

f(1,y) = (y+1)+1 = y+2

Hence, f(1,y) = y+2 $\longrightarrow i$

Now,

f(x+1,y) = f(x,f(x,y)) + x

Let x=1

f(2,y) = f(1,f(1,y)) + 1

f(2,y) = f(1,y+2) + 1 (from equation i)

f(2,y) = (y+2) + 2 + 1 = y+5

Put y=2

f(2,2) = 2+5 =7

$\therefore$ The required answer is B.

14. **B**

List of all prime numbers less than 25 = 2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,23 = 9 numbers

a_1 = 2, a_2 = 3, a_3 = 5, a_4 = 7, a_5 = 11, a_6 = 13, a_7 = 17, a_8 = 19, a_9 = 23

Sum of all the above prime numbers (a_1 + a_2 + ... + a_9) = 100

$X_i = \frac{b_i}{a_i}$,where, b_i = Sum of all prime numbers a_1 to a_n except a_i

Example : b_3 is the sum of all the prime numbers a_1 to a_9 except a_3.

X_1 = $\frac{b_1}{a_1}$ = $\frac{100-a_1}{a_1}$ = $\frac{100-2}{2}$ = 49

X_2 = $\frac{b_2}{a_2}$ = $\frac{100-a_2}{a_2}$ = $\frac{100-3}{3}$ = $\frac{97}{3}$

X_3 = $\frac{b_3}{a_3}$ = $\frac{100-a_3}{a_3}$ = $\frac{100-5}{5}$ = 19

X_4 = $\frac{b_4}{a_4}$ = $\frac{100-a_4}{a_4}$ = $\frac{100-7}{7}$ = $\frac{93}{7}$

X_5 = $\frac{b_5}{a_5}$ = $\frac{100-a_5}{a_5}$ = $\frac{100-11}{11}$ = $\frac{89}{11}$

X_6 = $\frac{b_6}{a_6}$ = $\frac{100-a_6}{a_6}$ = $\frac{100-13}{13}$ = $\frac{87}{13}$

X_7 = $\frac{b_7}{a_7}$ = $\frac{100-a_7}{a_7}$ = $\frac{100-17}{17}$ = $\frac{83}{17}$

X_8 = $\frac{b_8}{a_8}$ = $\frac{100-a_8}{a_8}$ = $\frac{100-19}{19}$ = $\frac{81}{19}$

X_9 = $\frac{b_9}{a_9}$ = $\frac{100-a_9}{a_9}$ = $\frac{100-23}{23}$ = $\frac{77}{23}$

B is the set of all integer-valued X_i = {X_1, X_3} = {49, 19}

The smallest element of B = 19

$\therefore$ The required answer is B.

16. **B**

Let the price of blueberries, kiwis and peaches be Rs b, k and p respectively.

Money spent on blueberries = Rs 9b

Money spent on kiwis = Rs 22k

Money spent on peaches = Rs 50p

Since, money spent everyday is the same,

9b = 22k = 50p = M , where, M is the total money spent everyday.

b = $\frac{M}{9}$

k = $\frac{M}{22}$

p = $\frac{M}{50}$

Since, b, k and p are integers, M should be the LCM of (9,22,50).

M = LCM (9,22,50) = LCM (22,450) = Rs 4950

Total money spent on the 4th day = Rs 4950 - Rs 15 = Rs 4935

Weight of mangoes bought on the 4th day = $\frac{Rs\ 4935}{Rs\ \frac{35}{kg}}$ = 141 kg

Cost Price of mangoes = Rs 35/kg

Sell Price of mangoes = Rs 50/kg

Profit on 4th day = $\frac{Rs\ (50-35)}{kg}$ $\times$ 141 kg = Rs 2115

Hence, the minimum possible profit on the 4th day is Rs 2115.

$\therefore$ The required answer is B.

17. **C**

$x + y^2 + z^3 = 50$

Let z = 1, $x + y^2 = 49$

Pairs of (x,y) = (48,1),(45,2),(40,3),(33,4),(24,5),(13,6) = 6 solutions

Let z = 2, $x + y^2 = 42$

Pairs of (x,y) = (41,1),(38,2),(33,3),(26,4),(17,5),(6,6) = 6 solutions

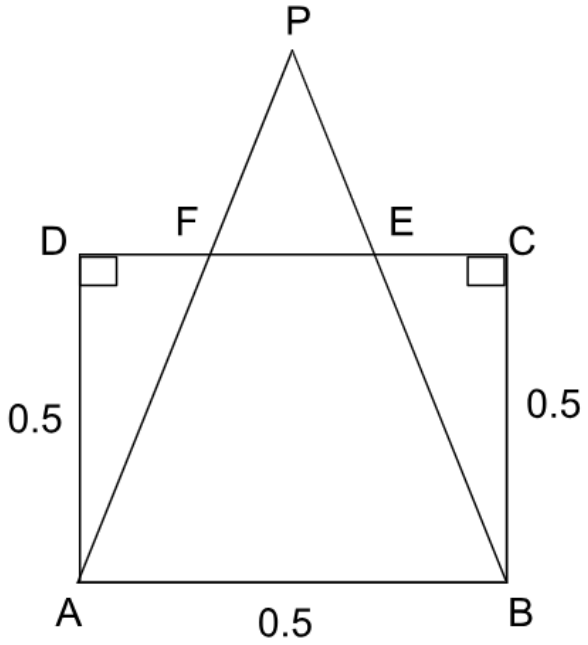
Let z = 3,$x + y^2 = 23$

Pairs of (x,y) = (22,1),(19,2),(14,3),(7,4) = 4 solutions

Total possible solutions = 16

$\therefore$ The required answer is C.

19. **C**



The figure of one of the structure is given above.

Since, ABCD is a square, AB = CD = 0.5 m

Now, CE=EF=DF= (Given) = CD/3 = $\frac{0.5}{3} = \frac{1}{6}m$

Let PE = x m and EB = y m respectively.

In $\triangle$ PFE and $\triangle$ PAB,

$\angle P = \angle P$ (common angle)

$\angle PFE = \angle PAB$ (since FE is parallel to AB)

Hence, $\triangle$ PFE and $\triangle$ PAB are similar.

$\frac{PE}{PB} = \frac{FE}{AB}$

$\frac{PE}{PE+EB} = \frac{FE}{AB}$

$\frac{x}{x+y} = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{0.5}$

y = 2x i.e. EB = 2 × PE

Now, in △ ECB,

$EB^2 = EC^2 + CB^2$

$(2x)^2 = \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2$

$x = \frac{\sqrt{10}}{12} m$

PB = PE + EB = x + 2x = 3x = $\frac{\sqrt{10}}{4}$ m

Length of the structure = PA + PB + AB + BC + CD + DA

= $\frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$

= $\left(2 + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{2}\right)$m

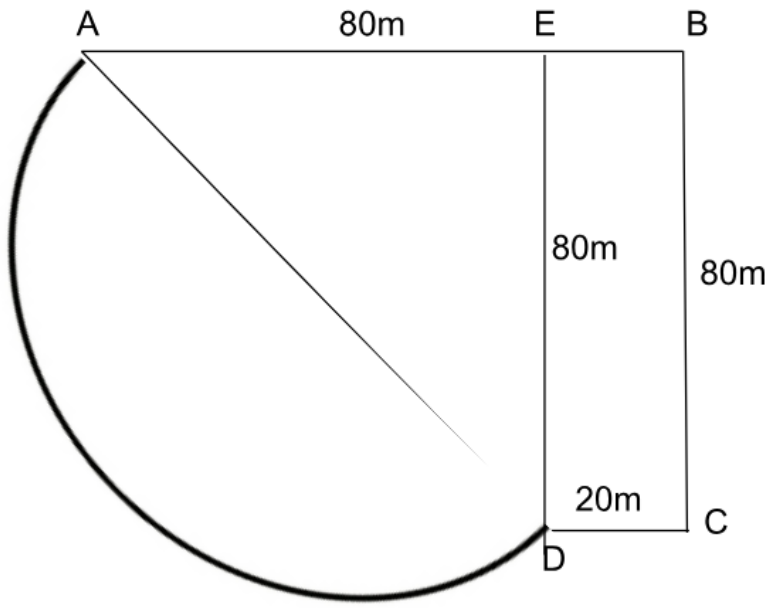
Length of 20 such structures = $\left(2 + \frac{\sqrt{10}}{2}\right) \times 20$

= $10\left(4 + \sqrt{10}\right) m$

∴ The required answer is C.

20. **A**

The figure of the path is given below. Gate 1 and Gate 2 is situated at A and B respectively.



We have drawn ED which is perpendicular to AB in order to get a right angled triangle AED where AE = 60m and ED = 80m.

From pythagoras theorem, $AD^2 = AE^2 + ED^2$

$AD^2 = 60^2 + 80^2$

AD = 100m

Length of the semi circular path AD = $\pi\ r = \pi\ \left(\frac{AD}{2}\right)$ = 50π = 157 m

Length of path ABCD = 80+80+20 = 180 m

A person entered through gate 1 and travelled along path 1 and path 2 and exited from gate 1.

Total distance covered = 180+157 = 337m

Speed of the person = 5 kmph = $\frac{5 \times 1000}{60} = \frac{250}{3}\ \frac{m}{\min}$

Total time taken = $\frac{337}{\frac{250}{3}} \min$ = 4 min (approx)

So the total time taken for the person to travel across the park is 4 min.

$\therefore$ The required answer is A.

21. **E**

The 5 digits which are used in the combination lock are 9,8,7,5 and 4.

The sum of first 3 digits and the last 3 digits are divisible by 3. Hence, we can say that the third digit is common in both the combinations.

The possible groups of 3 digits whose sum is divisible by 3 are (9,8,7),(9,8,4),(9,7,5),(9,5,4).

Out of these 4 possible groups, we have to select two groups which can be used as the first and last 3 digits.

The selection should be done in such a way that both the groups should only have one digit in common.

Example : If we select (9,8,7) and (9,8,4) and let the middle digit be 9, then we will have 8 in both the first 3 digits and the last 3 digits which is only possible for the 3rd digit which is occupied by 9 in this case. Hence, this case is not possible.

So the only possible combinations for the first and last 3 digits are :

Case 1: (9,8,7) and (9,5,4) where the 3rd digit will be 9.

Case 2: (9,8,4) and (9,7,5) where the 3rd digit will be 9.

Now, it is given that the sum of the last 4 digits is divisible by 4.

The possible cases of the above scenario are :

Case 3: (9,8,7,4) where the first digit will be 5.

Case 4: (8,7,5,4)where the first digit will be 9 which is not possible as 9 is fixed as the 3rd digit from Case 1 and 2.

Since, the first digit is 5 and the third digit is 9, the second digit will either be 4 or 7 and the last two digits will be either (8,7) or (8,4)

So, the possible combinations of the lock are 54987, 54978, 57984 and 57948.

Hence, the option which is definitely false is E as no possible combinations has 8 as its 2nd digit.

$\therefore$ The required answer is E.

22. **B**

The length, width and height of Tank 1 is m meters each.

Volume of Tank 1 = m^3 cubic meters

The length, width and height of Tank 2 is n meters each.

Volume of Tank 2 = n^3 cubic meters

The length, width and height of Tank 3 is m, n and 1 m respectively.

Volume of Tank 3 = mn cubic meters

Since, Tank 1 is filled first and after Tank 1 is full, water is flowing into Tank 2 and Tank 3,

Volume of water left in Tank 1 after Tank 2 and Tank 3 are filled = $\left(m^3 - n^3 - mn\right)$ cubic meters

Volume of water left in Tank 1 = 85000 L (given) = $85m^3$

Hence, $\left(m^3 - n^3 - mn\right)$ = 85 , where, m and n are integers.

$n^3 + mn = m^3 - 85$

From option B, we get $n^3 + 7n = 258 \longrightarrow$ n=6

From option C, we get $n^3 + 5n = 40 \longrightarrow$ No integer solution

From option D, we get $n^3 + 6n = 131 \longrightarrow$ No integer solution

From option E, we get $n^3 + 10n = 915 \longrightarrow$ No integer solution

Hence, we got m = 7 and n = 6.

∴ The required answer is B.

Decision Making

Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

52. **C**

On the initial glance itself the cartoon seems to be depicting the **sheep as being appreciative of the fact that the predator on the poster is coming out clean and clear about his intentions**- of eating the sheep, even though the intent is harmful to the sheep.

Option A: Incorrect. Though it seems like a legitimate option but in this case truth being called more powerful than manipulation is highlighting a positive aspect of truth, hinting that it might help the sheep. But here the truth is not helping out the sheep. It is just serving as a blunt statement.

Option B: Incorrect. The image in no way conveys the ease of believing selfish assurances (negative) over altruistic promises (positive). There is no comparison being drawn between the two.

Option C: Correct. This is exactly what the cartoon implies. **The sheep prioritizes clarity and certainty despite being in probable danger.**

Option D: Incorrect. There is no submission to authority being indicated, only appreciation for clarity.

Option E: Incorrect. There is no learning to be taken away about leaders, neither there is a mention of a leader. It's just a direct interpretation of a cartoon.

59. **C**

The author starts the discussion by writing about World Wars I and II, saying that although the weaknesses of liberal democracies surfaced after the First World War and then faded after the Second, primarily because of the highly successful domestic and international institutions, they never really went away. The author continues the discussion by discussing the various deficiencies of liberal democracies. In this discussion, the author points out that, since liberal democracies restrain majorities, the quick and decisive execution of policies is often hindered. From this, the author concludes that "liberal democracy requires more patience than many possess." Option C captures this best and is the correct answer.

Option A talks about the fact that liberal democracies are conservative, which has not been discussed in the paragraph, and also contradicts the very name of 'liberal' that the author attaches to the noun. Option B is partially true, but exaggerates the ideas by writing that 'all views must be considered.' Option D presents a wrong binary; a liberal democracy is only said to be restraining majorities, not necessarily preferring the views of the minorities. Option E is incorrect, environmental impact as a consideration that hinders all progress and forces liberal democracies to be more 'patient' is a limited way of looking at why the author discussed the point. Option C remains the correct answer.

60. **D**

The author discusses the second problem of liberal democracies by writing that liberal democracy "requires tolerance for minority views and ways of life to which many citizens are deeply opposed." This leads to a few groups of people holding divergent values and ideologies that, as a state, the liberal democracy does not share. Due to this, individuals belonging to those groups often find themselves carrying a 'civic identity' (one that aligns with the values of the liberal democracy as a state), and a 'personal or group identity' (one that an individual holds dear and aligns with the values of the group that he or she belongs to). Therefore, option D, "by tolerating the views we disagree with, we suffer from multiple identities," follows directly from the information presented in the passage.

Option A does not capture the third problem: the identity crisis arising from the misalignment between individual and civic values. Because it addresses only what this issue would appear to be on the surface, it is incorrect. Option B presents a comparative lever, that the intensity of our permissibility of how much we accept a particular point of view is a function of how much liberal democracy forces us to accept that view, which is not discussed in the passage. Option C hints at the fact that, as individuals, we often tolerate unpopular views as we understand that the person holding the views has the right to have those views; this does not capture that, inherently, individuals often tolerate unpopular views only on the surface, and might have multiple identities ('civic' and 'group' identity). Option E is partly true; it hinges on the distinction between 'having' a civic identity versus 'demonstrating' a civic identity, the former of which is discussed in the passage, but the latter is not. Option D remains the correct answer.

61. **E**

The author discusses the 'necessity of compromise' by mentioning the fourth inherent difficulty of a liberal democracy. An individual would not believe in something that he or she considers to be bad and false, i.e, they would always believe that what they hold as an ideology is 'good and true', thus, it can be said that liberal democracy forces people to compromise by having them accept views that they do not consider to be aligning with their definitive ideas of good and true. The author says that the alternative to this compromise is either inaction (do nothing about the situation at hand) or oppression (force minorities to give up their perception of truth), which, more or less, are both damaging.

Option A is incorrect, as the compromise is discussed as a forced proposition among citizens in a liberal democracy, not as a threat to its ideals in and of itself. Option B is incorrect. Although it is true that we want our ideas reflected in the public sphere, it is also true that people often tolerate opposing views, and it is tolerance of opposing views that determines whether a liberal democracy is compromising. Option D is incorrect for the same reason as option C. Option E captures the nuances mentioned in the last paragraph by discussing liberty, compromise, incompatibility, and rights, and how they do not fit well with the compromise defined above. Option E is the correct answer.

62. **E**

The passage emphasises the importance of metaphors in communication among individuals who might not share the same language, writing that "Metaphorical imagination is a crucial skill in creating rapport and in communicating the nature of unshared experience." Based on this, let us analyse each option provided.

Option A is incorrect. The passage states only that metaphors are crucial for creating rapport and for communicating the nature of 'unshared experience', not merely for 'lived experience' that causes a gap in communication. An experience that is not a 'lived experience', such as an abstract thought or a fragment of an individual's imagination, can still be communicated through metaphors.

Option B is incorrect. The passage does not suggest that science can communicate complex ideas in 'simple ways' necessarily. Although the aspect of 'relatability' is somewhat implied.

Option C is incorrect; the fact that metaphors play a crucial role in communication does not follow from their capacity to build empathy and social understanding, but rather from their translational purpose of "creating rapport and in communicating the nature of unshared experience."

Option D is incorrect; the alignment of one's cultural knowledge or expertise with others as an argument about the importance of metaphors is limited in scope, based on the information provided in the passage.

Option E best follows from the arguments presented in the passage, as it captures the nuances of differences in lived experiences among individuals and how metaphors communicate those experiences to (and from) everyone.

63. **C**

The most appropriate way to answer the question on the perceived premise of the passage would be to analyse the ideas presented in each of the options one by one and then select the one that best captures the discussion.

Option A writes, "Large-scale communication systems, built on the CONDUIT metaphor, fuel misunderstanding and fracture social order." This cannot be the premise of the passage, as it is merely a limited account of the examples of the CONDUIT metaphor discussed in the last paragraph and of the discussions surrounding the CONDUIT metaphor.

Option B, assuming that the overview refers to the perspective a person has of effective communication, is not implied in the passage. The passage only addresses the communicative aspect, not whether the information conveyed through metaphors is subjective or objective. Another way to understand the meaning of 'overview' in this context is to say that it focuses primarily on conveying summaries rather than entire ideas, a point not hinted at in the passage.

Option C is a sound notion, based on the discussion in the passage. The very idea that we need metaphors to communicate unshared experiences, and that CONDUIT metaphors can turn from pathetic to evil "when they are applied indiscriminately on a large scale", because in CONDUIT metaphors, one person transmits a fixed, clear proposition to another by means of expressions in a common language, which not everyone shares. All these ideas support the conclusion that, for a genuine understanding of human interactions, we should acknowledge the limits of our own worldview.

Option D somewhat exaggerates the differences between people with shared and unshared language by claiming that it is rare for humans to achieve effortless understanding ('rare convenience'), which is not implied in the passage. All that the passage talks about is that "with enough flexibility in bending your world view and with luck and skill and charity, you may achieve some mutual understanding."

Option E, although a good statement, fails to capture why metaphors are discussed in the passage (especially why CONDUIT metaphors are discussed in the passage) and is incorrect.

The correct answer is option D.

64. **D**

The primary limitation of CONDUIT metaphors pointed out by the author lies in the fact that through the CONDUIT metaphor, "when it really counts, meaning is almost never communicated, that is, one person transmits a fixed, clear proposition to another by means of expressions in a common language, where both parties have all the relevant common knowledge, assumptions, values, etc." Thus, when it truly matters to communicate (meaning), in situations where people do not speak the same language, the CONDUIT metaphor is of no use.

Option A does not capture the limitations of unshared language discussed above. Whether the idea to be communicated is abstract or concrete, the CONDUIT metaphors fail to communicate it in scenarios in which the languages differ. Option B is incorrect because the very idea of communication is not necessarily to 'co-create understanding' but always to communicate one's interpretation/ knowledge to others.

Option C is incorrect; the limitation of the CONDUIT metaphor has little to do with its tendency to simplify ideas and avoid complexity, but rather with its limited capacity to account for the diverse interpretations people hold and the languages they speak.

Option D is correct: using a CONDUIT metaphor, "one person transmits a fixed, clear proposition," and therefore the underlying assumption behind a CONDUIT metaphor is that meaning spans all possible interpretations, i.e., that words (or language expressions in general) have inherent 'fixed' meanings.

Option E is incorrect as neither in the CONDUIT metaphor, nor in any other metaphor in general (that the author would discuss positively) is it the case that the efforts needed to interpret the message are taken into consideration/ ignored. What would be true is that, in CONDUIT metaphors, the meaning is never conveyed to someone who does not share the language, not that, even if the meaning *is* conveyed, the interpretive effort is ignored. Option D remains the correct answer.

65. **B**

Let us evaluate the structure of and the arguments presented in each of the paragraphs of the passage.

The first paragraph introduces the common thread that connects seemingly disparate practices that trolls engage in. Discussing the irony of lulz and the fact that trolls do not believe that anything should be taken seriously. The second paragraph discusses how trolls insist on the celebration of their anonymity and further

examines the benefits of anonymity that trolls enjoy, which they would not have had if they had used their real identities. The third paragraph, conversely, discusses how the lack of anonymity for the victim of trolling works to the victim's detriment, primarily because, for a troll, the internet should be an 'attachment-free zone.'

Since the passage does not imply that the victims of trolling are necessarily 'weak,' option A cannot be inferred and is incorrect. Option C is incorrect because the passage suggests that trolls gravitate toward public forums because they see them as places where they can be anonymous and engage in their pursuit of "lulz." Option D cannot be inferred from the discussions in the passage, as summarised above, and is also incorrect. It cannot be said that trolls use offensive and provocative comments to emotionally upset the targets. Option E also cannot be inferred from the information presented in the passage. According to the passage, trolls consider a person who is willing to disclose real-life attachments, interests, and vulnerabilities an immediate target for trolling. This is the same reason why option B is the correct answer.

66. **C**

In the second paragraph, the author writes that "anonymity allows trolls to engage in behaviors they would never replicate in professional or otherwise public settings, either because the specific behaviors would be considered socially unacceptable, or because the trolls' online persona would clash with their offline circumstances."

Based on this, option C directly follows and is the correct answer. Option A mentions that trolls aim to create 'caricatured versions of themselves' and is incorrect; trolls do not aim to create caricatured versions of themselves, but rather to spread or practice their ideas. Option B comes close, but also fails to capture the ideas of socially acceptable and unacceptable, and of professional and unprofessional behaviour. Option D talks about anonymity granting trolls the freedom to pursue their 'interests' and fails to capture that trolling, as a behaviour, might not qualify as an 'interest' in the first place. Option E is incorrect because the passage does not mention trolls as people with contradictory pursuits. The passage does talk about the irony of lulz and the trolls (in their own minds) doing their targets a favour, but the author never intends to pose these arguments as moral contradictions of the troll. Option C remains the correct answer.

67. **E**

In the final paragraph, the author writes that trolls frame their trolling explicitly in pedagogical terms (perhaps trying to 'teach' their victim the lesson that the internet is more of an 'attachment-free' zone than a place to disclose real-life attachments, interests, and vulnerabilities). The author says that trolls, in their own minds, understand this as a favour to the victim, causing the victim a sense of understanding that he or she perhaps did not have.

Option E captures this best: "trolls scare away their victims from being themselves ever again online," furthering their ideological stance that the internet is a place for anonymity. Option A is slightly broader than what the discussions in the passage intend to convey. The 'social conditioning' mentioned is not the same as 'internet conditioning' that the passage largely implies. Option B portrays the pursuit trolls engage in as largely positive, which the author would not agree with. Option C says that trolls make their targets resilient to any kind of bullying, which is false, as this is something only the trolls themselves believe. Option D is incorrect for the same reason as option B. Option E remains the correct answer.

68. **C**

Throughout the passage, the author emphasises that the pursuit of science is not towards moral correctness. The author uses the example of nuclear power and the discovery of fission, saying that someday or another, somewhere, we would have discovered nuclear power. These discoveries were going on at the time of Nazi Germany. To say then that physicists would have come together at as barbaric a place as the Nazi footholds to keep the discovery a secret is a stretch. The author is suggesting that the discovery of nuclear power was inevitable, regardless of its later consequences.

Option A is incorrect because the author repeatedly emphasises that science does not address moral questions, or that the moral quandary is not a consideration of science as it moves towards human discoveries; thus, science is neither benevolent nor not benevolent. Option B is incorrect. Although science lacks consideration of moral questions as it moves towards discovery, this is not because it is inconsiderate, but because it is a function of the pursuit of truth and not of morality. Option C is correct for the same reason; 'amoral' refers to something which is unconcerned with whether something is right or wrong.

Option D is incorrect; the author emphasises the pursuit of truth that science embodies, but also quotes Bohr by saying that science is a 'gradual removal of prejudices'. Since it cannot be said that science, at any point in time, has pursued the whole of the truth, option D cannot be inferred. Option E is incorrect for the same reason as option A, and also for the same reason why option C is correct; science is neither moral nor immoral, therefore, it is 'amoral'.

69. **B**

Option A can be inferred from the last paragraph. The author quotes Niels Bohr and writes that "the modest but relentless goal of science is the gradual removal of prejudices." Therefore, it can be said that science gradually removes false beliefs about the world. Option B claims that science is not driven by the pursuit of truth, which is contradicted when the author quotes Robert Oppenheimer by writing that "the deep things in science are not found because they are useful; they are found because it was possible to find them." Thus, it is not utility, but the pursuit of truth that drives science.

Option C can be inferred from the passage, the author writes, "Knowledge is itself the basis for civilisation, you cannot have the one without the other". Option D is also true as per the information provided ("the scientific method doesn't filter for benevolence"). Option E, lastly, can also be inferred from the information provided in the passage: "to stop it (a discovery), you would have had to stop physics."

Out of the options provided, only option B is false based on the information presented in the passage, and is the correct answer.

70. **A**

Based on the information provided in the passage about science and scientists in particular, let us analyse each option:

Option A is mostly true; the author keeps emphasising that science is amoral, that it indulges in the gradual removal of prejudices, and that the pursuit of knowledge is itself the basis of civilization. Option B conflates scientists only looking at the idea of truth as an inspiration to work towards making discoveries with scientists 'not caring' about the consequences of their work, and is incorrect.

Option C is incorrect, although science is amoral, and that it is unconcerned with moral priorities when it comes to the pursuit of truth, it cannot be said that science is not useful when it comes to answering moral questions. Science may provide insight into how we answer moral questions. Option D is incorrect; the author suggests throughout the passage that science can have both positive ('removal of prejudices') and negative ('weapons of mass destruction') effects in the real world. Option E is incorrect; although it is true that scientists (in general, according to the information provided in the passage) are driven by the urge to explore and not by the urge to produce consequences, there might indeed be exceptions.

Among the options provided, only option A can be inferred from the information presented in the passage, and is the correct answer.

71. **B**

Based on the information provided in the passage regarding social and temporal comparisons, let us analyse each option.

Option A mentions that temporal comparison relies on threat responses, whereas social comparison eliminates threat circuitry. The paragraph defines threat as 'a narrative sense of inferiority' or 'self-sabotage'. The author suggests that social comparison drives this loop of vulnerability, in which people with low self-esteem continually engage in upward comparison, which reinforces negative feedback. The author suggests that temporal comparison would sometimes be preferable to social comparison because it allows individuals to judge themselves against their past selves. The author also suggests that social comparison can still be a good measure if "we interpret comparison as information rather than a verdict".

Option A is incorrect based on the information provided; for the same reason, option B is correct.

Option C is incorrect as the passage does not suggest that temporal comparison relies on threat circuits. Option D is incorrect because social comparison tends to place individuals in a hierarchy, not temporal comparison. Option E is out of the scope of the passage's discussion because objectivity and emotional interpretations are not addressed in the passage's elaboration of social and temporal comparison. Option B remains the correct answer.

72. **A**

Based on the information provided in the passage regarding the effects of high/low self-esteem on an individual engaged in social and temporal comparisons, let us analyse each option.

Option A directly follows from "Those with a secure sense of self are more likely to use comparison as a learning tool" and is therefore correct. Option B misphrases the aspects discussed in the passage; although a high self-esteem contributes to the positive overall effect of upward comparison, it cannot be said that it 'ensures' that upward comparison 'must' yield positive results.

Also, based on the discussion in the passage, it can indeed be said that upward comparison is complemented by high self-esteem to produce positive results, but it cannot be said that high self-esteem affects upward comparison. High self-esteem affects the effects of upward comparison on individuals, but not upward comparison itself. Option C is incorrect.

Option D is incorrect because the passage only talks about a negative reinforcing loop that upward comparison creates in the context of low self-esteem, and does not say anything about how high self-esteem can be affected by a similar reinforcing loop. Option E is also incorrect because upward comparison is discussed as helpful ("Those with a secure sense of self are more likely to use comparison as a learning tool") when it contributes to the individual's growth positively.

73. **D**

Based on the information provided in the passage about comparison in general, let us analyse each option:

Option A follows from the discussion in the second paragraph: " The same external stimulus—a colleague's achievement, a peer's attractiveness, a friend's popularity—can have radically different effects depending on internal stability." The passage also discusses how we can alter our approach to and view of comparison: "The most skilful approach to comparison may lie not in eliminating it, but in reframing it as feedback."

Option B also follows from the passage, as discussed above. Option C follows from the discussion in the third paragraph of the passage: "Someone who feels unworthy may unconsciously seek out targets that reinforce that sense, perpetuating a narrative of inferiority." Option D is not implied in the passage. Although the author is clear about the positive effects of social comparison on individuals with high self-esteem, he does not indicate whether individuals with high self-esteem require temporal comparison. Option E, similar to option C, can also be inferred from the third paragraph.

As option D does not follow from the information about comparison laid out in the passage, it is the correct answer.

74. **E**

The author begins by discussing newspapers as hosting 'snakes' between them, but proceeds to write the following:

"That white corner has spread its hood.
A forked tongue
shoots out of its mouth."

The author compares the white corner of the newspaper to a snake spreading its hood. Although the author initially refers only to newspapers that shelter snakes, he subsequently compares the newspapers themselves to snakes. The most suitable choice, therefore, would be option E: "Old newspapers symbolize the repressed stories that may confront the present." Where repressed stories are alluded to as the author hints at ignorance in the face of information repeatedly through the stanzas.

Option A is incorrect because the author suggests that newspapers can be discarded in the morning (and thus disturbed), which may imply that ignored newspapers are more of a 'threat' as we continue to perceive them as such. Option B is incorrect because the paragraph does not indicate whether the newspapers' hostility is in any way related to societal voices. Option C is a good alternative to E, but calling the decay of knowledge 'turning into toxic remnants' does not capture the symbolism that is meant to be represented by newspapers themselves. Option D is incorrect for the same reason as option A, 'newspapers can be discarded in the morning' implies that they are more of a confrontation than a tangible future threat.

75. **A**

The author writes

"Keep your eyes closed.
Get rid of the whole goddamn pile if you
want to
in the morning."

There are multiple ways to interpret the stanza, such as:

1. Since newspapers are hinted to be symbolising repressed knowledge, perhaps saying that we should get rid of the whole goddamn pile in the morning, 'if we want to', would actually help us avoid confrontation. Or perhaps it also alludes to the fact that it is individual choice that determines how we react when we are confronted with ignorance.
2. The author might not be alluding to either ignorance or confrontation; maybe the author merely wants to point out that it is up to the individual how he/she approaches the knowledge, especially when it might be a threat.

Regardless of our interpretation of the stanza, there's an easier way to approach the question. Out of the five options provided, four of them, more or less, say the same thing. Options B, C, D, and E all talk about ignorance (escaping/ being delusional/ confrontation is not the best way/ better to avoid the past), whereas option A discusses 'acting on an unsettling past'. For this reason, option A is the correct answer.

General Knowledge