



MOCK TEST | 9 MAY 2026

CLAT 2027 Mock Test 08

English Language + Current Affairs & General Knowledge

Test Code	CLAT Mock Test 08
Total Questions	120 (80 English + 40 GK)
Total Marks / Duration	120 Marks 120 Minutes
Marking Scheme	+1 Correct -0.25 Wrong 0 Unattempted
Format	100% Passage-Based (24 Passages)
Answer Marking	Use the previously finalised CLAT Gurukul OMR Sheet

Section	Questions	Passages	Marks
English Language	Q1 – Q80	16 x 5 Qs	80
Current Affairs & GK	Q81 – Q120	8 x 5 Qs	40

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. This test booklet contains **120 questions** divided into two sections. All questions are compulsory.
2. All questions are **passage-based**. Read each passage carefully before attempting the questions that follow.
3. Each question has **four options** (A, B, C, D). Choose the **most appropriate** answer.
4. **Marking:** +1 correct | -0.25 incorrect | 0 unattempted.
5. Use the **OMR Answer Sheet** provided separately. Use **blue/black ballpoint pen** only. Fill bubbles completely.
6. **Do not** use pencil, gel pen, or whitener on the OMR sheet.
7. Mark **only one bubble** per question. Multiple marks = **cancellation**.
8. Do not fold, tear, or damage the OMR sheet.
9. **Rough work** may be done in the blank space of this booklet. No separate rough sheets provided.
10. Total duration: **120 minutes** (2 hours). No extra time.
11. Do not leave the hall before the test concludes without the invigilator's permission.
12. Any **unfair means** (mobile phones, electronic devices, communication) = immediate disqualification.
13. **Suggested time:** English ~80 min | GK ~40 min.

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

All the best!

SECTION I — ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions: Read each passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each passage is followed by five questions based on its content.

Passage 1 (Questions 1–5)

The Stoic Citadel and the Engineering of Attention

Of all the legacies of the Hellenistic schools, none has proved more durable, or more easily mistaken for its opposite, than the Stoic distinction between what lies within our power and what does not. Epictetus drew the line with brutal economy: body, reputation, property, public office — none of these are properly ours; they are on loan, and grief at their loss is, on the strict account, a category mistake. What is genuinely ours is narrower and stranger: judgement, intention, the assent we give to our own impressions. To be free, in this scheme, is not to enlarge the territory of one's possessions but to contract the territory of one's anxieties to those few items one can in fact govern.

The doctrine acquires a peculiar resonance in an age engineered, at considerable expense, to keep our attention fixed on precisely the territory Epictetus warned against. Notifications, rankings, the thousand small metrics of approval — these are designed to reach inside the citadel of judgement and bid for our assent before assent has had time to deliberate. Modern Stoicism, in the careful hands of writers like Pierre Hadot and the more vigorous popularisations of Ryan Holiday, is therefore not, as its critics charge, a passive philosophy of acquiescence. It is a counter-discipline: the deliberate, repeated act of withdrawing assent from impressions one has not chosen to entertain.

A familiar objection holds that the Stoic posture is the philosophy of the already-comfortable, available only to those whose external goods are secure enough to be classed as indifferent. The Stoic rejoinder is that no one's external goods are secure — the wealthiest Romans lost theirs by sunrise — and that to predicate one's serenity on their permanence is to live in chronic terror disguised as contentment.

1. The author's central claim about Stoicism, as developed across the three paragraphs, is best stated as which of the following?

- (A) Stoicism is, on its own terms, a doctrine that property and reputation are illusions and that to grieve their loss is to commit a serious moral failing of judgement.
- (B) Stoicism is a philosophy of withdrawal from the world that, while admirable in antiquity, has been rendered obsolete by the conditions of modern life.
- (C) Far from being a quietism, Stoicism is a counter-discipline against forces engineered to capture assent before it can deliberate.
- (D) Stoicism is best understood as a consolatory philosophy whose principal contemporary value lies in alleviating the anxieties of the wealthy.

2. The expression "the citadel of judgement" in the second paragraph functions principally as which of the following?

- (A) A figure for the inner faculty of assent that, on the Stoic account, alone belongs to us.
- (B) A literal reference to a Roman fortress in which philosophical instruction was traditionally delivered.
- (C) An ironic gesture aimed at the philosophical pretensions of contemporary Silicon Valley technology firms.
- (D) An allusion to the biographical method of Pierre Hadot, who emphasised the architectural metaphors of late antiquity.

3. The author responds to the criticism that Stoicism is a "philosophy of the already-comfortable" by:

- (A) Suggesting that the Stoic discipline was, in classical Rome, formally restricted to those holding citizen status.
- (B) Conceding the criticism in full and acknowledging that the school's appeal in antiquity was largely confined to the senatorial classes.
- (C) Drawing on contemporary social-scientific evidence to dismiss the criticism as historically uninformed and politically motivated.
- (D) Arguing that since no one's external goods are in fact secure, Stoic training is more, not less, urgent for the precariously placed.

4. As used in the second paragraph, the word "quietism" most nearly means:

- (A) An aesthetic preference for silence over speech, particularly in religious or contemplative contexts.
- (B) A passive disposition of acceptance that abstains from active engagement with the world.
- (C) A doctrine of physical asceticism associated with several monastic traditions of the early common era.
- (D) A school of Roman jurisprudence concerned with the limits of magisterial discretion under the Republic.

5. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's defence of Stoicism in the third paragraph?

- (A) Recent clinical studies indicating that the systematic practice of Stoic exercises significantly reduces self-reported anxiety in volunteer populations.
- (B) Documentary evidence that the wealthiest Roman senators of the late Republic in fact retained the bulk of their property until natural death.
- (C) Empirical research showing that, in modern populations, individuals whose external goods are secure derive markedly greater therapeutic benefit from Stoic exercises than those whose circumstances are precarious.
- (D) Evidence that Pierre Hadot, in his major works, misattributed several of the surviving fragments to Epictetus in the relevant scholarly literature on the subject as that account has been refined in subsequent commentary.

Passage 2 (Questions 6–10)

Moral Luck and the Limits of Praise and Blame

Bernard Williams's essay on moral luck began with a deceptively simple observation: our settled habits of moral assessment treat the agent's will as the proper object of praise and blame, yet the actual outcomes for which we praise and blame people depend, very often, on factors entirely outside the agent's control. The lorry driver who, through no fault of his own, kills a child who runs into the road bears, in his own estimation and in ours, a moral weight which the equally careful driver who happens to have a clear afternoon does not. If only the will is morally assessable, why should the swerve of fortune mark them so differently?

Thomas Nagel pressed the point further by distinguishing four varieties of moral luck — constitutive (the temperament one is born with), circumstantial (the situations one happens to face), causal (the antecedents that produce one's choices), and resultant (how one's actions in fact turn out). Together they leave very little of agency standing as a clean object of moral assessment. The Kantian image of the will as a self-enclosed source of moral worth, untouched by the contingencies of the world, looks, after Nagel, less like a description of moral life than a wish about it.

The response of contemporary virtue ethicists has not been to deny the phenomenon but to accommodate it. Praise and blame, on their view, track not the bare will but the dispositions of character that the agent has cultivated and could in principle have cultivated otherwise; luck shapes the occasions on which character is tested but not the character that is tested. Whether this rescue succeeds — whether character itself is not, at the limit, a creature of the same constitutive luck — remains an open question.

6. Bernard Williams's central observation about moral assessment, as the author presents it, is best captured by which of the following?

- (A) Although our habits of praise and blame treat the will as their proper object, the outcomes we actually praise and blame are heavily dependent on factors outside the agent's control.
- (B) Our habits of praise and blame are, on a properly Kantian analysis, ultimately incoherent and stand in need of comprehensive philosophical revision.
- (C) Moral assessment is, properly understood, indifferent to outcomes and concerned exclusively with the quality of the agent's intentions at the moment of action.
- (D) The apparent role of luck in moral life is an illusion produced by our failure to track the deeper causal antecedents of human action and choice.

7. Nagel's fourfold typology of moral luck includes all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) Resultant luck, concerning how one's actions in fact turn out on the dominant reading of the contemporary secondary sources.
- (B) Constitutive luck, concerning the temperament with which one is born.
- (C) Circumstantial luck, concerning the situations one happens to face.
- (D) Existential luck, concerning whether the agent had any reason to act at all.

8. The author's attitude to the Kantian conception of the will, as it emerges in the second paragraph, is best described as:

- (A) Reverential, treating Kant's account as the indispensable foundation on which any tenable moral philosophy must continue to be built.
- (B) Sceptical, presenting that conception, after Nagel, as a wish about moral life rather than an accurate description of it.
- (C) Ambivalent, acknowledging the doctrine's influence while remaining undecided as to its adequacy on either descriptive or normative grounds.
- (D) Largely indifferent, the passage being principally devoted to the historical reception of Williams's essay rather than to evaluating any rival position.

9. The virtue-ethical response described in the third paragraph attempts to preserve the practice of moral assessment by:

- (A) Relocating the object of praise and blame from the bare will to the cultivated dispositions of character that the agent could have cultivated otherwise.

- (B) Conceding that praise and blame are, in the rigorous sense, never warranted and recommending that we abandon them in favour of a purely consequentialist reckoning.
- (C) Insisting that the influence of luck on moral life is a contingent feature of contemporary social arrangements rather than a structural feature of agency as such.
- (D) Arguing that the four varieties of luck identified by Nagel can each be neutralised by the right kind of careful moral attention exercised at the moment of decision.

10. Suppose it were established that the dispositions of character themselves are largely fixed by genetic and developmental factors over which the agent had no control. The strongest implication of this finding for the argument of the third paragraph would be that:

- (A) Williams's original observation would lose much of its force, because it would no longer be true that outcomes depend on factors outside the agent's control.
- (B) The virtue-ethical rescue would be vindicated, because such a finding would only confirm that praise and blame must track stable dispositions rather than transient acts of will.
- (C) The virtue-ethical rescue would itself be exposed to the very objection it was designed to meet, since character would then be a creature of the same constitutive luck.
- (D) Nagel's fourfold typology would have to be expanded to include a fifth category, which the passage suggests has already been canvassed in the literature.

Passage 3 (Questions 11–15)

The Gambler's Fallacy and the Independence of Trials

Of the many ways in which the human mind misbehaves around probability, the gambler's fallacy is among the most stubborn. The reasoner observes a run of red on the roulette wheel and infers, with some confidence, that black is now "due" — as though the wheel kept a grudge, or as though some cosmic ledger required eventual balance between the colours. The error is not idle; it sustains casino floors, animates lottery players, and, in subtler dress, distorts judgements about everything from the next coin toss to the next financial crash.

The formal mistake is easily stated. Each spin of a fair wheel is independent of the last; the wheel has no memory, and the probability of black on the next spin is precisely what it was on the first. What gives the fallacy its tenacity, however, is not ignorance of this rule but the seductiveness of a deeper picture, sometimes traced to a misreading of the law of large numbers. That law guarantees that, over very many trials, the proportion of red and black will converge on its theoretical value. The fallacy then leaps to the further claim that, within any short stretch of trials, deviations must be actively corrected. The leap is invalid. Convergence is the long-run limit of an unfolding average; it is not enforced by any short-run mechanism, and the wheel acquires no obligation to compensate for its recent behaviour.

The deeper lesson is not statistical but psychological. The mind appears to find the idea of genuine independence — the idea that the past does not at all constrain the future — almost intolerable. A universe of independent trials offers no narrative, no arc, no cosmic justice; and the gambler, like the rest of us, would rather believe in a wheel with a memory than in a world without one.

11. The author identifies the formal mistake at the heart of the gambler's fallacy as which of the following?

- (A) The misapplication of the central limit theorem to small samples drawn from non-normal underlying distributions.
- (B) The inference, from a run of one outcome, that the opposite outcome is rendered more probable on the next independent trial.
- (C) A failure to grasp that the law of large numbers is itself merely an empirical regularity rather than a strict mathematical theorem.
- (D) The persistent overestimation, by inexperienced reasoners, of the variance associated with binomial random processes.

12. According to the second paragraph, the law of large numbers correctly states that:

- (A) The variance of the long-run sample proportion grows in direct proportion to the number of trials performed in the relevant sequence.
- (B) Over any given short stretch of trials, deviations from the theoretical proportion must be actively corrected by the underlying process.
- (C) The probability of any particular outcome on a future trial is fixed by the proportion already observed in the immediately preceding sequence.
- (D) Over very many trials, the observed proportion of each outcome converges on its theoretical probability.

13. The author characterises the persistence of the gambler's fallacy as principally a:

- (A) Psychological phenomenon, rooted in the mind's discomfort with the idea of genuine independence between trials.
- (B) Statistical phenomenon, attributable to widespread innumeracy regarding the formal definition of probabilistic independence.

- (C) Cultural phenomenon, sustained by the deliberate marketing efforts of the gambling industry across many decades.
- (D) Pedagogical phenomenon, traceable to the systematic neglect of probability theory in standard secondary-school mathematics curricula.

14. The phrase "the wheel kept a grudge" in the first paragraph functions principally as:

- (A) An allusion to a well-known nineteenth-century controversy about the mechanical fairness of casino equipment.
- (B) A literal description of the engineering tolerances of a roulette wheel that has been imperfectly maintained.
- (C) A vivid metaphor for the false attribution of memory and intention to a memoryless physical process.
- (D) A satirical attack on the casino industry's marketing practices in the immediate post-pandemic period.

15. Which of the following, if established, would most strongly support the author's psychological thesis in the third paragraph?

- (A) Evidence that, after a single one-hour lecture on the law of large numbers, university students reliably cease to commit the fallacy in subsequent reasoning tasks.
- (B) Cross-cultural studies showing that the fallacy persists at comparable rates among populations with little exposure to formal gambling and to organised lotteries.
- (C) Historical research demonstrating that the casino industry has, over time, deliberately exploited the fallacy in the design of slot machines and roulette tables.
- (D) The discovery of a very small but statistically detectable mechanical bias in the design of the roulette wheels of one major casino chain.

Passage 4 (Questions 16–20)

Climate Sensitivity and the Discipline of Confidence Intervals

If you ask a working climate scientist what will happen if atmospheric carbon dioxide doubles from its pre-industrial level, the honest answer is not a number but a range — and a probability distribution over that range. The quantity in question is equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS): the average global warming, in degrees, at which the climate system would settle once concentrations have stabilised. Successive assessment cycles of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have produced, after intense argument, a likely range for ECS of roughly 2.5 to 4 degrees Celsius, with values outside that range progressively less probable but not, on the present evidence, decisively excluded.

The instinct of the casual reader is to treat the central estimate as the answer and the range as a kind of disclaimer. This is exactly backwards. In a system as complex as the global climate, the range is the answer, and the asymmetry of its tails is itself a substantive scientific finding. ECS values at the high end of the distribution would imply a qualitatively different policy world from those at the low end; the difference between three degrees and four-and-a-half is not a difference of degree but, in its consequences, of kind. A rational policy stance therefore cannot consist in identifying a single best estimate and acting on it as if it were certain. It must take the shape of an insurance argument: how much present cost is it worth incurring to reduce the probability of the worst tails of the distribution?

This is not, as critics sometimes suggest, a counsel of paralysis. It is a counsel against a particular kind of false precision, in which the difficulty of communicating a probability distribution is mistaken for a reason to discard it.

16. Equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS), as defined in the passage, refers to:

- (A) The total cumulative atmospheric carbon dioxide loading at which the global average surface temperature reaches a doubled value relative to its pre-industrial reference level.
- (B) The maximum transient global temperature anomaly recorded during the year in which atmospheric CO₂ doubles from its pre-industrial baseline.
- (C) The average annual rate of warming observed during the decade in which atmospheric CO₂ first crosses the doubled-concentration threshold.
- (D) The average global warming at which the climate system would settle once atmospheric CO₂ had been stabilised at twice its pre-industrial concentration.

17. The author's principal methodological claim about the IPCC's likely range for ECS is that:

- (A) The range itself, including the asymmetry of its tails, is the substantive scientific finding rather than merely a disclaimer attached to a central estimate.
- (B) The range will, with each successive assessment cycle, narrow steadily until a single defensible point estimate is finally available to policymakers.
- (C) The central estimate within the range is the only quantity to which a rational policymaker is entitled to assign decision-relevant weight.
- (D) The very practice of expressing scientific findings as probability distributions reflects a regrettable concession to the tastes of public communication.

18. The author argues that the appropriate policy response to the ECS distribution takes the shape of:

- (A) A conservative commitment to defer all major mitigation investment until such time as a single best estimate of ECS has been agreed across major modelling groups.
- (B) A precautionary commitment to act as though the highest plausible value of ECS is in fact the most probable value, regardless of where the distribution's mass actually lies.
- (C) An insurance argument, weighing present cost against reductions in the probability of the worst tails of the distribution.
- (D) A market-based approach in which policymakers refrain from taking any view about ECS at all and leave the assessment to private actors and reinsurance firms.

19. The author's remark that the difference between a three-degree and a four-and-a-half-degree warming is "not a difference of degree but, in its consequences, of kind" is best understood as:

- (A) An allusion to the well-known philosophical doctrine that quantitative changes, beyond a certain threshold, must always produce qualitative ones.
- (B) A literal statement that the underlying physical mechanisms governing such warming would differ fundamentally between those two scenarios.
- (C) A claim that the probability of either outcome is, given the present state of climate science, indistinguishably small for all practical purposes.
- (D) A claim that those two outcomes belong to qualitatively distinct policy regimes despite the apparent smallness of their numerical difference.

20. Which of the following criticisms would the author of the passage be MOST inclined to reject?

- (A) Public communication of climate science would be improved if the IPCC accompanied its likely ranges with explicit probability statements about the tails.
- (B) Communicating climate science in the form of a probability distribution amounts, in practice, to a counsel of paralysis for the policymaker.
- (C) An exclusive focus on the central estimate of ECS risks producing decisions that are insufficiently robust to the system's tail risks.
- (D) A rational climate policy must distinguish between the most probable warming outcome and the most consequential one for long-run social welfare.

Passage 5 (Questions 21–25)

Karl Polanyi and the Disembedded Market

Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation*, written in the closing years of the Second World War, advanced an argument whose unfashionable structure has helped to keep it perpetually fashionable. The market, Polanyi insisted, is not the natural condition of human economic life from which other arrangements are deviations; it is, on the contrary, a recent and peculiar institution which the nineteenth-century European state had, by considerable legal and coercive labour, to construct. In all earlier societies of which we have record, exchange was "embedded" in social relations of kinship, religion, status and obligation; the idea of a self-regulating market for land, labour and money — the three commodities Polanyi famously called "fictitious" — would have struck a medieval peasant or a Polynesian fisher as not merely undesirable but unintelligible.

The nineteenth-century achievement was to disembed exchange from these social relations and to subject the three fictitious commodities to a market discipline they had never previously known. The achievement was, on Polanyi's reading, precisely the source of the catastrophe of the twentieth century. A society in which labour is bought and sold like cotton, land like coal, and money like any other ware will, sooner or later, generate political demands for a counter-movement of self-protection — and the form that counter-movement takes, in his analysis, depends on the political resources available. In countries where democratic institutions were robust, it took the shape of the welfare state; where those resources were thinner, it took the shape of fascism.

What is striking, in retrospect, is how much of subsequent economic sociology has been a series of footnotes to this thesis, even where the authors of the footnotes have not always recognised their debt.

21. The central claim of Polanyi's *The Great Transformation*, as the author presents it, is that:

- (A) The self-regulating market is not a natural condition but a recent and peculiar institution constructed by the nineteenth-century European state through considerable legal and coercive labour.
- (B) The catastrophes of the twentieth century are best explained as the unintended consequence of state interference in what would otherwise have been an efficient global market order.
- (C) Pre-modern economic life was characterised by an essentially religious approach to exchange that limited the development of productive forces in ways subsequent scholarship has tended to underestimate.
- (D) The development of large-scale market exchange was an inevitable consequence of population growth, technological change, and the increasing division of labour from the late medieval period onward.

22. Polanyi's three "fictitious" commodities, as the passage identifies them, are:

- (A) Land, capital and credit.
- (B) Cotton, coal and corn.
- (C) Land, labour and money.
- (D) Labour, technology and information.

23. The author reports Polanyi's account of the twentieth-century counter-movement of self-protection as varying with which of the following?

- (A) The size of the agricultural sector, with predominantly rural societies producing the welfare state and predominantly urban ones producing fascism.
- (B) The pace of industrial development in the country in question, with rapid industrialisers reliably producing welfare states.
- (C) The strength of organised religion in the countries concerned, with more religious societies producing the welfare state.
- (D) The political resources available, with robust democratic institutions producing the welfare state and thinner resources producing fascism.

24. The closing observation that subsequent economic sociology has been "a series of footnotes" to Polanyi's thesis is best read as:

- (A) A criticism of contemporary economic sociology for having failed to advance significantly beyond a mid-twentieth-century European framework of analysis.
- (B) An assessment of the unusual durability of Polanyi's framework within a discipline that has otherwise undergone substantial change.
- (C) A literal claim that subsequent works in economic sociology have, with very few exceptions, formally cited *The Great Transformation* in their bibliographies.
- (D) An allusion to Whitehead's well-known characterisation of the entire history of European philosophy as a series of footnotes to Plato.

25. Suppose a critic argued that, contrary to Polanyi, complex self-regulating markets in land and labour can be shown to have functioned in several pre-modern societies without state construction. The strongest implication of this finding for the passage's central claim would be that:

- (A) It would significantly undermine Polanyi's thesis about the historical novelty of disembodied markets, by exhibiting precisely the cases his account holds to be impossible.
- (B) It would strengthen Polanyi's thesis by showing that pre-modern societies had already begun the process of disembedding that the nineteenth century then completed.
- (C) It would be irrelevant to Polanyi's thesis, since *The Great Transformation* is concerned exclusively with the European nineteenth century.
- (D) It would have no bearing on the passage's argument, since the passage is concerned only with the reception of Polanyi rather than the truth of his claims.

Passage 6 (Questions 26–30)

The Bilingual Brain

For most of the twentieth century, the dominant assumption in the cognitive science of language was that bilingualism is, on balance, a cost. The early studies — many of them now recognised as methodologically poor — found that bilingual children scored lower on certain verbal tests than their monolingual peers and concluded, with confidence quite out of proportion to the evidence, that the second language was crowding out the first. The studies were politically convenient as well as poorly designed: they appeared at moments when policy-makers were anxious to discourage the use of minority languages in schools.

The pendulum has, in recent decades, swung sharply in the other direction. A succession of carefully controlled studies, beginning with the work of Ellen Bialystok and her collaborators, has documented what is now widely called the bilingual advantage: bilinguals appear, on certain tasks of executive control, to outperform monolinguals matched for age, education and socio-economic status. The hypothesised mechanism is elegant. A bilingual must, every time she selects a word from one language, simultaneously suppress the corresponding word from the other. This continual exercise of inhibitory control, repeated across a lifetime, is thought to strengthen the executive systems of the prefrontal cortex in ways that produce demonstrable transfer to non-linguistic tasks.

A more cautious literature has begun to qualify the picture. Several large-scale replications have failed to find the predicted advantage on standard executive-function batteries; meta-analyses have raised the possibility that publication bias has inflated the effect; and the social variables for which the original studies controlled — education, immigrant status, socio-economic background — turn out to be more entangled with bilingualism than the controls fully captured. The bilingual advantage may yet survive these challenges, but in the meantime the field has rediscovered an older virtue: the readiness to disbelieve one's own most attractive findings.

26. The author's principal claim about the early-twentieth-century studies of bilingualism is that:

- (A) They produced findings that have been comprehensively vindicated by subsequent work in the cognitive science of language and bilingualism.
- (B) They were, despite their methodological limitations, broadly correct in their characterisation of bilingualism as cognitively disadvantageous on the whole.
- (C) They were so poorly designed that they were ignored by serious researchers from the moment of their publication and have only recently received scholarly attention.
- (D) They reached confident conclusions out of proportion to their evidence and were, in addition, politically convenient at the moment of their publication.

27. The hypothesised mechanism for the "bilingual advantage", as the author describes it, is that:

- (A) The structural differences between languages, in the daily experience of the bilingual, sharpen attention to grammatical detail in ways that transfer to non-linguistic reasoning.
- (B) Acquiring a second language enlarges the overall vocabulary of the speaker, with general benefits across a wide range of cognitive tasks.
- (C) The repeated exercise of inhibitory control involved in selecting a word from one language while suppressing the other strengthens executive systems in the prefrontal cortex.
- (D) Bilinguals tend, for cultural reasons, to be exposed earlier in life to a more diverse range of cognitive challenges than their monolingual peers.

28. Which of the following challenges to the bilingual-advantage hypothesis is NOT mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Failures of large-scale replication on standard executive-function batteries for reasons that have been the subject of substantial discussion in the ordinary technical sense of the expression.
- (B) Direct neuroimaging evidence that the prefrontal cortex of bilinguals is structurally indistinguishable from that of matched monolingual controls.
- (C) Meta-analytic findings raising the possibility that publication bias has inflated the reported effect.
- (D) Evidence that the social variables controlled in the original studies were more entangled with bilingualism than the controls fully captured.

29. The closing reference to "an older virtue" — "the readiness to disbelieve one's own most attractive findings" — functions in the passage as:

- (A) A piece of methodological commendation directed at the more cautious wing of the contemporary bilingualism literature.
- (B) A criticism of bilingualism researchers for having shown insufficient enthusiasm for their own initially promising results.
- (C) An ironic reference to the original twentieth-century studies, which were already disposed to doubt their findings.
- (D) A formal definition of methodological scepticism as it is understood in the philosophy of science of the early twenty-first century.

30. Which of the following best describes the structure of the passage as a whole?

- (A) A historical sketch of a controversy is provided in order to set up the author's own original contribution to its resolution.
- (B) A pair of competing schools is set out and one is decisively endorsed against the other on the basis of recent empirical evidence.
- (C) A scientific finding is described, its mechanism identified, and the finding is then defended against a series of misguided objections.
- (D) An old consensus is described and undermined; a newer consensus is described in turn and shown to be itself under qualification.

Passage 7 (Questions 31–35)

Raga as a Modal Grammar

To the listener accustomed to the Western tonal system, the Hindustani raga at first appears to be a kind of scale, and the comparison is not without value as an entry point. But it is misleading in proportion as it is taken seriously. A scale is, essentially, an inventory of pitches; a raga is something closer to a grammar — a set of permissions, prohibitions, and characteristic motions that govern what may be done with a given collection of notes. Two ragas may share the same set of pitches and remain quite different ragas; the difference will lie not in the notes themselves but in which note is approached from which, which note is held, which note is left without resolution, and which note functions as the centre of gravity for the whole.

The historical depth of the system is part of what makes it formidable. The classical Hindustani repertoire recognises something on the order of two hundred ragas in regular performance, each with its own treatise-attested rules, its own canonical mood (or *rasa*), and, in many cases, its own appointed time of day or season. The performer's task is not to play the raga as one might play a Bach prelude — that is, to render a fixed text — but to elaborate, in real time and within strict but unwritten constraints, a portrait of the raga sufficiently extended to disclose its character.

This throws light on a feature of the tradition that often surprises Western listeners: the apparent absence of "composition" in the score-bearing sense. The composition of Hindustani music takes place not before the performance but during it; what the classical tradition transmits, across generations of teachers and students, is not a body of works but a body of grammars within which an indefinite number of works may be improvised.

31. The author's principal point in distinguishing a raga from a Western scale is that:

- (A) A raga is associated with a specific mood and time of day in a way that no Western scale ever has been across the entire history of the tradition.
- (B) A raga, unlike a Western scale, recognises microtonal intervals between the notes that are not available within the equal-tempered system.
- (C) A raga is closer to a grammar than to a scale, supplying not merely an inventory of pitches but a set of permissions, prohibitions and characteristic motions among them.
- (D) A raga is, on the most strict definition, an inventory of pitches together with the appropriate ornaments to be applied at every juncture of a performance.

32. According to the passage, two ragas may differ even when they share which of the following?

- (A) The same canonical performer.
- (B) The same set of pitches.
- (C) The same time of day for performance.
- (D) The same regional school of training.

33. The performer's task within the Hindustani tradition is best characterised, in the author's terms, as:

- (A) To produce a wholly novel composition that, while drawing on the technical resources of the tradition, breaks decisively with its received conventions.
- (B) To render, with the highest available fidelity, a fixed and notated score representative of the canonical version of the raga in question.
- (C) To select, from a published repertory of compositions, that work which best suits the appointed time of day or seasonal context of the performance.
- (D) To elaborate, in real time and within strict but unwritten constraints, a portrait of the raga sufficiently extended to disclose its character.

34. The author explains the apparent absence of "composition" in the score-bearing sense by observing that:

- (A) The composition of Hindustani music takes place during the performance rather than before it, so what is transmitted is a body of grammars rather than a body of works.
- (B) The Hindustani tradition does in fact possess a substantial body of formally composed works which Western scholarship has hitherto failed to recognise.
- (C) The system of musical notation employed within the tradition is sufficiently developed but is, for cultural reasons, withheld from those outside the lineage.
- (D) The concept of composition itself, as understood in the European classical tradition, is a culturally specific category of limited application beyond it.

35. Suppose a manuscript were discovered containing detailed and apparently authoritative compositional scores for a substantial body of Hindustani works dating from the seventeenth century. The strongest implication of this discovery for the argument of the passage would be that:

- (A) It would confirm the passage's argument by exhibiting precisely the kind of grammatical resources that the passage describes as central to the tradition.
- (B) It would put the passage's account of the tradition under significant pressure, since that account contrasts the transmission of grammars with the transmission of fixed works.
- (C) It would be irrelevant to the passage's argument, which is concerned exclusively with the contemporary practice of Hindustani performance as the relevant authorities have repeatedly affirmed.
- (D) It would, by itself, decide the long-running scholarly debate about the historical relationship between Hindustani and Carnatic musical traditions.

Passage 8 (Questions 36–40)

Habermas, the Public Sphere, and Its Re-feudalisation

The category of the "public sphere", as Jürgen Habermas reconstructed it in his early historical study, was a peculiar and historically contingent achievement. It named a space of reasoned discussion — embodied in the coffee-houses of London, the salons of Paris, and the journals that connected them — in which private individuals, setting aside their private interests, could form a public opinion to which the state was obliged, in the long run, to attend. The ideal had two demanding presuppositions. First, that the participants in such discussion would, when in it, treat one another as equals, regardless of their unequal standing in the wider society. Second, that the better argument, identified by something approximating disinterested rational scrutiny, would in the end carry the day.

Habermas himself was clear that the bourgeois public sphere of the eighteenth century was, in important respects, a fiction. It excluded women, the propertyless, and most of the colonised world; the disinterested rationality it celebrated was often a disguise for the interests of a particular class. But the ideal it half-realised, he argued, was nevertheless the indispensable critical standard against which every subsequent communicative arrangement could be measured. Even a sham public sphere is intelligible as a sham only by reference to a real one.

Much of his subsequent work was an attempt to specify how the public sphere had been, in his somewhat polemical term, "refeudalised" — recolonised, that is, by the very interests it had been constituted to discipline. The mass press, public-relations management, the personalisation of politics around media-friendly figures, and now the algorithmic curation of opinion by privately-owned platforms have, in different ways, converted the public sphere from a space of reasoned discussion into a space of choreographed display. Whether the original ideal can survive this conversion is, Habermas himself seems to have come to think, an open question.

36. Habermas's category of the "public sphere", as the passage characterises it, refers to:

- (A) The general body of published written matter circulating in eighteenth-century Europe, including newspapers, pamphlets, journals and books of every description.
- (B) The formal institutions of representative government as they emerged in eighteenth-century Britain and the early American republic in the wake of the American Revolution.
- (C) A space of reasoned discussion in which private individuals, setting aside private interest, could form a public opinion to which the state was eventually obliged to attend.
- (D) The legally regulated arena of public political assembly recognised under the constitutions of the leading European states in the period after 1789.

37. Habermas's two demanding presuppositions of the public sphere, as the author identifies them, are:

- (A) Equality of the participants while in discussion, and the eventual victory of the better argument identified by disinterested rational scrutiny.
- (B) Universal adult suffrage in the surrounding political order, and a free and uncensored periodical press.
- (C) A high level of formal education among participants, and a public guarantee against arbitrary state interference in their affairs.
- (D) The existence of representative legislative institutions, and the legal recognition of a right of public assembly for political purposes.

38. The author reports Habermas as conceding which of the following about the historical bourgeois public sphere?

- (A) That its concrete institutions, namely the salons and coffee-houses, have so completely vanished as to render the category itself a purely historical object.
- (B) That its core ideal was, in retrospect, an unworkable abstraction with little continuing critical value for contemporary political theory.
- (C) That its proceedings were so dominated by the private interests of the bourgeoisie that no genuine reasoning about public matters in fact occurred within it.
- (D) That it was, in important respects, a fiction, since it excluded women, the propertyless and most of the colonised world.

39. The term "refeudalisation", as the author employs it on Habermas's behalf, is best glossed as:

- (A) The legal restoration, in several European societies, of feudal property arrangements that had previously been abolished.
- (B) The recolonisation of the public sphere by the very private interests it had been constituted to discipline.
- (C) The progressive concentration of land ownership in the hands of a small class of large proprietors during the period under discussion.
- (D) The displacement of elected legislatures by inherited bodies of nobility in the formal constitutions of certain modern states.

40. The author cites all of the following as candidate mechanisms of "refeudalisation" EXCEPT:

- (A) Public-relations management.
- (B) The mass press in the standard formulation employed by the discipline on the most natural construction of the available evidence.
- (C) The compulsory registration of all private associations with a central state authority.
- (D) The algorithmic curation of opinion by privately-owned platforms.

Passage 9 (Questions 41–45)

The Mughal Miniature and Its Persian Inheritance

When Humayun returned from his Persian exile in the middle of the sixteenth century, he brought with him two painters of distinction — Mir Sayyid Ali and Abd al-Samad — and, with them, the elaborate visual idiom

of the Safavid court at Tabriz. The history of Mughal painting can, in one defensible reading, be told as the history of what those two painters and their successors did with that idiom over the four reigns that followed.

The Safavid manner they brought was, by the standards of any contemporary European tradition, extraordinarily disciplined: figures arranged within rigorously geometric architecture, fields of pure colour against which the smallest gestures of line acquired weight, and a refusal of the kind of atmospheric perspective that European painters of the period had begun to take for granted. What the Mughal workshops did with the inheritance was not to discard it but to subject it to a series of slow modifications, each driven by the distinctive imperial commissions under which the workshops operated. Akbar's preference for narrative chronicle drew the workshop into compositions of unprecedented size and crowd, in which the Persian taste for arrangement contended with the demands of dynamic action. Jahangir's interest in natural-historical observation produced a tradition of meticulously rendered birds and flowers in which Persian decorum was tempered by an almost European-empirical attentiveness. By the time of Shah Jahan, a courtly portraiture had emerged that had, in important respects, no clear precedent in either parent tradition.

It would be a mistake, then, to read Mughal painting as a derivative branch of Safavid art, or as a clumsy imitation of European naturalism. It is, more accurately, a sustained negotiation between three visual traditions, conducted under the patronage of a state with a coherent and durable interest in pictorial representation.

41. Which of the following best states the author's principal thesis about Mughal painting?

- (A) Mughal painting is, despite its apparent originality, ultimately a derivative branch of the Safavid Persian tradition that produced the painters Humayun brought from his exile.
- (B) Mughal painting is a sustained negotiation between three visual traditions, conducted under the patronage of a state with a coherent and durable interest in pictorial representation.
- (C) Mughal painting represents a substantially independent tradition that owes very little, on careful examination, to either the Safavid manner or the European pictorial conventions of the period.
- (D) Mughal painting is best described as a sequence of clumsy imitations of European naturalism that progressively displaced the Persian inheritance over the course of the seventeenth century.

42. Mir Sayyid Ali and Abd al-Samad are identified by the passage as:

- (A) The two senior court painters of the emperor Jahangir, under whose patronage the natural-historical genre emerged.
- (B) The two principal patrons of the Tabriz school under the Safavid emperors Tahmasp and Ismail in the sixteenth century.
- (C) Two near-contemporary European painters whose travel accounts of the Mughal court survive in the imperial archives at Agra.
- (D) The two Persian painters whom Humayun brought back from his Safavid exile in the middle of the sixteenth century.

43. The author characterises Akbar's distinctive contribution to the development of Mughal painting as:

- (A) A preference for narrative chronicle that drew the workshop into compositions of unprecedented size and crowd.
- (B) A taste for meticulously rendered birds and flowers in which Persian decorum was tempered by an almost European-empirical attentiveness.
- (C) The emergence of a distinctively courtly portraiture that had no clear precedent in either parent tradition.
- (D) A doctrinal preference for atmospheric perspective of the kind that had been developed in Italy in the previous century.

44. The author identifies all of the following as features of the Safavid manner EXCEPT:

- (A) Fields of pure colour against which the smallest line acquired weight.
- (B) The rigorous geometric arrangement of architectural elements.
- (C) The use of atmospheric perspective in the European manner.
- (D) An exceptionally disciplined visual idiom by the standards of contemporary European painting.

45. Suppose archival evidence emerged that Jahangir's natural-history paintings had in fact been produced largely by anonymous European Jesuit visitors and merely signed by Mughal painters. Which of the following best captures the consequence for the passage's argument?

- (A) It would strengthen the passage's argument by exhibiting precisely the European influence that the passage emphasises across the four reigns under discussion.
- (B) It would significantly weaken the passage's account of Jahangir's contribution as a tempering of Persian decorum from within the Mughal workshops themselves.
- (C) It would have no real consequence for the passage's argument, which is concerned exclusively with the Akbari and Shah Jahani periods of Mughal art history.

(D) It would, by itself, settle the long-running debate about whether Mughal painting should be classified as Islamic or as Indian art for cataloguing purposes.

Passage 10 (Questions 46–50)

Hamilton, Kin Selection, and the Arithmetic of Altruism

For most of the first half of the twentieth century, biology had a problem with altruism. The Darwinian framework, with its insistence on differential reproductive success as the engine of evolution, seemed to leave no room for behaviour that benefits another organism at a cost to the agent's own reproduction. Worker bees that forgo offspring to raise their queen's; alarm-calling vervets that draw the predator's attention to themselves; soldier termites that die in defence of their nest — each of these had been catalogued and each defied straightforward explanation. The earlier appeal to "the good of the species" satisfied no one who had thought about it carefully, since selection acts on individuals (and their alleles) rather than on species, and a behaviour that hurts the individual will be pruned from the population whatever its species-level effects.

W. D. Hamilton's resolution, set out in two short papers in 1964, has a claim to be the most consequential single contribution to evolutionary theory after Darwin. The argument was arithmetical. An allele predisposing its bearer to altruistic behaviour will spread, Hamilton showed, when the cost to the actor is exceeded by the benefit to the recipient multiplied by the coefficient of relatedness between them — the famous condition $rB > C$. The intuition is that the actor and the recipient share, by descent, some proportion of the altruistic allele, and the allele's prospects depend on the total reproductive output of all its copies, not merely on those resident in the body of any one organism.

Hamilton's framework dissolved the apparent paradox of altruism without weakening the principle of individual selection. It also, in the same stroke, made formal sense of the asymmetric self-sacrifice characteristic of social insects, in which the unusual genetics of haplodiploidy produces relatedness coefficients that differ sharply from those obtaining in our own kind.

46. Which of the following best states the problem to which Hamilton's framework was a response?

- (A) Behaviour that benefits another organism at a cost to the agent's own reproduction appeared incompatible with a Darwinian framework focused on differential reproductive success.
- (B) The mid-twentieth-century evolutionary literature had become persuaded that selection operated principally at the level of the species rather than at the level of the individual organism.
- (C) Pre-Hamiltonian biology lacked any plausible mechanism by which alleles predisposing to social behaviour might spread within a population over evolutionary time.
- (D) The genetic system of haplodiploidy in social insects appeared, on careful inspection, incompatible with the framework of Mendelian inheritance as it had been refined by the early twentieth century.

47. Hamilton's condition for the spread of an altruistic allele, as stated in the passage, is:

- (A) $rB + rC > 1$, where r is the coefficient of relatedness, B the benefit and C the cost.
- (B) $rC > B$, where r is the coefficient of relatedness, C the cost to the actor and B the benefit to the recipient.
- (C) $B - C > r$, where r is the coefficient of relatedness, B the benefit and C the cost.
- (D) $rB > C$, where r is the coefficient of relatedness, B the benefit to the recipient and C the cost to the actor.

48. The author's reason for rejecting the older appeal to "the good of the species" is that:

- (A) The empirical evidence available even in the first half of the twentieth century already strongly suggested that altruistic behaviour does not in fact benefit the species as a whole.
- (B) The concept of a species is itself, in modern biological thought, a category whose application has been rendered increasingly problematic by molecular phylogenetic evidence.
- (C) Selection acts on individuals (and their alleles) rather than on species, so a behaviour that hurts the individual will be pruned from the population regardless of its species-level effects.
- (D) The notion of a species good is incoherent, since species, lacking minds, cannot have anything that genuinely counts as a good of the kind that individuals can have in line with the position generally taken in the journals.

49. The passage attributes the unusual prevalence of self-sacrificial behaviour in social insects to:

- (A) The genetic system of haplodiploidy, which produces relatedness coefficients that differ sharply from those obtaining in our own kind.
- (B) The exceptional ecological pressures faced by social insects in the tropical environments where they are most diverse.
- (C) The unusually long generation times of the species in question, which favour the gradual spread of even weakly advantageous alleles.
- (D) The fact that social insects, as a group, are generally less subject to predation than the corresponding solitary species in the same habitats.

50. Suppose detailed empirical studies showed that, in a particular insect species, workers reliably make sacrifices on behalf of unrelated individuals where $rB < C$. Which of the following best

captures the implication for Hamilton's framework as the passage presents it?

- (A) It would confirm the framework, since the framework was designed exclusively to handle behaviour directed at relatives rather than non-relatives.
- (B) It would put substantial pressure on the framework's claim to explain the apparent paradox of altruism, since the inequality has been violated in precisely the kind of case the framework was designed to handle.
- (C) It would be irrelevant to the framework, which is concerned only with the spread of alleles in mammalian rather than insect populations.
- (D) It would, taken alone, vindicate the older appeal to "the good of the species" by demonstrating that selection does in fact operate at supra-individual levels.

Passage 11 (Questions 51–55)

The Crisis of Liberal Internationalism

The phrase "liberal international order" was, until quite recently, a piece of polite shorthand for a particular and historically peculiar arrangement: a network of multilateral institutions, broadly liberal in their stated commitments, underwritten by the hegemonic position of the United States after 1945, and increasingly accepted, after 1989, as the only available framework for the conduct of international economic and political life. The shorthand was always, on careful inspection, somewhat misleading. The order was less coherent and less liberal than its admirers maintained; large portions of the world's population, and not a few of its states, lived for long stretches under arrangements that bore only the most attenuated resemblance to the rules in question; and the hegemonic state's compliance with its own rules was strikingly selective.

What is striking about the present moment is not, then, that the order is under strain. The order has been under strain since the moment it was articulated. What is striking is that the strain has come, increasingly, from the hegemonic state itself, and from a coalition of rising and middle powers that have ceased to find the legitimating language of the order useful even as a rhetorical resource. The institutions of the order continue to function, in attenuated form, but the conviction that those institutions speak for any defensible image of the international has visibly thinned.

A cautious assessment would be that we are in a transition whose terminal point is not yet visible. The liberal international order, in its mid-century form, is unlikely to be restored; what will succeed it is not yet decided, and the suggestion that the alternative is simply chaos confuses the loss of one particular ordering principle with the loss of order as such.

51. The author's characterisation of the phrase "liberal international order" treats it as:

- (A) A polemical category invented by the order's critics to discredit institutions that have, by their own accounting, served their declared purposes adequately well.
- (B) An accurate technical description of the formal institutions established at the end of the Second World War and substantially preserved into the present century.
- (C) A misleading neologism coined by post-Cold-War commentators that has no basis in the actual practice of the international system before 1989.
- (D) A polite shorthand for a particular post-1945 arrangement that was always less coherent and less liberal than its admirers maintained.

52. Which of the following is identified by the passage as a long-standing qualification on the coherence of the order?

- (A) The institutions of the order had, from their inception, been administered exclusively by personnel drawn from a narrow band of European states.
- (B) The order's rules had been formally repudiated by the United Nations General Assembly on several occasions during the period in question.
- (C) The hegemonic state's compliance with its own rules was strikingly selective.
- (D) The order had never received the formal endorsement of the leading non-aligned states during the period of the Cold War.

53. The author identifies as "striking" about the present moment that:

- (A) The strain on the order has come increasingly from the hegemonic state itself and from a coalition of rising and middle powers that no longer find the order's language useful even rhetorically.
- (B) The institutions of the order have, for the first time in their post-war history, ceased entirely to function in any meaningful operational sense.
- (C) The order's strain has now reached a point at which it must, in the author's view, terminate within a fixed and shortly anticipated time horizon.
- (D) A consensus has finally formed among policy elites about the precise shape of the international arrangements that will succeed the post-1945 order.

54. The closing observation that the alternative to the present order is not "simply chaos" rests on the distinction between:

- (A) The decline of the hegemonic state and the decline of the multilateral institutions it had constructed.
- (B) The loss of one particular ordering principle and the loss of order as such.

- (C) The collapse of the formal institutions of the order and the persistence of its informal norms.
(D) The displacement of the United States by a rising power and the absence of any single hegemon at all.

55. Which of the following best describes the author's overall posture in the passage?

- (A) A formal forecast of the precise institutional arrangements that will succeed the post-1945 order over the coming decade and a half under the framework that the passage itself adopts.
(B) An impassioned defence of the post-1945 order against critics who, in the author's view, have systematically misunderstood its real achievements.
(C) A polemic against the post-1945 order on behalf of the rising powers whose claims the order has, in the author's view, persistently disregarded.
(D) A cautious diagnosis that resists both nostalgia for the order and the catastrophist suggestion that its passing entails the collapse of order as such.

Passage 12 (Questions 56–60)

Recommendation, Curation, and the Filter Bubble

The image of the "filter bubble", as the journalist Eli Pariser popularised it more than a decade ago, has hardened into a kind of common sense: each user of a personalised platform, the picture goes, is enclosed within a tailored informational envelope, fed only those items the algorithm predicts she will engage with, and progressively cut off from views she does not already hold. The picture has the merits and the defects of a vivid metaphor. It captures something real about contemporary informational life — the disappearance of a shared agenda of news, the algorithmic reward of strong reactions, the apparent decline of the slow, common conversation on which deliberative democracy was once thought to depend. It also flatters its audience by locating the problem outside the user, in an opaque mechanism for which she has no responsibility.

A more careful empirical literature has, in recent years, complicated the picture. The available studies suggest that the average user of the major platforms encounters, in the course of ordinary use, a substantially wider range of viewpoints than she would have encountered in the print-and-broadcast environment that preceded them. The narrowing characteristic of contemporary informational life appears to occur, on this evidence, less at the moment of exposure than at the moment of selection: when offered a wide menu, users disproportionately attend to that fraction of it which confirms what they already believe. The bubble, in this revised picture, is in significant part of the user's own construction.

This revision does not absolve the platforms; it does relocate the problem. A purely algorithmic account suggests purely algorithmic remedies. A picture in which selection bias does much of the work suggests a more difficult problem, of a kind for which the technical literature is conspicuously short of solutions.

56. The author's principal claim about the "filter bubble" picture, as Pariser popularised it, is that it:

- (A) Is so misleading that the term itself ought to be retired from serious public discussion of contemporary informational arrangements.
(B) Has been, on careful empirical examination, comprehensively vindicated by the more recent quantitative literature on platform behaviour.
(C) Captures something real about contemporary informational life but flatters its audience by locating the problem outside the user, in an opaque algorithmic mechanism.
(D) Was, when first introduced, an important corrective to a then-prevailing complacency about the social effects of personalised technology.

57. The recent empirical literature, as the author summarises it, suggests that contemporary narrowing occurs principally:

- (A) At the moment of selection, when users disproportionately attend to that fraction of a wide menu which confirms what they already believe.
(B) At the moment of exposure, with personalised algorithms now systematically excluding any item that contradicts the user's previously expressed views.
(C) At the moment of production, with content producers increasingly tailoring their output to algorithmically defined demographic segments of their audience.
(D) At the moment of evaluation, with users systematically discounting items presented in formats unfamiliar to them from earlier media environments.

58. Which of the following best describes the relationship the author draws in the closing paragraph between the revised picture and the question of remedies?

- (A) The revised picture wholly absolves the platforms of responsibility and locates the problem of contemporary informational narrowing entirely within the cognitive habits of users.
(B) A revised picture that locates significant work in selection bias suggests a more difficult problem than the algorithmic account, and one for which the technical literature is conspicuously short of solutions.
(C) The revised picture suggests that the appropriate remedies are precisely the algorithmic ones already canvassed in the older filter-bubble literature.

(D) The revised picture renders the search for remedies pointless, since the cognitive habits responsible are too deeply rooted to be open to deliberate intervention.

59. As used in the second paragraph, the word "complicated" most nearly means:

- (A) Rendered substantially more difficult to follow on a first reading.
- (B) Rendered comprehensively false in every important respect.
- (C) Rendered more nuanced or qualified.
- (D) Rendered unintelligible to readers without specialised technical training.

60. Which of the following, if established, would most strengthen the author's revised picture of the filter bubble?

- (A) Industry data showing that the major platforms have substantially reduced the amount of content from sources outside the user's previous engagement history over the past five years.
- (B) Survey evidence showing that the average user of a major platform reports believing that personalised algorithms are entirely fair and impartial in their behaviour.
- (C) Cross-platform comparisons showing that the share of users who report encountering challenging viewpoints is significantly lower than ten years ago as that proposition is conventionally understood on the version of the doctrine most often defended.
- (D) Controlled studies in which users, presented with algorithmically diversified feeds containing items contradicting their existing views, were observed to engage disproportionately with the confirming items.

Passage 13 (Questions 61–65)

Caste, Capital, and Economic Mobility

It is, by now, an embarrassment to the discipline of Indian economics that so much of its empirical work proceeded for so long as if caste were a residual category — a feature of social life best handled by the sociologists, perhaps relevant to a footnote on labour-market frictions, but not properly part of the central object of study. The accumulating evidence of the last two decades has rendered this division of labour untenable. Caste, we now know with reasonable confidence, structures access to capital, the choice of occupation, the returns to education, and the willingness of formal lenders to extend credit on terms that bear any reasonable relation to the borrower's underlying creditworthiness. None of these effects is small; some are, on careful estimation, larger than the corresponding effects of urban-rural location or even, in certain specifications, of measured human capital itself.

The debate that has succeeded the older neglect is not about whether caste matters but about which channels carry the weight of its effect. One school emphasises the persistence of overt discrimination in hiring and lending — the documented preference of recruiters for upper-caste names, the markedly higher interest rates levied on lower-caste borrowers for otherwise identical loan applications. A second school points instead to the inheritance of networks: the upper-caste applicant arrives in the labour market with a denser web of professionally placed acquaintances, and the differential is principally a differential in social capital rather than in current bias. A third school, less prominent in the journals but increasingly persuasive, argues that the two channels operate together and reinforce one another in ways that defeat any attempt to apportion the responsibility cleanly between them.

Which of these accounts is correct is not a merely academic question. The first invites legal remedy; the second, slow social change; the third, both, with a cautious estimate of the limits of either taken alone.

61. The author's principal observation about the older treatment of caste in Indian economics is that it:

- (A) Treated caste as a residual category in a way that the accumulating evidence of the last two decades has rendered untenable.
- (B) Was, by the standards of the discipline as it is now practised, broadly defensible in the empirical conditions then prevailing.
- (C) Was conducted in deliberate ignorance of social-scientific evidence that the relevant authors had every reason to take into account.
- (D) Reflected a principled commitment, traceable to the discipline's nineteenth-century origins, to the methodological autonomy of economic analysis.

62. Which of the following is NOT identified by the author as a domain in which caste effects have now been documented?

- (A) Access to capital.
- (B) The pricing of agricultural commodities at the regulated wholesale markets of the major producing states.
- (C) The willingness of formal lenders to extend credit on commercially reasonable terms.
- (D) The returns to education.

63. The first of the three schools described in the second paragraph emphasises:

- (A) The operation of the two channels together in ways that defeat any clean apportionment of responsibility between them.

- (B) The inheritance of networks, with the upper-caste applicant arriving in the labour market with a denser web of professionally placed acquaintances.
- (C) The persistence of overt discrimination in hiring and lending, as documented in studies of recruiter preference and differential interest rates on otherwise identical loans.
- (D) The methodological priority of large-N econometric work over smaller-scale qualitative investigation in the study of caste effects.

64. The author observes that the question of which account is correct is "not a merely academic question" because:

- (A) Funding for further empirical work in this area depends, in practice, on the publication of decisive results in favour of one of the three schools.
- (B) Resolution of the question would, in itself, contribute substantially to the elimination of caste-based inequality in India.
- (C) The question has, in recent years, become the subject of high-profile litigation in the constitutional courts.
- (D) Different accounts entail different policy responses, the first inviting legal remedy and the second slow social change.

65. Which of the following best describes the author's posture towards the third of the three schools identified in the second paragraph?

- (A) Cautiously favourable, treating it as less prominent in the journals but as increasingly persuasive on the available evidence.
- (B) Sharply critical, treating it as a regrettable retreat from the analytic clarity available to either of the other two schools taken alone.
- (C) Studiously neutral, declining either to endorse or to criticise it on the basis of the evidence summarised in the passage.
- (D) Wholly endorsing, treating it as the conclusively established position and characterising the other two schools as outmoded.

Passage 14 (Questions 66–70)

The Afterlife of the Colonial Archive

The historian who works on the colonial period faces a peculiar and inescapable difficulty. The archive in which the bulk of her evidence is preserved was assembled by, and for the use of, the colonial state. It was not designed to record the lives of the colonised; where it records them at all, it records them in the categories the state found useful — as taxable subjects, as suspected criminals, as candidates for conscription, as sources of disorder in need of explanation. The categories were not innocent. They were the categories of governance, and the records bear the impress of the purposes they were assembled to serve.

A generation of post-colonial historians, beginning in the late twentieth century, has drawn from this difficulty several distinct lessons. The most cautious is methodological: the colonial archive must be read with sustained attention to its silences and to the slant of its emphases, not as a transparent window onto the colonised world but as a constructed artefact whose construction is itself part of the historical record. A more ambitious lesson holds that the categories assembled by the colonial state went on, after independence, to shape the categories of post-colonial governance — that the census categories, the administrative boundaries, the legal definitions of community handed down to the new states were the same categories the colonial state had constructed, with consequences that no transfer of sovereignty could simply dissolve.

A still more demanding lesson asks whether the historian, working within an inherited archive, can write any history of the colonised that escapes the colonial state's account of them. Some have answered no, and have turned to the recovery of oral, performative and material traditions that were never confided to written record. Others have argued that this is too austere, and that a careful, sceptical reading of the colonial archive can recover, against its grain, glimpses of lives the archive's own purposes had no use for.

66. The "peculiar and inescapable difficulty" identified by the author in the first paragraph is principally that:

- (A) The colonial archive has, in many former colonies, been physically destroyed or removed in the course of the transition to independence and is therefore unavailable.
- (B) The colonial archive was assembled by and for the colonial state, and where it records the colonised at all, it does so in the categories the state found useful.
- (C) The colonial archive contains so much material that no working historian can hope, in a single career, to consult more than a small fraction of its contents.
- (D) The colonial archive has, in recent decades, been progressively closed to scholars by the governments of the relevant successor states.

67. The second paragraph identifies which of the following as the most cautious of the lessons drawn by post-colonial historians?

- (A) The institutional recommendation that all colonial archives should, in the medium term, be relocated to research libraries in the relevant former colonies.
- (B) The substantive claim that the colonial state's categories shaped the categories of post-colonial governance long after the formal transfer of sovereignty.
- (C) The radical claim that no history of the colonised can escape the colonial state's account of them and that the historian must therefore turn to other sources.
- (D) The methodological injunction that the colonial archive must be read with sustained attention to its silences and to the slant of its emphases.

68. The third paragraph contrasts two distinct responses to the most demanding of the lessons. These two responses are best characterised as:

- (A) An exclusive reliance on the colonial archive versus an exclusive reliance on the post-colonial archive of the successor states.
- (B) A retreat to the methods of pre-modern history versus a fresh engagement with the methods of contemporary social science.
- (C) A turn to oral, performative and material traditions versus a careful sceptical reading of the colonial archive against its own grain.
- (D) A focus on the period before formal colonial rule versus a focus on the period after the formal transfer of sovereignty in the conditions presupposed by the passage.

69. The author's overall stance towards the post-colonial historiographical literature, as it emerges from the passage as a whole, is best described as:

- (A) Sympathetic and engaged, presenting the literature's lessons in their own preferred ascending order and resisting the temptation to a premature judgement among them.
- (B) Sceptical and detached, treating the literature as a collection of unsubstantiated claims that have not yet been brought into dialogue with the relevant primary evidence.
- (C) Polemical and dismissive, treating the literature as a regrettable departure from the disciplinary conventions of mainstream colonial history.
- (D) Strictly enthusiastic, endorsing without qualification the most demanding of the three lessons that the passage describes.

70. Which of the following claims would be MOST consistent with the second of the three lessons described by the author?

- (A) The colonial archive, on careful inspection, contains rich and accurate evidence of the everyday life of the colonised that has been unjustly neglected by historians.
- (B) The administrative categories of community in contemporary South Asia preserve, in many respects, the categorical work performed by the colonial census operations of the late nineteenth century.
- (C) The historian of the colonial period must abandon the colonial archive entirely in favour of oral traditions handed down within the affected communities themselves.
- (D) The post-colonial successor states have, in nearly every case, comprehensively re-engineered the categorical apparatus they inherited from their colonial predecessors.

Passage 15 (Questions 71–75)

Quantum Decoherence and the Appearance of Classicality

Among the more durable puzzles of twentieth-century physics has been the question why the world we perceive — the world of definite tables and chairs in definite positions — looks so unlike the world the quantum formalism describes, in which a particle can occupy, with mathematical precision, a superposition of two distinct positions at once. The early answer, associated with the Copenhagen interpretation, was a kind of metaphysical division of labour: the formalism describes the microscopic regime, but at some imperfectly specified boundary the act of measurement collapses the superposition into a single definite outcome, and the macroscopic world is exempt from the puzzle.

The theory of decoherence, developed in the second half of the twentieth century, dissolves a substantial portion of this puzzle without invoking a new postulate. The idea, in outline, is that no quantum system above a very small scale is genuinely isolated from its environment. Each interaction with a stray photon, a passing molecule, a thermal fluctuation, leaves a record in the environment of which branch of the superposition the system has taken; and the rapid proliferation of these records, across the enormous number of degrees of freedom an environment provides, suppresses the quantum interference between the branches with extraordinary speed. By the time a macroscopic system has been observed, the interference terms that distinguish a genuine superposition from a classical mixture of definite outcomes have effectively vanished from any practically accessible measurement.

Decoherence does not, as is sometimes said, solve the measurement problem. It does not, by itself, explain why one rather than another branch is realised in a particular observer's experience. What it does is account for the appearance of classicality without invoking any boundary between the quantum and the classical regimes. The two regimes are, on this view, the same regime described at different effective levels of resolution.

- 71. The puzzle to which the theory of decoherence is offered as a response is, in the author's terms:**
- (A) Why the standard model of particle physics has so far resisted incorporation into a wider quantum-gravitational framework of any general acceptance.
 - (B) Why the quantum formalism, despite its predictive success, is incompatible with the formal apparatus of special and general relativity.
 - (C) Why certain experimental violations of Bell's inequalities continue to be reported in the most recent work on quantum entanglement on the analysis offered by the principal commentators.
 - (D) Why the world we perceive looks so unlike the world the quantum formalism describes, in which superpositions of distinct positions are mathematically permissible.
- 72. The Copenhagen interpretation, as the author summarises it, took the form of:**
- (A) A formal demonstration that the quantum formalism is, on careful analysis, internally inconsistent and stands in need of comprehensive revision.
 - (B) A unified treatment of the microscopic and macroscopic regimes within the framework of a single underlying theory of measurement and observation.
 - (C) A metaphysical division of labour, with the quantum formalism applied to the microscopic regime and the macroscopic world held to be exempt from the puzzle by the act of measurement.
 - (D) A philosophical reading of the quantum formalism as describing the dispositions of measuring apparatus rather than the underlying behaviour of physical systems.
- 73. The mechanism by which decoherence suppresses interference between the branches of a superposition is, in the passage's account:**
- (A) The rapid proliferation of records of the system's branch across the enormous number of degrees of freedom that an environment provides.
 - (B) The collapse, at a precisely defined macroscopic threshold, of the wavefunction into a single definite outcome by the act of conscious observation.
 - (C) The active intervention of the experimenter in disturbing the system through the apparatus required for any practical measurement.
 - (D) The exchange of energy between the system and a hypothesised non-quantum field of the kind sometimes proposed in interpretive variants of the formalism.
- 74. The author is at pains to insist that decoherence does NOT, by itself, do which of the following?**
- (A) Account for the appearance of classicality at the level of practically accessible macroscopic measurement.
 - (B) Explain why one rather than another branch is realised in a particular observer's experience.
 - (C) Suppress the quantum interference between branches of a superposition in any system above a very small scale.
 - (D) Operate without invoking any boundary between the quantum and classical regimes.
- 75. The closing claim that the quantum and classical regimes are "the same regime described at different effective levels of resolution" is best understood as:**
- (A) A claim that future experimental work will eventually establish a sharp and physically real boundary between the two regimes that the present formalism has hidden.
 - (B) A claim that the standard physical constants take measurably different values within the quantum and classical regimes when they are very precisely measured.
 - (C) A claim that the two regimes are governed by different fundamental laws which only happen to agree numerically at a wide range of intermediate scales.
 - (D) A claim that the appearance of a sharp distinction between the two regimes is an artefact of the level at which we ordinarily describe physical systems, rather than a feature of the world itself.

Passage 16 (Questions 76–80)

Originalism and the Living Constitution

The most familiar way of stating the central debate in contemporary American constitutional theory is as a contest between two schools — originalism, which holds that the constitutional text means today what it meant at the moment of its ratification, and living constitutionalism, which holds that its meaning develops with the society it governs. The framing has the merit of clarity and the defect of crudeness. Each school is, on closer inspection, a family of positions whose members disagree among themselves nearly as sharply as they disagree with the rival family.

Within originalism, the older "original intent" position — which sought the subjective intentions of the framers — has been very largely supplanted by an "original public meaning" position, which seeks the meaning the text would have borne for an informed contemporary at the moment of ratification. The shift was, in part, a response to the methodological difficulty of recovering subjective intentions; in part, to the recognition that the text was ratified by conventions whose members may have intended different things by the same words. Within living constitutionalism, an older common-law position — which treated the constitution as developed by judges much as the law of contract or tort had been — has been variously refined into theories of "moral readings", "democratic constitutionalism", and a number of more

programmatic alternatives.

What unites the two families, despite their internal diversity, is the insistence that the text matters in a way that distinguishes constitutional argument from policy argument. What divides them is a question about temporal authority: whether the authoritative voice in constitutional argument is the voice of those who ratified the text or the voice of those who now live under it. The question is not, as is sometimes suggested, easily answered by good faith or careful scholarship alone. It is, at its core, a question about what kind of document a constitution is for.

76. The author identifies the central methodological difficulty that prompted the shift within originalism from "original intent" to "original public meaning" as:

- (A) A growing scholarly consensus that the original-intent position rested on a confused theory of meaning in language that had been decisively refuted by twentieth-century philosophy.
- (B) The progressive accumulation of historical evidence that the framers themselves were sharply divided on the meaning of the constitutional text they proposed for ratification for the reasons set out at length elsewhere in the literature.
- (C) The difficulty of recovering the subjective intentions of the framers and the recognition that the text was ratified by conventions whose members may have intended different things by the same words.
- (D) The discovery that several leading framers had, in surviving private correspondence, expressly disavowed the very interpretive framework attributed to them by original-intent theorists.

77. The passage observes that the familiar two-school framing has both a merit and a defect. These are, respectively:

- (A) Clarity and crudeness.
- (B) Brevity and inaccuracy.
- (C) Familiarity and tendentiousness.
- (D) Accessibility and partiality.

78. The author identifies as the unifying feature across the two families of positions:

- (A) A shared commitment to the methodological priority of the Supreme Court in resolving constitutional questions.
- (B) The insistence that the text matters in a way that distinguishes constitutional argument from policy argument.
- (C) An agreement, in principle, on the proper allocation of interpretive authority between the federal and the state judiciaries.
- (D) A mutual recognition that the constitutional text is, for many practical purposes, indeterminate as to its application in present cases.

79. The closing paragraph characterises the question dividing the two families as, at its core:

- (A) A question about the institutional capacity of contemporary courts to adjudicate disputes about the moral content of constitutional norms.
- (B) A question about the proper interpretive role of the federal judiciary in a working constitutional democracy.
- (C) A question about the relative weight to be assigned to text and to precedent in constitutional adjudication.
- (D) A question about what kind of document a constitution is for.

80. Which of the following best captures the author's overall posture in the passage?

- (A) A clear endorsement of the moral-readings position within living constitutionalism as the most defensible of the available alternatives.
- (B) A clear endorsement of the original-public-meaning position within originalism as the most defensible of the available alternatives.
- (C) A studied refusal to take sides between the two families of positions, accompanied by careful attention to the internal diversity of each.
- (D) A polemic against the entire originalist tradition on the grounds that its temporal commitments are unintelligible in a working democracy.

SECTION II — CURRENT AFFAIRS & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Directions: Read each passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each passage is followed by five questions based on its content.

Passage 1 (Questions 81–85)

The Election Commissioner Appointment Controversy Revisited (May 2026)

On 6 May 2026, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court reserved orders in a fresh batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. The petitioners, drawing on the Court's own judgment in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (March 2023), argue that Parliament's 2023 enactment effectively reverses the Court's interim direction that appointments to the

Election Commission be made by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition (or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha), and the Chief Justice of India.

The constitutional architecture is contained in Article 324, which provides that the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall be appointed by the President "subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament." In *Anoop Baranwal*, the Constitution Bench held that the constitutional silence — Parliament had, until 2023, made no such law — was being filled, in effect, by unilateral executive choice, and that the constitutional design contemplated an insulated appointing authority. The interim mechanism it laid down was to operate "until Parliament makes a law in this regard." The 2023 Act made such a law. It substituted, for the Chief Justice on the appointing committee, a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. The petitioners contend that this conversion of a 2-1 executive-judicial composition into a 3-0 executive composition defeats the constitutional purpose identified in *Anoop Baranwal*. The Union argues that, the constitutional trigger having been Parliament's silence, Parliament's voice now occupies the field, and that the Court's earlier composition was, on its own terms, only an interim arrangement. The reserved order is widely expected to address how far the Court's directions in PIL jurisdiction can constrain Parliament's subsequent legislative choice on a matter expressly committed to it by the Constitution.

81. Article 324 of the Constitution, as the passage describes it, provides that the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall be appointed by:

- (A) The President, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament.
- (B) The President, on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.
- (C) Parliament, by a resolution passed in both Houses by a special majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- (D) The Union Cabinet, on the recommendation of a selection committee constituted under a resolution of the Council of Ministers for the purpose.

82. Which of the following best captures the petitioners' principal constitutional objection to the 2023 Act, as the passage presents it?

- (A) It contravenes the Court's directions in PIL jurisdiction, which the petitioners contend are binding on Parliament under Article 141 read with Article 144 of the Constitution.
- (B) It violates the basic structure doctrine by attempting, through ordinary legislation, to amend a provision of the Constitution that is amenable only to the special procedure under Article 368.
- (C) It converts the appointing committee from a 2-1 executive-judicial composition into a 3-0 executive composition, defeating the constitutional purpose identified in *Anoop Baranwal*.
- (D) It transfers the constitutional function of appointment from the President to the Prime Minister, in derogation of the express text of Article 324(2).

83. The Union's defence of the 2023 Act, as summarised in the passage, rests principally on the argument that:

- (A) The Court's judgment in *Anoop Baranwal* was, on its own internal reasoning, per incuriam and is therefore not binding on Parliament under any settled view of stare decisis.
- (B) The constitutional trigger for the Court's interim mechanism was Parliament's silence, and that, with Parliament having now spoken, its voice occupies the field on a matter expressly committed to it.
- (C) The Constitution does not, on a careful textual reading, require the participation of the Chief Justice of India in any appointing authority for the Election Commission.
- (D) The 2023 Act does not in fact alter the substantive composition of the appointing committee but only formalises arrangements that had been operating informally already.

84. Suppose the Supreme Court, in deciding the present petitions, holds that its directions in PIL jurisdiction cannot constrain Parliament's subsequent legislative choice where the Constitution expressly commits the matter to Parliament. Which of the following is the most likely consequence for the 2023 Act?

- (A) The 2023 Act would be neither upheld nor struck down, since the Court would, on the contemplated holding, lack jurisdiction to entertain the present petitions in the first place.
- (B) The 2023 Act would be struck down, since any departure by Parliament from the Court's earlier directions in PIL jurisdiction is, on the holding contemplated, automatically unconstitutional.
- (C) The 2023 Act would be returned to Parliament for reconsideration, since the Court's earlier directions in PIL jurisdiction would, on the contemplated holding, retain a guiding character.
- (D) The 2023 Act would be upheld, since the appointing committee under Article 324 falls within a domain expressly committed by the Constitution to parliamentary legislation.

85. Which of the following correctly describes the status of the appointment mechanism laid down by the Supreme Court in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (March 2023), according to the passage?

- (A) It was a recommendatory mechanism that was, in any event, never given effect during the brief interval between the judgment and the 2023 Act.

- (B) It was a permanent mechanism to which any subsequent parliamentary law was required to conform under the basic structure doctrine.
- (C) It was an interim mechanism intended to operate "until Parliament makes a law in this regard."
- (D) It was a mechanism applicable only to the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and not to the appointment of the other Election Commissioners.

Passage 2 (Questions 86–90)

The 131st Amendment Bill and the Politics of Delimitation

On 5 May 2026, the Lok Sabha negated, by an unusual cross-party voice vote, the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, which would have permitted a fresh delimitation of parliamentary constituencies on the basis of the population figures of the post-2021 census, the publication of which is expected during the present financial year. The Bill's defeat preserves, for the moment, the freeze imposed by the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 2001, which extended the prior moratorium on delimitation until the first census taken after the year 2026.

The constitutional setting is intricate. Article 81 fixes the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha and provides that seats shall be allocated to States in proportion to population. Article 82 directs that, upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine. Article 170 makes corresponding provision for the State legislative assemblies. The 84th Amendment, in 2001, suspended the operation of these provisions until 2026 with the express objective of not penalising those States that had been more successful in stabilising their populations.

The political grievance to which the 131st Amendment was a response is straightforward: the southern States, having achieved earlier demographic transition, fear a substantial loss of seats relative to the northern States in any delimitation conducted on present population. The constitutional grievance is harder. Article 81's language is, on its face, mandatory; the freeze has, in effect, suspended a constitutional command for twenty-five years. Whether the suspension can be further extended without provoking a constitutional challenge — perhaps under the basic structure doctrine, perhaps under a less developed argument from political equality — is the question now placed squarely before the next Parliament.

86. Which of the following correctly describes the present effect of the Lok Sabha's action on the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, as set out in the passage?

- (A) The freeze imposed by the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 2001, has been preserved for the moment by the Bill's defeat.
- (B) Delimitation on the basis of the post-2021 census figures has been authorised, with effect from the publication of those figures during the present financial year.
- (C) Article 82 of the Constitution has been formally suspended for a further period to be determined by the Election Commission of India.
- (D) The constitutional command in Article 81 has, by the Bill's defeat, been displaced in favour of the political compromise reached during the present session of the Lok Sabha.

87. Article 82 of the Constitution, as described in the passage, requires which of the following upon the completion of each census?

- (A) The Lok Sabha shall, within one year of the completion of the census, vote on the question whether a fresh delimitation is to be conducted.
- (B) The Election Commission of India shall, of its own motion and within three months of the completion of the census, conduct a fresh delimitation of all parliamentary constituencies.
- (C) The Union Government shall lay before Parliament a fresh delimitation order, which shall come into effect upon the President's assent as the relevant cases have, on the whole, been read in the relevant scholarly literature on the subject.
- (D) The allocation of seats among the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine.

88. The express objective of the freeze imposed by the 84th Amendment in 2001, as identified by the passage, was:

- (A) To accelerate the demographic transition in the more populous northern States by political incentive.
- (B) Not to penalise those States that had been more successful in stabilising their populations.
- (C) To ensure parity between the strengths of the Lok Sabha and the State legislative assemblies of the larger States.
- (D) To permit the orderly conduct of the 2004 general elections on the basis of the constituencies as they had been delimited under the 1971 census.

89. The author identifies the political grievance to which the 131st Amendment was a response as the apprehension that:

- (A) The southern States, having achieved earlier demographic transition, would lose a substantial number of seats relative to the northern States in any delimitation conducted on present population figures.

- (B) The northern States would, under the existing freeze, continue to be substantially under-represented in the Lok Sabha relative to their proportion of the national population.
- (C) The smaller States of the north-east would, in any fresh delimitation, lose constituencies as a result of the operation of Article 81's proportionality requirement.
- (D) The Union Territories would, in the absence of a fresh delimitation, continue to be denied the share of representation to which their populations now entitle them under Article 81.

90. Suppose Parliament were now to pass a constitutional amendment further extending the delimitation freeze for an additional twenty-five years, on the same model as the 84th Amendment of 2001. Which of the following is, on the passage's reasoning, the most plausible constitutional challenge to such an amendment?

- (A) A challenge under Article 14, on the ground that the freeze would impermissibly classify States according to their demographic performance in a manner having no rational nexus with the legislative object.
- (B) A challenge under Article 368, on the ground that the constituent power conferred on Parliament does not extend to the suspension of a constitutional command for any continuous period exceeding twenty-five years.
- (C) A challenge under the basic structure doctrine and a less developed argument from political equality, both of which the passage flags as possibilities.
- (D) A challenge under Article 81 itself, on the ground that an amendment to that article cannot be effected by the procedure prescribed in Article 368 and requires the special procedure for the federal provisions of the Constitution.

Passage 3 (Questions 91–95)

India-Vietnam Enhanced Strategic Partnership and the Pakistan Sports Ban

Two announcements during the week of 5 May 2026 indicated, in different registers, the contours of India's external posture under conditions of regional rivalry. The first was the elevation, during the Vietnamese Prime Minister's state visit on 7 May, of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (in force since 2016) into an "Enhanced Strategic Partnership". The new framework adds, to the existing pillars of political, defence and economic cooperation, a fourth pillar of "strategic technology" — covering joint work on semiconductor design, undersea cables, and submarine training under the BrahMos export framework already announced in 2022. The Vietnamese delegation also took delivery of the second batch of BrahMos coastal-defence systems, the export of which had been the subject of repeated objection by China.

The second announcement, on the same date, was a Sports Ministry notification suspending all bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan. Multilateral fixtures (Olympics, Asian Games, ICC and IOC events held in third countries) are unaffected; bilateral series, exhibitions, and any participation by Indian athletes in events held on Pakistani soil are suspended "until further orders". The notification cites "the prevailing security environment" — a formulation widely understood as a reference to the cross-border attribution of the Pahalgam attack of April 2025 and the strategic posture adopted by India in the year following Operation Sindoor.

The two measures, taken together, exhibit a now-familiar pattern. India is at once cultivating a system of partnerships with neighbours of its principal regional rival (Vietnam in the east, the Quad partners in the west and south), and graduating from declaratory to operational measures of pressure on the rival itself. Whether the partnerships are deep enough, and the pressures sustainable enough, to alter the rival's strategic calculus is the principal open question.

91. Which of the following correctly describes the change effected on 7 May 2026 in the framework of India-Vietnam relations, according to the passage?

- (A) A new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was concluded for the first time, replacing the Strategic Partnership that had been in force since the early 2000s.
- (B) The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in force since 2016 was elevated into an Enhanced Strategic Partnership with a new fourth pillar covering strategic technology.
- (C) The two States entered into a formal mutual defence treaty, of the kind India has not previously concluded with any partner outside the South Asian neighbourhood.
- (D) The two States agreed to upgrade the BrahMos export framework into a comprehensive defence pact extending to joint operational planning across the South China Sea.

92. The fourth pillar added to the India-Vietnam framework, as identified by the passage, covers all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) Joint work on submarine training under the BrahMos export framework.
- (B) Joint work on semiconductor design.
- (C) Joint work on undersea cables as that account has been refined in subsequent commentary on the dominant reading of the contemporary secondary sources.
- (D) Joint work on hypersonic missile technology under the Russian-Indian-Vietnamese trilateral framework.

93. The Sports Ministry notification of 7 May 2026, as the passage describes it, suspends:

- (A) All bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan, while leaving multilateral fixtures held in third countries unaffected.
- (B) All sporting engagements with Pakistan of every description, including multilateral fixtures held in third countries.
- (C) Only those sporting engagements with Pakistan that are held on Pakistani soil, with all other engagements continuing as scheduled.
- (D) Only those sporting engagements with Pakistan that fall outside the calendars of the Olympic and Asian Games movements respectively.

94. The expression "until further orders", as employed in the Sports Ministry notification described in the passage, is best understood as:

- (A) Indicating that the suspension is conditional on the Sports Ministry obtaining the prior concurrence of the Indian Olympic Association before each particular fixture.
- (B) Indicating that the suspension is to operate for a fixed period of one year from the date of its issue, after which it lapses automatically.
- (C) Indicating that the suspension is open-ended and remains in force until the Government issues a further direction lifting or modifying it.
- (D) Indicating that the suspension is in the nature of a recommendation rather than an enforceable direction binding on the relevant national sporting federations.

95. Which of the following best captures the "now-familiar pattern" the author identifies in the closing paragraph?

- (A) India is, in a departure from its previous practice, openly seeking the formation of a multilateral military alliance directed against its principal regional rival.
- (B) India is cultivating partnerships with neighbours of its principal regional rival while graduating from declaratory to operational measures of pressure on the rival itself.
- (C) India is preferring multilateral fora to bilateral diplomacy in the conduct of its principal regional rivalry, on the model of the strategy associated with non-alignment.
- (D) India is conducting its principal regional rivalry through measures of trade and investment policy, having ceased to rely on partnerships and sporting bans as instruments of pressure.

Passage 4 (Questions 96–100)

The 2026 NPT Review Conference and India's Outlier Status

The Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which opened in New York on 9 May 2026, is the first since the failure of the 2022 conference to adopt a consensus final document. The agenda is once again dominated by what diplomats privately call "the three pillars": non-proliferation (in particular the Iranian nuclear file, against the backdrop of the on-going US-Iran negotiations on a JCPOA successor); disarmament (in particular the implementation of the recognised nuclear-weapon States' Article VI obligation "to pursue negotiations in good faith" on cessation of the nuclear arms race and on disarmament); and the peaceful use of nuclear energy under safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

India's position at the Review Conference is, as it has been since the Treaty's conclusion in 1968, that of a non-party. The NPT recognises only those States that conducted a nuclear test before 1 January 1967 as nuclear-weapon States; any State that conducted a test after that date is, on the Treaty's logic, a non-nuclear-weapon State which has tested in violation of its obligations. India, having tested in 1974 and 1998, has consistently rejected this distinction as discriminatory, and has refused to sign the Treaty either as a nuclear-weapon State (which it would not be permitted to do) or as a non-nuclear-weapon State (which would require it to renounce its weapons).

The more recent Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force in 2021, presents an analogous problem from a different direction. Endorsed by a substantial majority of non-nuclear States, it is opposed by every State that holds nuclear weapons, including India, and has not been signed by any of the five recognised nuclear-weapon States. Whether the present Review Conference produces a consensus document or, like its predecessor, fails to do so, is widely expected to depend principally on movement on the Iranian file in the days after its opening.

96. The "three pillars" of the NPT, as the passage identifies them, are:

- (A) Non-proliferation, transparency in the holdings of the recognised nuclear-weapon States, and the verified destruction of existing stockpiles within a fixed time horizon.
- (B) Non-proliferation, deterrence and the cessation of all further testing of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
- (C) Non-proliferation, the development of peaceful nuclear technology and the universalisation of the Treaty among all States of the international system.
- (D) Non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy under IAEA safeguards.

97. Which of the following correctly states the criterion the NPT employs to identify a recognised nuclear-weapon State, according to the passage?

- (A) The State conducted a nuclear test before 1 January 1967.
- (B) The State acceded to the Treaty within the first year of its opening for signature in 1968.
- (C) The State is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on the Treaty's date of conclusion.
- (D) The State has, at the time of its accession to the Treaty, declared a stockpile of operationally deployed nuclear warheads.

98. India's principal substantive objection to signing the NPT, as the passage presents it, is that:

- (A) The Treaty's safeguards regime under the IAEA is, in India's view, unacceptably intrusive on the sovereign decisions of the participating States.
- (B) The Treaty's distinction between recognised nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States is, in India's view, discriminatory.
- (C) The Treaty's Article VI obligation on disarmament is, in India's view, insufficiently demanding of the recognised nuclear-weapon States.
- (D) The Treaty's verification provisions are, in India's view, insufficient to guarantee the detection of clandestine nuclear-weapon programmes by other States.

99. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), as described in the passage, is opposed by:

- (A) Only the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, the other recognised nuclear-weapon States having signed it during 2021.
- (B) Only those States that have conducted a nuclear test since 1 January 1967, including India, Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- (C) Only those States that are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the other nuclear-armed States having signed it during 2021.
- (D) Every State that holds nuclear weapons, including India, and has not been signed by any of the five recognised nuclear-weapon States.

100. On the passage's reasoning, the success of the present NPT Review Conference is widely expected to depend principally on:

- (A) The accession of India and the other holdout States to the Treaty as recognised nuclear-weapon States with retrospective effect.
- (B) The willingness of the recognised nuclear-weapon States to commit to a fixed and time-bound schedule for the verified destruction of their stockpiles.
- (C) Movement on the Iranian nuclear file in the days after its opening.
- (D) The successful conclusion, during the Conference, of a binding protocol harmonising the NPT with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Passage 5 (Questions 101–105)

Operation Sindoor at One Year and the China Live-Lab Disclosure

Two reflections, almost simultaneous, marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, the precision strikes of 7 May 2025 against terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir which India had launched in response to the Pahalgam attack of 22 April 2025. The first, an editorial assessment in the Indian press dated 8 May 2026, characterised the operation as having established a "new normal" — the proposition that India will, in the case of cross-border attribution of significant terrorist attacks, respond with calibrated kinetic action, and that the international system has, on the whole, accommodated this departure. The second, a disclosure dated 9 May 2026 in connection with a longer Indian Army assessment, attributed to a senior People's Liberation Army officer the admission that China had provided "live-lab" on-site military support to Pakistan during the operation, including the supply of real-time satellite-derived targeting data and the operation of certain electronic warfare systems on Pakistani soil during the strikes.

The legal framework most often invoked to explain Operation Sindoor — the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, against an "armed attack" attributable to a State whether through its own forces or through non-State actors operating from its territory with its acquiescence — has, since 2025, increasingly been adapted to address the further question of third-State support to the territorial sponsor. The classical formulation in the Nicaragua case (1986) treats the conduct of armed bands as attributable to a State only if the State exercises "effective control" over their operations. Whether the kind of third-State assistance now disclosed crosses that threshold, or whether a less demanding standard should govern the responsibility of a State that knowingly contributes to a use of force by another, is the legal question on which a substantial body of post-2025 commentary has now begun to converge.

101. Operation Sindoor, as the passage describes it, is best characterised as:

- (A) Precision strikes of 7 May 2025 against terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, launched in response to the Pahalgam attack of 22 April 2025.

- (B) A defensive military operation conducted by the Indian Army within the territory of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir against an incursion across the Line of Control.
- (C) A diplomatic initiative under which India suspended its obligations under the Indus Waters Treaty in response to a series of cross-border terrorist attacks.
- (D) A series of cyber operations conducted by India against Pakistani military networks in the days following the Pahalgam attack of April 2025.

102. The disclosure of 9 May 2026 attributed to the senior People's Liberation Army officer, as the passage summarises it, is the admission that China had provided to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor:

- (A) Intelligence support of a kind routinely exchanged between any two friendly States in the immediate aftermath of a major regional security incident for reasons that have been the subject of substantial discussion.
- (B) Diplomatic support in the United Nations Security Council and a public statement of solidarity with the Pakistani Government during the days of the strikes.
- (C) Material support in the form of ammunition and spare parts for Pakistani aircraft, of the kind regularly supplied under existing bilateral agreements.
- (D) Live-lab on-site military support, including real-time satellite-derived targeting data and the operation of certain electronic warfare systems on Pakistani soil during the strikes.

103. The right of self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, as the passage characterises it in the present context, may be invoked against:

- (A) Any State that has knowingly contributed support to a non-State actor responsible for an armed attack on the State invoking self-defence.
- (B) Any cross-border terrorist attack of significant scale, regardless of any further question of attribution to a particular State.
- (C) An armed attack attributable to a State whether through its own forces or through non-State actors operating from its territory with its acquiescence.
- (D) Any threat to international peace and security, of the kind that would also justify Security Council action under Chapter VII of the Charter.

104. The classical formulation in the Nicaragua case (1986), as the passage summarises it, treats the conduct of armed bands as attributable to a State only if the State:

- (A) Has, in some general sense, supported, financed or armed them.
- (B) Exercises "effective control" over their operations.
- (C) Was aware that they were operating from its territory at the relevant time.
- (D) Has been formally requested to disarm them by the State on which their operations have an effect.

105. Suppose the post-2025 commentary the passage describes were to converge on a standard substantially less demanding than "effective control" for the responsibility of a third State that knowingly contributes to another State's use of force. The most direct doctrinal consequence, on the passage's framing, would be that:

- (A) It would expand the range of States whose conduct may be treated as having contributed to an armed attack for the purposes of the responding State's invocation of Article 51.
- (B) It would, in itself, render the Nicaragua judgment formally overruled and require the International Court of Justice to revisit its earlier reasoning at an early opportunity.
- (C) It would convert Article 51 of the Charter into an authorisation for the use of force against any State that has materially supported any non-State actor responsible for any unlawful act.
- (D) It would, by altering the classical attribution rule, displace the law of State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts as it has been codified by the International Law Commission.

Passage 6 (Questions 106–110)

Punjab Drugs, the Central Agency Proposal, and the Statutory Architecture

On 9 May 2026, the Chief Justice of India, addressing the inauguration of a judicial academy in Chandigarh, drew public attention to the scale of the narcotics problem in Punjab and indicated, in unusually direct terms, that the present statutory and institutional arrangements may be inadequate to meet it. The remarks, widely reported the following morning, included the suggestion that consideration should be given to a dedicated central enforcement agency operating under the combined umbrella of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 ("the NDPS Act").

The statutory architecture is, as it stands, federal. Under the NDPS Act, the Central Government and the State Governments are each empowered to establish enforcement agencies; in practice, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the principal central agency, while State police forces conduct the bulk of investigation and seizure work in the field. The UAPA, by contrast, is a wholly central statute under which only the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and certain notified central authorities may act, the State role being principally one of registration of cases on the ground and subsequent transfer.

The Chief Justice's suggestion appears to draw on two strands of recent prosecutorial practice. The first is the increasing invocation, in major narcotics cases, of "terrorist act" provisions of the UAPA on the theory that proceeds from organised narcotics traffic finance terrorist organisations and therefore satisfy the statutory definition. The second is the established Supreme Court jurisprudence under Section 37 of the NDPS Act, the so-called "reverse onus" provision, under which a person accused of trafficking in commercial quantities is to be denied bail unless the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty and that he is not likely to commit a further offence while on bail. Whether a single central agency operating across both statutes would, in practice, be either constitutionally available or operationally desirable is the question the Chief Justice's intervention has now placed in the public domain.

106. Which of the following correctly describes the statutory architecture of enforcement under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as the passage presents it?

- (A) Wholly devolved to the State Governments, with the Central Government's role limited to the framing of rules and the issue of policy directions to the States.
- (B) Wholly centralised, with only the Narcotics Control Bureau and certain other notified central authorities competent to conduct investigation and seizure operations.
- (C) Federal in character, with the Central Government and State Governments each empowered to establish enforcement agencies, and the Narcotics Control Bureau as the principal central agency.
- (D) Concurrent in character, with the Central Government and State Governments operating jointly through statutorily mandated cooperation councils for each State.

107. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as the passage characterises it in the present context, is:

- (A) A statute concurrently administered by the Union and the States, with the National Investigation Agency operating in coordination with the State police forces.
- (B) A wholly central statute under which only the National Investigation Agency and certain notified central authorities may act.
- (C) A statute administered principally by the State police forces, with the National Investigation Agency exercising a residual jurisdiction over inter-State cases only.
- (D) A statute under which only the State Governments are competent to register cases, the Union's role being limited to providing logistical and financial support.

108. The first of the two strands of prosecutorial practice on which the Chief Justice's suggestion is said to draw, as the passage describes it, is the:

- (A) Increasing use of the witness-protection scheme of the National Investigation Agency in cases involving cross-border narcotics traffic.
- (B) Increasing reliance on plea-bargaining provisions in NDPS cases involving smaller quantities of contraband substances in the ordinary technical sense of the expression as the relevant authorities have repeatedly affirmed.
- (C) Increasing recourse to forfeiture of property under the relevant chapter of the NDPS Act in cases involving organised trafficking in commercial quantities.
- (D) Increasing invocation of "terrorist act" provisions of the UAPA in major narcotics cases on the theory that organised narcotics proceeds finance terrorist organisations.

109. Section 37 of the NDPS Act, as the passage describes it, contains a "reverse onus" provision under which:

- (A) A person accused of trafficking in commercial quantities is to be denied bail unless the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty and that he is not likely to commit a further offence while on bail.
- (B) The burden of proving that a person accused of trafficking is not in possession of commercial quantities of any contraband substance is, in all cases, placed on the prosecution.
- (C) A person accused of trafficking is to be granted bail as of right unless the prosecution succeeds in showing, on a balance of probabilities, that he is likely to abscond.
- (D) The burden of proving that the person accused of trafficking has not been involved in the financing of terrorist organisations is, in every case, placed on the accused himself.

110. Suppose Parliament were to legislate, on the model the Chief Justice has indicated, for a single central enforcement agency operating across both the UAPA and the NDPS Act. Which of the following constitutional questions would, on the passage's framing, most directly arise?

- (A) Whether such an agency would, in respect of its functions under either statute, fall within the executive power of the Union by virtue of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- (B) Whether such an agency would, in respect of its functions under the UAPA, impermissibly intrude on the State Governments' competence to register cases on the ground.
- (C) Whether such an agency would, in respect of its functions under the NDPS Act, impermissibly intrude on the State Governments' enforcement competences which the federal architecture of that

statute presently recognises.

(D) Whether such an agency would, by its very establishment, violate the basic structure of the Constitution as expounded in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973).

Passage 7 (Questions 111–115)

The Eggshell-Skull Doctrine and Medical Negligence

On 5 May 2026, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered judgment in a medical-negligence appeal in which the deceased, a sixty-three-year-old man with a previously asymptomatic hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, had died on the operating table during the conduct of an otherwise routine cholecystectomy at a private hospital. The hospital's defence rested on the proposition that the deceased's underlying cardiac condition, of which he had been unaware and which had not been detected on the standard pre-operative work-up, had "thinned the skull" — that the death, on this argument, was attributable not to any negligence in the conduct of the surgery but to an unusually fragile constitution that any reasonable surgical team would have failed to anticipate.

The Court rejected the defence in terms that have, in the days following, been widely characterised as the most explicit reception of the eggshell-skull doctrine into Indian medical-negligence jurisprudence. The doctrine, of common-law origin, holds that a defendant whose negligence has caused harm cannot escape full liability merely on the ground that an unusually vulnerable claimant suffered greater harm than a person of ordinary constitution would have suffered from the same negligent act. "You take your victim as you find him" is the older formulation; in tort, the unforeseeable extent of harm does not break the chain of causation provided the kind of harm was foreseeable.

The Court located its holding within the framework of negligence under the standard articulated in *Bolam v. Friern Hospital Management Committee* (1957), as adopted in *Jacob Mathew v. State of Punjab* (2005): the surgeon must exercise the care expected of a reasonably competent practitioner of his speciality. The hospital's pre-operative work-up was found to have fallen short of the standard appropriate to a patient of the deceased's age and risk profile. Once that finding was made, the bench held, the eggshell-skull principle precluded the hospital from limiting its liability by reference to the unanticipated severity of the consequences. The award was enhanced accordingly under the consumer-protection regime applicable to medical services.

111. The eggshell-skull doctrine, as the passage characterises it, holds that:

- (A) A defendant whose negligence has caused harm may, in cases involving an unusually vulnerable claimant, limit his liability to the harm that a person of ordinary constitution would have suffered.
- (B) A defendant whose negligence has caused harm cannot escape full liability merely because an unusually vulnerable claimant has suffered greater harm than a person of ordinary constitution would have suffered.
- (C) A defendant cannot, in any case involving an unusually vulnerable claimant, be held liable for any harm at all unless the vulnerability had been disclosed before the relevant act in the standard formulation employed by the discipline.
- (D) A claimant who is unusually vulnerable is required, before making a claim, to give notice of his vulnerability to the defendant and to all other persons whose conduct may foreseeably cause him harm.

112. The standard of care articulated in *Bolam v. Friern Hospital Management Committee* (1957), as the passage describes it (and as adopted in *Jacob Mathew v. State of Punjab*), is that:

- (A) The surgeon must exercise the standard of care that the patient himself has, before the procedure, expressly stipulated in writing as a condition of his consent.
- (B) The surgeon must exercise the highest possible standard of care, regardless of the resources or facilities available to him.
- (C) The surgeon must exercise the standard of care that he himself, in the light of his own training, considers appropriate to the case.
- (D) The surgeon must exercise the care expected of a reasonably competent practitioner of his speciality.

113. On the Court's reasoning, as the passage presents it, the eggshell-skull principle precluded the hospital from limiting its liability only AFTER which prior finding had been made?

- (A) That the hospital's pre-operative work-up had fallen short of the standard appropriate to a patient of the deceased's age and risk profile.
- (B) That the deceased had, at some point before the procedure, made a formal disclosure of his underlying cardiac condition to the operating team.
- (C) That the hospital had, in similar past cases, been found liable for negligent conduct of pre-operative work-ups in patients of comparable risk.
- (D) That the standard pre-operative work-up was, in the general practice of surgical medicine, in itself adequate to detect a hypertrophic cardiomyopathy of the kind in question.

114. The hospital's defence in the case, as the passage summarises it, was that:

- (A) The deceased had not given valid informed consent to the cholecystectomy and that the surgery had therefore been conducted in the absence of any actionable duty of care.
- (B) The deceased's death had been caused by a sudden and unforeseeable failure of the operating-theatre equipment supplied by the manufacturer to the hospital.
- (C) The deceased's underlying cardiac condition, of which he had been unaware and which had not been detected on the standard pre-operative work-up, had "thinned the skull" and rendered the death unattributable to any negligence in the surgery.
- (D) The deceased's death had been the result of an extraneous act of a third party for whose conduct the hospital could not, in law, be held vicariously liable.

115. Suppose, in a future case, the Court were to revisit the present holding and confine the eggshell-skull principle to cases in which the unusual vulnerability of the claimant was actually disclosed to the defendant before the negligent act. The most direct consequence, on the passage's framing, would be that:

- (A) The chain of causation between the negligent act and the resulting death would, in undisclosed cases, be held to have been broken as a matter of law in every case.
- (B) The Bolam standard, as adopted in *Jacob Mathew*, would itself be effectively overruled and replaced by a more demanding standard of strict liability across the field.
- (C) The consumer-protection regime applicable to medical services would, in itself, be rendered inapplicable to any case involving an undisclosed underlying condition of the patient.
- (D) Hospitals would, in undisclosed cases, be relieved of liability for the unanticipated extent of harm even where their pre-operative work-up was found to have fallen short of the appropriate standard.

Passage 8 (Questions 116–120)

PM-UDAY 2.0, the SWAGAM Portal, and the As-Is-Where-Is Regularisation

On 9 May 2026, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, with the concurrence of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, launched the second phase of the Pradhan Mantri Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY 2.0), accompanied by the SWAGAM portal — a single-window online interface for the regularisation of properties in unauthorised colonies. The two announcements together notify that 1,511 of the 1,731 unauthorised colonies in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have now been regularised on what the official notification describes as an "as-is, where-is" basis.

The statutory framework is provided by the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act, 2019, read with the Regulations of 2019 framed under Section 3 of the Act. The expression "as-is, where-is" refers to the principle that the regularisation operates upon the property as it presently stands and is occupied, without insisting upon prior compliance with the building bye-laws and zoning regulations otherwise applicable under the Delhi Development Act, 1957. The legal effect of regularisation under the Act is to confer on the resident a statutorily recognised right of ownership, subject to the payment of a notified charge, in the property the resident is at present occupying. The scheme has been defended as a pragmatic response to the long-standing problem of insecure tenure in colonies whose residents have, in many cases, occupied the relevant properties for several decades. It has also been criticised on the ground that the as-is-where-is principle entails a substantial relaxation, in favour of the residents of unauthorised colonies, of building and zoning standards which are simultaneously enforced against the residents of regularly developed colonies. The Supreme Court, in proceedings brought under Article 32, has so far declined to interfere with the scheme, observing that the right to shelter recognised under Article 21 of the Constitution provides the broader constitutional backdrop against which any reasonable regularisation policy must be assessed.

116. The expression "as-is, where-is" in the present scheme, as the passage explains it, refers to the principle that:

- (A) The regularisation is conditional upon the residents bringing the property into prior compliance with the building bye-laws and zoning regulations applicable under the Delhi Development Act, 1957 on the most natural construction of the available evidence.
- (B) The regularisation operates upon the property as it presently stands and is occupied, without insisting upon prior compliance with the building bye-laws and zoning regulations otherwise applicable under the Delhi Development Act, 1957.
- (C) The regularisation operates only with effect from the date of the resident's first occupation of the property, with the resident being treated as the owner from that earlier date for all legal purposes.
- (D) The regularisation is conditional upon the resident's payment of a charge calculated by reference to the property's value at the date of its first construction in the relevant unauthorised colony.

117. Which of the following correctly describes the legal effect of regularisation under the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act, 2019, as the passage characterises it?

- (A) The conferral on the resident of a statutorily recognised right of ownership, subject to the payment of a notified charge, in the property the resident is at present occupying.

(B) The conferral on the resident of a leasehold right, expiring on a notified date, in the property the resident is at present occupying.

(C) The grant to the resident of a right of first refusal, in the event of the future sale of the property by the Delhi Development Authority, of the property the resident is at present occupying.

(D) The grant to the resident of an interim right to remain in possession of the property pending the conclusion of fresh proceedings under the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

118. The principal critical objection to the scheme, as the passage identifies it, is that:

(A) The scheme operates retrospectively, with effect from the date of the first construction of the property, and is therefore vulnerable on classical rule-of-law grounds.

(B) The notified charge for regularisation is, in the view of the critics, too low to permit the recovery of the costs of bringing basic civic amenities to the affected colonies.

(C) The scheme is, in the view of the critics, beyond the legislative competence of Parliament, the matter falling within the exclusive competence of the Government of the National Capital Territory.

(D) The as-is-where-is principle entails a substantial relaxation, in favour of the residents of unauthorised colonies, of building and zoning standards which are simultaneously enforced against the residents of regularly developed colonies.

119. The Supreme Court's posture in the proceedings under Article 32, as the passage describes it, is best characterised as:

(A) An interim stay of the operation of the scheme pending the disposal of the petitions on the merits at a date to be fixed.

(B) A declination to interfere with the scheme, with the observation that the right to shelter recognised under Article 21 provides the broader constitutional backdrop.

(C) A direction that the scheme should be reconsidered by Parliament in the light of objections raised by the petitioners during the course of argument.

(D) A holding that the scheme is, on its face, ultra vires the Delhi Development Act, 1957 and has been continued in operation only on equitable considerations.

120. Suppose a future challenge to the scheme were to argue that the as-is-where-is principle violates Article 14 of the Constitution by treating the residents of unauthorised colonies more favourably than the residents of regularly developed colonies. Which of the following is, on the passage's framing, the most plausible defence available to the Government?

(A) That the scheme falls within the executive power of the Union under Entry 43 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule and is, on that ground alone, immune from challenge under Article 14.

(B) That Article 14 of the Constitution is, on a careful reading, inapplicable to legislation concerning property rights, the matter being governed exclusively by the now-repealed Article 19(1)(f).

(C) That the right to shelter recognised under Article 21 provides a constitutional backdrop against which a pragmatic regularisation policy in respect of long-occupied properties may reasonably be defended as a permissible classification.

(D) That the residents of regularly developed colonies are not similarly situated to the residents of unauthorised colonies for any constitutional purpose, an argument that has previously been accepted by the Supreme Court without qualification.

TAKE-HOME PRACTICE SET

Not part of the scored 120-question test. Attempt at home; answers at the end. Numbered T1–T40 so you do not confuse them with Q1–Q120 on the OMR.

A. Analytical Reasoning

T1. If in a certain code language FRIEND is written as HUMJQT, how is COUSIN written in that code?

- (A) ERYWNT (B) ERWXOL (C) DRYUKQ (D) ESXWMT

T2. Pointing to a photograph, Anjali said, "He is the only son of the only daughter of my paternal grandfather." How is the man in the photograph related to Anjali?

- (A) Maternal uncle (B) Brother (C) Paternal uncle (D) Cousin

T3. Ravi walks 5 km North, turns right and walks 3 km, turns right again and walks 5 km. How far and in which direction is he from the starting point?

- (A) 5 km North (B) 8 km East (C) 3 km East (D) 13 km East

T4. Statements: All flowers are leaves. Some leaves are fruits. Conclusions: I. Some flowers are fruits. II. Some fruits are leaves. Which of the following follows?

- (A) Neither I nor II follows (B) Only I follows (C) Both I and II follow (D) Only II follows

T5. Find the missing term in the series: 7, 14, 28, 56, ?, 224.

- (A) 112 (B) 120 (C) 84 (D) 168

T6. Five friends P, Q, R, S, T sit in a row facing North. R sits at the centre. Q sits to the immediate right of R. P is at one end and S is to the immediate left of R. Where is T seated?

- (A) Cannot be determined (B) At the right end (C) Between R and Q (D) At the left end

T7. If '+' means 'x', '-' means '+', 'x' means '÷' and '÷' means '-', then $16 + 4 \div 8 \times 2 - 12 = ?$

- (A) 16 (B) 72 (C) 64 (D) 60

T8. In a row of 25 students, A is twelfth from the left end. What is A's position from the right end?

- (A) 13th (B) 15th (C) 12th (D) 14th

B. Vocabulary (Synonyms & Antonyms)

T9. SYNONYM of ABSTRUSE:

- (A) Recondite (B) Trivial (C) Ornate (D) Apparent

T10. SYNONYM of EPHEMERAL:

- (A) Tangible (B) Transient (C) Eternal (D) Solemn

T11. SYNONYM of QUOTIDIAN:

- (A) Exotic (B) Quiet (C) Quarrelsome (D) Mundane

T12. SYNONYM of LACONIC:

- (A) Terse (B) Verbose (C) Florid (D) Indolent

T13. ANTONYM of PROFLIGATE:

- (A) Talented (B) Generous (C) Frugal (D) Wasteful

T14. ANTONYM of OBSEQUIOUS:

- (A) Servile (B) Assertive (C) Polite (D) Hostile

T15. ANTONYM of MITIGATE:

- (A) Resolve (B) Lessen (C) Avoid (D) Aggravate

T16. ANTONYM of NASCENT:

- (A) Mature (B) Tiny (C) Newborn (D) Hidden

C. Quantitative Techniques

T17. If 30% of a number is 75, what is 70% of the same number?

- (A) 150 (B) 175 (C) 210 (D) 225

T18. The average of 5 consecutive even numbers is 22. What is the largest of these numbers?

- (A) 24 (B) 28 (C) 26 (D) 22

T19. A shopkeeper marks an article 40% above cost and offers a discount of 25%. His profit per cent is:

- (A) 15% (B) 12.5% (C) 10% (D) 5%

T20. If the ratio of A to B is 3 : 5 and the ratio of B to C is 4 : 7, the ratio of A to C is:

- (A) 12 : 35 (B) 3 : 7 (C) 20 : 21 (D) 15 : 28

T21. A train 150 m long crosses a pole in 9 seconds. Its speed in km/h is:

- (A) 54 (B) 60 (C) 66 (D) 72

T22. Simple interest on Rs 8,000 at 5% per annum for 3 years is:

- (A) Rs 1,500 (B) Rs 1,000 (C) Rs 1,200 (D) Rs 1,260

T23. If a sum doubles in 8 years at simple interest, the rate of interest per annum is:

- (A) 8% (B) 10% (C) 15% (D) 12.5%

T24. The compound interest on Rs 10,000 at 10% per annum for 2 years is:

- (A) Rs 2,100 (B) Rs 2,200 (C) Rs 2,000 (D) Rs 2,210

D. GK & Current Affairs (Rapid Fire — May 2026 + Standing GK)

T25. On which date in 2026 did the Tenth NPT Review Conference open in New York?

- (A) 15 May 2026 (B) 9 May 2026 (C) 13 May 2026 (D) 1 May 2026

T26. Operation Sindoor was launched by India on:

- (A) 22 April 2025 (B) 7 May 2026 (C) 7 May 2025 (D) 26 April 2025

T27. President's Rule in Manipur was imposed on:

- (A) 10 February 2025 (B) 20 February 2025 (C) 1 March 2025 (D) 13 February 2025

T28. The Constitution (84th Amendment) Act, 2001 froze delimitation until the first census after the year:

- (A) 2026 (B) 2031 (C) 2024 (D) 2021

T29. S. R. Bommai v. Union of India was decided in the year:

- (A) 1992 (B) 1994 (C) 1989 (D) 1973

T30. Article 51 of the UN Charter recognises the right of:

- (A) Universal jurisdiction (B) Humanitarian intervention (C) Peaceful settlement of disputes (D) Individual or collective self-defence

T31. The eggshell-skull doctrine belongs principally to the law of:

- (A) Tort (B) Contract (C) Constitutional law (D) Property

T32. The PM-UDAY scheme is administered for residents of unauthorised colonies in:

- (A) Kolkata Metropolitan Area (B) Bengaluru Urban district (C) The National Capital Territory of Delhi (D) Mumbai Metropolitan Region

T33. Section 37 of the NDPS Act, 1985 contains a provision relating to:

- (A) Quantum of punishment (B) Bail in commercial-quantity cases (C) Forfeiture of property (D) Search and seizure powers

T34. Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (March 2023) concerned the appointment of:

- (A) The Comptroller and Auditor General (B) Judges of the Supreme Court (C) The Chief Information Commissioner (D) The Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners

E. Legal Reasoning (Principle–Fact)

T35. PRINCIPLE: A person is guilty of theft if he dishonestly takes any movable property out of the possession of any person without that person's consent. FACTS: A picks up a Rs 500 note he sees on the road, with no clue as to its owner, intending to keep it. Is A guilty of theft?

- (A) No, since the note was not in anyone's possession at the time of taking. (B) No, since the value of the note was below the threshold for theft. (C) Yes, since A has dishonestly taken movable property. (D) Yes, since the true owner had not consented.

T36. PRINCIPLE: Consent given under a misconception of fact is not free consent. FACTS: B agrees to undergo a procedure described to him by the doctor as a minor cosmetic correction; in fact it is a major reconstructive surgery. Was B's consent free?

- (A) Yes, since the doctor had not exercised any coercion. (B) No, since B's consent rested on a misconception of fact about the nature of the procedure. (C) No, but only if B can show that the doctor knew of the misconception. (D) Yes, since B had agreed to undergo the procedure.

T37. PRINCIPLE: An offer must be communicated to the offeree to be capable of acceptance. FACTS: C announces a reward for finding her lost dog. D, unaware of the announcement, finds and returns the dog. Is D entitled to the reward?

- (A) Yes, since D has performed the act for which the reward was announced. (B) Yes, since communication of the offer is not required for unilateral contracts. (C) No, since the offer was not communicated to D and could not be accepted by him. (D) No, but D is entitled to the value of the dog as compensation.

T38. PRINCIPLE: A master is vicariously liable for the wrongful acts of his servant committed in the course of employment. FACTS: A driver employed by E takes the company van, after duty hours and without permission, to attend a private wedding and negligently injures a pedestrian. Is E vicariously liable?

- (A) Yes, since the injury was caused by the company van. (B) No, but E is liable for negligent supervision. (C) Yes, since E had employed the driver. (D) No, since the driver was on a frolic of his own and not in the course of employment.

T39. PRINCIPLE: A person of unsound mind cannot enter into a valid contract. FACTS: F, who suffers from periodic mental illness but is in a lucid interval, sells his car to G for Rs 1,00,000. Is the contract valid?

- (A) Yes, since F was in a lucid interval and capable of understanding the contract. (B) No, since the sale price is unconscionably low. (C) Yes, but only if F's relatives ratify the contract. (D) No, since F is in general a person of unsound mind.

T40. PRINCIPLE: A trespasser who is injured by a hidden danger that the occupier knew of and concealed may recover damages from the occupier. FACTS: H, a trespasser, walks across J's land at night and falls into a covered pit dug by J specifically to trap intruders. Can H recover from J?

- (A) No, since H ought to have exercised caution while walking at night. (B) Yes, since J knew of the danger and deliberately concealed it from those who might enter. (C) No, since H was a trespasser and had no right to be on J's land. (D) Yes, but only to the extent of his actual medical expenses.

F. Critical Reasoning (Rapid Fire)

T41. Argument: "All the top scorers in last year's CLAT mock series went on to clear the actual exam.

Therefore, anyone who scores high on these mocks will clear the real CLAT." Which of the following, if true,

most weakens the argument?

(A) Top scorers in last year's mock series shared a number of background traits unrelated to the mocks themselves. (B) The mock series in question is widely regarded as the most rigorous in the country. (C) Some students who did poorly in the mock series also went on to clear the real CLAT. (D) The number of seats available in NLUs has not changed materially since last year.

T42. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the conclusion that a city's new bike-sharing scheme has reduced peak-hour traffic?

(A) The bike-sharing scheme has been very popular among college students of the city. (B) Vehicle counts at the city's busiest junctions have dropped by 14% since the scheme was launched, with no other transport policy changes in the period. (C) Several other cities of comparable size have also launched similar bike-sharing schemes. (D) Cycling is generally regarded as a healthier mode of transport than driving.

T43. All scientists are curious. Some curious people are sceptical. Which of the following necessarily follows?

(A) Some scientists are sceptical. (B) All scientists are sceptical. (C) None of the conclusions necessarily follows from the premises. (D) All sceptical people are scientists.

T44. A newspaper claims: "Crimes have fallen this year. Last year there were 800 reported cases; this year there are 720." Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the claim that actual crimes have fallen?

(A) The judiciary has cleared a higher proportion of pending cases this year than last. (B) The city's population has remained constant over the year in question. (C) The categories of offence counted as crimes have not changed over the year. (D) Public trust in the police force has declined sharply over the year, leading many victims to stop filing reports.

T45. If the statement "No politicians are honest" is taken to be true, which of the following must also be true?

(A) No honest people are politicians. (B) All honest people are politicians. (C) Some politicians are honest. (D) Some honest people are not politicians.

T46. An advertisement claims that a new shampoo "reduces hair fall by 70% in 30 days, as proven in clinical trials." Which of the following, if true, would most undermine the credibility of the claim?

(A) Hair fall is influenced by a wide variety of factors including diet and stress. (B) The clinical trial was conducted on a sample of just twelve volunteers, all of whom were employees of the manufacturer. (C) Other shampoos in the market also claim to reduce hair fall. (D) The shampoo contains several ingredients commonly found in hair-care products.

T47. Which of the following is the assumption underlying the argument: "You should buy the new model of this car. It has the best fuel efficiency of any car in its class."?

(A) The new model is the cheapest car in its class. (B) Other cars in the class are unsafe to drive. (C) Fuel efficiency is the relevant criterion for the listener's car-buying decision. (D) The listener has not previously owned a car of this brand.

T48. If "All A are B" and "No B are C", which of the following must be true?

(A) Some A are C. (B) Some C are B. (C) All C are A. (D) No A are C.

TAKE-HOME ANSWER KEY

T1=A	T2=B	T3=C	T4=D	T5=A	T6=B	T7=C	T8=D	T9=A	T10=B
T11=D	T12=A	T13=C	T14=B	T15=D	T16=A	T17=B	T18=C	T19=D	T20=A
T21=B	T22=C	T23=D	T24=A	T25=B	T26=C	T27=D	T28=A	T29=B	T30=D
T31=A	T32=C	T33=B	T34=D	T35=A	T36=B	T37=C	T38=D	T39=A	T40=B
T41=A	T42=B	T43=C	T44=D	T45=A	T46=B	T47=C	T48=D		