

## English Language Passage 16 (Mixed Pattern) (5 Questions)

Today, researchers believe that they have discovered some eighty to a hundred autoimmune disorders, including disorders as various as lupus, multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis. But exact numbers are hard to come by, because researchers still don't agree on how to define an autoimmune disease, and find it hard to come up with objective measures. Even the term "autoimmune disease" may be imprecise: we don't know in every case whether autoimmune dysfunction is the cause of the disease, rather than, say, a consequence.

In fact, autoimmune disease is as much of a medical frontier today as syphilis or tuberculosis was in the nineteenth century. And yet some researchers say that the number of cases is rising at almost epidemic rates. It is a leading cause of illness in young women. (Three-quarters of autoimmune patients are women.) Some researchers—devotees of "bored immune system" theory—attribute the rise to our newly hygienic world: with too little to do, our immune system turns on itself. Others think it's the opposite problem: our immune system is overstimulated by the chemicals and toxins in our environment, confusing those molecules with molecules native to the body. The explanation could involve both, or neither.

My experience of feeling unwell for years before I got a diagnosis turned out to be typical. According to AARDA, it takes an average of nearly five years (and five doctors) for a sufferer to be given a diagnosis. Patients can end up consulting different specialists for different symptoms: a dermatologist, an endocrinologist, an immunologist, a neurologist, a rheumatologist. A lot of people with autoimmune diseases would like to see the establishment of clinical autoimmune centers, where a single doctor would coordinate and oversee a patient's care, as at a cancer center. (Israel now has one, the first of its kind.) Virginia Ladd, the president and executive director of AARDA, told me that funding is a problem: donors tend to give to specific diseases, and, because few people understand the connection between M.S. and ulcerative colitis and Hashimoto's, no one gives to "autoimmunity" as a category. (Eighty-five per cent of Americans can't name an autoimmune disease.)

One of the hardest things about being chronically ill is that most people find what you're going through incomprehensible—if they believe you are going through it. In your loneliness, your preoccupation with an enduring new reality, you want to be understood in a way that you can't be. "Pain is always new to the sufferer, but loses its originality for those around him," the nineteenth-century French writer Alphonse Daudet observes in his account of living with syphilis, "In the Land of Pain." "Everyone will get used to it except me."

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: 'What's Wrong with Me?', by Meghan O' Rourke, The New Yorker, August 26, 2013 issue, available online at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/08/26/whats-wrong-with-me>]

1.1 By calling 'autoimmune disease' a medical frontier, the author implies that:

- (a) Autoimmune disease is the line separating sick people from ones who aren't
- (b) Autoimmune disease lies at the extreme edge of understanding in the field of medicine
- (c) Autoimmune disease is the hottest area of study in the field of medicine
- (d) Autoimmune disease is a lifestyle disease that is fashionable to have in the twenty first century

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - autoimmune disease lies at the extreme edge of understanding in the field of medicine. The word 'frontier' in the context of the passage implies something that stretches the limit of our understanding and consequently, the implication of the author is that autoimmune disease is at the edge of understanding or that it is not well understood. None of the options catch this implication barring option (b) and so, option (b) is the correct answer.

1.2 According to the passage, which of the following is most likely to be supported by a proponent of the "bored immune system" theory?

- (a) Judicious use of soap and hand-sanitisers.
- (b) Frequent and excessive washing of hands.
- (c) Round-the-clock use of air-purifiers and incessant use of disinfectants.
- (d) All of the above.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - judicious use of soap and hand-sanitisers. The passage clearly states that the researchers who adhere to the "bored immune system" theory attribute the rise of autoimmune disease to excessive hygienic practices, which deprive the body's immune system of its share of work, thereby, impelling it to turn against itself. Therefore, they would not support the excessive use of cleansing and sanitising products. They would support the judicious use of soap and hand-sanitisers as specified in option (a) and not frequent and excessive washing of hands, use of air-purifiers or disinfectants and so, (b) and (c) cannot be the correct answers. Since only (a) is the correct answer, (d) is also incorrect.

1.3 Which of the following summarises the main point of the passage?

- (a) Women are at a higher risk of being afflicted by autoimmune disease.
- (b) Subdividing autoimmune disease into specific categories will help attract donations.
- (c) One should read the French writer Alphonse Daudet's account of living with syphilis to truly understand autoimmune disease.
- (d) Although autoimmune disease is on the rise, it is not well understood by common people or the medical community.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - although autoimmune disease is on the rise, it is not well understood by common people or the medical community. The passage provided above contains a series of observations to establish that autoimmune disease is spreading like an epidemic and despite its wide prevalence neither doctors nor common folk understand its nature very well. That women are at a higher risk of being afflicted by autoimmune disease is mentioned as an aside and not as the main point of the passage; so, option (a) cannot be the answer. The author does not say anywhere that subdividing autoimmune disease into specific categories will help attract donations; so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. The author quotes the

French author Daudet for the limited purpose of explaining the contrast between how the perception of pain is different for the primary sufferer and for those around them; so, option (d) is not the correct answer.

1.4 Which of the following options specifies the correct meanings of “dermatologist, endocrinologist, immunologist, neurologist, rheumatologist” in that order?

(a) skin specialist; specialist in hormone disorders; specialist in the study of the body’s resistance to allergy and infection; specialist in the function of the nervous system; physician trained in treatment of musculoskeletal disease

(b) skin specialist; specialist in the study of the body’s resistance to allergy and infection; specialist in hormone disorders; specialist in the function of the nervous system; physician trained in treatment of musculoskeletal disease

(c) skin specialist; specialist in the study of the body’s resistance to allergy and infection; specialist in hormone disorders; physician trained in treatment of musculoskeletal disease; specialist in the function of the nervous system

(d) specialist in the study of the body’s resistance to allergy and infection; skin specialist; physician trained in treatment of musculoskeletal disease; specialist in the function of the nervous system; specialist in hormone disorders

(Answer: (a))

1.5 In the underlined sentence in the passage, the phrase ‘enduring new reality’ refers to:

(a) The current scenario in which autoimmune disease is rapidly rising

(b) A situation in which one is recently afflicted by chronic illness

(c) A state of obsession with making people understand chronic illness

(d) The state of loneliness

(Answer: (b))

\*\*\*

## English Language Passage 17 (Mixed Pattern) (5 Questions)

After our early morning climb to view Kanchenjunga, we return to camp at Thangsing for breakfast and then set off for Goecha La. By now the valley is flooded with sunlight and the snow is melting quickly. After an hour's walk we pass Lamunay, the last camp on this route and head on up to Sungmoteng Lake. Along the way are several cairns, one of which is topped by a rounded stone the size and shape of an ostrich egg. By now the clouds have swept in and Kanchenjunga is veiled in mist, though the sharp prow-like cliffs of Pandim keep appearing and disappearing above us. As we pass beneath its hidden seracs and hanging glaciers, we can hear avalanches crashing down, as the mountain shrugs off its fresh mantle of snow. There are no trees at this altitude and only a few low shrubs like junipers and Rhododendron anthopogon, which emits a cloying fragrance as the snow melts off its rust-coloured leaves. Flocks of snow pigeons circle above us, their white wings like scraps of white paper printed with prayers that monks cast into the wind.

A number of birds keep us company [1] this stretch of the trail, the brightest of which are grandalas, the size of a small thrush, their plumage the colour of blue ink. With short, nervous flights, they seem to lead us up the trail. Sungmoteng Lake is wedged between walls of moraine that form a rocky barrier separating the valley floor from the higher mountains above. *water of lake is a chalky blue in contrast to vivid indigo of grandala that flits along its shore.* A ruddy shelduck takes off and circles overhead, as we avoid the muddy edges of the lake and scramble over scree and talus to follow the grandalas.

By now the valley has narrowed and another half an hour brings us to the threshold of the pass. Somewhere above us stands Kanchenjunga, hidden from view. Surrounded by clouds and patches of snow, the terrain seems lifeless until I see what appears to be a boulder changing shape. Two bharal rams with heavy horns are standing above the trail. Through the mist, I watch them move slowly away from us. Their mottled coats of mineral colours match the moraine. The grandalas have dropped behind and we now follow a robin accentor, slightly larger than a sparrow, its ruddy feathers blending into the russet and grey stones. The bird is unafraid of us and comes within inches of our fingers as we offer it biscuit crumbs. Other than this solitary creature, Goecha La is deserted, cold cross currents of wind wrapping us in clouds.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Blood Pheasants of Kanchenjunga", by Stephen Alter, *The Indian Quarterly*, available online at: <https://indianquarterly.com/blood-pheasants-of-kanchenjunga/>]

1.1 A 'cairn' means:

- (a) a heap of sand
- (b) a mound of rough stones
- (c) a stream of water
- (d) a bunch of eggs

(Answer: (b))

1.2 Which type of figure of speech is used in the underlined sentence?

- (a) synecdoche
- (b) simile
- (c) irony
- (d) personification

(Answer: (b))

1.3 Choose the correct preposition in place of '[1]' from the following -

- (a) off
- (b) along
- (c) since
- (d) by

(Answer: (b))

1.4 In how many instances should the definite article ('the') be used in the italicised sentence to make it grammatically correct without altering it in any other way?

- (a) 5
- (b) 4
- (c) 3
- (d) 2

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) 4. The sentence should read: **The** water of **the** lake is a chalky blue in contrast to **the** vivid indigo of **the** grandala that flits along its shore.

1.5 "Other than this solitary creature, Goecha La is deserted, cold cross currents of wind wrapping us in clouds." Which is the solitary creature that the author refers to in this sentence?

- (a) A grandala
- (b) A robin accentor
- (c) A bharal ram

(d) A sparrow

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - a robin accentor. Before referring to the solitary creature that is left behind, the author talks about how the grandalas dropped behind, and they followed a robin accentor, which was unafraid of them. Therefore, (b) is the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## English Language Passage 18 (Mixed Pattern) (5 Questions)

If you climb onto the diving platform of the pool at the Breach Candy Club, and if you turn your back to the ocean expiring upon the rocks a few yards away, you look up into Mumbai. Or perhaps Mumbai looks down upon you. To the left is the egg-white hulk of the Breach Candy Hospital; to the right, an apartment complex of similar height, painted a cheerful blue. In the distance hovers Antilia, the twenty-seven-floor, billion-dollar home of India's richest man. Further away, are the Imperial Towers, twin condominiums sixty floors high, the tallest buildings in India. Yet another skyscraper is under construction, a crane perched atop its shell. And curiously, nearer to earth, are a gabled roof and a pointed, clay-coloured turret – a turret! – that belong to Windsor Villa, where Salman Rushdie lived as a boy during the 1950s, and from where, as he wrote in *Midnight's Children*, he could spot pink people 'cavorting in the map-shaped pool of the Breach Candy Club, from which we were, of course, barred'. This very pool, in other words, the one excavated in the outline of undivided India, such that Kashmir lies right below your feet as you stand atop the diving platform.

The minute I saw the pool, I realized that its designers had missed a trick. It should have been laid out, really, so that the western coast of Pool India was aligned with the western coast of Real India, given that the club perched so conveniently on the shore. That way, when the sun doused itself in the Arabian Sea every evening, both Indias would have slipped in clean parallel into night. Instead, Pool India has been rotated a quarter-turn counterclockwise, so that a large lawn stretches away to its west, near Pakistan, while a smaller lawn and cafe sit roughly in Myanmar. The restaurant and bar are in southern Afghanistan. Sri Lanka is the kiddies' pool.

In vivid contrast to the country, the pool is nearly always thinly populated.

By virtue of its outline, the pool is able to inject a charged symbolism into any consideration at all of the club's affairs. In building the pool during the Raj, for instance, the British were emphasizing their ownership of India, their iron control over its borders and its topography. After 1947, when India gained its independence, the club insisted that it would continue to restrict membership to Europeans only, not quite ready to hand India – the pool, the country – over to its people. In the late 1960s, when protesters picketed the entrance to the club, demanding that Indians be made members as well, they were trying to wrest India – the country, the pool – out of the persisting fug of colonialism.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Breach Candy", by Samanth Subramanian, *Granta* 130, <https://granta.com/breach-candy/>.]

1.1 Who are the "pink people" referred to by Salman Rushdie?

- (a) Indians who used the pool at the Breach Candy Club in the hot sun.
- (b) People who swam in a Europe-shaped pool adjacent to the Breach Candy Club.
- (c) Europeans who used the pool in the Breach Candy Club.
- (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - Europeans who used the pool in the Breach Candy Club. As is evident from the last paragraph of the passage above, even in the 1950s when Salman Rushdie was writing 'Midnight Children', the Breach Candy Club continued to restrict membership to Europeans only. And the reference to the 'pink people' is a reference to the Europeans who were allowed membership to the Breach Candy Club and access to the pool there. Since Indians were not allowed membership to the Club, option (a) is wrong. Since there is no mention of any Europe-shaped pool adjacent to the Breach Candy Club, option (b) is wrong. Since option (c) is the correct answer, option (d) is incorrect.

1.2 If you are standing atop the diving platform of the pool at the Breach Candy Club facing the pool, which direction would you be facing?

(a) North

(b) South

(c) East

(d) West

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - East. We know from the passage that the pool at the Breach Candy Club is rotated a quarter-turn counterclockwise and also that Kashmir (of the pool) lies right below one's feet if one is standing atop the diving platform. If the map of the pool is turned a quarter counterclockwise then the Kashmir of the pool would be pointing to the west. Therefore, when one is standing such that the west-facing Kashmir of the pool is at one's feet and is facing the pool, one would be facing the east. Therefore, options (a), (b) and (d) cannot be correct.

1.3 The word 'crane' in the passage refers to:

(a) a mechanical lifting device

(b) a long-necked wading bird

(c) the act of stretching one's neck to see better

(d) None of the above.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - a mechanical lifting device. This can be gathered from the reference in the passage to the skyscraper under construction on top of which the crane is perched. Cranes, the machines, are commonly used at tall construction sites. There is nothing in the passage to support that the reference is to option (b) or option (c). Since option (a) is correct, option (d) is incorrect.



1.4 Choose the odd one from amongst the following:

(a) picket

(b) gherao

(c) strike

(d) flood

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - flood. Picket, gherao and strike refer to acts of protest performed so that the protestors' demands are met. A flood, however, is a natural calamity. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer and not the others.

1.5 'The Raj', as used in the passage means:

(a) a corrupt government

(b) the British rule in India

(c) the system of giving business licences to the wealthy

(d) monarchy

(Answer: (b))

\*\*\*

## English Language Passage 19 (Mixed Pattern) (7 Questions)

1.

Humans are not sleeping the way nature intended.

Throughout developed nations, most adults currently sleep in a *monophasic* pattern – that is, we try to take a long single bout of slumber at night, the average duration of which is now less than seven hours. Visit cultures that are untouched by electricity and you often see something different. Hunter-gatherer tribes, such as the Gabra in northern Kenya, whose way of life has changed little over the past thousands of years, sleep in a *biphasic* pattern. Both the groups take a similarly longer sleep period at night (seven to eight hours of time in bed, achieving about seven hours of sleep), followed by a thirty- to sixty-minute nap in the afternoon.

There is also evidence for a mix of the two sleep patterns, determined by time of year. Pre-industrial tribes, such as the Hadza in northern Tanzania or the San of Namibia, sleep in a biphasic pattern in the hotter summer months, incorporating a thirty- to forty-minute nap at high noon. They then switch to a largely monophasic sleep pattern during the cooler winter months.

Even when sleeping in a monophasic pattern, the timing of slumber observed in pre-industrialised cultures is not of our own, contorted making. On average, these tribespeople will fall asleep two to three hours after sunset, around nine p.m. Their nighttime sleep bouts will come to an end just prior to, or soon after, dawn. Have you ever wondered about the meaning of the term “midnight”? It of course means the middle of the night, or, more technically, the middle point of the solar cycle. And so it is for the sleep cycle of hunter-gatherer cultures, and presumably all those that came before. Now consider our cultural sleep norms. Midnight is no longer “mid night”. For many of us, midnight is usually the time when we consider checking our email one last time – and we know what often happens in the protracted thereafter. Compounding the problem, we do not then sleep any longer into the morning hours to accommodate these later sleep-onset times. We cannot. Our circadian biology, and the insatiable early-morning demands of a post-industrial way of life, deny us the sleep we vitally need. At one time we went to bed in the hours after dusk and woke up with the chickens. Now many of us are still waking up with the chickens, but dusk is simply the time we are finishing up at the office, with much of the waking night to go. Moreover, few of us enjoy a full afternoon nap, further contributing to our state of sleep bankruptcy.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *Why We Sleep: The New Science of Sleep and Dreams*, by Matthew Walker, Penguin Books, 2018.]

1.1 Based on the passage above, which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- (a) The way people sleep has been altered drastically by technology, modernity, and the post-industrial way of life.
- (b) The lifestyle of hunter-gatherer tribes is more preferable to that of people in developed nations.
- (c) Advances in technology, modernity, and the post-industrialised way of life have not affected the way we sleep.
- (d) Our clocks are not reliable, since they do not give us a true sense of what ‘midnight’ is.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – the way people sleep has been altered drastically by technology, modernity, and the post-industrial way of life. The author begins the passage by stating that “Humans are not sleeping the way nature intended”, and goes on to explain how these changes are not visible in societies that do not have electricity, or are not affected by modernity, or are not in a post-industrialised state, such as those of hunter-gatherers. It is therefore clear that the author considers technology (in the form of electricity), modernity, and our post-industrialised way of life as factors that have drastically changed

the way we sleep. Given this, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. While he mentions that hunter-gatherer tribes today sleep much the same way they have for thousands of years, there is nothing in the passage to indicate that he thinks their way of life overall is preferable to those of people in developed nations; therefore, (b) cannot be the correct answer. While the author talks about the meaning of the term 'midnight' to indicate that it is no longer the middle point of certain people's sleep cycle, there is nothing in the passage to indicate that he thinks our clocks are unreliable, and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.2 What does the word 'bout' as used in the passage mean?

- (a) An attack of an illness or strong emotion.
- (b) An abbreviated form of 'about'.
- (c) A wrestling or boxing match.
- (d) A period of activity of a certain kind.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – a period of activity of a certain kind. The author uses this word in relation to phases of sleep, whether they be monophasic or biphasic. None of the other options are supported by anything in the passage, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

1.3 Why does the author speak about the meaning of the term 'midnight' in the passage?

- (a) To demonstrate how people's eating habits are linked to the solar cycle.
- (b) To demonstrate how it is no longer means the middle of the sleep cycle of people in developed nations.
- (c) To demonstrate how it is no longer means the middle of the sleep cycle of people in hunter-gatherer tribes.
- (d) To demonstrate how the duration of the solar cycle has changed over the millennia.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – to demonstrate how it is no longer means the middle of the sleep cycle of people in developed nations. The author raises a question about the meaning of the term "midnight", and then goes on to explain how the middle of the night is the middle of the sleep cycle in hunter-gatherer cultures, but that this is no longer true for people in developed nations. Since the author points out how "midnight" is the middle of the sleep cycle in hunter-gatherer cultures, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support either option (a) or option (d), and so, neither (a) nor (d) can be the correct answer.

1.4 Based on the information in the passage above, which of the following is most likely to be true?

- (a) Humans only sleep in a monophasic pattern.
- (b) Humans only sleep in a biphasic pattern.
- (c) Humans can sleep in a mix of monophasic and biphasic patterns.
- (d) Humans cannot sleep in a mix of monophasic and biphasic patterns.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – humans can sleep in a mix of monophasic and biphasic patterns. The author states this clearly at the beginning of the third paragraph, when he says that “There is also evidence for a mix of the two sleep patterns”, referring to monophasic and biphasic sleep patterns amongst humans. Given this, none of the other options can be correct.

1.5 Based on the information in the passage above, which of the following is true about the San of Namibia?

- (a) They sleep in a monophasic pattern in the cooler winter months and in a biphasic pattern in the hotter summer months.
- (b) They sleep in a biphasic pattern in the cooler winter months and in a monophasic pattern in the hotter summer months.
- (c) They sleep fewer hours in the hotter summer months than in the cooler winter months.
- (d) They sleep fewer hours in the cooler winter months than in the hotter summer months.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – they sleep in a monophasic pattern in the cooler winter months and in a biphasic pattern in the hotter summer months. The author provides this information in the third paragraph of the passage, when he explains how there is evidence for a mix of monophasic and biphasic sleep patterns amongst humans. Given this, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to suggest that the San of Namibia sleep more or less in either winter or summer, and so, neither option (c) nor option (d) can be the correct answer.

1.6 Which of the following, according to the author, are factors contributing to the ‘state of sleep bankruptcy’ of people in developed nations?

- (a) Their going to sleep late but still waking up early.
- (b) Their not getting a full afternoon nap.
- (c) Both, (a) and (b).
- (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – both, (a) and (b). The author explains this in the last paragraph of the passage, and explains how people in developed nations “are still waking up with the chickens” and how, for them, “dusk is simply the time we are finishing up at the office, with much of the waking night to go”, and states, “Moreover, few of us enjoy a full afternoon nap, further contributing to our state of sleep bankruptcy.” Given this, none of the other options can be the correct answer.

1.7 Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage above?

- (a) Sleep Intensity in Developed Nations is Poor.
- (b) Modern Lifestyle Leads to Sleep Bankruptcy.
- (c) Hunter-Gatherers Don’t Know How to Sleep.
- (d) Why We Sleep.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – Modern Lifestyle Leads to Sleep Bankruptcy. The author’s main point in the passage above is how humans in developed nations do not sleep the way nature intended, and how

modern lifestyle in a post-industrial society deprive people in such societies of the full amount of sleep they need, thereby contributing to their 'sleep bankruptcy'. As such, the author talks about the quantity of sleep such people are deprived of, rather than the intensity of their sleep, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. Furthermore, he talks about how the sleep patterns of people in hunter-gatherer cultures are closer to the way nature intended them, but does not mention anything critical about their sleep patterns, and so, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. The author discusses the way people in different societies sleep in the passage, rather than why they sleep, and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## English Language Passage 20 (Mixed Pattern) (8 Questions)

During a brainstorming session involving the film *Aman*'s creatives, Rajendra Kumar had come up with a suggestion. He said to the director Mohan Kumar, 'let's try and get Bertrand Russell in the opening scene.'

The other man laughed at the very idea. 'You're joking, right?' he said. 'Lord Russell is one of the greatest philosophers of our time and a famous member of Britain's anti-war brigade. Look at his stature and look at us – just ordinary film-industry people! How could we even dream of bridging the divide?'

'True!' Rajendra admitted. 'But he advocates nuclear disarmament. Our film *Aman* conveys the same message. No harm in asking him, is there?'

So the next day, the two men composed a letter and mailed it to Lord Russell. To their surprise, they received a reply from the philosopher's secretary ten days later. 'Lord Russell,' said the letter, 'has agreed to appear in the film's opening scene. However, because of his age, he is unable to travel to India. If you could be so kind as to come and meet him here, he will be glad to give you an hour of his time.'

Elated by the news, Mohan Kumar, Rajendra Kumar and their crew left for England without delay and made their way to Porthmadog, earlier known as Port Madoc, the small coastal town in North Wales where Bertrand Russell lived.

[x]Lord Russell receiving the Indian film star with great warmth and respect and so enjoyed the meeting and the shoot that he worked on the scene for all of four hours, instead of the allotted one. [x] With the first schedule of the film completed successfully, the members of the crew were soon back to the bay and busy with preparations for their next shooting schedule in Japan, slated for early 1966.

"*Aman* released in May 1967. It was a very good film, but it didn't run. For the Indian audience, the film was far ahead of its time. It enjoyed success mostly in Iran, Lebanon, Egypt and so on. Iranians would rush towards me, exclaiming, '*Aga Kumar, yallahyallah! Aman, yallahyallah!*' It was such an honour for us to have Lord Bertrand Russell in our film, but the funny part was that the Indian audience neither knew who he was nor understood the value of his message and appearance. They thought, 'Who knows where they picked up some old man and brought him here'", said Rajendra Kumar.

*Aman* is the only feature film that Lord Bertrand Russell appeared in. It was brilliant.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "'No harm in asking him, is there?' How Rajendra Kumar got Bertrand Russell to be in a Hindi movie", an excerpt from *Jubilee Kumar*, by Seema SonikAlimchand, Hachette India, *Scroll.in*, <https://scroll.in/reel/955054/no-harm-in-asking-him-is-there-how-rajendra-kumar-got-bertrand-russell-to-be-in-a-hindi-movie>.]

2.1 What did Mohan Kumar initially think of Rajendra Kumar's suggestion about Bertrand Russell?

- (a) He thought Rajendra Kumar was joking, since the film *Aman* had nothing in common with Bertrand Russell's ideas.
- (b) He thought it was a very good idea, and a very achievable one, since Rajendra Kumar was the most famous actor of the film industry at that time.
- (c) He thought it was laughable, since Bertrand Russell was one of the greatest philosophers of their time, and he and Rajendra Kumar were just ordinary film-industry people.
- (d) He thought it was laughable, since nobody in India would recognise who Bertrand Russell was.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - he thought it was laughable, since Bertrand Russell was one of the greatest philosophers of their time, and he and Rajendra Kumar were just ordinary film-industry people. This is apparent from the second paragraph of the excerpt. That paragraph tells us what Mohan Kumar's reaction to Rajendra Kumar was, as well as the reasons for his reaction – since there is nothing in that paragraph to support the reasons provided in options (a) and (d), neither option (a) nor option (d) can be the correct answer. The passage tells us that Mohan Kumar laughed at Rajendra Kumar's idea, and thought he was joking, and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer.

2.2 What reason did Rajendra Kumar give Mohan Kumar for why he thought Bertrand Russell may agree to work in the film *Aman*?

- (a) He argued that the message of nuclear disarmament was common to the film *Aman* and Bertrand Russell, and therefore Bertrand Russell may agree to work in the film.
- (b) He argued that Bertrand Russell was known to be a patron of the arts, and would therefore be agreeable to work in the film.
- (c) He argued that Bertrand Russell had a great love for India, and would therefore agree to work in the film.
- (d) He said he would be able to charm Bertrand Russell into agreeing to work in the film if he only had a chance to meet him in person.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - he argued that the message of nuclear disarmament was common to the film *Aman* and Bertrand Russell, and therefore Bertrand Russell may agree to work in the film. The third paragraph of the passage clearly sets out Rajendra Kumar's argument to this effect. There is nothing in the passage to support any of the other options, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

2.3 Why did Bertrand Russell request that the filmmakers come meet him rather than going to meet them?

- (a) Because he disliked travelling to India.
- (b) Because he did not enjoy travelling.
- (c) Because he was very ill and infirm.
- (d) Because of his age.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - because of his age. Bertrand Russell's secretary provided this reason along with the request in the response to the filmmaker's letter, as we are told in the fourth paragraph of the passage. There is nothing in the passage to support any of the other options, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

2.4 Based on the information set out in the passage above, which of the following is most likely to be true?

- (a) Rajendra Kumar was a much better actor than Mohan Kumar.
- (b) Rajendra Kumar was more willing to try out seemingly audacious or impossible things in relation to the film than Mohan Kumar was.
- (c) Rajendra Kumar was much more interested in philosophy and philosophers than Mohan Kumar was.
- (d) Travelling to North Wales, where Bertrand Russell lived, was very difficult in those times.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – Rajendra Kumar was more willing to try out seemingly audacious or impossible things in relation to the film than Mohan Kumar was. We can infer this from the manner in which Rajendra Kumar came up with the idea of inviting Bertrand Russell to work in the film, and how he argued for reaching out to him even when Mohan Kumar laughed off his idea as impossible. While option (a) may be true, there is nothing in the passage to suggest that Rajendra Kumar was a better actor than Mohan Kumar, and so option (a) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support option (c) or option (d), and so, neither (c) nor (d) can be the correct answer.

2.5 What was the Indian audience’s reaction to Bertrand Russell’s appearance in the film *Aman*?

- (a) They thought he was a poor actor, and that he should have rehearsed more.
- (b) They deeply valued his message, and thought it was a great feat to have convinced him to appear in the film.
- (c) They thought that Bertrand Russell was someone who was famous in Iran, Lebanon, and Egypt.
- (d) They did not know who he was, nor did they appreciate the meaning or value of his message.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - they did not know who he was, nor did they appreciate the meaning or value of his message. We are provided this information in Rajendra Kumar’s quote in the second-last paragraph of the passage. Based on that same portion of the passage, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support option (a), and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. While the passage tells us that the film got a very good reception in places like Iran, Lebanon, and Egypt, there is nothing in the passage to suggest that the Indian audience thought Bertrand Russell was famous there, and so, option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

2.6 What is the meaning of the word ‘advocate’ as used in the passage above?

- (a) Someone who drafts legal documents on behalf of others.
- (b) Someone who argues legal matters on behalf of others.
- (c) To publicly recommend or support.
- (d) To publicly derogate or criticise.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – to publicly recommend or support. This is apparent from the context in which the word is used in the passage, which is, Rajendra Kumar’s statement that “[Bertrand Russell] advocates nuclear disarmament. Our film *Aman* conveys the same message.” Given this, none of the other options can be the correct answer.

2.7 According to Rajendra Kumar, why did the film *Aman* not do well in India?

- (a) Because Mohan Kumar did not direct it well.
- (b) Because Bertrand Russell was old, and did not attract audiences.
- (c) Because parts of the film were in English.
- (d) Because the film was too innovative and radical for its time.

(Answer: (d))



**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - because the film was too innovative and radical for its time. Rajendra Kumar says in the second last paragraph of the passage that "For the Indian audience, the film was far ahead of its time"; the meaning of the phrase "far ahead of its time" is reflected in option (d). None of the other reasons are offered by Rajendra Kumar in the passage provided to us, and so, none of the other options can be the correct answer.

2.8 The sentence enclosed within '[x]' and underlined in the passage above has one word that appears in a form that is grammatically incorrect in the context of that sentence. What is the word that appears in an incorrect form, and what would be its appropriate form in the context of the sentence?

- (a) receiving : received
- (b) worked : works
- (c) enjoyed : enjoying
- (d) respect : respected

(Answer: (a))

\*\*\*

## Current Affairs incl GK Passage 18 (5 Questions)

1.

The Ministry of External Affairs clarified in early January that India's political map released after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir has in no manner revised the boundary with Nepal. The timing is significant, as it comes amid an unease with Nepal over territorial claims of the [1] tri-junction of India-Nepal-[2].

[1] is a 372-sq. km. area at the [2]-Nepal-India tri-junction. India claims [1] as a part of Uttarakhand while Nepal depicts the area in its map.

According to the Sugauli treaty signed between Nepal and the East India Company in 1816, the [3] river that runs through the [1] area is the boundary between the two countries. However, British surveyors subsequently showed the origin of the river, which has many tributaries, at different places. While Nepal claims that the river west of the disputed territory is the main river and so [1] falls in its territory, India claims a different origin and includes the area in its territory.

Strategically, Lipulekh Pass in [1] serves as an important vantage point for India to keep an eye on Chinese movements. Since 1962, [1] has been manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

Nepal's Supreme Court has sought the country's original map exchanged with India during the signing of the Sugauli Treaty, the one exchanged while signing a boundary treaty with India in 1960, the map published by the East India Company on February 1, 1827, and a separate map published by the British Government in 1847.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "The [1] dispute: All you need to know", *The Times of India*, <https://bit.ly/2NBltz5>.]

1.1 The name of the area that has become a subject of dispute between India and Nepal, and which is discussed in the passage above, has been replaced with '[1]'. What is '[1]'?

- (a) Jogbani
- (b) Kalapani
- (c) Susta
- (d) Sunauli

(Answer: (b))

1.2 [1] is a tri-junction between India, Nepal, and '[2]'. Which country is '[2]'?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) China
- (d) Tajikistan

(Answer: (c))

1.3 India and Nepal signed a treaty concerning the integrated development of the river whose name has been replace with '[3]' in the passage above. What is the name of the treaty, and in which year was it signed?

- (a) Treaty of Trade and Transit, 1960
- (b) Sugauli Treaty, 1816
- (c) India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950

(d) Mahakali Treaty, 1996

(Answer: (d))

1.4 Subject to certain conditions, members of this Nepali-speaking group who had their domicile in India on January 26, 1950 were confirmed to be citizens of India by the Government of India as late as 1988; members of this group have also faced ethnic cleansing in certain India states, and have been in conflict with certain other groups, including the Khasis. What is the name of this group?

- (a) Kshetris
- (b) Bahuns
- (c) Gorkhas
- (d) Magars

(Answer: (c))

1.5 A member of the group referred to in the previous question is sometimes referred to as 'Captain Fantastic'. This person is also the captain of the Indian National Football Team. What is his name?

- (a) Sunil Chhetri
- (b) Nirmal Chhetri
- (c) Gokul Sharma
- (d) Anirudh Thapa

(Answer: (a))

\*\*\*

## Current Affairs incl GK Passage 19 (5 Questions)

2.

The Office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a 'public authority' under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, a five-judge [2] led by Chief Justice of India [1] declared on Wednesday.

The main judgment of the [2] authored by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said the Supreme Court is a 'public authority' and the office of the CJI is part and parcel of the institution. Hence, if the Supreme Court is a public authority, so is the office of the CJI.

Justice Khanna, who shared his judgment with Chief Justice [1] and Justice Deepak Gupta, observed that "transparency and accountability should go hand-in-hand". Increased transparency under RTI was no threat to judicial independence, he held.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, in his separate and concurring opinion, eloquently observed that "judicial independence is not secured by the secrecy of cloistered halls".

The Bench, however, agreed, in one voice, that the right to know under RTI was not absolute. The right to know of a citizen ought to be balanced with the right to privacy of individual judges.

Hence, on this aspect, Justice Khanna held that personal information of judges should only be divulged under RTI if such disclosure served the larger public interest.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Supreme Court opens CJI office to RTI", Krishnadas Rajagopal, *The Hindu*, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/office-of-cji-is-public-authority-under-rti-rules-sc/article29961646.ece>.]

2.1 What is the name of the judge whose name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- (a) Ranjan Gogoi
- (b) Sharad Bobde
- (c) Dipak Misra
- (d) Jagdish Singh Khehar

(Answer: (a))

2.2 The name given to benches of the Supreme Court of India that have at least five judges, who sit "for the purpose of deciding any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of [the] Constitution or for the purpose of hearing any reference under Article 143" has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above. What is '[2]'?

- (a) Division Bench
- (b) Full Bench
- (c) Constitution Bench
- (d) Single Bench

(Answer: (c))

2.3 What is the name of the RTI activist whose applications to the Central Public Information Officer, Supreme Court of India, eventually led to the case discussed in the passage above, and who is one of the main parties in the case?

- (a) Chirag Patel
- (b) Subhash Chandra Agarwal
- (c) M. Sreenivas
- (d) Sanjay Dubey

(Answer: (b))

2.4 Who is the RTI activist and peasant leader who was arrested on December 10, 2019 from Jorhat, Assam under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against the backdrop of large-scale protests against the amendment of the Citizenship Act?

- (a) Karam Chand Bhatia
- (b) Dulal Bora
- (c) Niren Pareek
- (d) Akhil Gogoi

(Answer: (d))

2.5 Which amongst the following was the first Indian state to enact a law on the right to information?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Tamil Nadu

(Answer: (d))

\*\*\*

## Current Affairs incl GK Passage 20 (7 Questions)

Harry Truman famously called for a one-handed economist, tired of economists who forecast this, on the one hand, and that, on the other. He would have been happy with any one of this year's Nobel awardees for economics. Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee and the other two awardees of the Economics Nobel for 2019, [1] and [2], have been recognised for their work in [3], specifically experiments to identify the best way to combat poverty in its different forms.

One, the attack on poverty has to be more nuanced than the proposition that fast growth will cure poverty, or that a rising tide will lift all boats. Certain problems call for specific solutions. The existence of large pockets of poverty and of poverty traps in the most affluent nations of the world is proof that a prosperous economy does not, by itself, guarantee that everyone would share that prosperity. Who gets left out and why, and how to fix that problem call for specific investigation.

Angus Deaton got the Nobel in 2015 for his extensive contribution to measuring poverty. This year's laureates brought sophisticated tools of microeconomics — Banerjee's PhD was for mathematically intricate papers in information economics — to designing and evaluating experiments in tackling poverty.

Two, the Nobel prize is not reserved for those who keep a hygienic distance from politics. Banerjee has signed petitions that questioned the present government's practices on statistical data. He has joined Raghuram Rajan and Gita Gopinath in producing an economic blueprint for India critical of the present government's policies. He was one of those consulted to frame the Congress party's basic income scheme, Nyay for the 2019 parliament elections.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "ET View: Nobel for Abhijit Banerjee", *The Economic Times*, [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-view/et-view-nobel-for-abhijit-banerjee/articleshow/71581979.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cps](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-view/et-view-nobel-for-abhijit-banerjee/articleshow/71581979.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cps)]

1.1 What is the name of the lady whose name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- (a) Selma Lagerlof
- (b) Bertha von Suttner
- (c) Esther Duflo
- (d) Shakuntala Devi

(Answer: (c))

1.2 What is the name of the gentleman whose name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- (a) Robert Shiller
- (b) Lloyd Shapley
- (c) Bengt Holstrom
- (d) Michael Kremer

(Answer: (d))

1.3 What did Abhijit Banerjee and the other two awardees win the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics for?

- (a) Their contribution to development economics.
- (b) Their contribution to the endogenous growth theory.
- (c) Their contribution to new institutional economics.
- (d) Their contribution to experimental economics and combinatorial auction.

(Answer: (a))

1.4 Gita Gopinath is currently:

- (a) the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund
- (b) the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund
- (c) the Managing Director of the World Bank
- (d) the Chief Economist of the World Bank

(Answer: (b))

1.5 The objective of the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* is:

- (a) To ensure comprehensive financial inclusion of all households in the country by providing universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic bank account to every household, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance and pension facility.
- (b) To create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor and the underprivileged.
- (c) To guarantee a minimum monthly pension to all Indians above the age of 60 years.
- (d) To provide bank loans between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one Woman borrower per bank branch for setting up greenfield enterprises.

(Answer: (a))

1.6 Who is India's current Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs?

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (b) Anurag Thakur
- (c) Jayant Sinha
- (d) Santosh Kumar Gangwar

(Answer: (b))

1.7 Who is the current Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India?

- (a) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- (b) Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian
- (c) Arvind Subramanian
- (d) Kaushik Basu

(Answer: (b))

\*\*\*



## Current Affairs incl GK Passage 21 (5 Questions)

1.

Service in UN peacekeeping operations, fighting Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan and deployment in Syria, Lebanon, Ethiopia and Israel are some of the achievements of women Army officers which caught the attention of the Supreme Court for giving them parity with their male counterparts for permanent commission.

The apex court cited the examples of [1] and [2], who led separate all-men contingents, and Major Madhumita (Army Education Corps) who became the first woman officer in the country to receive the Gallantry Award (Sena Medal) for fighting Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan.

It also referred to the women officers who are convoy commanders in Leh and Udhampur among other places.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi referred to a detailed elaboration of the service rendered by women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers to the nation, working shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

Major Gopika Ajitsingh Pawar was awarded the UN Peacekeeping Medal by the UN Secretary General for her role as a military member of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Supreme Court noted that Majors Madhu Rana, Preeti Singh and Anuja Yadav were awarded the UN Medal completing the qualifying service as military members of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Similarly, Captain Ashwini Pawar (Army Ordnance Corps) and Captain Shipra Majumdar (Army Engineer Corps) were awarded the Sewa Medal by the President in 2007.

[1] recently led a contingent of the Indian Army Service Corps, becoming the first woman to lead an all-men Army contingent in the history of India, on India's 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade in 2019.

Similarly, [2] recently became the first Indian woman Parade Adjutant to lead an all-men contingent in Delhi on January 26 this year.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "SC notes women Army officers' achievements like fighting Taliban, UN peace operation", PTI, *Outlook*, <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/sc-notes-women-army-officers-achievements-like-fighting-taliban-un-peace-operation/1736901>]

1.1 The name of which officer of the Indian Army has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- (a) Major Gopika Ajitsingh Pawar
- (b) Major Madhumita
- (c) Major Madhu Rana
- (d) Lieutenant Bhavana Kasturi

(Answer: (d))

1.2 The name of Indian Army officer who became the first Indian woman Parade Adjutant to lead an all-men contingent has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above. What is the officer's name?

- (a) Major Preeti Singh
- (b) Captain Tania Shergill

- (c) Captain Shipra Majumdar
- (d) Captain Ashwini Pawar

(Answer: (b))

1.3 On February 29, 2020, this person became the third woman officer in the Indian Army and first woman paediatrician to achieve the rank of lieutenant general in the Indian Army, the second-highest post in the force. Who are we talking about?

- (a) Priya Jhingan
- (b) Ruchi Sharma
- (c) Madhuri Kanitkar
- (d) Anuja Yadav

(Answer: (c))

1.4 The observations of the Supreme Court in the passage cited above were made in a judgment relating to a case to decide whether women officers in the Indian Army should be given parity with their male counterparts for permanent commission; who amongst the following was one of the parties in that case?

- (a) Swati Singh
- (b) Dr. Punita Arora
- (c) Alka Khurana
- (d) Babita Puniya

(Answer: (d))

1.5 Which of the following most accurately describes the outcome of the case from which the Supreme Court's observation in the passage above has been taken?

- (a) The Supreme Court directed the Union Government to grant Permanent Commission to women officers in the Army, regardless of their years of service, and called the absolute exclusion of women from command appointments illegal.
- (b) The Supreme Court directed the Union Government to grant women officers in the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force appointments in combat roles.
- (c) The Supreme Court held that women are not fit to be appointed to combat positions, and that the Indian Army was justified in not granting them Permanent Commission.
- (d) The Supreme Court held that women were fit to be appointed to combat positions, but that the decision of the Union Government to not grant women officers Permanent Commission was invalid.

(Answer: (a))

\*\*\*

## Current Affairs incl GK Passage 22 (5 Questions)

2.

The possible outbreak of coronavirus outside of China has received constant focus around the world, including India. However, healthcare experts say, swine flu is what India should be dealing with on priority while it stays alert on coronavirus.

Cases of swine flu, also known as Influenza A or [1], have been increasingly getting reported. On Tuesday, Justice D Y Chandrachud revealed that a few Supreme Court judges are down with [1].

Doctors point out that the swine flu tends to recur at usual intervals and the solution lies in taking a flu shot since there is a vaccine available for [1]. The vaccine is made and sold in India by several companies.

The swine flu has become a yearly phenomenon now. It is seen peaking between January and March and then again post monsoon until October. The time period may vary state to state in a country. The vaccine shot is suggested once with every change of season. Although World Health Organisation has a proper guideline on the selection of the vaccine, it is advisable to reach out to the doctor.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "India's priority should be [1] virus, say health experts", by E. Kumar Sharma, *Business Today*, <https://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/pharma/india-priority-should-be-swine-flu-say-health-experts-coronavirus/story/396904.html>.]

2.1 What is the alternate name of swine flu or 'Influenza A', which has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- (a) COVID-19
- (b) H1N1
- (c) Novel Coronavirus
- (d) H3N2

(Answer: (b))

2.2 There was an outbreak of bubonic and pneumonic plague in India in 1994. Which of the following cities was at the epicentre of the outbreak?

- (a) Chandigarh
- (b) Bhubaneshwar
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Surat

(Answer: (d))

2.3 In 2018, there was an outbreak of a particular virus in Kerala, traced to fruit bats in the area. What was the name of the virus in this outbreak?

- (a) Epstein-Barr
- (b) Variola minor
- (c) Nipah
- (d) Variola major

(Answer: (c))

2.4 Who amongst the following is credited with having discovered and developed one of the first successful vaccines against polio?

- (a) Jonas Salk
- (b) Alexander Fleming
- (c) Francis Crick
- (d) Louis Pasteur

(Answer: (a))

2.5 Frequent washing of one's hands is recommended as a way of avoiding contracting disease; a Hungarian scientist and physician, also described as the "saviour of mothers", discovered in the mid-nineteenth century that the incidence of puerperal fever (also known as "childbed fever") could be drastically cut by the use of hand disinfection in obstetrical clinics. What was this person's name?

- (a) George Soros
- (b) Ignaz Semmelweis
- (c) Franz Liszt
- (d) Ernő Rubik

(Answer: (b))

\*\*\*

## Current Affairs incl GK Passage BN1 (5 Questions)

Many commentators say the failure of Yes Bank points to failures of regulation and supervision on the part of the Reserve Bank of India (the “RBI”). Yes Bank suffered from excessive exposure to some groups. With effect from 1 April 2019, the RBI has put in place a Large Exposure Framework that limits exposure to individual companies and groups. Perhaps such a policy might have come earlier. It does appear now that risk management in banks is too important to be left to the boards.

The RBI has also been faulted for ignoring excessive loan growth at Yes Bank. It is hard to say what constitutes excessive growth. Loan growth of around 30%–35% per annum at Yes Bank may seem high. However, this growth happened on a low base and at a time when private banks were gaining market share at the expense of Public Sector Banks (“PSBs”) whose own loan growth was tardy. The RBI does comment on asset quality in its annual financial inspection report. However, for the RBI to question loan growth at a given bank would constitute micromanagement of a new order.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: “The Yes Bank Rescue and Its Aftermath”, by T.T. Ram Mohan, *Economic and Political Weekly*, <https://www.epw.in/journal/2020/15/h-t-parekh-finance-column/yes-bank-rescue-and-its-aftermath.html>.]

1.1 Based on their fund infusion, Yes Bank became an Associate Bank of which of the Banks listed below?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) Oriental Bank of Commerce
- (c) State Bank of India
- (d) Vijaya Bank

(Answer: (c))

1.2 Who among the following was the promoter and former Managing Director of Yes Bank?

- (a) Ashok Kapur
- (b) Rana Kapoor
- (c) H.V. Kamath
- (d) Sandeep Bakhshi

(Answer: (b))

1.3 Who among the following is the present C.E.O. of Yes Bank?

- (a) Ashok Kapur
- (b) Rana Kapoor
- (c) Prashant Kumar
- (d) M.R. Kumar

(Answer: (c))

1.4 Which of the following is a public bank?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) City Union Bank

(d) India Post Payments Bank

(Answer: (d))

1.5 Which of the following governmental authorities are investigating Yes Bank or its directors at this time?

- (a) Securities & Exchange Board of India
- (b) Enforcement Directorate
- (c) Central Bureau of Investigation
- (d) All of the Above

(Answer: (d))

\*\*\*

## Current Affairs incl GK Passage BN2 (5 Questions)

1.

On 12 August 2014, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (“TRAI”), published a paper titled ‘Recommendation on Media Ownership’. In its opening remarks, the paper said, “The right to freedom of speech is essential for sustaining the vitality of democracy. This is why the right is sacrosanct; it is fiercely protected by the media. The question that arises is whether reposing such a right in the media simultaneously casts an obligation on the media to convey information and news that is accurate, truthful and unbiased.” “What happens in the media,” the paper went on to state, “is the concern of the entire country.”

The TRAI had highlighted this belief in the context of its argument that the ownership of media companies by a handful of entities would increase the “possibility of misuse of the rights of the media for interests that are not in the larger public good.” The paper warned against such structures because of their “negative impact on media diversity and plurality.” Elaborating on these fears, it stated, “There may be thousands of newspapers and hundreds of news channels in the news media market, but if they are all ‘controlled’ by only a handful of entities, then there is insufficient plurality of news and views presented to the people.”

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: “The Big Five: The Media Companies That the Modi Government Must Scrutinise To Fulfill its Promise of Ending Crony Capitalism”, by Krishn Kaushik, *The Caravan*, <https://caravanmagazine.in/vantage/the-big-five-the-media-companies-that-the-modi-government-must-scrutinise-to-fulfill-its-promise-of-ending-crony-capitalism>.]

1.1 Who among the following journalists won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for their work?

- (a) Arnab Goswami
- (b) Amitabha Chowdhury
- (c) Rajdeep Sardesai
- (d) Rahul Kanwal

(Answer: (b))

1.2 Which of the following entities is Rajeev Chandrashekar not associated with?

- (a) Asianet News
- (b) Kannada Prabha
- (c) Suvarna News 24x7
- (d) None of the above

(Answer: (d))

1.3 From which state was Subhash Chandra Goenka elected to the Rajya Sabha?

- (a) Chattisgarh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Jharkhand

(Answer: (c))

1.4 Who among the following is a promoter of their respective Television channels?

- (a) Sudhir Chaudhary
- (b) Faye D'Souza
- (c) Ravish Kumar
- (d) Prannoy Roy

(Answer: (d))

1.5 Who is the Managing Director of Sun Group?

- (a) Dayanidhi Maran
- (b) Kalanithi Maran
- (c) R. Kanimozhi
- (d) Murasoli Maran

(Answer: (b))

\*\*\*



## Legal Reasoning Passage 20 (5 Questions)

The Government passes a law that prohibits the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, commercial distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes in India. Any person who violates this law will be punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both. The law says that for any subsequent offence, the person will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years, along with a fine of up to five lakh rupees. The law defines electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) as electronic devices that heat a substance (natural or artificial) to create aerosol for inhalation. These e-cigarettes may contain nicotine and flavours, and include all forms of electronic nicotine delivery systems, heat-not-burn products, e-hookahs, and other similar devices. However, the definition of 'e-cigarettes' creates an exception for licensed medical products. The law further states that no person is allowed to use any place for the storage of any stock of e-cigarettes. The law states that from the date on which the law came into force (i.e., September 18, 2019), the commercial owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes are required to declare and deposit all their stocks at the nearest office of an authorised police officer (at least at the level of a sub-inspector) without unreasonable delay.

Khalifa owned a shop known as the Big Marley Shop in Koramangala, Bangalore that imported and stocked e-cigarettes from China. He had placed an order for e-cigarettes on September 10, 2019 with his Chinese supplier and the package arrived on September 25, 2019. On the arrival of the package, he promptly went to the house of his neighbour, who happened to be a Police Inspector, and handed it over to him. On September 27, 2019, he gave away for free, 3 e-cigarettes from his existing stock to his cousin, Shanti, who was a chain-smoker of cigarettes and was exploring alternatives to cigarettes. Shanti was delighted and immediately began using the e-cigarettes. Even after the law came into force, Khalifa continued to stock a product in his shop known as the 'Double Barrel' for sale, which has a chamber that converts nicotine juice into the aerosol form like e-cigarettes and a pipe to smoke loose tobacco. Khalifa continues to sell the Double Barrel even after September 18, 2019.

1.1 Did Khalifa obey the law with respect to the new stock of e-cigarettes that arrived on September 25, 2019?

- (a) Yes, he had already placed an order for the import before the law came into force.
- (b) Yes, he deposited with the police officer without unreasonable delay.
- (c) No, he did not deposit it at the office of an authorised police officer.
- (d) No, he deposited the stock 7 days after the law came into force.

(Answer: (c))

### Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) - no, he did not deposit it at the office of an authorised police officer. The law clearly says the commercial owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes are required to declare and deposit these stocks at the nearest office of an authorised police officer. We do not know whether Khalifa's neighbour was an authorised police officer, but the law does not permit depositing the stock of e-cigarettes at the home of a police officer - so regardless of whether the neighbour was an authorised police officer, Khalifa did not obey the law by handing it over at his house. Options (a) and (b) overlook this requirement of the law and therefore, are incorrect. Option (c) is incorrect since Khalifa received the stock only 7 days after the law came into force.

1.2 Did Khalifa violate the law by giving away his e-cigarettes to Shanti?

- (a) No, he did not receive any money for it and therefore did not commercially distribute them.
- (b) No, existing stock is not covered by the law.
- (c) No, 3 e-cigarettes do not constitute a commercial quantity.
- (d) Yes, he failed to deposit them at the nearest office of an authorised police officer.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - yes, he failed to deposit them at the nearest office of an authorised police officer. The passage clearly states that the law required the owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes to declare and deposit all their stocks at the nearest office of an authorised police officer. Therefore, he did violate the law by giving away the 3 e-cigarettes from his stock to Shanti. Since options (a), (b), and (c) ignore this aspect of the law, they are incorrect.

1.3 Did Shanti violate the law on e-cigarettes by using them?

- (a) Yes, she did not surrender them at the nearest office of an authorised police officer.
- (b) Yes, she conspired with Khalifa to violate the law on e-cigarettes.
- (c) No, the law does not ban personal use of e-cigarettes.
- (d) No, she was using it for medical purposes to get off cigarettes.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - no, the law does not ban personal use of e-cigarettes. Nowhere does the passage suggest that personal use of e-cigarettes is banned. It is only known that Shanti used the e-cigarettes but not that she did anything with the e-cigarettes that is banned. The law requiring declaration and deposit with the nearest office of an authorised police officer applies to commercial owners and not to others. Therefore, options (a), (b), and (d) are irrelevant, and (c) is the correct option.

1.4 Is Khalifa's stocking of the product 'Double Barrel' legal?

- (a) No, it contains the functionality of an e-cigarette.
- (b) Yes, since it also has a pipe for smoking loose tobacco, which is not banned.
- (c) No, after September 18, 2019 all forms of tobacco delivery systems are banned.
- (d) Yes, because he only stocked it but did not actively sell it.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - no, it contains the functionality of an e-cigarette. The passage mentions that the 'Double Barrel' has the functionality of an e-cigarette and therefore, it is covered by the ban. While it may be true that it can also perform the function of a pipe for smoking loose tobacco, which is not banned, that does not change the fact that it can be used as an e-cigarette. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer and option (b) is wrong. Option (c) is incorrect since the law does not ban all forms of tobacco delivery systems. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that Khalifa stocked the product for sale.

1.5 In the year 2020, Khalifa stocks a type of electronic device under the name 'Vapify'. This device can convert a substance into the aerosol form for inhalation through heating, but is made for use with the juice of a little-known herb called 'Damiana' which is not illegal and is said to have a range of medical benefits for users such as curing impotency, depression, and headaches. Khalifa also stocks the herb, Damiana in his shop. Is he guilty of violating the law?

(a) No, the definition of 'e-cigarettes' does not include medical products.

(b) No, Vapify is not meant for use with nicotine.

(c) No, Damiana is a legal herb.

(d) Yes, since Vapify can perform the function of an e-cigarette.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - yes, since Vapify can perform the function of an e-cigarette. Although Khalifa stocked it for use with a legal herb, the product falls within the definition of an e-cigarette and is therefore, covered under the ban. Hence options (a), (b), and (c) are incorrect.

\*\*\*

## Legal Reasoning Passage 21 (5 Questions)

1.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the much-forgotten force majeure clause will now come under great scrutiny. A force majeure clause excuses a party to a contract from having to perform its obligations under the contract if the events described in the force majeure clause occur.

The term 'Force Majeure' appeared in the common law world in the 1900s and was borrowed from the Napoleonic Code, although its origins can be traced back to Roman law.

Roman law recognised that the principle of sanctity of contract can be tempered by a competing principle, that obligations under a contract are binding only as long as matters remain the same as they were at the time of entering into the contract.

Under Indian law, force majeure does not simply mean anything outside the control of the parties to a contract. Its meaning, and applicability, depends on the particular contract, and the particular wording used. It is contractual language intended to anticipate unforeseen events and provide for what happens on their occurrence.

Force majeure clauses vary. They can be specific (a list of specific events that are treated as being force majeure, such as fire, flood, war or similar) or general (referring simply to events outside the reasonable control of a party to the contract), or a combination of both.

The test for seeking to rely on a force majeure clause is:

1. The event that gave rise to a party's non-performance under the contract falls within the definition of force majeure in the contract, that is, the event is covered by the force majeure clause, and the non-performance was caused by the relevant event.
2. The event and the non-performance were due to circumstances beyond a party's control. Therefore, force majeure will not include economic problems like insufficient funds.
3. There were no reasonable steps that could have been taken to avoid or mitigate the event or its consequences.

The party seeking to rely on the clause must also show it was not aware, at the time of entering the contract, that the circumstances giving rise to the event of force majeure were likely to occur.

For example, now that the COVID-19 pandemic has started, if parties enter into a contract after this point and then have problems performing as a result, they may not be able to rely on force majeure unless the contract specifically covers COVID-19 and its consequences, and provides for what happens if it affects performance of the contract.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The forgotten Force Majeure clause and its relevance today under Indian and English Law", by Laurence Lieberman and Abhimanyu Bhandari, *Bar and Bench*, <https://www.barandbench.com/columns/the-forgotten-force-majeure-clause-and-its-relevance-today-under-indian-and-english-law>]

- 1.1 Rohan is a freelance writer, who writes marketing materials for various customers; he usually works from home, but travels to customers' offices on occasion, to negotiate a new contract. On March 15, 2020, Rohan executed a contract with a customer, under which he promised to deliver 50 pages of marketing materials to the customer by March 31, 2020. The contract provided the following as force majeure events which would excuse a party from performing its obligations under the contract: "fire, flood, or civil commotion". On March 24, 2020 the Government of India announced a three-week 'lockdown' in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, prohibiting people from leaving their homes other than to obtain essentials.

Rohan wishes to use the force majeure clause in the contract to avoid delivering the marketing materials to his customer. Can he do so?

- (a) Yes, since this was an extraordinary event and no person can be held responsible for contractual duties under such circumstances.
- (b) No, since freelancers cannot claim the protection of a contractual term.
- (c) No, since pandemics are not covered in the force majeure clause of the contract, and neither was Rohan's ability to do his work affected by the pandemic.
- (d) Yes, since Rohan was unable to leave his home for three weeks and so, could not do the work under the contract.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - no, since pandemics are not covered in the force majeure clause of the contract, and neither was Rohan's ability to do his work affected by the pandemic. In the fact situation provided to us, neither of the two elements of the first part of the 'test' described in the passage has been satisfied: that is, neither is 'pandemic' (or a similar event) covered in the force majeure clause in the contract, and nor was Rohan impeded from performing his work during the pandemic, since he worked from home anyway. There is nothing in the passage to support options (a) and (b), and so, neither option (a) nor option (b) can be the correct answer. Since Rohan works from home, as we are told in the facts, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.2 Rohan speaks with his customer, who agrees to extend the date for submitting the marketing materials to April 15, 2020, since Rohan also has to do a lot of housework in light of the lockdown. On April 3, 2020 Rohan fell asleep while smoking in bed. The cigarette fell from his hand as he was smoking, and set his apartment on fire, but luckily, Rohan escaped without any injuries. Can Rohan now use the force majeure clause in the contract to avoid delivering the marketing materials to his customer?

- (a) Yes, since 'fire' is covered in the force majeure clause in the contract.
- (b) Yes, since Rohan's apartment burnt down, and he could not work there anymore.
- (c) No, since smoking is a social evil and should not be tolerated.
- (d) No, since the fire was caused by Rohan's negligence, and not something beyond his control.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – no, since the fire was caused by Rohan's negligence, and not something beyond his control. The second part of the 'test' described in the passage requires that "The event and the non-performance were due to circumstances beyond a party's control"; it was Rohan's negligence in smoking in bed that led to the fire, and as such, he cannot claim that the fire was due to circumstances beyond his control. While 'fire' may have been covered in the force majeure clause, it was not caused due to circumstances beyond Rohan's control, as we just saw; therefore, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. For the same reason, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. While the statement about smoking in option (c) may be true, there is nothing in the passage that supports it as the right answer, and therefore, option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

1.3 Rohan finally delivers the marketing materials to his customer, Seth Ghanshyamdas, on April 15, 2020. Seth Ghanshyamdas however, says that he cannot pay Rohan, since he has lost all his money, which he kept as cash in a desk drawer at his home. The desk was placed in a corner of a room, and the ceiling above had been leaking water for the past couple of years; thinking of it as a small matter however, Seth Ghanshyamdas did not move the desk or keep the money elsewhere. During the lockdown however, the ceiling finally gave way, and the water tank of Seth Ghanshyamdas's building, which was right above, collapsed and flooded Seth Ghanshyamdas's house. Seth Ghanshyamdas now claims that he is not bound to pay as the force majeure clause in the contract protects him. Is he correct?

- (a) No, since he did not do anything to avoid the loss of the money despite knowing that the ceiling above was leaking for the past couple of years.
- (b) No, since he should not have kept all his money in the form of cash, that too, in his house.
- (c) Yes, since his house was flooded, and 'flood' was covered in the force majeure clause in the contract.
- (d) Yes, since there was nothing Seth Ghanshyamdas could do to prevent the water tank from collapsing once the ceiling gave way.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – No, since he did not do anything to avoid the loss of the money despite knowing that the ceiling above was leaking for the past couple of years. The third requirement of the 'test' described in the passage is that 'There were no reasonable steps that could have been taken to avoid or mitigate the event or its consequences'; since Seth Ghanshyamdas knew that the ceiling above the desk had been leaking, that too, for two years, he could have moved the desk, kept the money elsewhere, have the ceiling repaired, or done other things to ensure the money was not lost. Since he did nothing to avoid or mitigate the loss, he cannot claim the protection of the force majeure clause in the contract. For the same set of reasons, neither option (c) nor option (d) can be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support option (b), and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer.

1.4 Seth Ghanshyamdas had entered into an agreement with his customer on March 1, 2020, under which he agreed to provide certain electrical goods to his customer's factory by March 15, 2020. The force majeure events described in the contract listed 'fire, flood, pandemic, war, terror attack, and civil commotion'. On March 25, 2020 Seth Ghanshyamdas called up his customer, and told him that he would not be able to deliver the goods due to the lockdown, and claims protection under the force majeure clause of the contract. Can he do so?

- (a) Yes, since pandemics are covered in the force majeure clause of the contract.
- (b) Yes, since the lockdown and Seth Ghanshyamdas's inability to deliver the goods were beyond his control.
- (c) No, since electrical goods are essential items, and Seth Ghanshyamdas should have delivered them even during the lockdown.
- (d) No, since the lockdown had been declared after the date for delivery of the goods under the contract had passed.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – no, since the lockdown had been declared after the date for delivery of the goods under the contract had passed. The facts provide that Seth Ghanshyamdas was supposed to have delivered the goods by March 15; since the lockdown was only declared on March 24, 2020, Seth Ghanshyamdas could not claim that his failure to deliver the goods was caused by events beyond his control. As such, it does not matter that pandemics are covered in the force majeure clause of the contract, since Seth Ghanshyamdas had already failed in his contractual duties by the time such an event arose; therefore, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. For the same set of reasons, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support option (c), and so, it cannot be the correct answer either.

1.5 Once the lockdown was lifted, and in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the Government of India announced various measures to help revive society and the economy. A government announcement, published in all newspapers on April 30, 2020, stated that "Higher taxes on sale of various goods, such as electronic and electrical items, would be levied on the sellers of such goods to collect money to pay for the reconstruction efforts post the COVID-19 crisis." On May 1, 2020 Seth Ghanshyamdas entered into a contract with a customer to supply certain electrical goods at a certain price; the contract included 'flood,

tempest, war, earthquake, or events that make the activity under the contract unprofitable' as force majeure events. On May 5, the government announced an additional tax of 30% on the sale of any electrical goods, to be paid by the seller of such goods. Under these circumstances, Seth Ghanshyamdas would have suffered a loss by selling the goods, since his profit margin was only 20%. Can he use the force majeure clause in the contract to avoid selling the goods to his customer?

- (a) No, since the imposition of higher taxes was not covered in the contract.
- (b) No, since Seth Ghanshyamdas was aware that higher taxes on sale of electrical goods could be levied when he entered into the contract.
- (c) No, since the levy of the additional tax was a matter within Seth Ghanshyamdas's control.
- (d) No, since Seth Ghanshyamdas could have taken steps to increase the price of the goods even after entering into the contract.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – no, since Seth Ghanshyamdas was aware that higher taxes on sale of electrical goods could be levied when he entered into the contract. The government announcement in the newspapers on April 30, 2020 would cause any reasonable person in Seth Ghanshyamdas's position to be aware that higher taxes may make sales unprofitable; as such, he should have factored the same into his calculations before entering into the contract. Since, as the passage tells us, "The party seeking to rely on the clause must also show it was not aware, at the time of entering the contract, that the circumstances giving rise to the event of force majeure were likely to occur", Seth Ghanshyamdas could not rely on the force majeure clause because he was aware, at the time of entering into the contract on May 5, 2020, that higher taxes could be levied on him for the sale of the electrical goods. Since the contract includes as force majeure events 'events that make the activity under the contract unprofitable', option (a) cannot be the correct answer. Option (c) is wrong, in that it is the government which controls the levy of additional taxes and their rate, and so, it cannot be the correct answer. Since the contract was for the sale of the electrical goods at a 'certain price', option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*

## Legal Reasoning Passage 22 (5 Questions)

2.

In this passage, we explain what behaviour amounts to sexual harassment and how victims of sexual harassment at workplaces can use legal recourse for relief.

A 2018 survey by the Indian National Bar Association revealed that 68% of victims of sexual harassment at the workplace don't report such incidences, fearing adverse consequences at the workplace. And while cases of cyber sexual abuse are rampant, there aren't any official statistics available to reflect the gravity of the situation. This is the story even though there's a specific law—the *Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act*—that's meant to give a voice to sexual harassment victims. So, how can women better use these provisions against the perpetrators of sexual harassment? Advocate Vandana Shah shares some insights:

Egregious behaviour like assault and eve-teasing clearly amount to sexual harassment. But off-colour jokes, obscene WhatsApp forwards, personal remarks, describing a woman in anatomical terms, verbal abuse in regular social interactions are all forms of sexual harassment, Shah said. "If a joke makes a woman highly uncomfortable, she's entitled to go and register a complaint with the Internal Complaints Committee of the organisation."

Under the law, every organisation with 10 or more employees needs to set up an Internal Complaints Committee ("ICC"). It must be presided over by a senior female employee of the organisation and at least one-half of the members of the ICC must be women, including an external member who is preferably familiar with the law or associated with a non-profit organisation working for the causes of women.

The law entitles a victim to lodge a complaint with the ICC, which is supposed to keep it confidential. This is followed by the issuance of a notice to the respondent within seven working days of receipt of the complaint. The accused gets 10 working days to submit his reply along with lists of witnesses and documents. Thereafter, the committee is supposed to hear the victim, the individual against whom the complaint has been filed, and the witnesses, and present a report.

During the investigation, the ICC can recommend that the organisation provide certain reliefs like transfer of the aggrieved woman or of the respondent, or granting the aggrieved woman leave, Shah pointed out. The aggrieved woman and the respondent have the right to cross-examine all witnesses in the form of written questions and responses, but only via the ICC. The working rules of the ICC must state that the respondent shall have no right to directly cross-examine the victim or her witnesses.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "BQ Learning: Faced With Sexual Harassment? Here's What You Can Do", by Chandreyee Mukherjee, *Bloomberg Quint*, <https://www.bloombergquint.com/bqlearning/bq-learning-faced-with-sexual-harassment-heres-what-you-can-do>.]

Answer the following questions assuming that Advocate Vandana Shah's statements, as set out in the passage above, are valid law:

- 2.1 Preeta and Rajesh work at a company called "Freecloud Enterprises". Rajesh is Preeta's senior at work, and Preeta has to report to Rajesh every day about her work. One day, Rajesh sent Preeta a set of images on WhatsApp; these images were lewd and obscene in nature, and Preeta was offended by them. She wishes to file a complaint of sexual harassment against Rajesh. Is Rajesh guilty of sexual harassment?
- (a) Yes, since Preeta reported to him at work, and it was his responsibility to ensure that she was comfortable at the workplace.
  - (b) No, since he had only sent the images once, and there is no evidence to suggest he did such things habitually.



- (c) Yes, since sending obscene WhatsApp messages to a woman colleague amounts to sexual harassment at the workplace.
- (d) No, since Rajesh had only meant to send Preeta the images as a joke.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - yes, since sending obscene WhatsApp messages to a woman colleague amounts to sexual harassment at the workplace. This is set out clearly at the beginning of the third paragraph of the passage. While the statement in option (a) may be true, it does not relate to any of the principles provided in the passage, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. The principles in the passage do not specify that such incidents must occur more than once to constitute sexual harassment, and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. Regardless of whether Rajesh meant to send Preeta the images as a joke, his actions amount to sexual harassment – and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

2.2 Freecloud Enterprises has 11 employees. Since the number of employees is low, the CEO of Freecloud Enterprises, Dinesh, decides not to form an ICC. When Preeta approached Dinesh with her complaint, Dinesh told her that he would handle the matter himself, rather than establishing an ICC. Can he do so?

- (a) Yes, it would be more effective if Dinesh handled the matter himself, as he was the CEO of the company.
- (b) No, since the law requires all organisations with 10 or more employees to set up an ICC.
- (c) Yes, since the company had only 11 employees, of whom Dinesh and Preeta were two; as such, there were effectively only nine employees in the company, and Dinesh does not need to establish an ICC.
- (d) No, since any woman employee can demand the establishment of an ICC in any organisation, no matter how many employees it may have.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – no, since the law requires all organisations with 10 or more employees to set up an ICC. This is set out clearly at the beginning of the fourth paragraph of the passage. Whether or not option (a) is true, not establishing an ICC would be a violation of the law, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. The statements in options (c) and (d) are not supported by anything in the passage, and so, neither (c) nor (d) can be the correct answer.

2.3 Dinesh agrees to establish the ICC for Freecloud Enterprises and to refer Preeta’s complaint to the ICC. Aside from Preeta, who is a mid-level employee at Freecloud Enterprises, two other women worked at the company: Ranjeeta, a new employee who was hired at a junior position, and Suneeta, who was a Director, and therefore, held a senior position in the company. Dinesh appoints Ranjeeta and Suneeta to the ICC, but not Preeta. He also decides to be a member of the ICC, and to preside over the committee himself, as he is the CEO of the company. Can he preside over the ICC?

- (a) Yes, since he is the senior-most employee at the company, and as such, should preside over its ICC.
- (b) Yes, since this would ensure that the decisions of the ICC are implemented.
- (c) No, since Dinesh was involved in the matter himself.
- (d) No, since the ICC must be presided over by a woman.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – no, since the ICC must be presided over by a woman. This is provided in the fourth paragraph of the passage. There is nothing in the passage to support the statements in options (a)

and (c), and so, neither (a) nor (c) can be the correct answer. While option (d) may or may not be true, since the law provides that the ICC must be presided over by a woman, Dinesh cannot preside over it.

2.4 If Freecloud Enterprises's ICC is to have a total of five members, how many other men can Dinesh appoint to the ICC?

- (a) None.
- (b) One.
- (c) Two.
- (d) Three.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – one. The passage tells us that “at least one-half of the members of the ICC must be women, including an external member”; since Ranjeeta and Suneeta are both employees of the company, one external member (who must also be a woman, as the number of women members of the ICC includes the external member) remains to be appointed. Since Dinesh is also a member of the ICC, only one position out of five would remain open in the ICC, and so, he can only appoint one other man to the ICC.

2.5 The ICC of Freecloud Enterprises conducts its investigation into Preeta's complaint, and finds Rajesh guilty of sexual harassment. It recommends to the company that it grant Preeta her request of transferring Rajesh to a branch office of the company. Preeta also asks the ICC to recommend that Rajesh be sent on leave for two weeks. Can the ICC grant this request?

- (a) No, since the ICC can recommend the transfer of Preeta or Rajesh, and recommend that Preeta be granted leave, but it cannot recommend that Rajesh be sent on leave.
- (b) No, since Rajesh was Preeta's senior at the workplace.
- (c) Yes, since the ICC found Rajesh guilty of sexual harassment.
- (d) Yes, since it would have been traumatic for Preeta to see Rajesh at the workplace.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – no, since the ICC can recommend the transfer of Preeta or Rajesh, and recommend that Preeta be granted leave, but it cannot recommend that Rajesh be sent on leave. The passage tells us that the ICC can “recommend that the organisation provide certain reliefs like transfer of the aggrieved woman or of the respondent, or granting the aggrieved woman leave”. Given this, the ICC has no authority to recommend that Rajesh be sent on leave, whether or not it found Rajesh guilty of sexual harassment, and so, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. Option (b) is irrelevant in the context of the information provided in the passage, and so, (b) cannot be the correct answer. While option (d) may or may not be true, it is beyond the ICC's authority to recommend that Rajesh be sent on leave, and so, (d) cannot be the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## Legal Reasoning Passage 23 (7 Questions)

The Reserve Bank of India (“RBI”) has powers to regulate banks but those do not include the power to prohibit or ban virtual currencies (“VCs”) directly. However, the RBI issued directions to banks that they should not provide banking services to those engaged in the trading of VCs or engaged in the facilitation of such trading by operating VC exchanges and so on.

The Supreme Court of India observed that the concern of RBI ought to be about the entities regulated by it i.e., banks. However, the RBI did not take a stand that any of the banks regulated by it had suffered any loss or adverse effect directly or indirectly, on account of the interfacing between the banks and the VC exchange operators.

The RBI has very wide powers to take preventive as well as curative measures. But the availability of power is different from the manner and extent to which the powers may be exercised. While the Supreme Court recognised the power of the RBI to take pre-emptive action, it questioned the proportionality of the measures used by the RBI. To determine the proportionality of the RBI’s measures the Supreme Court held that the RBI should show some semblance of damage suffered by its regulated entities. There should be some empirical data to demonstrate the degree of harm suffered by the regulated entities (after establishing that they were harmed). It is not the case of RBI that any of the entities regulated by it has suffered on account of the provision of banking services to the online platforms running VC exchanges.

When the consistent stand of the RBI is that they have not banned VCs and when the Government of India is unable to take a call despite several committees coming up with several proposals including two draft bills, both of which advocated exactly opposite positions, it is not possible for the Supreme Court to hold that the impugned measure is proportionate. Hence, the Supreme Court set aside the RBI’s circular containing directions to banks that they should not provide banking services to those engaged in the trading of VCs or engaged in the facilitation of such trading.

[Based on the judgment delivered by Ramasubramanian V., J., in *IMAI v. Reserve Bank of India*, W.P. (Civil) No. 528 of 2018 dated March 4, 2020]

1.1 Which of the following is true?

- (a) The RBI banned VCs.
- (b) The RBI prohibited companies from facilitating trading in VCs.
- (c) The RBI prohibited banks from allowing companies engaged in trading in VCs from using bank services.
- (d) The RBI banned those banks that traded in VCs.

(Answer: (c))

### Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) - the RBI prohibited banks from allowing companies engaged in trading in VCs from using bank services. The first paragraph clearly states that the RBI issued directions to banks that they should not provide banking services to those engaged in the trading of VCs. The RBI does not, as we are told in the opening words of the passage, have the power to directly ban VCs or companies trading in VCs; therefore, options (a) and (b) are incorrect. There is nothing in the passage to suggest that the RBI banned banks that traded in VCs. Hence, option (d) is incorrect.

1.2 The Supreme Court took exception to the RBI’s actions because:

- (a) the RBI had no concern for companies trading in VCs.
- (b) the RBI had not shown any concern for banks regulated by it.
- (c) the RBI did not prove that banks had suffered harm because of the provision of banking services to VC exchange operators but directed banks not to do so any way.
- (d) the RBI exercised wide powers despite having narrow powers under the law.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - the RBI did not prove that banks had suffered harm because of the provision of banking services to VC exchange operators but directed banks not to do so any way. As is evident from the passage, the Supreme Court acknowledged that the RBI had wide powers but found it problematic that the RBI had directed banks to stop providing banking services to operators of VC exchanges without demonstrating that banks had suffered some damage due to the same. This is accurately captured in option (c), which is the correct answer. Options (a), (b) and (d), are not supported by anything in the passage and are incorrect.

1.3 In an appeal against the judgment of the Supreme Court on which the above passage is based, the RBI demonstrated that a bank that had been providing banking services to a VC exchange operator had suffered losses because a company engaged in real estate projects had not repaid a loan that it had borrowed. Will the RBI succeed in its appeal?

- (a) Yes; since the RBI can demonstrate that banks providing banking services to operators of VC exchanges had suffered harm.
- (b) Yes; since the crux of the problem that the Supreme Court found with the RBI's stand was that it could not provide data about any banks that had suffered losses.
- (c) No; since only one bank had suffered losses after providing banking services to a company operating a VC exchange.
- (d) No; since there is no correlation between the loss suffered by the bank and the provision of banking services by that bank to the VC exchange operator.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - no; since there is no correlation between the loss suffered by the bank and the provision of banking services by that bank to the VC exchange operator. It is amply clear from the second paragraph that the Supreme Court set aside the directions issued by the RBI because the RBI had asked banks to stop providing banking services to VC trading entities and exchange operators despite not taking a stand that any of the banks regulated by it had suffered any loss or adverse effect on account of the same. The question states that the bank that had suffered losses had suffered such losses on account of a company engaged in real estate projects not repaying a loan it had borrowed and not because of the interfacing with VC exchange operators. Therefore, option (d) is correct and options (a), (b), and (c) are wrong.

1.4 The RBI issues a new circular stating that VCs are being used by a terrorist organisation called ISIL and imposes a countrywide ban on the use of VCs until further notice. This new circular is challenged before the Supreme Court. Will the Supreme Court uphold its validity?

- (a) Yes; since the new circular demonstrates valid grounds for banning VCs.
- (b) No; the RBI does not have the authority to ban VCs.

(c) Yes; the RBI had taken a clear stand that VCs are being used by a terrorist organisation.

(d) No; the RBI cannot issue any circulars after the Supreme Court judgment.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - the RBI does not have the authority to ban VCs. The very first sentence of the passage states that the RBI does not have the power to prohibit or ban VCs directly. This does not change no matter the ground on which the RBI may attempt to do so. The question states clearly that the RBI circular banned the use of VCs directly. This is something that the RBI has no authority to do, as we are told in the first line of the passage. Therefore, (b) is the correct answer. Options (a) and (d) are incorrect because the grounds of the proposed ban do not legitimise the ban itself. Option (d) is also incorrect because there is nothing in the passage to suggest that the RBI cannot issue circulars after the Supreme Court judgment.

1.5 Relying on data gathered by a third-party research outfit showing that construction companies frequently fail to repay loans to banks, the RBI issues a circular instructing banks to conduct special, in-depth due diligence on construction companies before offering them loans. Is this circular valid?

(a) No; the RBI cannot regulate construction companies.

(b) Yes; the RBI can regulate construction companies based on real data that demonstrates harm being caused to banks by construction companies.

(c) No; the RBI cannot direct differential treatment of a specific type of companies as compared to others, since all companies are equal before the law.

(d) Yes; the RBI has powers to issued directions such as in the circular and the measures that the RBI has instructed banks to take are proportionate to the harm to the banks that is sought to be prevented.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - yes; the RBI has powers to issued directions such as in the circular and the measures that the RBI has instructed banks to take are proportionate to the harm to the banks that is sought to be prevented. We know from the passage that the RBI has powers to regulate banks and it has wide powers to take preventive measures and those are valid so long as they are proportionate. The question clearly refers to the fact that the RBI circular instructing banks to conduct special, in-depth due diligence on construction companies was based on actual data on failure of construction companies to repay loans. Banks suffer losses when loans given by them are not repaid. Hence, the directions of the RBI are proportionate to the harm to the banks that is sought to be prevented. Therefore, (d) is the correct answer. The circular does not regulate construction companies in any way and therefore options (a) and (b) are incorrect. There is nothing in the passage to support option (c), which is also incorrect.

1.6 The IRDAI, India's insurance sector regulator, has wide powers to regulate insurance companies. Taking cognizance of the rising death toll in the country due to the Coronavirus, the IRDAI directs banks to issue loans at very low interest rates to insurance companies so that insurance companies can process insurance claims on time. This direction of the IRDAI is challenged before the Supreme Court. Will the challenge be successful?

(a) No; the IRDAI does not have the power to issue directions to banks.

(b) No; the IRDAI's directions do not benefit insurance companies.

(c) Yes; the IRDAI's directions will ensure that insurance companies do not face a shortage of funds at a time when the number of claims may be very high.

(d) Yes; the IRDAI has taken a proportionate measure in the face of a serious threat to the business of insurance companies.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - no; the IRDAI does not have the power to issue directions to banks. The question clearly states that the IRDAI is the insurance-sector regulator and has powers to regulate insurance companies and not banks. The directions issued by the IRDAI was to banks and not to insurance companies. Since IRDAI does not have the power to regulate banks, the directions are not valid and the challenge will be successful. Hence option (a) is the correct answer and not options (b), (c), or (d).

1.7 A VC exchange operator called Satoshi Associates borrows a huge loan from a public sector bank and fails to repay the loan to the bank. Taking cognizance of this the RBI issues instructions to all public sector banks in the country that no loans may be issued to Satoshi Associates. Satoshi Associates challenge these instructions of the RBI in court. Will they succeed?

(a) No; the RBI's instructions were issued in due exercise of its powers, based on actual default by Satoshi Associates and in proportion to the harm that would be prevented by such instructions.

(b) No; VC exchange operation is prohibited in India.

(c) No; the RBI can exercise any power available to it under law at any time regardless of other considerations.

(d) Yes; the RBI's instructions are regressive and not in the interest of banks or the country's interests at large.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - no; the RBI's instructions were issued in due exercise of its powers, based on actual default by Satoshi Associates and in proportion to the harm that would be prevented by such instructions. Option (a) accurately lists the reasons why the instructions issued by the RBI that are referred to in the question are lawful and will be upheld in court. VC exchange operation is not prohibited in India, as is evident from the passage and therefore, option (b) is incorrect. The RBI cannot exercise any power available to it; the power exercise has to pass the proportionality test as specified in the passage. Hence, option (c) is incorrect. There is nothing in the passage to support the statement in option (d) and it is therefore incorrect.

\*\*\*

## Legal Reasoning Passage 24 (5 Questions)

1.

The central government has decided to invoke the *Epidemic Act, 1897* (the “**Epidemic Act**”) to tackle the coronavirus crisis. The decision was taken on March 11, 2020.

The Epidemic Act is meant “to provide for the better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases”.

The central government issued a regulation (the “**March 11 Regulation**”) prohibiting till March 31, 2020 the entry into Indian ports of international cruise ships, crew, or passengers with a travel history to coronavirus-hit nations.

Section 2A of the Epidemic Act empowers the central government to take steps to prevent the spread of an epidemic.

“When the central government is satisfied that India or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, the central government may prescribe regulations for the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port in the territories of India and for such detention thereof, or of any person intending to sail therein, or arriving or leaving thereby, as may be necessary,” it says.

The British-era Act was mainly used to control plague in the late 1800s. Its provisions being invoked by the government now calls for fines and imprisonment in cases of violation. “Any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860),” says Section 3 of the Epidemic Act.

The law also protects officials who act under the provisions of this law. “No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or in good faith intended to be done under this Act,” says Section 4 of the legislation.

The Epidemic Act can be used to restrict movement of suspected coronavirus patients to prevent further spread of the disease. The need to invoke the Act was felt to empower the central government to tackle the outbreak.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from “With Infections on The Rise, Centre Invokes British-era Epidemic Act to Tackle Spread of Coronavirus”, by Arunima, *News18*, <https://www.news18.com/news/india/with-infections-on-the-rise-centre-invokes-british-era-epidemic-act-to-tackle-spread-of-coronavirus-2533871.html>]

1.1 On March 12, 2020, the central government prescribed a set of regulations (the “**March 12 Regulations**”), which required that any goods vessel trying to enter an Indian port should first be subjected to a thorough inspection by the government health officials at that port. On March 13, 2020 a Russian goods vessel, the “*Vostok*”, reached the waters outside Vishakapatnam port, and sought permission to dock at the port from the port authorities. The port authorities informed the Captain of the *Vostok* that they had a shortage of health officials at the port, and that the *Vostok* would have to wait three days before it could be inspected and a decision taken on its entering the port. Captain Gagarin of the *Vostok* argues that this amount to prohibiting the entry of the *Vostok* into an Indian port, and since the prohibition only applied to cruise ships, it was invalid. Is he right?

- (a) Yes, since the *Vostok* is a goods vessel and not a cruise ship.
- (b) Yes, since a delay of three days amounts to the same thing as a permanent prohibition on entering the port.
- (c) No, since the inspection of the *Vostok* was mandatory under S. 188 of the *Indian Penal Code* (the “**IPC**”).

(d) No, since the inspection of the *Vostok* was mandatory under the March 12 Regulations.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - no, since the inspection of the *Vostok* was mandatory under the March 12 Regulations. Since the March 12 Regulations clearly required “that any goods vessel trying to enter an Indian port should first be subjected to a thorough inspection by the government health officials at that port”, it was valid for the Vishakhapatnam port authorities to refuse the *Vostok* entry until the inspection was completed. Since the facts clearly state that the March 12 Regulations apply to goods vessels, option (a) is irrelevant, and so, cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the facts to support the statement in option (b); furthermore, a delay of 3 days cannot reasonably be argued to amount to a permanent prohibition in the context of the facts provided, and so option (b) cannot be the correct answer. While disobeying the March 12 Regulation may amount to an offence under S. 188 of the Indian Penal Code, the fact remains that the inspection of the *Vostok* was mandatory because of the March 12 Regulations; therefore, option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

1.2 On March 16, 2020 a team of health officials from the Vishakhapatnam port boarded the *Vostok*, and carried out their inspection. The health officials decided to permit the entry of the *Vostok* into Vishakhapatnam port, but ordered that Captain Gagarin accompany them on their vessel so that he could be put into an isolation ward at the local hospital, as he had tested positive for the coronavirus. Could they issue such an order?

- (a) Yes, since it is important that persons who tested positive should be isolated in a hospital.
- (b) Yes, since the Epidemic Act permits the restriction of movement of people who test positive for the coronavirus.
- (c) No, since the March 12 Regulation only requires that goods vessels be inspected prior to being allowed to enter an Indian port, and do not talk about detaining people.
- (d) No, since Captain Gagarin was not an Indian citizen.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – yes, since the Epidemic Act permits the restriction of movement of people who test positive for the coronavirus. The passage tells us that the Epidemic Act “can be used to restrict movement of suspected coronavirus patients to prevent further spread of the disease”, and since Captain Gagarin had tested positive for the coronavirus, the Epidemic Act permitted his detention and isolation in a hospital, so as to prevent the further spread of the disease. While option (a) may be true, it is incomplete, as it does not provide the source of the health officials authority to detain Captain Gagarin, and option (b) is a more comprehensive and accurate answer, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. While option (c) may be true, the power to detain suspected coronavirus patients lies in the Epidemic Act, and so, whether or not the March 12 Regulation included that power is irrelevant; therefore, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. Nothing in the passage indicates that the powers under the Epidemic Act can only be exercised in respect of Indian citizens, and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.3 On March 23, 2020 the *Vostok* finished unloading all its goods and sought permission from the Vishakhapatnam port authorities to leave the port’s waters. First Officer Tereshkova of the *Vostok* had taken the decision to leave the port, even though Captain Gagarin was in isolation. The Vishakhapatnam port authorities refused the *Vostok* permission to leave. Did they have the authority to do so?

- (a) Yes, they had the authority to do so under the March 12 Regulation.
- (b) Yes, they had the authority to do so under S. 2A of the Epidemic Act.
- (c) No, they did not have the authority do so under the March 12 Regulation.
- (d) No, since Captain Gagarin was still in isolation at the hospital.



(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – no, they did not have the authority to do so under the March 12 Regulation. The March 12 Regulation relates to goods vessels trying to enter an Indian port, and not to vessels trying to leave India; therefore, the Vishakhapatnam port authorities did not have the authority under the March 12 Regulation to prevent the exit of the *Vostok* from Vishakhapatnam port. Therefore, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. S. 2A of the Epidemic Act authorises the central government to prescribe regulations for the purposes described in that section; it does not provide direct authority to the port authorities to do so and therefore, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. Option (d) is not supported by any of the information provided to us, and so, it cannot be the correct answer.

1.4 When Captain Gagarin heard about the *Vostok's* departure from Vishakhapatnam port, he got very angry. That night, he secretly escaped from the hospital; the next morning, however, the police and hospital officials tracked him down, and filed charges under S. 188 of the IPC against him. Had Captain Gagarin committed an offence under S. 188 of the IPC?

- (a) Yes, since he violated the isolation order made under the Epidemic Act.
- (b) No, since he was the Captain of the *Vostok*, and was compelled to join its crew.
- (c) No, since the March 12 Regulation applied to goods vessels, and not to individuals.
- (d) Yes, since the order under the March 12 Regulation applied to him personally.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – yes, since he violated the isolation order made under the Epidemic Act. Since, as we have seen in the rationale for the second question in this set, the order to isolate Captain Gagarin was validly made under the Epidemic Act, and since S. 3 of the Epidemic Act states “Any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code”, Captain Gagarin had committed an offence under S. 188 of the IPC by escaping from the hospital. Option (b) is irrelevant to the question, and so, cannot be the correct answer. The March 12 Regulation applied to the entry of the *Vostok* into Vishakhapatnam port, but was not relevant as regards the order of isolation imposed on Captain Gagarin; therefore, neither option (c) nor option (d) can be the correct answer.

1.5 The cruise ship *Sputnik Sweetheart* was scheduled to arrive at Vishakhapatnam port on April 2, 2020. On April 1, 2020 Captain Gagarin was discharged from the hospital where he had been kept. As a humanitarian gesture, the authorities dropped all charges against him as well. He therefore decided to buy a ticket to board the *Sputnik Sweetheart* as it was destined eventually for his home port of Vladivostok. The Vishakhapatnam port authorities, however, decided not to permit the *Sputnik Sweetheart* to enter the port, as it had just arrived from China, a coronavirus-affected country. Captain Gagarin claimed they did not have the authority to do so. Was he right?

- (a) No, since the port authorities had that authority under the March 12 Regulation.
- (b) No, since the port authorities had that authority under the March 11 Regulation.
- (c) Yes, since the March 11 Regulation only prohibited the entry of such cruise ships until March 31, 2020.
- (d) Yes, since the port authorities had that power under S. 188 of the IPC.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – yes, since the March 11 Regulation only prohibited the entry of such cruise ships until March 31, 2020. This date is clearly set out in the third paragraph of the passage; for the same reason, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. Since the March 12 Regulation applied to goods vessels and not cruise ships, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. As explained earlier, disobeying an order or regulation under the Epidemic Act would amount to a violation of S. 188 of the IPC; since there had been no such violation in this instance, option (d) is incorrect, and therefore cannot be the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## Legal Reasoning Passage 25 (5 Questions)

1.

The Supreme Court on March 17, 2020 granted eligibility for grant of permanent commission for women officers in the Navy, saying “women can sail with same efficiency as male officers and there should be no discrimination.” The application for permanent commission will be considered based on the availability of vacancies and the recommendations of the chief of naval staff, the Court has said.

A permanent commission entitles an officer to serve in the Navy till he/she retires, unlike short service commission (“SSC”), which is currently for 10 years and can be extended by four more years, or a total of 14 years.

A division bench of justices DY Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi said denying permanent commission for women amounts to miscarriage of justice.

It said there cannot be gender discrimination in granting permanent commission to women officers in the Navy after the statutory bar was lifted by the Centre in 1992 to allow entry of women in the Navy.

“Once statutory bar was lifted to allow entry of women officers then male and female officers are to be treated equally in granting permanent commission,” the court said.

The bench rejected the Centre’s stand that women officers in Navy can’t be granted sea duties because its Russian vessels don’t have washrooms for them. There is enough documentary evidence to suggest women officers in Navy brought accolades to the force, it said.

The verdict also grants pension benefits to women officers in the Navy who have retired prior to the date of the judgment, and were not granted permanent commission, while clarifying that pension benefits would not be available to officers who retired after the date of the decision and who had not opted for permanent commission.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from “SC clears permanent commission for women in Navy”, *The Indian Express*, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/sc-clears-permanent-commission-for-women-in-navy-6318280/>]

- 1.1 Sub Lieutenant Arora is a woman officer in the Indian Navy; she, along with Sub Lieutenant Singh, a male officer, have served the same duration in the Navy, and both apply for a permanent commission (“PC”). At the time of considering their applications, the chief of naval staff orders that Sub Lieutenant Singh would be granted a PC, but not Sub Lieutenant Arora, since, he says, “Women do not have the physical capability to serve on the high seas and should not be away from their family for such long durations.” In light of the Supreme Court’s judgment described in the passage above, is such an order valid?
- (a) Yes, since the chief of naval staff provided legitimate reasons for the decision.
  - (b) Yes, since the reasons provided by the chief of naval staff are not explicitly covered in the judgment.
  - (c) No, since the Navy should modify its Russian vessels to make them fit for use by women, as necessary.
  - (d) No, since the judgment provides that there can be no gender discrimination in granting PC to women officers in the Navy.

(Answer: (d))

### **Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - no, since the judgment provides that there can be no gender discrimination in granting PC to women officers in the Navy. This is clearly set out in the fourth paragraph of the passage above. Since the reasons provided by the officer are directly contradictory to the directions in the

judgment, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. While the judgment may not cover many specific instances, it does provide us a general rule – which is that there can be no gender discrimination in granting PC to women officer in the Navy – therefore, option (b) cannot be the correct answer, especially since the chief of naval staff’s reasons were clearly discriminatory against women. While option (c) may or may not be true, it is not relevant to the question of whether Sub Lieutenant Arora should have been granted PC, and so, option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

- 1.2 Two officers in the Navy, one male and one female, were being considered for the grant of PC on March 20, 2020. Since there was, at that time, only one PC slot available in the Navy’s quota, the supervising officer had to determine which of the two officers should be granted PC. After considering all the information at hand, the chief of naval staff noted that the male officer had an impeccable service record, whereas the female officer had received certain adverse remarks for her handling of her responsibilities in the past, and had not performed as well as the male officer. The chief of naval staff therefore decides to recommend the PC to the male officer, but not to the female officer. The female officer claims this is violative of the Supreme Court judgment. Is she right?
- (a) Yes, since the chief of naval staff’s recommendation was discriminatory against the female officer.
  - (b) No, since the recommendation of PC to the male officer over the female officer was not made on the basis of gender discrimination.
  - (c) Yes, since past conduct should not have been a factor in determining which officer was recommended for grant of PC.
  - (d) No, since the matter was entirely within the supervising officer’s discretion, and they could decide it in any manner they thought fit.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – no, since the recommendation of PC to the male officer over the female officer was not made on the basis of gender discrimination. The Supreme Court has been quoted in the passage as having said that the application for PC will be considered based on the availability of vacancies and the recommendations of the chief of naval staff. Further, the facts clearly tell us that the male officer had an impeccable service record, whereas the female officer had not performed as well as the male officer. Since there was only one PC slot available, the chief of naval staff’s decision to recommend the slot to the officer with the better service record cannot be said to have been based on gender discrimination. For the same reason, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. Similarly, option (c) cannot be the correct answer, since it was entirely fair for the chief of naval staff to choose the past service record as the basis of determining which of the two officers should have been recommended to the one available PC slot. Option (d) is not true – if the statement in option (d) were true, then there would be no bar on the chief of naval staff taking a decision based on gender discrimination, which would be contradictory to the Supreme Court’s judgment. Therefore, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

- 1.3 Lt. Cdr. Khanna has been serving in the Indian Navy on SSC since January 1, 2010. She has decided not to opt for PC. Until what date, at the maximum, can Lt. Cdr. Khanna serve as an officer in the Navy?
- (a) December 31, 2023
  - (b) December 31, 2019
  - (c) March 17, 2020
  - (d) Permanently, until retirement

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – December 31, 2023. The second paragraph of the passage tells us that SSC is “for 10 years and can be extended by four more years, or a total of 14 years”. A total of 14 years from January 1, 2010 would mean that the maximum date until when Lt. Cdr. Khanna can serve in the Indian

Navy would be December 31, 2023. Given this, and since Lt. Cdr. Khanna has decided not to opt for PC, none of the other options can be the correct answer.

- 1.4 Vice Admiral Joshi retired from the Indian Navy on March 22, 2020 with a distinguished service record over the course of her SSC. She had decided not to opt for PC, and had thus retired at the end of her 14-year stint as an SSC officer in the Navy. Is Vice Admiral Joshi eligible for pension after retirement?
- (a) Yes, since she had a distinguished service record.
  - (b) Yes, since she had served the full duration of her SSC.
  - (c) No, since she had not opted for PC.
  - (d) No, since she had retired after the date of the Supreme Court judgment, and had not opted for PC.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – no, since she had retired after the date of the Supreme Court judgment, and had not opted for PC. The last paragraph of the passage tells us that the Supreme Court’s judgment granted pension benefits to women officers in the Indian Navy “who have retired prior to the date of the judgment, and were not granted permanent commission while clarifying that pension benefits would not be available to officers who retired after the date of the decision and who had not opted for permanent commission”. Since Vice Admiral Joshi had retired after the date of the judgment, and had not even applied for PC, she would therefore not be entitled to receive pension benefits. Given this, options (a) and (b) are irrelevant, and neither can be the correct answer. While option (c) may be true, it does not address the fact that Vice Admiral Joshi retired after the date of the Supreme Court judgment, and therefore, option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

- 1.5 Lt. Gupta, a woman officer serving in the Indian Navy since March 1, 2014, applied for and was granted PC on March 25, 2020. Until what date at the maximum can she serve as an officer in the Navy?
- (a) Until March 24, 2030.
  - (b) Until she attains the age of retirement.
  - (c) Until March 24, 2034.
  - (d) There is no maximum limit on her tenure and she could choose to serve until any date she decides.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – until she attains the age of retirement. The passage states that “A permanent commission entitles an officer to serve in the Navy till he/she retires”. Given this, none of the other options can be the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## Legal Reasoning Passage 26 (5 Questions)

1.

There is a popular myth, often fostered by the police itself, that the force requires 'orders' from their superiors, i.e. the political executive, in order to 'act'. In reality, under the law, the police have adequate powers and they do not need any orders from anybody, provided they are 'aware' of their powers and have the will to act. A second myth relates to the use of lethal force. The popular notion is that the police need special orders to open fire. Once again, it is not so.

An unlawful assembly (popularly known as a mob or a riotous mob) has been defined in the Indian Penal Code ("IPC") in Section 141 as "An assembly of five or more persons, where the common object of the persons composing that assembly is committing violence or where such assembly of five or more persons is likely to cause a disturbance of the public peace".

How exactly the legal power of the police to use force, vested in Section 129 of the Code of Criminal Procedure ("CrPC"), is to be used was prescribed in the case of *Karam Singh v. Hardayal Singh And Ors*. It was held that before any force can be used, three prerequisites are to be satisfied. Firstly, there should be an unlawful assembly. Secondly, such assembly is ordered to be dispersed, and thirdly, in spite of such orders to disperse, the assembly should have refused to disperse. Thus, the police can never have any excuse for not acting or waiting for orders from their superiors or the political executive.

It is a popular misconception that the police need an order from a magistrate in order to act. Section 129 of the CrPC speaks of 'Any executive magistrate or officer in charge of a police station or, in the absence of such officer in charge, any police officer, not below the rank of a sub-inspector'. This means that any one of them can order the use of force to disperse an unlawful assembly. One often finds police officers taking a plea that while they wanted to use force, the executive magistrate did not issue orders even though the law does not say that only an executive magistrate can issue such an order. If there is an executive magistrate around, it is generally considered good practice to obtain her or his orders, but it is not stated anywhere that it is mandatory.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Explained: Why the Police Fails at Handling Riots", by N.C. Asthana, *The Wire*, <https://thewire.in/law/delhi-police-riots>]

1.1 Inspector Ishmeet is in charge of a team of five constables of the police entrusted with capturing the notorious gangster Varun Mouli, who has been on the run from the police for some time. He receives information that Mouli is hiding in a remote suburb of Mumbai, and decides to take the local train to reach Mouli as soon as possible. The Inspector and his team reach Dadar station to catch the train, but when they reach there, the platform is extremely crowded, and they are not able to get through to the train. Inspector Ishmeet shouts loudly at the people on the platform, telling them to get out of the way, but nobody listens to him, as it is rush hour, and the people were keen to get to their workplace. Inspector Ishmeet opened fire to disperse the crowd. When he is pulled up the authorities for doing so, he pleads that he was merely exercising his powers under S. 129 of the CrPC. Is his argument valid? (An inspector ranks above a sub-inspector of police; a constable ranks below a sub-inspector of police.)

- (a) No, since it would have been better for Inspector Ishmeet to take a police van to capture Mouli.
- (b) No, since the people on the platform did not constitute an unlawful assembly, and the Inspector did not have the authority to use force on them under S. 129 of the CrPC.
- (c) Yes, since, by obstructing the police from catching the train, the people on the platform constituted an unlawful assembly.
- (d) Yes, since Inspector Ishmeet had told the people to disperse, and he only used force once they did not disperse.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - no, since the people on the platform did not constitute an unlawful assembly, and the Inspector did not have the authority to use force on them under S. 129 of the CrPC. The passage tells us that the first prerequisite for the use of force by the police under S. 129 of the CrPC is that there should be an unlawful assembly. Since the people on the platform were merely trying to catch the train to get to their workplace, they do not fit the definition of an 'unlawful assembly' under S. 141 of the IPC. Given this, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. Option (a) is irrelevant to the question, and so, (a) cannot be the correct answer. Option (d) relates to the third prerequisite for the use of force by the police under S. 129 of the CrPC, but does not account for the fact that the people on the platform did not constitute an unlawful assembly, as explained earlier. Therefore, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.2 Inspector Ishmeet and his team finally reach the location where Mouli is hiding, a park in a remote suburb. There, they find Mouli talking to two of his associates, and overhear them planning to rob a nearby bank. Inspector Ishmeet shouts out to Mouli and his associates, telling them to "Stand still" and "Do not move!". Mouli and his associates instead start running away from the spot, and Inspector Ishmeet and his team chase them down and start hitting them with lathis (wooden sticks). Once again, Inspector Ishmeet claims that this was a valid exercise of his power under S. 129 of the CrPC. Which of the following are reasons why this was not a valid exercise of the Inspector's powers under S. 129 of the CrPC?

- (a) Since Mouli and his associates were less than five in number, they did not constitute an unlawful assembly.
- (b) Since Inspector Ishmeet had ordered Mouli and his associates to stand still, rather than disperse, the requirements of S. 129 of the CrPC were not fulfilled.
- (c) Neither (a) nor (b)
- (d) Both, (a) and (b)

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – both, (a) and (b). the definition of an unlawful assembly under S. 141 of the IPC requires that there be an assembly of at least five persons; since Mouli and his associates were only three in number, they could not possibly constitute an unlawful assembly, and therefore, the statement in option (a) is right. The second prerequisite for the exercise of power under S. 129 of the CrPC provided to us is that the assembly must be ordered to be dispersed; since Inspector Ishmeet had ordered Mouli and his associates to do the opposite, this prerequisite was not satisfied, and so, the statement in option (b) is also right. Given this, option (d) is the correct answer, and option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

1.3 Mouli and his associates ran away from the spot, and when Inspector Ishmeet's team finally caught up with them, five more of Mouli's associates had joined Mouli. The eight of them were standing outside a local bank, armed with sticks and stones, and were breaking all the windows in the bank in an attempt to scare people and raid the bank. As Inspector Ishmeet was tired from chasing Mouli and his group and had stopped somewhere to rest, Head Constable Kumar was leading the police team, and he ordered the team to start firing upon Mouli's group to stop them. Did he have the authority to do so?

- (a) No, since a constable does not have the authority to order the use of force under S. 129 of the CrPC.
- (b) No, since Mouli and his group did not constitute an unlawful assembly.
- (c) Yes, since Mouli's and his group's actions clearly showed that they were an unlawful assembly.
- (d) Yes, since Head Constable Kumar was leading the police team at the time.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – no, since a constable does not have the authority to order the use of force under S. 129 of the CrPC. The passage tells us that under S. 129 of the CrPC, only an "executive magistrate

or officer in charge of a police station or, in the absence of such officer in charge, any police officer, not below the rank of a sub-inspector” can order the use of force to disperse an unlawful assembly. Since a constable ranks lower than an inspector, Head Constable Kumar did not have the authority under S. 129 of the CrPC to order the use of force to disperse Mouli and his group. Since Mouli and his group were more than five in number and were clearly violent, they did constitute an unlawful assembly, and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer; regardless of this, however, Head Constable Kumar, as explained earlier, did not have the authority to order the use of force under S. 129 of the CrPC, and so, neither option (c) nor option (d) can be the correct answer.

1.4 Inspector Ishmeet finally caught up with this team, and managed to stop them just before they opened fire on Mouli and his associates. He then shouted at Mouli and his group to disperse, and when they did not, he tried to call up the local executive magistrate, to obtain her order to use force on Mouli and his associates. Was it necessary for him to obtain the executive magistrate’s orders in that situation?

- (a) Yes, since only an executive magistrate can order the use of force under S. 129 of the CrPC.
- (b) No, since Head Constable Kumar had already issued the order to use force on Mouli and his associates, and there was no need for another order.
- (c) No, since Inspector Ishmeet had the authority under S. 129 of the CrPC to order the use of force to disperse an unlawful assembly.
- (d) Yes, since obtaining the permission of the executive magistrate in such situations is always more advisable.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – no, since Inspector Ishmeet had the authority under S. 129 of the CrPC to order the use of force to disperse an unlawful assembly. Since an inspector ranks above a sub-inspector, Inspector Ishmeet clearly had such authority, and it was not necessary for him to obtain the executive magistrate’s orders in such a situation. Since S. 129 of the CrPC authorises an “executive magistrate or officer in charge of a police station or, in the absence of such officer in charge, any police officer, not below the rank of a sub-inspector”, the statement in option (a) is wrong, and so, (a) cannot be the correct answer. As explained earlier, Head Constable Kumar’s order was unauthorised, and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. While the statement in option (d) may or may not be true, it was not *necessary* for Inspector Ishmeet to obtain the executive magistrate’s orders in that situation, and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.5 When the executive magistrate did not pick up Inspector Ishmeet’s call, he decided to take matters into his own hands. He shouted again at Mouli’s group, telling them to disperse. This time, Mouli and his group got scared, and ran away in different directions. Inspector Ishmeet was, however, very keen to catch them, and he then ordered his team to start firing at them. Did he have the authority to do so under S. 129 of the CrPC?

- (a) Yes, since an inspector has the authority to order the use of force to disperse an unlawful assembly under S. 129 of the CrPC.
- (b) Yes, since Mouli and his group did not listen to Inspector Ishmeet’s order to disperse the first time he shouted at them.
- (c) No, since Mouli and his group did not constitute an unlawful assembly.
- (d) No, since Mouli and his group had dispersed in response to Inspector Ishmeet’s orders.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**



The correct answer is (d) – no, since Mouli and his group had dispersed in response to Inspector Ishmeet’s orders. Given that Mouli and his group ‘ran away in different directions’ in response to Inspector Ishmeet’s orders, the third prerequisite of S. 129 of the CrPc provided in the passage was not satisfied, and so, Inspector Ishmeet did not have the authority under S. 129 of the CrPC to order the use of force against them in that situation. While option (a) may be true, the fact remains that all the prerequisites of S. 129 of the CrPC were not satisfied in that situation, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. While option (b) may be true, Mouli and his group did disperse in response to Inspector Ishmeet’s order the second time around, and so, Inspector Ishmeet did not have authority under S. 129 of the CrPC to order that they be shot at, after they had dispersed in response to his orders the second time around; therefore, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. Since Mouli and group were more than five in number and were breaking the windows of the banks (a violent act), they did constitute an unlawful assembly, and so, option (c) cannot be the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## Logical Reasoning 15 (7 Questions)

1.

Housing discrimination is often carried out through “exclusionary covenants”. “Exclusionary covenants” are provisions in contracts which restrict the sale, transfer, or occupation of some physical property such as land, a building, or an apartment, on the bases of race, caste, religion, ethnicity, sex, nationality, or other such grounds that are normally considered discriminatory. Exclusionary covenants present a troublesome legal problem because they fall at the intersection of the private right of contract and the public evil of discrimination. Often, the groups at the receiving end of the exclusionary covenant have, until recently, been formally treated as second-class citizens in law and/ or fact, and only lately have been legally emancipated. Exclusionary covenants then become a substitute for official state-perpetrated discrimination and other direct forms of suppression that are no longer permitted by law. They contribute to perpetuating second-class status on a now informal level, ensuring that social disadvantages and disabilities continue to endure.

Comparing constitutional rules and practices (across countries that broadly respect the freedom of contract while also enshrining a constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination) reveals that courts have been acutely aware of this problem and have devised creative solutions. Arranged along a horizontal line where at one end the sanctity of contract is given great deference and at the other end where the constitutional value of non-discrimination is accorded priority, three possible solutions emerge, which are, non-enforcement, invalidation on the contractual grounds of vagueness and public policy, and invalidation on the grounds of public policy as drawn from the constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *The Transformative Constitution: A Radical Biography in Nine Acts*, by Gautam Bhatia, HarperCollins Publishers India, 2019.]

1.1 Which of the following could be an example of an ‘exclusionary covenant’, as described by the author?

- (a) A provision in a rent agreement for a residential apartment which states that the tenant may not use the apartment for any illegal purposes.
- (b) A social media website where people can view each other’s photographs, whose terms of service prohibit any persons belonging to a certain ethnicity from becoming members.
- (c) A provision in a contract for the sale of a property which specifies that the seller would only hand over the property to the buyer upon receiving the full sale price of the property.
- (d) A provision in a rent agreement that provides that the apartment would not be rented to persons belonging to a certain religion.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – a provision in a rent agreement that provides that the apartment would not be rented to persons belonging to a certain religion. Since the definition of ‘exclusionary covenant’ as provided by the author relates to “provisions in contracts which restrict the sale, transfer, or occupation of some physical property such as land, a building, or an apartment”, and option (d) relates to a restriction on renting such physical property to persons belonging to a certain religion, it would qualify as an ‘exclusionary covenant’. The prohibition on using the apartment for illegal activities would not fall within this definition, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. Since option (b) relates to membership of

a social media website, and not to any physical property, it would not fall within the definition of an 'exclusionary covenant', and so, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. Option (c) relates to the property being transferred only upon the receipt of the full sale price of the property; as such, it does not provide for any discrimination in the manner described in the definition of 'exclusionary covenants', and so, option (c) cannot be the correct answer either.

1.2 Which of the following is the author of the passage above least likely to agree with?

- (a) Exclusionary covenants are bad because they provide for restrictions on the basis of matters that are normally considered discriminatory.
- (b) Exclusionary covenants are bad because they make matters difficult for people who until recently been formally treated as second-class citizens in law.
- (c) Exclusionary covenants are bad because they make a contract very difficult to read and understand.
- (d) Exclusionary covenants are bad because they fall at the intersection of the private right of contract and the public evil of discrimination.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - exclusionary covenants are bad because they make a contract very difficult to read and understand. In the first paragraph of the passage, the author states the things set out in options (a), (b), and (d), and it is therefore likely that the author would agree with them. However, there is nothing in the passage to support option (c), and so, we can infer that the author is least likely to agree with the statement in option (c). Therefore, only option (c) can be the correct answer.

1.3 Which of the following is the author of the passage above most likely to agree with?

- (a) Solutions to the problem of housing discrimination have to be found in creative manners by courts.
- (b) Solutions to the problem of housing discrimination have not been achieved anywhere in the world.
- (c) Solutions to the problem of housing discrimination can only be achieved by changing contract law.
- (d) Housing discrimination is not really a problem, and courts need not try and find a solution for it.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – solutions to the problem of housing discrimination have to be found in creative manners by courts. The author outlines how the problem of housing discrimination is a difficult one, because “they fall at the intersection of the private right of contract and the evil of discrimination”, and how courts have been “acutely aware of this problem and have devised creative solutions”. Given this statement, option (b) cannot be the correct answer, since the author states that courts have indeed found solutions to this problem. Option (c) cannot be correct, since the author does not argue for a change in contract law anywhere in the passage, but instead suggests that creative approaches result in solutions to the problem. The author describes housing discrimination as a problem, and points out how courts have tried to find solutions to it, and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer either.

1.4 The author describes three creative solutions that courts in countries that broadly respect the freedom of contract while also enshrining a constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination have come up with to solve the problem of housing discrimination; which of the following is not such a solution?

- (a) Courts refusing to give effect to a contract that provides for housing discrimination.
- (b) Courts invalidating a contract that provides for housing discrimination.
- (c) Courts imposing steep fines on a party to a contract providing for housing discrimination.
- (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – courts imposing steep fines on a party to a contract providing for housing discrimination. The author does not suggest anywhere in the passage that courts have come up with the approach of imposing steep fines on parties to such contracts to solve the problem of housing discrimination. The author presents three creative solutions that courts in the type of countries described in the question have come up with to solve the problem of housing discrimination: (i) non-enforcement, (ii) invalidation on the contractual grounds of vagueness and public policy, and (iii) invalidation on the grounds of public policy as drawn from the constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination. Option (a) corresponds to solution (i), and so, cannot be the correct answer. Option (b) corresponds to solutions (ii) and (iii), and so cannot be the correct answer. Since option (a) is the correct answer, option (d) is wrong, and so, cannot be the correct answer.

1.5 Which of the following situations is most similar to the “troublesome legal problem” posed by exclusionary covenants, as described in the passage above?

- (a) A law passed by Parliament which provides for discrimination on grounds of religion in matters of citizenship.
- (b) A private company which states that it will not hire as employees persons belonging to certain castes.
- (c) A shopkeeper who refuses to open their shop for business on certain days of the week.
- (d) A restaurant that only serves vegetarian food.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – a private company which states that it will not hire as employees persons belonging to certain castes. The problem of exclusionary covenants as described by the author in the passage relates to a matter that falls within an area that is covered by private rights (such as under the law of contracts), and ‘public’ matters, such as the evil of discrimination. Given this, option (b) is the correct answer, since it is representative of the overlap between the private company’s right to employ (or not employ) any persons it desires, and the public evil of discrimination on the basis of caste. Option (a) relates to entirely public matters, such as citizenship and discrimination on the basis of religion, and so, cannot be the correct answer. Options (c) and (d) present situations that fall entirely within the matter of private rights – there is no public evil caused by a shop not remaining open on certain days, or a restaurant serving only vegetarian food, and so, neither option (c) nor option (d) can be the correct answer.

1.6 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author’s arguments in the passage above?

- (a) Groups that received formal discrimination as second-class citizens until recently are provided strong rights upon receiving legal emancipation that prevent the use of exclusionary covenants against them in contracts.
- (b) Groups that received formal discrimination as second-class citizens until recently continue to suffer discrimination in informal manners even after they achieve legal emancipation.
- (c) Groups that received formal discrimination as second-class citizens until recently often encounter bias and unfair treatment through informal means, even after they have secured their legal rights.
- (d) Groups that face discrimination and bias through informal means may or may not also suffer formal discrimination as second-class citizens.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – groups that received formal discrimination as second-class citizens until recently are provided strong rights upon receiving legal emancipation that prevent the use of exclusionary covenants against them in contracts. The author presents an opposing premise in the passage – that such groups often face informal discrimination even after achieving legal emancipation, and so, option (a), if correct, would most weaken the author’s arguments. Options (b) and (c) support this premise – indeed, they more or less restate this premise in different words. Option (d) neither supports nor weakens the author’s arguments – and so, cannot be the correct answer.

1.7 Which of the following most accurately represents the author’s argument in the passage above?

- (a) Exclusionary covenants are wrong because there is no way to prevent private rights overruling public guarantees of non-discrimination.
- (b) Exclusionary covenants are wrong because they lead to the formation of ghettos.
- (c) Exclusionary covenants are wrong because they encourage division and distrust among groups.
- (d) Exclusionary covenants are wrong because they perpetuate forms of discrimination that have been prohibited by law.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - exclusionary covenants are wrong because they perpetuate forms of discrimination that have been prohibited by law. The author states this point clearly when he says: “Exclusionary covenants then become a substitute for official state-perpetrated discrimination and other direct forms of suppression that are no longer permitted by law”. Option (a) is incorrect, since the author argues that courts have indeed come up with solutions to this problem. While options (b) and (c) may be right, they do not address the author’s point about how exclusionary covenants result in the same forms of discrimination that have been prohibited under law; they are, therefore, not as accurate in representing the author’s argument, and so, neither (b) nor (c) can be the correct answer.

\*\*\*

## Logical Reasoning 16 (6 Questions)

2.

A body to prepare a constitution was eventually formed as per the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946 – a proposal that kept British India undivided, grouped provinces according to their religious composition, limited the federal government’s role to select national matters like foreign policy, and left unresolved crucial matters like the position of the princely states. The Muslim League boycotted the early sessions of the Constituent Assembly, demanding two assemblies that would draft texts for two separate nations. In time the Assembly acquired legal status under the Indian Independence Act of 1947, which created two separate dominions, India and Pakistan. Its deliberations lasted from December 1946 to November 1949 – amid civil war, one of the largest migrations in human history, and the incorporation of nearly 600 princely states into the Indian Union.

The body was indirectly elected based on the elections to the provincial legislatures in 1945-1946. It is estimated that under these elections only around one-fourth or one-fifth of the adult population had been eligible to vote. It also included nearly a hundred representatives of the princely states, chosen by way of a process of consultation. Moreover, the creation of Pakistan and exit of the Muslim League left the Indian National Congress with an overwhelming majority. Despite this, however, the body emerged as a remarkable forum for the articulation of intellectual disagreements and contrasting viewpoints.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *India’s Founding Moment*, by Madhav Khosla, Harvard University Press, 2020.]

2.1 What is the author’s main point in the passage above?

- (a) That the Constituent Assembly included a disproportionate number of representatives from the Indian National Congress.
- (b) That the Constituent Assembly included a disproportionate number of representatives from the princely states.
- (c) That the Constituent Assembly provided opportunities for debate and different viewpoints even though it was not broadly representative of the population of British India.
- (d) That the Constituent Assembly was not broadly representative of British India, and thus did not have any legitimate authority to frame the Constitution.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – that the Constituent Assembly provided opportunities for debate and different viewpoints even though it was not broadly representative of the population of British India. This conclusion is apparent from the manner in which the author describes how the Constituent Assembly resulted from indirect elections in which only one-fourth or one-fifth of the adult population had the right to vote, how the Muslim League’s exit “left the Indian National Congress with an overwhelming majority”, and how the representatives of the princely states were chosen by way of consultation rather than elections, and his concluding statement in the final sentence of the passage. While options (a) and (b) may be true, they are not correct, since they do not take into account the author’s concluding statement in the last sentence of the passage. Option (d) is contradictory to the author’s concluding statement, and so, cannot be the correct answer.

2.2 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author’s argument in the passage above?

- (a) Merely presenting opportunities for debate and differing viewpoints is not enough to provide legitimate authority to frame the Constitution to the non-representative Constituent Assembly.

- (b) As a body that was not broadly representative of the adult population of British India, it was impossible for the Constituent Assembly to have provided opportunities for debate and differing viewpoints.
- (c) It is not necessary for the Constituent Assembly to have been broadly representative of the adult population of British India for it to have provided opportunities for debate and differing viewpoints.
- (d) The Constituent Assembly was completely within the control of the Indian National Congress, but it did provide opportunities for debate and differing viewpoints.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – as a body that was not broadly representative of the adult population of British India, it is impossible for the Constituent Assembly to have provided opportunities for debate and differing viewpoints. If true, this would completely negate the author’s concluding remark, and so, most weaken his argument from amongst the options provided. While option (a) may be true, the author’s main point is not that the Constituent Assembly had legitimate authority to frame the Constitution – only that it provided “for the articulation of intellectual disagreements and contrasting viewpoints”; as such, this option does not weaken the author’s argument as much as option (b), and so, cannot be the correct answer. Options (c) and (d) support the author’s arguments, and as such, neither can be the correct answer.

2.3 Which of the following can be inferred from the author’s arguments in the passage above?

- (a) Despite having an overwhelming majority in the Constituent Assembly, the Indian National Congress did not prevent the articulation of opposing viewpoints.
- (b) The Indian National Congress used its overwhelming majority in the Constituent Assembly to suppress any opposing viewpoints.
- (c) The representatives of the princely states in the Constituent Assembly frequently disrupted the Assembly’s proceedings.
- (d) The exit of the Muslim League ensured that the only voice in the Constituent Assembly was that of the Indian National Congress.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - despite having an overwhelming majority in the Constituent Assembly, the Indian National Congress did not prevent the articulation of opposing viewpoints. This statement is supported by the author’s description of how the Indian National Congress was left with an overwhelming majority in the Constituent Assembly after the exit of the Muslim League, despite which the Assembly “emerged as a remarkable forum for the articulation of intellectual disagreements and contrasting viewpoints”. Options (b) and (d) directly contradict the author’s last sentence in the passage, and so, cannot be inferred from the author’s arguments; thus, neither option (b) nor option (d) can be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support the inference in option (c), and so, it cannot be the correct answer.

2.4 If the author’s arguments in the passage above are true, which of the following is also likely to be true?

- (a) The Constitution, as drafted by the Constituent Assembly, does not represent the viewpoints of the Indian National Congress.
- (b) The Constitution, as drafted by the Constituent Assembly, largely represents the viewpoints of the princely states alone.
- (c) The Constitution, as drafted by the Constituent Assembly, is not representative of a variety of different viewpoints.
- (d) The Constitution, as drafted by the Constituent Assembly, is representative of a variety of different viewpoints.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – the Constitution, as drafted by the Constituent Assembly, is representative of a variety of different viewpoints. This is likely to be true, as the author argues that the Constituent Assembly did emerge as a forum where intellectual disagreements and opposing viewpoints could be articulated. Given this, none of the other options can be correct, since they each result from an argument that either a variety of different viewpoints were not represented in the Constituent Assembly, or that those of a particular group were under- or over-represented.

2.5 Which of the following, if true, could be a reason why the Constituent Assembly “emerged as a remarkable forum for the articulation of intellectual disagreements and contrasting viewpoints” despite the limitations identified by the author in the passage above?

- (a) The rules of functioning of the Constituent Assembly provided that all groups, no matter how small or large, had adequate voting power to ensure they had a voice in the Assembly’s decision-making.
- (b) There were a number of procedural safeguards in the manner in which the Constituent Assembly worked, which ensured that all groups, no matter how small, had a chance to air their viewpoints.
- (c) Both, (a) and (b).
- (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – both, (a) and (b). If the statements in either of these options were true, they would result in groups with less representation having the ability to voice their concerns and arguments, and to participate in the Constituent Assembly’s decision-making, thereby contributing to making it a “remarkable forum for the articulation of intellectual disagreements and contrasting viewpoints”. Given this, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

2.6 Which amongst the following most accurately explains why the Muslim League decided to boycott the early sessions of the Constituent Assembly?

- (a) They felt that the Indian National Congress was biased in favour of the Muslims of the country.
- (b) They felt that it would be best if different constituent assemblies were constituted to draft constitutions for two different countries.
- (c) They felt that the Constituent Assembly only represented the interests of large landholders.
- (d) They felt that they would be able to draft a better text for India than the members of the Indian National Congress.

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - they felt that it would be best if different constituent assemblies were constituted to draft constitutions for two different countries. This is clear from the statement in the first paragraph that “The Muslim League boycotted the early sessions of the Constituent Assembly, demanding two assemblies that would draft texts for two separate nations.” There is nothing in the passage to support any of the other options, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

\*\*\*



## Logical Reasoning 17 (6 Questions)

Scientific evidence that we are living in an era of climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster is overwhelming. How do we motivate a public exhausted by never-ending scenarios of doom and apocalypse, when the challenges seem so huge and so impossible to solve? Statistics about extinction and the gloom of decline will not in themselves get us out of our often self-created ecological traps: instead, they are more likely to result in paralysis and inaction.

We need stories and histories of change and transformation: ecological stories that make us confront the fact that human power is potentially destructive, and that the survival of our species on this planet depends on the preservation of soil and water, and the habitats and ecological systems.

It is time that we show successes and accelerations in ecological awareness, action and restoration; stories that include past successes and future visions about the rise of urban gardening and of renaturalised riverscapes, of successful protests against polluted air and water, of the rise of regional markets and slow food, and the planting of trees around the globe, of initiatives and enterprises that work towards ecological restoration, of the return of squid to the ocean and of bison along the Dutch coast, of small communities that create their own energy, of the rise of ecological thinking and of environmental programmes, of victories for the rights and wellbeing of humans and nature. The reality of ecological curses seems far greater than the power of the hopes left at the bottom of Pandora's box. But if we believe that nothing can be changed, then we are giving up our opportunity to act.

Identifying ways to transcend the craze of consumption, production, travel and extreme workloads in a merry-go-round world can be inspiring and subversive. Our saving powers will come from diverse cultures and initiatives, from thinkers and mavericks and urban and rural communities around the world. They will come from a growing number of people who understand the power inherent in the way that we imagine better worlds, who think creatively and act ecologically: from women and men who are inspired by slow hope.

[Extracted from: "Slow Hope", by Christof Mauch, *Aeon*, <https://aeon.co/essays/we-need-slow-hope-in-a-world-of-accelerating-ecological-change>]

- 1.1 Which of the following best describes the problem that the author says we "need stories and histories of change and transformation" to solve?
- (a) That the public is tired of hearing about cataclysmic situations, especially when it seems so difficult and near-impossible to solve them.
  - (b) That the public loves hearing about cataclysmic situations, especially when it seems so difficult and near-impossible to solve them.
  - (c) That the public does not wish to live in a better world or a better society.
  - (d) That scientists have no credibility in the eyes of the public.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - that the public is tired of hearing about cataclysmic situations, especially when it seems so difficult and near-impossible to solve them. This is apparent from the second sentence of the first paragraph, in which the author describes the problem, and the question arising out of it, i.e., "How do we motivate a public exhausted by never-ending scenarios of doom and apocalypse, when the challenges seem so huge and so impossible to solve?" The author then answers this in the second paragraph of the passage. Given this, option (b) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support either option (c) or option (d), and so, neither can be the correct answer.

1.2 Which of the following best describes the author's argument?

- (a) The author questions the validity of the anxieties about climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster.
- (b) The author argues that climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster can be reversed by a collective refusal to share and publish never-ending scenarios of doom and apocalypse.
- (c) The author feels that taking inspiration from stories of positive change and acting in ways that contribute towards a better future in the face of climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster is the right thing to do at this stage.
- (d) The author finds aspirations to transcend the craze of consumption, production, travel and extreme workloads to be vain fantasies of mavericks who will surely fail in their attempts.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - the author feels that taking inspiration from stories of positive change and acting in ways that contribute towards a better future in the face of climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster is the right thing to do at this stage. The author does not question the validity of the anxieties about climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster because he acknowledges clearly that the scientific evidence that we are living in an era characterised by these phenomena is overwhelming. While he feels that excessive focus on never-ending scenarios of doom and apocalypse may cause paralysis and inaction, he does not say that by merely refusing to share such stories the three ecological phenomena can be reversed. The author does not in any way write off the aspirations to transcend the craze of consumption, production, travel and extreme workloads as vain fantasies, but in fact, sees the potential for a better future in them. Therefore, options (a), (b), and (d) are incorrect. The thrust of the author's argument that we should think and act positively and with hope, in the face of doom, is captured best in option (c), which is the correct answer.

1.3 If the underlined sentence in the passage is true, which of the following must also be true?

- (a) Incessant recollection of failures of the past will not help one get out of a present rut and may, in fact, cloud the path that lies ahead.
- (b) There is great power in refusing to acknowledge one's failures and proceeding as though a better future is inevitable.
- (c) Given a choice between learning from one's failures and focusing on visions of future success, engaging in the former leads to better outcomes.

(d) Mavericks and creative people are immune from paralysis and inaction.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - incessant recollection of failures of the past will not help one get out of a present rut and may in fact, cloud the path that lies ahead. The underlined sentence embodies the proposition that constant bombardment with negative facts and statistics may leave people clueless about how to act. This logic is mirrored best by option (a). Option (b) proposes that one's failures may not even be acknowledged, which does not follow the same logical arc as the underlined sentence. Option (c) follows a pattern of reasoning that is somewhat contradictory to that of the underlined sentence and emphasises on the value of focusing on one's failures. Option (d) contains a statement that is unsubstantiated and has hardly any correlation to the underlined sentence. Therefore, options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect.

1.4 Which of the following offers the strongest criticism of the arguments made by the author?

(a) The state of the planet has reached a point of no return; positive action now will lead to little more than momentary illusions of hope.

(b) There is no sense in continuing to believe that incremental action at the level of individuals will lead to measurable change.

(c) The possibility of immediate and radical action is the only antidote to the threats that the planet and its inhabitants face today.

(d) The optimists and the advocates of hope would do best to remember that it is baseless visions of paradises of the future that induced complacency in the human race and have brought the planet to the brink of a collapse.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - the optimists and the advocates of hope would do best to remember that it is baseless visions of paradises of the future that induced complacency in the human race and have brought the planet to the brink of a collapse. The author's arguments in the passage can be summarised as follows: taking inspiration from stories of positive change and acting in ways that contribute towards a better future in the face of climate change, resource exhaustion and potential ecological disaster is better than to be paralysed into inaction by constantly engaging with scenarios of doom. Options (a) and (b) propose that positive action or incremental action may not be of much consequence, but stop short of attaching any negative implications to such action. Option (c) proposes that only radical action can be effective against threats that the planet and its inhabitants face. Option (d), however, theorises that optimism and the advocacy of hope has a causal connection to the threats of the present day; in effect, implying that continuing to be optimistic and hopeful can lead to further damage. Therefore, option (d) offers the strongest criticism of the author's arguments.

1.5 Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the arguments made by the author?

(a) There is a strong correlation between action backed by a sense of optimism and real, positive outcomes.

(b) Knowledge about outcomes does not influence action.

(c) Knowledge that a system is in a state of decline is likely to ensure that action to reverse that state does not take place.

(d) Action driven by optimism is slower and less effective than action driven by anxiety and despair.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) - there is a strong correlation between action backed by a sense of optimism and real, positive outcomes. This option is the only one that proposes that optimistic action may heighten the odds of positive outcomes, which strengthens the author's theory that imagining a better world and acting in line with it can potentially help in overcoming behaviours that have led to the current state of doom. Whereas the author argues that the power to save the planet would come from imagining better worlds, thinking creatively and acting under the influence of hope, options (b), (c) and (d) negate the usefulness of this approach. Option (b) proposes that the knowledge about outcomes does not impact action. That does not in any way strengthen the approach suggested by the author. Option (c) proposes that knowledge that a system is in decline acts as an insurmountable barrier to action that can transform that state, in which case, the action that the author fervently advocates is rendered pointless. Option (d) proposes that action under the influence of anxiety and despair is more effective than action under the influence of optimism. This implies that hope does not drive action as effectively as anxiety or despair and therefore, weakens the author's championing of hope. Therefore, options (b), (c) and (d) cannot be the correct answers.

1.6 Which one of the following is an assumption on which the author's arguments depend?

(a) One cannot be practical and still act in a way that can produce positive change.

(b) In the face of imminent doom, it is yet possible to focus on imagining a different, better world.

(c) When one is simultaneously aware of the state of decline of the world and has the courage to imagine things differently, the former will eventually overwhelm the latter.

(d) There can only be optimism when there is evidence of it having led to positive outcomes in the past.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - in the face of imminent doom, it is yet possible to focus on imagining a different, better world. Imagining better worlds and acting on it presupposes a recognition of the present or actual state of the world. When the author talks of identifying ways to transcend the craze of consumption, production, travel and extreme workloads there is an assumption that the ones identifying these patterns of behaviour are aware of the causal relationship between these behaviours and the present state of doom and are able to use that as the frame of reference to imagining a better world. Option (b) embodies this assumption and is the correct answer. If the contrary is assumed, it would not be possible to argue that thinking creatively and acting on it would serve any purpose. Options (a), and (c) are characterised by lines of reasoning that in fact weaken the author's arguments and are therefore, incorrect. Option (d) is also incorrect because it seeks to establish a correlation between optimism and evidence of optimism having led to positive outcomes. However, the thrust of the author's arguments that the planet may be saved by imagining better worlds, thinking creatively and acting ecologically does not presuppose or depend on evidence of optimism having led to positive outcomes in the past.

## Logical Reasoning 18 (7 Questions)

1.

Vladimir Putin has been Russia's president since 2012, but he has been running the country continuously for two decades. The arithmetic works because there was an interval, after Mr Putin's first two terms, when he took the role of prime minister. He ceded the presidency to Dmitry Medvedev, a puppet who kept the seat warm until his boss reclaimed it. That pantomime revealed an attachment to the forms of democracy, when in practice they have been hollowed out by a campaign against political pluralism and civil society. Mr Putin has this week launched the sequel: constitutional reforms that would confirm the limit on any president serving more than two consecutive terms, but would start counting those terms from the document's ratification. The incumbent's record would not count, so he could run in 2024. Since the term length has already been extended from four to six years, Mr Putin could feasibly still be in the Kremlin in 2036. By then he would be 83 years old and have led the country longer than Joseph Stalin.

Many Russians already find it hard to imagine government under anyone but Mr Putin. State propaganda cultivates that passivity, casting the president as a stabilising figure and the embodiment of a self-confident nation. That message resonates with some people who remember the chaotic period after communist rule when – as the official narrative has it – Russia was humiliated by the west and needlessly surrendered territory to newly independent former Soviet republics. There are more complex reasons why the 1990s were unhappy for many Russians, but Mr Putin exploited the trauma to construct a nationalist doctrine. This provides cover for endemic corruption. The state tells its citizens their dignity is being restored, while picking their pockets. The trick has not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Putin's popularity ratings dipped last year and Russians have periodically defied police intimidation to protest against what looks increasingly like a stale kleptocracy. He wins elections partly because the stability-above-all narrative has enduring resonance, but also because alternative candidates are silenced and discredited. Activism against the government is a dangerous enterprise. But patience can wear thin. The Kremlin's ability to manufacture ballot-box endorsements depends on brute force and the state's capacity to support living standards. These have stagnated in recent years and Russia's reliance on energy exports makes it vulnerable to volatility in global markets.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *The Guardian view on Putin's power games: fake democracy*, *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/11/the-guardian-view-on-putins-power-games-fake-democracy>]

- 1.1 Why does the author of the passage above say that Vladimir Putin could run for President of Russia in 2024 despite the constitutional reforms launched by him?
- (a) Because he has been running the country continuously for the past two decades.
  - (b) Since the term of the presidency has already been extended from four to six years.
  - (c) Because although the reforms confirm a two-term limit on the presidency, the incumbent's record would not count.
  - (d) Because he provides people a sense of assurance that they would not suffer the same hardships as when communist rule in the country ended.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – because although the reforms confirm a two-term limit on the presidency, the incumbent's record would not count. The author explains this in the first paragraph of the passage, where they explain that although the constitutional reforms have introduced a two-term limit on the presidency, that those terms “would start counting... from the document's ratification”, and that the incumbent's record would not count. While the statements in options (a), (b), and (d) are all true in that the author has

stated them in one form or other in the passage, they do not answer the question, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

1.2 Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- (a) The Russian people vote for Vladimir Putin because he is a strong ruler.
- (b) The Russian people vote for Vladimir Putin because they fear that the alternative is a return to the chaos they witnessed after the end of communist rule.
- (c) The Russian people vote for Vladimir Putin because opposition candidates do not have a clear agenda.
- (d) The Russian people vote for Vladimir Putin because he has brought about genuine reform and progress in Russia.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – the Russian people vote for Vladimir Putin because they fear that the alternative is a return to the chaos they witnessed after the end of communist rule. The author explains this in the second paragraph, where they explain how Russian state propaganda has created an image of Vladimir Putin as “a stabilising figure and the embodiment of a self-confident nation”, and how this image resonates with some Russians, who remember the chaos that resulted at the end of communist rule in the country. While option (a) may be true, it only provides a partial answer to the question, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support the statements in options (c) and (d), and so, neither of them can be the correct answer.

1.3 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author’s explanation for why Vladimir Putin wins elections?

- (a) Most Russian voters remember the time of chaos that resulted after the end of communist rule in the country.
- (b) Opposition candidates in Russia are unable to deliver a cohesive message that provides reassurance to Russian voters.
- (c) Vladimir Putin makes efforts to project himself as a strong leader, often releasing pictures of him riding a horse bareback or fighting a bear barehanded.
- (d) Opposition candidates in Russian elections are allowed unrestricted access to the public, and a strict ethical code of conduct is enforced in campaigning so that the elections are free and fair.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – opposition candidates in Russian elections are allowed unrestricted access to the public, and a strict ethical code of conduct is enforced in campaigning so that the elections are free and fair. The author tells us in the third paragraph of the passage that Vladimir Putin “wins elections partly because the stability-above-all narrative has enduring resonance, but also because alternative candidates are silenced and discredited”; if the statement in option (d) were true, it would weaken the second part of the author’s argument for why Vladimir Putin wins elections. The statements in options (a) and (c) strengthen the first part of the author’s argument, and therefore, neither option (a) nor option (c) can be the correct answer. Option (c) neither strengthens nor weakens the author’s arguments for why Vladimir Putin wins elections, and so, it cannot be the correct answer.

1.4 Which of the following, according to the author, are factors contributing to the Kremlin’s increasing weakness to guarantee victories in elections?

- (a) The state’s ability to deploy brute force has reduced in recent times.
- (b) Russia’s reliance on energy exports has exposed it to volatility in global markets.

- (c) The state has not been able to support living standards in recent times.
- (d) All of the above.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – all of the above. The author states in the last two sentences of the passage that “The Kremlin’s ability to manufacture ballot-box endorsements depends on brute force and the state’s capacity to support living standards. These have stagnated in recent years and Russia’s reliance on energy exports makes it vulnerable to volatility in global markets.” Given this, options (a), (b), and (c) are all true, and therefore, option (d) can be the only correct answer.

1.5 Which of the following most accurately represents the author’s main point in the passage above?

- (a) Josef Stalin’s record of having ruled Russia for the longest period of time is under challenge from Vladimir Putin’s latest set of constitutional reforms.
- (b) The Russian state’s tactic of exploiting the trauma that Russians remember from the 1990s to create a nationalist doctrine is beginning to face challenges because of the state’s inability to maintain living standards, and Russia’s increasing exposure to global uncertainties.
- (c) Dmitry Medvedev has become increasingly uncomfortable with being perceived as a puppet leader, and is making moves to weaken Vladimir Putin’s authority in the minds of the Russian public.
- (d) When a country is linked to the global economy, such as in the case of Russia with its energy exports, there is a chance that democracy may flourish in that country.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - the Russian state’s tactic of exploiting the trauma that Russians remember from the 1990s to create a nationalist doctrine is beginning to face challenges because of the state’s inability to maintain living standards, and Russia’s increasing exposure to global uncertainties. The author describes how Vladimir Putin has consolidated power in Russia, how state propaganda has exploited the trauma in Russian people’s minds from the period after the end of communist rule, and how these are now facing challenges because of the state’s increasing inability to deploy brute force and maintain living standards, and how Russia’s exposure to volatility in global markets, are weakening the Kremlin’s ability to guarantee election victories. Option (b) touches upon all these matters, and is therefore the correct answer. While option (d) is true, it only touches upon one of these matters, and so, it cannot be the correct answer. Option (a) may also be true, but the author only mentions this in passing in the first paragraph, and does not revisit the topic later in the passage; therefore, it is not the author’s main point in the passage, and so, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support the statement in option (c), and so, it cannot be the correct answer.

1.6 Which of the following best represents why the author says that “Vladimir Putin has been Russia’s president since 2012, but he has been running the country continuously for two decades”?

- (a) Because he has been a senior member of the bureaucracy for that much time.
- (b) Because for the period he was not president of Russia, the president was someone who was under Vladimir Putin’s control.
- (c) Because he was both, prime minister and president of Russia for a short duration.
- (d) Because Vladimir Putin has never lost an election in Russia.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) - because for the period he was not president of Russia, the president was someone who was under Vladimir Putin’s control. This is clear from the first paragraph of the passage,

where the author describes Dmitry Medvedev as “a puppet who kept the seat warm until his boss reclaimed it”, implying that Dmitry Medvedev was under Vladimir Putin’s control, and that Vladimir Putin was, in effect, running the country even though he was not president for some time. There is nothing in the passage to support either option (a) or option (c), and so, neither option (a) nor option (c) can be the correct answer. While the statement in option (d) may be true, it does not explain why the author says that Vladimir Putin has been running Russia for two decades even though he has been president since 2012; therefore, option (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.7 Which of the following could be a valid explanation for why “Russia’s reliance on energy exports makes it vulnerable to volatility in global markets”?

- (a) Russian trucks supplying fuel are old, and keep breaking down.
- (b) Russian businessmen in the fuel sector routinely face harassment from public authorities.
- (c) The prices of fuel in global markets tend not to change too much.
- (d) The prices of fuel in global markets change a lot, and Russia is affected by this since it relies heavily on the revenue it earns from energy exports.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d): the prices of fuel in global markets change a lot, and Russia is affected by this since it relies heavily on the revenue it earns from energy exports. The use of ‘volatility’ in the author’s statement implies that global energy prices do tend to change, and therefore, we can infer that Russia is affected by such changes, since it relies on energy exports. For the same reason, option (c) cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support options (a) or (b), and so, neither option (a) nor option (b) can be the correct answer.

\*\*\*



## Logical Reasoning (Old Pattern – Syllogisms) (5 Questions)

*Some statements are set out below, followed by some conclusions. Assume the statements are true, even if they appear to be at variance from facts you otherwise may know to be true. Disregard all commonly known facts, and identify the conclusions that logically and definitely follow from the corresponding statement/s:*

1.

1.6 Statement : All dogs are mammals

Conclusion I : All dogs are humans

Conclusion II : All humans are mammals

(e) Only I follows

(f) Only II follows

(g) Both, I and II follow

(h) Neither I nor II follows

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – neither I nor II follows. Conclusion I may or may not be true, but the statement does not support this conclusion logically; similarly, Conclusion II also does not necessarily flow logically from the statement, and so, only option (d) can be the correct answer.

1.7 Statement I : All racquet sports use a ball

Statement II : All balls are squares

Conclusion I : Squares are only used in racquet sports

Conclusion II : All squares are balls

(a) Only I follows

(b) Only II follows

(c) Both, I and II follow

(d) Neither I nor II follows

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) – neither I nor II follows logically. While all racquet sports may use balls, and while all balls may be squares, it does not logically follow that squares are only used in racquet sports; and similarly, it does not logically follow that all squares are balls (the statements do not preclude the possibility that some squares may be other things as well). Therefore, only option (d) can be the correct answer.

1.8 Statement I : Some books are songs

Statement II : All songs are movies

Statement III : Some dances are books

Conclusion I : All books are movies

Conclusion II : Some dances are movies

Conclusion III : All movies are dances

Conclusion IV : Some books are movies

- (e) Only IV follows
- (f) Only II follows
- (g) Only I follows
- (h) Only III follows

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – only IV follows. Since some books are songs (Statement I), and all songs are movies (Statement II), it follows logically and definitely that some books are movies. While the conclusions are possible, they do not definitely and logically follow from the statements, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

- 1.9 Statement I :       Some books are songs  
 Statement II :       All songs are movies  
 Statement III :       All dances are books  
 Statement IV:        No movies are dances

- Conclusion I :       Some dances are songs  
 Conclusion II :       Some books are movies  
 Conclusion III:       Some movies are songs  
 Conclusion IV:       No books are dances

- (e) Only I and II follow
- (f) Only III and IV follow
- (g) Only II and III follow
- (h) Only I and IV follow

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – only II and III follow. Since some books are songs (Statement I), and since all songs are movies (Statement II), it follows logically and definitely that some books are movies (Conclusion II). And since all songs are movies (Statement II), it follows logically and definitely that some movies are songs (Conclusion III). However, since all dances are books (Statement III) and no movies are dances (Statement IV) but all songs are movies (Statement II), hence, no dances are songs. Therefore, Conclusion I does not follow; and since all dances are books, it is wrong to say that no books are dances (Conclusion IV). Therefore, only option (c) can be the correct answer.

- 1.10 Statement I :       Some books are songs  
 Statement II :       Some songs are books  
 Statement III :       Some dances are movies  
 Statement IV:        All books are movies

- Conclusion I :       Some dances are songs  
 Conclusion II :       Some songs are dances  
 Conclusion III:       Some movies are dances  
 Conclusion IV:       No books are dances

- (a) Only I follows
- (b) Only III follows
- (c) Only II follows
- (d) None of the options follow

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) –only III follows. Since some dances are movies, it follows logically and definitely that some movies are dances (Conclusion III). Each of the other options is possible, but does not definitely and logically follow from the statements; therefore, only option (b) can be the correct answer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Quantitative Techniques Passage 10 (5 Questions)

1.

Mr. Khatri bought Bahi-Khata bookstore with an opening stock of 'x' books. Before opening the shop for sale, he doubled the opening stock. In the first sale, he sold 'y' books. He bought more books such that the stock was now thrice the remainder and sold twice the number he sold the first time. Then he bought more books such that the stock was now four times the remainder and sold double the number than the last sale. He again increased his stock to five times the remainder and again sold twice the number of the previous time after which there were no books left to sell.

1.1 If the opening stock is 64 books, how many books did Mr. Khatri sell in the first sale?

(a) 64

(b) 63

(c) 60

(d) 72

(Answer: (c))

### Rationale:

Opening stock (OS) =  $x = 64$  ... (given)

1<sup>st</sup> purchase = Double OS =  $2x$

1<sup>st</sup> sale =  $y$

Therefore, remainder =  $2x - y$  ... (i)

Stock after 2<sup>nd</sup> purchase =  $3(2x - y) = 6x - 3y$  ... (ii)

2<sup>nd</sup> sale =  $2y$  ... (iii) (Twice the first sale)

Remainder = (ii) - (iii) =  $6x - 3y - 2y = 6x - 5y$  ... (iv)

Stock after 3<sup>rd</sup> purchase =  $4(6x - 5y) = 24x - 20y$  ... (v)

3<sup>rd</sup> sale =  $4y$  ... (vi) (Double the previous sale)

Remainder = (v) - (vi) =  $24x - 20y - 4y = 24x - 24y$  ... (vii)

Stock after 4<sup>th</sup> purchase =  $5(24x - 24y) = 120x - 120y$  ... (viii)

4<sup>th</sup> sale =  $8y$  ... (ix) (Twice the previous sale)

Remainder = (viii) - (ix) =  $120x - 120y - 8y = 120x - 128y$  ... (x)

Closing stock =  $120x - 128y = 0$  ... (xi)

Therefore,  $120x = 128y$  ... (xii)

Since  $x = 64$ ,  $y = (120 * 64) / 128 = 120/2 = 60$

Therefore, the number of books sold in the first sale = 60

1.2 If the closing stock at the end of all the purchases and sales described in the passage is  $12y$  (where  $y$  is the same as the answer to the previous question 1.1) instead of nil, how many books would there have been in the opening stock?

(a) 64

(b) 70

(c) 80

(d) 86

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

Closing stock =  $120x - 128y = 12y$  ...[From (xi) in rationale 1.1.]

Therefore,  $120x = 140y$  ...(xii)

Since  $x = 140y/120$ ,  $x = (140 * 60) / 120 = 70$

Therefore, opening stock would have been 70

1.3 Assuming that the facts set out in the passage remain the same, what is the minimum opening stock required, such that Mr. Khatri has no books left to sell at the end of the transactions described in the passage?

(a) 18

(b) 12

(c) 15

(d) 16

(Answer (d))

**Rationale:**

$120x = 128y$  [See (xii) from Rationale 1.1]

LCM of 120 and 128 = 1920

Minimum  $x = 1920/120 = 16$

1.4 If Mr. Khatri purchased only  $x$  books each of the four times, but sold the same number as described in the main passage, and the closing stock is nil, then choose the correct option:

(a)  $x > y$

(b)  $x < y$

(c)  $x = y$

(d) Cannot be determined

(Answer (a))

**Rationale:**

Total sale =  $y + 2y + 4y + 8y = 15y$  ...(i)

Opening stock =  $x$

Purchases =  $x+x+x+x = 4x$

Therefore, total number of books OS + purchase =  $5x$  ...(ii)

Therefore, closing stock = (ii)-(i) =  $5x-15y = 0$

Since  $x = 3y$

Therefore,  $x > y$

1.5 Using the information in the previous question 1.4, and the additional data given below, find  $x$  (where ' $x$ ' is the opening stock of books):

The cost of all books in stock was Rs. 25,000 and they were sold for a total of Rs. 60,000 at Rs. 40 each.

(a) 100

(b) 220

(c) 150

(d) 300

(Answer (d))

**Rationale:**

Total sale; i.e. number of books sold =  $y+2y+4y+8y = 15y$  ...(i)

Selling price of 15y books = Rs. 60000

Selling price of 1 book = Rs. 40

Number of books sold @ 40 =  $60000/40 = 1500$

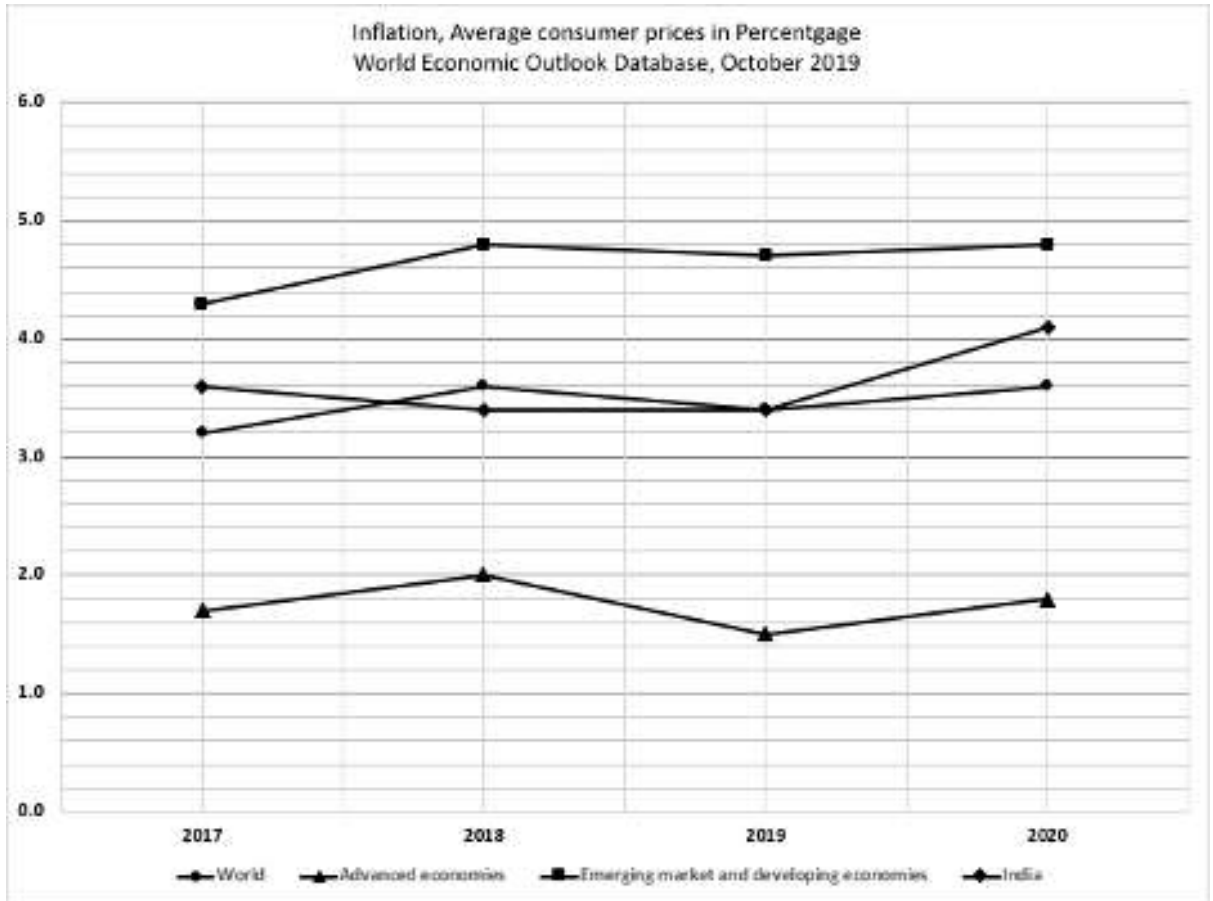
Therefore,  $15y = 1500$  [From (i) above]

Therefore,  $y = 100$  and  $x = 3y = 3 * 100 = 300$

\*\*\*

## Quantitative Techniques Passage 11 (5 Questions)

1. Study the graph below to answer the questions that follow:



[Data source - <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2019/02/weodata/index.aspx>]

1.1 Which country/group saw the minimum change in inflation over the period covered in the graph?

- (a) World
- (b) Advanced economies
- (c) Emerging market and developing economies
- (d) India

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

World:  $3.6(2020) - 3.2(2017) = .4$

Advanced economies:  $1.8(2020) - 1.7(2017) = .1$

Emerging market and developing economies  $4.8(2020) - 4.3(2017) = .5$

India:  $4.1(2020) - 3.6(2017) = .5$

1.2 Which country/ group had no change in two consecutive years?

- (a) World in 2019 and 2020
- (b) Advanced economies in 2018 and 2019
- (c) Emerging market and developing economies in 2018 and 2019
- (d) India in 2018 and 2019

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

India in 2018 and 2019 had an unchanged inflation rate of 3.4%

1.3 In which year was there the maximum difference between the world and advanced economies?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020

(Answer (c))

**Rationale:**

2017:  $3.2(\text{World}) - 1.7(\text{Advanced economies}) = 1.5$

2018:  $3.6(\text{World}) - 2.0(\text{Advanced economies}) = 1.6$

2019:  $3.4(\text{World}) - 1.5(\text{Advanced economies}) = 1.9$

2020:  $3.6(\text{World}) - 1.8(\text{Advanced economies}) = 1.8$

1.4 In which year was the inflation in the emerging market and developing economies a little over three times that in advanced economies?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020

(Answer (c))

**Rationale:**

2017 - (Advanced economies)  $1.7 * 3 = 5.1$  and 4.3 (Emerging market and developing economies)

2018 - (Advanced economies)  $2 * 3 = 6$  and 4.8 (Emerging market and developing economies )

2019 – (Advanced economies)  $1.5 * 3 = 4.5$  and 4.7 (Emerging market and developing economies)

2020 - (Advanced economies)  $1.8 * 3 = 5.4$  and 4.8 (Emerging market and developing economies)

Therefore, the correct answer is option (c): 2019



1.5 In which year was there the greatest difference between inflation in India and the World?

(a) 2017

(b) 2018

(c) 2019

(d) 2020

(Answer (d))

**Rationale:**

2017: World 3.2 – India 3.6; Difference = .4

2018: World 3.6 – India 3.4; Difference = .2

2019: World 3.4 – India 3.4; Difference = 0

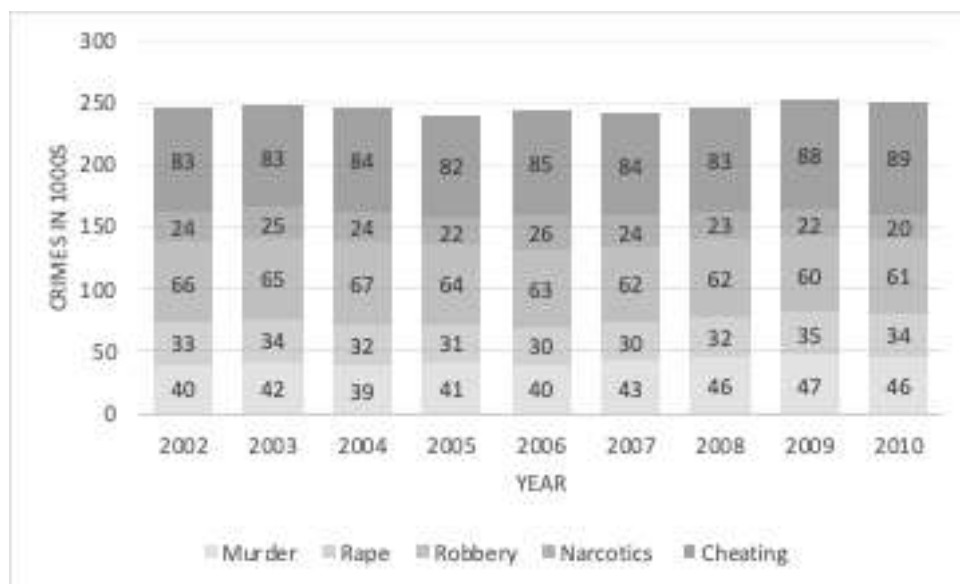
2020: World 3.6 – India 4.1; Difference = .5

\*\*\*

## Quantitative Techniques BN Passage 11 (5 Questions)

1.

The graph below illustrates the number of prisoners for different crimes (in 1000s). Use the data available to answer the questions that follow.



(note: round off to the nearest 1000)

1.1 What is the average number of all crimes (rounded to the nearest 1000) between 2004 to 2009, including both years?

- (a) 245
- (b) 256
- (c) 244
- (d) 240

(Answer: (a))

### Rationale

The total number of crimes for years 2004 to 2009 is the sum of all crimes in those years. This adds up as  $246 + 240 + 244 + 243 + 246 + 252$ , for each of the six years. This adds up to 1471. The average is equal to the total number of crimes across all the 6 years, viz 1471 divided by 6. This comes to 245.167 and therefore (a) is the correct answer.

1.2 In which year did the number of robberies have the highest percentage increase across two successive years?

- (a) 2009 to 2010
- (b) 2002 to 2003
- (c) 2003 to 2004
- (d) 2006 to 2007

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The formula to calculate percentage increase over one year is  $((\text{Robberies in Year 2} - \text{Robberies in Year 1}) / (\text{Robberies in Year 1})) \times 100$ . For the options, the percentage difference is as follows –

- (a) Robberies in 2010 - 61; 2009 – 60. Therefore percentage increase =  $1/61 * 100 = 1.6 \%$
- (b) Robberies in 2002 - 66; 2003 – 65 (Decrease). Therefore, option b is incorrect
- (c) Robberies in 2003 - 65; 2004 – 67. Therefore percentage increase =  $2/65 * 100 = 3.07 \%$
- (d) Robberies in 2006 - 63; 2007 – 62 (Decrease). Therefore, option d is incorrect.

As the questions asks about increase, the correct answer is (c).

1.3 In 2007, approximately what percentage of all crimes were committed in the context of the crime of Rape?

- (a) 18 %
- (b) 14 %
- (c) 12 %
- (d) 25 %

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The formula to calculate percentage is  $((\text{Rapes in 2007}) / (\text{Total Crimes in 2007})) \times 100$ . This comes to 12.34 %. Therefore the correct answer is (c).

1.4 Of all the offences in the chart, which had the highest cumulative total offenders across all years?

- (a) Murder
- (b) Cheating
- (c) Robbery
- (d) Rape

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

From the graph, it is clear that the highest number of offenders were in Cheating each year. Therefore, the total must be (b), Cheating.

1.5 Which of the following statements is true:

- I. The number of crimes of rape in 2003 is less than narcotics related offences in 2006.
- II. The average number of cheating related offences across all years is more than 85.

- (a) I.
- (b) II.
- (c) Both I and II.
- (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

If we examine the graph, we see:

I - There are 34 rape related offences in 2003 and 26 narcotics related offences in 2006. Therefore this is wrong.

II - The average number of cheating related offences is = (total of all offences of cheating across years)/(total number of years). This comes to  $761/9$ , which is 84.55, which is less than 85. Therefore, II is not correct either.

Because both statements are not true, the right answer is (d).

\*\*\*