

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING**1. Correct Answer: A**

Explanation: The entire passage stresses that Ladakh, though sensitive and strategic, deserves empathy, empowerment, and institutional reform from Delhi—balancing security, ecology, and dignity.

2. Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Mattoo's tone combines reflection on history and empathy toward Ladakh's people and their struggles, urging sensitive governance.

3. Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The author explicitly calls for a balance between "security and self-governance," "ecology and economy," and "development and dignity."

4. Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Mattoo presents Ladakh as India's most loyal and steadfast frontier, which has consistently given "warriors, faith, and trust" — thus deserving empathy.

5. Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Mattoo advocates empowering local institutions — the Hill Councils and possible Sixth Schedule-type provisions — to balance governance and representation.

6. Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The author warns that ignoring Ladakh's demand for dignity and representation will harm the trust built over decades.

7. Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Mattoo notes Delhi's "cautious" and "mindful" approach, showing centralized caution rather than neglect or aggression.

8. Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Mattoo calls for "addressing Wangchuk's agitation step by step through institutional channels," not confrontation.

9. Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Mattoo clearly supports the idea that localized autonomy (via Sixth Schedule-like structures) can enhance trust and representation, not division.

10. Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The conclusion stresses participatory federalism — balancing representation with security and ecology — as the model for "sensitive frontiers."

Legal Reasoning

11. D

Explanation- As per Article 77 of the Indian Constitution, the conduct of business of the Government of India shall be done by the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head. In this scenario, the Council of Ministers is divided on the issue, and it is the President's duty to take an informed decision. The President should seek input from military experts and intelligence agencies to evaluate the situation and make an informed decision that considers India's interests and the potential consequences of military intervention.

12. B

Explanation- The President's duty, as per Article 77 of the Indian Constitution, is to ensure that the business of the Government of India is conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the law. In this scenario, the President should conduct a needs assessment and gather more information about the extent of the damage and the needs of the affected communities before declaring a national emergency and allocating resources for relief efforts.

13. C

Explanation- As per Article 77 of the Indian Constitution, the President's duty is to ensure that the business of the Government of India is conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the law. In this scenario, the proposed policy violates the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. The President should refer the matter to the Supreme Court for a legal opinion to ensure that the proposed policy is in line with the Constitution and does not violate fundamental rights.

14. B

Explanation- The President's duty, as per Article 77 of the Indian Constitution, is to ensure that the business of the Government of India is conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the law. In this scenario, the suspect claims that they will face the death penalty if extradited, which is prohibited by Indian law. The President should extradite the suspect but seek assurances from the foreign government that the death penalty will not be imposed, to ensure that the suspect's fundamental rights are protected.

15. D

Explanation- The President's duty, as per Article 77 of the Indian Constitution, is to ensure that the business of the Government of India is conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the law. In this scenario, the senior official has been accused of accepting a bribe, which is a criminal offense under Indian law. The President should refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation and prosecution, to ensure that the rule of law is upheld and that corrupt officials are held accountable for their actions. It is important to note that the President does not have the power to prosecute or punish individuals accused of criminal offenses, as this falls under the purview of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

16. B

Explanation- The Rajya Sabha should reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the provisions in question. This is because the Rajya Sabha has a constitutional responsibility to ensure that laws passed by Parliament are in conformity with the Constitution, and if there is a genuine doubt about the constitutionality of certain provisions, it is appropriate to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court, which is the ultimate arbiter of constitutional questions in India. Referring the bill to a special committee or amending the bill may not address the fundamental concerns about its constitutionality, and passing the bill despite the opposition would be a breach of the constitutional duty of the Rajya Sabha.

17. B

Explanation- The Rajya Sabha should disqualify the implicated member from participating in the investigation. This is because the member in question has a clear conflict of interest, and allowing them to participate in the investigation would compromise its integrity and credibility. Delaying the investigation until the matter involving the implicated member has been resolved may be appropriate in some cases, but in this case, the evidence of corruption is a matter of urgent public concern, and delaying the investigation would be contrary to the public interest. Referring the matter to an independent committee for investigation may also be appropriate, but disqualifying the implicated member is the most straightforward and effective way to address the conflict of interest.

18. D

Explanation- The Rajya Sabha should refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on minority rights. This is because the issue of protecting the rights of minorities in India is complex and requires careful consideration of competing principles, such as secularism, diversity, and equality. A joint committee with representation from both houses of Parliament and experts on minority rights would be best suited to address the concerns about the bill's compatibility with secularism and to ensure that the bill provides adequate protections to vulnerable minority groups while also respecting the rights of the majority. Passing the bill despite the opposition or rejecting it without seeking further input from experts would not fully address the concerns about the bill's impact on minority rights and could lead to further controversy and litigation.

19. D

Explanation- The Rajya Sabha should refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on financial regulation. This is because the issue of financial regulation in India is complex and requires careful consideration of the impact of regulatory bodies on the independence of other financial regulators and the overall health of the financial sector. A joint committee with representation from both houses of Parliament and experts on financial regulation would be best suited to address the concerns about the potential impact of the new regulatory body on the independence of other financial regulators and to ensure that the bill provides adequate oversight and regulation of the financial sector without creating bureaucratic inefficiencies or harm to the financial industry. Passing the bill despite the concerns or rejecting it without seeking further input from experts would not fully address the concerns about the bill's impact on financial regulation and could lead to unintended consequences.

20. A

Explanation- The Rajya Sabha should pass the bill despite the opposition, but also consider the long-term impact of environmental degradation on economic development and the livelihoods of citizens. This is because protecting the environment is a crucial responsibility of the government, and the bill would provide much-needed protections to the environment and the health of citizens. However, it is also important to acknowledge the concerns about the potential impact of the bill on certain industries and the livelihoods of workers, and to consider ways to mitigate those impacts through appropriate policies and measures. The Rajya Sabha should also consider the long-term benefits of environmental protection for economic development and the well-being of citizens, and work towards a sustainable and inclusive model of development that.

General Knowledge

21 — D

Explanation : All three statements are supported: dates and place (6–7 July 2025, Rio), theme and Joint Declaration (including IMF/World Bank reform) are in the Rio Declaration and official communiqués.

22 — A

Explanation : Reform of IMF/World Bank governance was an explicit item in the BRICS joint declaration and widely reported by Reuters and BRICS communiqués. The other options (common currency, standing army, dissolving NDB) are not in the Rio Declaration.

23 — B

Explanation : BRICS expanded in 2023 and further admissions/formalisations (Indonesia was formally admitted early 2025) — by mid-2025 the composition had increased beyond the original five. This is documented in Reuters and AP reporting and BRICS materials.

24 — A

Explanation : MEA/official transcript and the Rio Declaration note India's PM Modi attended and emphasised reform of global institutions and South–South cooperation.

25 — C

Explanation : AI governance, climate, health, security and strengthening multilateralism were explicit agenda items; however launching a BRICS common currency in 2025 was not reported in Rio Declaration or media.

26 — B

Explanation : Indonesia was formally admitted and reported to join as a member by early 2025 — confirmed by Reuters and AP.

27 — C

Explanation : The New Development Bank (NDB) is BRICS' multilateral bank and was referenced in summit discussions about financing and institutional strengthening; NDB is the BRICS development bank.

28 — A

Explanation : The Rio Declaration and BRICS messaging repeatedly emphasised the BRICS role in representing and amplifying Global South priorities and pushing for more inclusive global governance.

29 — A

Explanation : Reports indicated Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend in person and had remote participation (various outlets reported limited in-person presence by Russia/China leaders). Reuters and Wikipedia/ISS coverage note remote participation.

30 — A

Explanation : AI governance frameworks were explicitly emphasised in the Rio Declaration and media reporting as a prioritised new policy area for BRICS cooperation.

Q	Options	Explanation
31	D	Lipulekh connects India and Tibet (China); located in Uttarakhand and used for border trade.
32	D	Treaty of Sugauli (1816) after Anglo-Nepalese War defined Kali River boundary, later revised in 1860.
33	D	Dispute arises from differing identification of Kali River's source (Kalapani).
34	B	Kalapani is source of Kali River, Dharchula basepoint; Limpiyadhura is not easternmost Nepalese village.
35	D	Correct eastward sequence: Rohtang → Shipki La → Nathu La → Lipulekh.
36	B	China & India agreed in 2015 on limited trade/pilgrimage via Lipulekh; route temporarily paused but not closed.
37	B	Kali (Sharda) River originates near Lipulekh, tributary of Ghaghara.
38	B	MEA and KMVN jointly manage pilgrim logistics; Tourism Ministry not directly involved.
39	C	Lipulekh used for observation and monitoring of Chinese Ngari sector, lies near tri-junction.
40	B	India-Nepal boundary talks remain unresolved; both nations emphasize peaceful dialogue.

Quantitative Technique

41. (c) $1520 + 1680 + 1420 = 4620$

Average = $4620/3 = 1540$

42. (b) Male employee in Bank B = $1680 \times 4/7 = 960$

Male employee in bank C = $1460 \times 9/20 = 657$

Total = $960 + 657 = 1617$

43. (d) $7 \times 100/20 = 35\%$

44. (c) $1680 \times 3/7 : 1380 \times 10/23$

$720 : 600$

$6:5$

45. (c) Total male employee = $1520 \times 13/19 = 1040$

Married male = $1040 \times 75\% = 780$

46. (c) 4:3

47. (c) $12 \times 100/60 = 20\%$

48. (a) 20

49. (c) 110

50. (a) 10%

Common explanation :

Let us take number of girls in class B as $2x$.

The number of boys in class A = $2x$

The number of boys in class B = $2x + 20$

Ratio of number of girls in class A to class B = $3:2$

The number of girls in class A = $3x$

Total number of students in class B is 20% more than that in class A,

$$\rightarrow 4x + 20 = 5x(1.2)$$

$$4x + 20 = 6x$$

$$x = 10$$

	Class A	Class B
Boys	20	40
Girls	30	20
Teacher	8	12



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