

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

1. Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

C. Uday Bhaskar presents Tianjin as a **symbol of progress tempered by pragmatism** — not resolution. He highlights ongoing complexities in border issues, great-power politics, and India’s multi-directional diplomacy.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- A: The passage explicitly calls the border issue a “work in progress.”
- B: True in part, but misses India’s global balancing role.

C: Overstates cooperation — the tone remains cautious.

2. Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The author uses the term ironically, describing it as an “old chestnut” — a phrase often used to preserve face while substantive disagreements remain.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- A/D: The border remains unresolved; no permanent settlement occurred.
- C: The author avoids sentimental optimism; tone is realist.

3. Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The tone blends **measured assessment and nuanced realism** — phrases like “cautiously welcomed” and “work in progress” reveal careful optimism, not celebration or fear.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- B: No alarmist language or prediction of conflict.
- C: Tone is diplomatic, not triumphalist.

D: The analysis clearly evaluates trends.

4. Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage explains India’s “*strategic autonomy*” — recalibrating its relations with both the US and China amid contradictions — a hallmark of independent diplomacy.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- A: The author stresses balance, not alignment.
- B: True in essence but misses trilateral nuance.
- C: Not implied — tariffs issue doesn’t drive policy shifts.

D: No reference to Cold War–style restoration.

5. Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The author underscores that **symbolism has value in diplomacy** — the Tianjin meeting restores engagement, even without breakthroughs.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **A:** Correct but incomplete — doesn't reflect the "work in progress" nuance.
- **B:** The passage rejects absolutism.
- **C:** "Restored stability" and "positive momentum" refute fatalism.

D: SCO is shown as useful, not ineffective.

6. Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The logic presumes that **dialogue itself is progress** — peace-building isn't binary but incremental. This assumption underpins phrases like "positive momentum" and "work in progress."

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **A:** This is an *explicit statement*, not an assumption.

C/D: Both contradict the author's pragmatic realism

7. Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Resumption of cooperative initiatives would **validate** the claim of renewed momentum and engagement beyond rhetoric.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **A:** Militarization undermines, not strengthens, diplomacy.
- **C/D:** Both contradict the tone of stability and cooperation.

8. Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The recalibration implies that **non-alignment now functions dynamically** — India adapts to contradictions rather than renouncing past doctrines.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **A:** It's an explicit fact, not assumption.
- **B:** False; author shows multilateral balance.
- **D:** Overstatement; the principle evolves, not vanishes.

9. Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The argument's strength rests on peace and stability; evidence of renewed aggression would **directly undermine** claims of progress.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **B/C/D:** Each supports or neutralizes, not weakens, the core argument.

10. Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The analogy matches the idea that **constructive engagement continues despite unresolved issues** — exactly how the author views the Modi–Xi dialogue.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **A:** Implies persistence, but lacks mutual diplomacy analogy.
- **C/D:** Represent avoidance, not engagement.

Legal Reasoning

11 — Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The passage clearly states that under the 2024 Rules, detention can occur only after *remedial instruction and a re-examination*. Skipping these steps undermines the procedural safeguards designed to ensure learning continuity and fairness. The state’s circular bypasses this statutory requirement, violating the framework’s mandatory process.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- **A** – State autonomy exists but is *limited by statutory procedure*.
- **B** – The amendment does *not abolish* the policy outright; it modifies it.
- **C** – Flexibility does not extend to violating procedural rights of children.

12 — Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The RTE Amendment Rules emphasize *holistic and continuous evaluation* instead of arbitrary one-time assessments. A rule barring students after a single test contradicts the objective of learning-based progress. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) remains a guiding principle even after the amendment.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- **A** – The amendment restores accountability, not *absolute discretion*.
- **C** – Lack of resources cannot justify rule violation.
- **D** – State rules supplement, not replace, the amendment’s mandatory standards.

13 — Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Detention after two stages — *remedial instruction and re-exam* — is permissible under the amended rules. The passage clarifies that the child’s right to education does not equate to *automatic promotion*, but rather to meaningful learning and accountability. Hence, the school’s action complies with the 2024 framework.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- **B** – Detention is allowed post-remediation; not unconstitutional per se.
- **C** – Grievances may go to education authorities, but the legality is clear.
- **D** – The rules apply uniformly to all schools, public or private.

14 — Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage explicitly says that *no child shall be expelled before completion of elementary education*, and that educational access — including support facilities like meals and materials — remains guaranteed. Denying such benefits to detained students would violate the RTE's inclusive intent.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- A – Auxiliary benefits are part of the statutory right.
- B – The RTE applies throughout elementary education, not only once per grade.
- D – There's no such exclusion for detained students.

15 — Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The 2024 amendment demands *objective evaluation* and *structured assessment*. While teachers play a key role, detention cannot be purely subjective. The principal, as administrative head, must ensure decisions align with measurable learning outcomes and procedural fairness.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- A – Teacher discretion isn't absolute.
- B – Correct in spirit but incomplete — oversight is necessary.
- C – Subjective evaluation without evidence violates due process.

16 — Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The passage notes that the amendment *balances accountability and inclusion*, aligning with NEP 2020's principles rather than violating them. The government's approach preserves rights by combining learning standards with non-expulsion guarantees.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- A – UNCRC does not forbid detention when coupled with remedial support.
- C – The question tests principle-based reasoning, not treaty enforceability.
- D – UNESCO has no adjudicatory authority here.

17 — Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The passage distinguishes *expulsion* from *detention*. Expulsion denies access to schooling, which remains prohibited, but detention only delays promotion after due process. Hence, while dropouts are a concern, detention itself doesn't breach Article 21A.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- B – Though the state's defence is partly valid, detention and expulsion are not equivalent.
- C – Fundamental rights claims are justiciable.
- D – The activist's reasoning confuses consequences with constitutional violation.

18 — Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Education being a concurrent subject means that central laws prevail in case of inconsistency. States cannot unilaterally amend or exempt themselves from national rules without proper legislative authority. The passage implies *uniform application* of standards across India.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- A – Overly rigid; limited contextual flexibility may exist.
- B – Contextual flexibility exists but not unilateral exemption.
- D – Parliamentary approval requirement is not mentioned in the rules.

19 — Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The passage emphasizes that *teacher accountability* and *remedial responsibility* are central to the amended RTE framework. However, the correct balancing interpretation is that teachers' rights cannot override statutory obligations. Their duties now include remedial instruction as part of accountability reforms.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- A – Teachers cannot refuse duties imposed by law.
- B – The amendment explicitly introduces new roles.
- C – While accurate in spirit, it misses the legal balance emphasized in the passage.

20 — Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The government's view better aligns with the passage's key principle — *education with accountability*. The amendment doesn't reverse the right to education; it strengthens it by ensuring measurable learning outcomes. Balancing fear-free learning and performance accountability is its essence.

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

- A – The report ignores the shift towards outcome-based learning.
- C – The question requires a singular, principled conclusion.
- D – The 2024 amendment directly touches upon constitutional principles of Article 21A.



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General Knowledge

21. **A. 1 and 2 only** — (P) LiFE was introduced at COP26 (Nov 1, 2021) and official material sets an ambition to mobilise ~1 billion Pro-Planet People (2022–2028); LiFE does **not** mandate a carbon tax by 2025.
22. **A. Individual/community behaviour; co-creation; leveraging traditional knowledge** — (P) These three pillars are stated in official NITI/mission documents; the distractors are not part of Mission LiFE.
23. **A. 1 and 3 only** — (O) Mission LiFE’s philosophy favours reducing single-use plastics and choosing energy-efficient products/eco-labels; the luxury-heavy-ownership-then-offset model contradicts LiFE’s premise. (Inference consistent with brochure and policy commentary).
24. **A. India’s average per-capita carbon footprint cited ~0.56 tonnes** — (P) The NITI brochure and related Mission LiFE material cite India’s comparatively low per-capita footprint (~0.56 t in the LiFE literature) against a higher global average.
25. **A. By 2028, at least 80% of villages and urban local bodies to be environment-friendly** — (P) This target is included in official Mission LiFE planning documents and widely cited policy notes.
26. **A. Position India as a norm-setter by exporting culture-driven, low-carbon lifestyle practices** — (O) This captures the mission’s diplomatic and normative ambition (stated by Indian policy documents and speeches). It does **not** mean abandoning technology/policy — the option B is false.
27. **A. Community mobilisation, school curricula, MSME incentives** — (O) While not listed line-by-line in the short passage, these mechanisms logically align with the Mission’s emphasis on local culture, community action and MSME involvement (and are referenced in the broader Mission materials and implementation notes). The other choices are unrealistic and contrary to LiFE.
28. **A. From top-down techno-regulation to bottom-up behavioural mobilisation** — (P) The passage highlights this philosophical shift explicitly.
29. **A. It could shift responsibility from major producers/states to individuals** — (O) This is a common, plausible critique voiced in policy debates about behaviour-centric approaches — not stated in the LiFE brochure but a valid inference.
30. **C. Both A and B are correct** — (P) LiFE stands for “Lifestyle for Environment” and the phrase “mindful and deliberate utilisation” is core LiFE terminology.

31 — Answer: B (1 and 3 only)

Explanation: The MNRE policy (2025) designates MNRE as the nodal ministry and links geothermal deployment to national Net Zero objectives and pilot resource assessments / demonstration projects. The policy does **not** mandate a statutory body called “NGEDB” in the published text; it authorizes MNRE-led mechanisms (CoEs, data repositories, financing, pilot projects) instead. **(In-passage for 1 & 3; statement 2 is incorrect — NGEDB as statutory regulator is not in the published policy).**

32 — Answer: A (1, 2 and 4 only)

Explanation: Puga Valley (Ladakh), the SONATA lineament and Godavari/Mahanadi graben regions are consistently listed in Indian geothermal literature and in MNRE discussions of provinces and hotspots. The **Aravalli craton** is not listed among mainstream geothermal provinces. **(In-passage / established geothermal literature.)**

33 — Answer: A

Explanation: The MNRE policy explores fiscal mechanisms such as VGF, concessional loans, import/GST relief and other incentives to improve bankability. The policy text does **not** state a centrally guaranteed, uniform feed-in tariff for all geothermal projects (it lists options to explore feed-in and other mechanisms) and it does not forbid FDI (in fact 100% FDI is allowed in renewables generally). It also does not impose a 1-year-only lease rule (the policy allows multi-year allotments and extensions). **(In-passage: A is correct; B, C and D are incorrect.)**

34 — Answer: A (1, 2 and 4 only)

Explanation: The policy explicitly covers promotion of GSHPs/direct-use, repurposing abandoned oil & gas wells for geothermal use, and standardization of resource reporting (UNFC norms). It **does not** provide blanket exemptions from all environmental clearances — environmental rules apply depending on location (clearances remain necessary). **(In-passage.)**

35 — Answer: B

Explanation: The official policy emphasizes a staged approach: resource assessment, exploration drilling and demonstration projects in a pilot phase before commercial scale-up — not immediate mass commercial deployment or direct coal replacement during pilot. **(In-passage.)**

36 — Answer: D (Kerala) — (Corrected from earlier draft)

Explanation & factual check: Kerala does not appear among the states listed in mainstream geothermal provinces/hotspot lists or in MNRE's lists of prominent hot-spring provinces; prominent Indian geothermal manifestations are concentrated in Himalayan regions (Ladakh, Himachal), SONATA / Cambay / West Coast (Konkan), Godavari/Mahanadi etc. Jharkhand **does** have well-documented hot springs (e.g., Surajkund in Hazaribagh) and so is not the correct “no manifestations” choice. **(This question is outside the MNRE passage and corrected after checking regional hot-spring surveys — Surajkund, Tantaloi etc. exist in Jharkhand).**

37 — Answer: C (2 and 3 only — Philippines and New Zealand) — (Fixed framing)

Explanation & factual check: By installed geothermal electricity capacity (MW), the top countries include **USA, Indonesia, Philippines, Turkey, New Zealand** (varies a bit year-to-year). **Iceland** is small by capacity (but very high per-capita use). **Kenya** is a strong regional player but not in the global top-five by installed MW. From the four listed, **Philippines and New Zealand** are the pair in the top-five list. (I corrected the earlier incorrect framing/answer.)

38 — Answer: B

Explanation: **EGS** is the technology of creating or enhancing permeability in hot rock (via stimulation/injection) so fluid can circulate and extract heat where natural hydrothermal reservoirs are absent — this is the U.S. DOE and academic definition. **(Outside passage — technical source.)** (

39 — Answer: B (the FALSE statement is B)

Explanation: Statement B (“Geothermal projects are completely immune to seismic risk and never induce seismicity”) is false — large-scale subsurface stimulation (e.g., EGS) can induce seismic events (this is a known risk); the other statements are true and consistent with MNRE policy and geothermal literature (high upfront drilling cost is real; mineral by-products subject to MMDR/mineral rules per policy; grid access and financial risk mitigation are important). **(Outside passage for the seismic detail; policy acknowledges risk and need for SOPs and environmental safeguards.)**

40 — Answer: A (1 and 3 only)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (GSHPs exploit near-constant subsurface temperatures for heating/cooling). Statement 2 is false as a general global rule — efficiency does not “necessarily collapse” at high altitude across all designs (site/design dependent). Statement 3 is true — the MNRE policy (2025) explicitly includes promotion of GSHPs / district heating & cooling and direct-use applications. **(1 & 3 In-passage / 2 Outside and empirically false as absolute claim.)**

Quantitative Technique

41. (d) Speed = $225/15 = 15\text{m/s}$, $= 15 \times 18/5 = 54\text{km/hr}$

42. (a) Speed = $(300+150)/45 = 10\text{m/s}$, $10 \times 18/5 = 36\text{km/hr}$

43. (b) Relative speed = $36-6 = 30\text{km/hr}$

$$30 \times 5/18 = 150/18 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\text{Time} = 300 \times 18/150 = 36 \text{ sec}$$

44. (d) Total distance = 450km

$$\text{Relative Speed} = 36+54 = 90\text{km/hr}$$

$$\text{Time} = 450/90 = 5 \text{ hr}$$

$$7 \text{ am} + 5 \text{ hr} = 12 \text{ pm}$$

45. (b) Distance from Patna Junction = $5\text{hr} \times 54 \text{ km/hr} = 270 \text{ km}$

46. (d) Total obtain marks = $86+126+108+56+42 = 418$

$$\text{Total full marks} = 100+150+125+75+50 = 500$$

$$\% \text{ obtain} = 418 \times 100/500 = 83.6\%$$

47. (a) Total marks in history = $42+36+22+44+38+41 = 223$

$$\text{Average} = 223/6 = 37.16, = 37$$

48. (a) Required % = $90 \times 100/126 = 71.42\%$

49. (b) Ratio = $123 \times 100/125 : 63 \times 100/75, = 41:35$

50. (b) Rupesh



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