

ANSWER KEY — 12 JUNE 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
C	A	D	B	A	C	B	D	A	C
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
B	D	D	A	C	B	B	C	D	A
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
B	C	A	D	C	A	D	B	C	B
Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
A	C	B	D	B	D	A	C	B	D

SECTION A — LEGAL REASONING

Q1 C

Publication — communication of the defamatory matter to at least one person other than the plaintiff — is an essential ingredient of defamation. A letter addressed to and read only by the plaintiff herself involves no third party, so the reputation held in the eyes of others cannot have been lowered. The principle expressly requires communication 'to at least one person other than the plaintiff'. Option A wrongly assumes that permanence of form (libel) dispenses with publication; it does not — form and publication are separate requirements. Option B is wrong because posting is mere transmission to the plaintiff, not publication to a third person. Option D misstates the law: written defamatory matter is libel, not slander, and in Indian tort law both are in any event actionable. The decisive defect in Bhavna's claim is the absence of publication, so Arjun is not liable. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q2 A

Under the rule in *Hulton v. Jones*, expressly cited in the principle, reference to the plaintiff is judged objectively: the test is whether reasonable readers acquainted with the plaintiff would understand the words as referring to him, not whether the writer intended any such reference. The newspaper's complete ignorance of the real Adv. D. Sharma is therefore no answer; readers in Patna who know an advocate of that name and place would naturally connect the column to him. Option B inverts the law by importing an intention requirement that the objective test rejects. Option C states an absolute proposition that *Hulton v. Jones* itself disproves — the defendant there had also invented a fictitious character. Option D invents a notice-and-apology precondition that has no basis in the principle. The newspaper is accordingly liable. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q3 D

The principle recognises exactly three defences: justification (truth), fair comment on a matter of public interest, and privilege (absolute or qualified). Honesty and absence of malice, standing alone, do not constitute any of these defences — a perfectly honest but false and unprivileged statement remains actionable, because defamation protects reputation rather than punishing bad motive. Absence of malice matters only incidentally, for instance in preserving qualified privilege or fair comment once those defences are otherwise established; it is not an independent shield. Option A is the defence of justification. Option B is fair comment. Option C describes a statement in judicial proceedings, which attracts absolute privilege. Option D alone fails to match any recognised defence and is therefore the correct answer. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q4 B

The principle states that words innocent on their face may be defamatory by innuendo when extrinsic facts known to recipients give them a defamatory meaning. Here the bare statement that a receiver has been appointed appears neutral, but readers versed in commercial practice would understand it to imply insolvency — an imputation that is false and plainly injurious to a trader's credit. Meera can therefore plead the innuendo and succeed. Option A fails because the defence of justification requires the defamatory imputation (insolvency) to be true, not merely the literal words; the imputation here is false. Option C is wrong because innuendo is a doctrine of general application and is most commonly pleaded in libel cases. Option D wrongly adds an intention requirement, which the objective approach to defamation rejects. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q5 A

The principle provides that privilege may be absolute, covering parliamentary and judicial proceedings. Absolute privilege is a complete immunity: it protects statements made in the course of parliamentary debate however false and however malicious, because the law values the unfettered freedom of legislative speech above the individual's interest in reputation. Article 105 of the Constitution embodies the same protection for words spoken in Parliament, making the MP unanswerable before any court for the accusation. Option B describes the logic of qualified privilege or responsible journalism, which is irrelevant where absolute privilege applies. Option C imports a relevance condition that absolute parliamentary privilege does not carry. Option D is simply wrong on the principle's own terms, which extend absolute privilege to parliamentary as well as judicial proceedings. The suit fails. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q6 C

Fair comment protects an honest expression of opinion on a matter of public interest, provided it is based on true facts. A published novel is voluntarily submitted to public judgement, and literary merit is a classic matter of public interest. The critic's words — 'lazy, derivative, wastes the reader's time' — are evaluative opinion rather than assertions of fact, and the question stipulates that the review accurately describes the book's contents, so the factual substratum is true. The defence therefore applies. Option A ignores the defence entirely; a defamatory sting is the starting point, not the end, of the analysis. Option B invents a restriction to public officials that does not exist — fair comment extends to books, films, plays and restaurants. Option D confuses fair comment with absolute privilege, which is confined to settings like Parliament and courts. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q7 B

This is the fact pattern of *Mohori Bibee v. Dharmodas Ghose* itself, cited in the principle. The Privy Council held that a minor's agreement is void ab initio — a nullity from the moment of formation — so a mortgage executed by a minor creates no enforceable security and no debt that can be sued upon, even after the minor attains majority. Option A invokes approbation and reprobation, an equitable idea that cannot breathe life into a transaction the statute treats as never having existed. Option C wrongly classifies the agreement as voidable; voidable contracts are valid until avoided, whereas a minor's agreement is void from inception and incapable of ratification. Option D invents a waiting period; the defect is not the timing of the suit but the nullity of the mortgage. The moneylender fails entirely. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q8 D

The principle states that the rule of estoppel does not operate against a minor: he or she may plead minority even after misrepresenting age, because there can be no estoppel against a statute. Section 11 reflects a legislative policy of protecting minors from their own contractual improvidence, and a private representation cannot override that statutory incompetence — otherwise every lender would defeat the statute simply by extracting a false declaration of age. Option A appeals to the maxim that no one may benefit from his own wrong, but that maxim yields to the statutory bar. Option B misapplies evidentiary estoppel, which cannot validate a void agreement. Option C is wrong because imposing full repayment as 'damages for deceit' would enforce the void agreement by the back door, which courts have consistently refused to do. The lender's plea fails. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q9 A

The principle is explicit: a minor's agreement cannot be ratified on attaining majority, because ratification relates back to the date of the original agreement, when the promisor was incompetent. A void transaction cannot be revived by subsequent confirmation. The second note, executed 'in ratification of' the first and unsupported by any new advance, also fails for want of fresh consideration — the consideration moved when Karan was a minor and is in law no consideration at all for the new promise. What the law requires is a fresh agreement supported by fresh consideration after majority, which is absent here. Option B ignores the consideration defect. Option C states the precise opposite of the rule against retrospective ratification. Option D is wrong because the original note, made during minority, is itself void and unenforceable. The suit fails. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q10 C

Section 68 of the Indian Contract Act, summarised in the principle, entitles a person who supplies necessaries suited to a minor's condition in life to reimbursement out of the minor's property. Food, school uniforms and textbooks for the son of a wealthy landowner are classic necessaries appropriate to his station. The claim is quasi-contractual: it arises by operation of law, not from agreement, and it fastens on the minor's estate alone — the minor incurs no personal liability and no personal decree can be passed against him. Since the minor here owns income-yielding property, the trader can be reimbursed from it. Option A overstates the bar, ignoring Section 68 altogether. Option B wrongly imposes personal contractual liability on the minor. Option D invents an automatic parental liability that Indian contract law does not recognise. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q11 B

The principle concludes by noting that a minor may be a beneficiary and can enforce a promissory note or contract made in his favour. The doctrine of nullity protects minors from obligations; it was never meant to disable them from receiving benefits. Here the minor has fully performed his side by delivering the goods, and the promissory note records the buyer's obligation alone — enforcing it imposes nothing on the minor. Indian courts have consistently allowed minors to sue as payees and promisees in such circumstances. Option A states the law too widely; incompetence affects the minor's promises, not instruments in his favour. Option C fails because delivery of goods with the intention of transferring ownership passes property irrespective of the seller's contractual capacity. Option D invents a procedural requirement involving the District Judge that does not exist. The buyer must pay. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q12 D

Option D contradicts the principle in two distinct respects, making it the incorrect statement the question seeks. First, a minor's agreement is not 'merely voidable' — *Mohori Bibee* establishes that it is void ab initio, a nullity from inception, and therefore never binds the minor at all. Second, the suggested scheme of repudiation within three years of majority describes how voidable transactions (such as those induced by coercion) operate, and has no application to agreements that are void from the start; there is nothing in existence to repudiate. Option A correctly restates the nullity rule. Option B correctly describes the Section 68 position that claims for necessaries operate against the minor's property without personal liability. Option C correctly captures the rule that no estoppel runs against the statute despite a misstatement of age. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13 D

Fix D at position 1 (clue 1). Clues 2 and 3 create the consecutive ascending triple F–A–G. Clue 4 places E exactly two positions above G. If the triple starts at position 2 (F2, A3, G4), then E is at 6, leaving positions 5 and 7 for B and C — but those positions have only one carton between them, violating clue 5, which demands exactly three. So the triple must start at position 3: F3, A4, G5, and E at 7. The remaining positions 2 and 6 go to B and C, which satisfies clue 5 (three cartons between), and clue 6 puts B below C, so B2 and C6. Final stack, bottom to top: D, B, F, A, G, C, E. The carton at the top is therefore E, which is option D. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q14 A

From the settled arrangement — bottom to top D(1), B(2), F(3), A(4), G(5), C(6), E(7) — carton F occupies position 3 and carton C occupies position 6. The cartons lying strictly between them are those at positions 4 and 5, namely A and G. Counting them gives exactly two cartons between F and C. The deduction chain that fixes the arrangement is: D at the bottom (clue 1); the F–A–G consecutive triple (clues 2 and 3) forced to positions 3–4–5 because starting at position 2 would leave B and C unable to satisfy the three-between requirement of clue 5; E then lands at position 7 (clue 4); and B and C take positions 2 and 6 respectively under clue 6. Hence the answer is two. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q15 C

Clue 3 states directly that carton G is immediately above carton A, which means A is immediately below G. In the final arrangement — D(1), B(2), F(3), A(4), G(5), C(6), E(7) — G sits at position 5 and A at position 4, confirming the relationship. The full deduction runs: D is anchored at position 1 by clue 1; clues 2 and 3 weld F, A and G into a rising consecutive block; clue 4 forces E two places above G, which eliminates the block starting at position 2 (since B and C could not then be separated by three cartons as clue 5 requires) and fixes the block at positions 3–5 with E at 7; clue 6 then orders B(2) below C(6). The carton immediately below G is therefore A. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q16 B

The original stack from bottom to top is D, B, F, A, G, C, E. Reversing the stack means the order is flipped end to end: the former top carton E becomes the new bottom, and the former bottom carton D becomes the new top. The reversed stack, read from bottom to top, is therefore E, C, G, A, F, B, D. Counting upward from the new bottom: first from the bottom is E, second from the bottom is C, and third from the bottom is G. A quick check confirms the symmetry: the carton third from the bottom in the reversed stack must be the carton that was third from the top in the original stack, and in the original arrangement the third carton from the top (positions 7, 6, 5) is indeed G. The answer is G. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q17 B

Test each option against all four conditions. Option A (P, Q, T, U) contains both T and U, violating condition 3, which permits exactly one of the two. Option C (P, R, S, T) contains both R and S, violating condition 2. Option D (P, S, T, V) violates condition 1, because P is included without Q, and also violates condition 4, because V is included without R. Option B (Q, R, V, U) satisfies everything: condition 1 is not triggered since P is absent; R is present without S, satisfying condition 2; exactly one of T/U (namely U) is present, satisfying condition 3; and V is accompanied by R, satisfying condition 4. Hence Q, R, V, U is the only acceptable team among the four. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q18 C

If V is selected, condition 4 immediately forces R into the team. Condition 3 then requires exactly one of T or U, taking the third seat. The fourth and final member must come from {P, Q, S}. S is impossible, because R is already in the team and condition 2 bars R and S together. P is impossible, because condition 1 would drag Q in as well, swelling the team to five members. That leaves Q as the only feasible fourth member. Every valid team containing V is therefore of the form {V, R, Q, T-or-U}, which means both Q and R must invariably accompany V. Options A and D fail because S can never sit with R, and options B and D fail because P can never fit. The answer is both Q and R. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q19 D

If P is selected, condition 1 forces Q in, occupying two of the four seats. Condition 3 requires exactly one of T or U, occupying a third seat. Only one seat remains, and it must be filled from {R, S, V}. Taking R alone or S alone is permissible (conditions 2 and 4 are respected), giving the valid teams {P, Q, R, T/U} and {P, Q, S, T/U}. But V can never take that last seat: condition 4 demands that R accompany V, and there is no room left for R once P, Q and T/U are seated. So every team containing P necessarily excludes V. Options A, B and C are all possible members alongside P in some valid team, as the enumeration shows. The student who can never join P is V. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q20 A

Enumerate the valid teams containing S. With S in, condition 2 excludes R, and condition 4 then excludes V as well, since V requires R. Condition 3 supplies exactly one of T or U. The remaining seat must be filled from {P, Q}. If P is chosen, condition 1 forces Q too — but only one seat remains, so P alone is impossible; both P and Q must occupy the last two seats. The team is then {P, Q, S, T} or {P, Q, S, U}. Could the team instead be {Q, S, T/U, x}? The fourth member x would have to come from {P, R, V}, each of which has just been ruled out unless paired as P-with-Q, already counted. So exactly two acceptable teams contain S, namely {P, Q, S, T} and {P, Q, S, U}. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

SECTION C — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Q21 B

Total freight in FY24 = $800 + 160 + 150 + 75 + 60 = 1,245$ MT. Total freight in FY25 = $840 + 176 + 162 + 69 + 63 = 1,310$ MT. The absolute increase is $1,310 - 1,245 = 65$ MT. Percentage increase = $(65 \div 1,245) \times 100 = 5.2208\dots\%$, which rounds to approximately 5.22%. A useful sanity check: 5% of 1,245 is 62.25 and 5.5% is about 68.5, so an increase of 65 MT must lie between 5% and 5.5%, closer to the lower bound — consistent with 5.22%. Option A (4.96%) would correspond to an increase of only about 61.8 MT, option C (5.65%) to about 70.3 MT, and option D (6.10%) to about 76 MT, none of which matches the actual rise of 65 MT. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q22 C

Compute the percentage growth for each commodity. Coal: $(840 - 800) \div 800 = 40/800 = 5\%$. Iron Ore: $(176 - 160) \div 160 = 16/160 = 10\%$. Cement: $(162 - 150) \div 150 = 12/150 = 8\%$. Foodgrains: $(69 - 75) \div 75 = -6/75 = -8\%$, a decline. Fertilisers: $(63 - 60) \div 60 = 3/60 = 5\%$. Comparing the growth rates — 5%, 10%, 8%, -8% and 5% — the highest percentage growth belongs to Iron Ore at 10%. Note the trap in this question: coal posted the largest absolute increase (40 MT versus iron ore's 16 MT), but percentage growth is measured relative to the base, and iron ore's smaller base makes its relative growth the highest. The answer is Iron Ore. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q23 A

Coal loading in FY25 was 840 MT, and the total freight across the five commodities in FY25 was $840 + 176 + 162 + 69 + 63 = 1,310$ MT. Coal's share = $(840 \div 1,310) \times 100$. Dividing: $840/1,310 = 0.64122\dots$, so the share is approximately 64.1%. A quick verification: 64% of 1,310 is 838.4, almost exactly the 840 MT figure, confirming the computation. Option B (61.2%) would imply coal loading of about 802 MT, which was its FY24 figure relative to a wrong base. Option C (66.0%) would require roughly 865 MT of coal, and option D (62.9%) roughly 824 MT, neither of which matches the table. The correct share is therefore 64.1%. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q24 D

From the table, cement loading in FY25 was 162 MT and foodgrain loading in FY25 was 69 MT. The required ratio is 162 : 69. Both numbers are divisible by 3: $162 \div 3 = 54$ and $69 \div 3 = 23$. Since 54 and 23 share no common factor (23 is prime and does not divide 54), the ratio in lowest terms is 54 : 23. Option C (23 : 54) is the same pair inverted — a classic trap for candidates who set the ratio up backwards; the question asks cement to foodgrains, so the larger figure comes first. Option A (108 : 45) simplifies to 12 : 5, which matches no pair in the table, and option B (56 : 25) likewise corresponds to no figures given. The answer is 54 : 23. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q25 C

Between FY24 and FY25, fertiliser loading grew from 60 MT to 63 MT, an absolute increase of 3 MT. The question posits the same absolute increase in FY26, taking loading from 63 MT to $63 + 3 = 66$ MT. The percentage growth in FY26 over FY25 is therefore $(3 \div 63) \times 100 = 4.7619\dots\%$, approximately 4.76%. The conceptual point being tested is that a constant absolute increment yields a declining percentage growth rate as the base rises: the same 3 MT was 5% on a base of 60 but only 4.76% on a base of 63. Option A (5.00%) is the FY25-over-FY24 rate, the trap answer. Option B (4.55%) would arise from wrongly using 66 as the base ($3/66$), and option D (5.26%) from using 57. The answer is 4.76%. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q26 A

Monthly revenue equals subscribers multiplied by ARPU. StreamX: $50 \times 110 = 5,500$ (₹ million). VistaPlay: $40 \times 150 = 6,000$. DesiFlix: $25 \times 90 = 2,250$. CineNow: $20 \times 200 = 4,000$. LokTV: $65 \times 60 = 3,900$. Ranking the five figures — 6,000, 5,500, 4,000, 3,900 and 2,250 — the highest monthly revenue belongs to VistaPlay at ₹6,000 million (₹600 crore). The question rewards computing all five products rather than guessing from a single column: LokTV has the most subscribers but the lowest ARPU, while CineNow has the highest ARPU but the smallest base; neither extreme wins. VistaPlay's balanced combination of 40 million subscribers at ₹150 per month tops the table, so the answer is VistaPlay. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q27 D

Total subscribers across the five platforms = $50 + 40 + 25 + 20 + 65 = 200$ million. LokTV's subscriber base is 65 million. Its share of the total is therefore $(65 \div 200) \times 100 = 32.5\%$. The arithmetic can be done mentally: $65/200$ is the same as $32.5/100$, since halving 65 gives 32.5. Option A (30.0%) would correspond to 60 million subscribers, option B (35.5%) to 71 million, and option C (28.5%) to 57 million — none of which matches LokTV's actual figure of 65 million in the table. Note that the question concerns subscribers only; LokTV's low ARPU of ₹60 is irrelevant to this calculation and is included in the table only as a distractor. The answer is 32.5%. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q28 B

DesiFlix's monthly revenue = $25 \times 90 = 2,250$ (₹ million). CineNow's monthly revenue = $20 \times 200 = 4,000$. Their combined revenue = $2,250 + 4,000 = 6,250$. VistaPlay's monthly revenue = $40 \times 150 = 6,000$. The required percentage = $(6,250 \div 6,000) \times 100 = 104.166\dots\%$, approximately 104.2%. Since the combined figure exceeds VistaPlay's, the answer must be above 100%, which immediately eliminates option D (98.6%). Option A (108.33%) would require a combined revenue of 6,500 and option C (110.4%) about 6,624, both above the actual 6,250. The computation $6,250/6,000 = 25/24 = 1.0417$ confirms 104.2% as the correct answer. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q29 C

StreamX's current monthly revenue = 50 million \times ₹110 = ₹5,500 million. After the changes: new ARPU = $110 \times 1.20 = ₹132$; new subscriber base = $50 \times 0.90 = 45$ million. New revenue = $45 \times 132 = ₹5,940$ million. The change = $(5,940 - 5,500) \div 5,500 = 440/5,500 = 0.08$, an increase of 8%. The shortcut: a +20% price change combined with a -10% volume change gives a net multiplier of $1.20 \times 0.90 = 1.08$, i.e. +8%, regardless of the starting figures. Option A (fall by 2%) comes from wrongly adding the percentages as $20 - 10 = 10$, option B (rise by 12%) from a miscalculated cross effect, and option D from assuming the two changes cancel. The revenue rises by 8%. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q30 B

The simple (unweighted) average ARPU is the sum of the five ARPU figures divided by five. Sum = $110 + 150 + 90 + 200 + 60$. Adding stepwise: $110 + 150 = 260$; $260 + 90 = 350$; $350 + 200 = 550$; $550 + 60 = 610$. Average = $610 \div 5 = ₹122$ per month. Note that the question asks for the simple average across platforms, not the subscriber-weighted average revenue per user of the whole market — the weighted figure would be total revenue (21,650) divided by total subscribers (200), i.e. ₹108.25, which is deliberately not among the options to keep the question unambiguous. Options A, C and D (118, 126, 130) correspond to sums of 590, 630 and 650 respectively, none of which matches the actual sum of 610. The answer is ₹122. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

SECTION D — RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK

Q31 A

The number of days from 15 August 2026 to 15 August 2027 is 365, because the intervening period contains February 2027, and 2027 is not a leap year (it is not divisible by 4). Since $365 = 52$ weeks + 1 day, the day of the week advances by exactly one. Saturday advanced by one day is Sunday. Had the intervening February belonged to a leap year, the shift would have been two days; that is the standard trap in calendar problems, but it does not arise here because the leap day of 2028 falls outside the interval. Therefore 15 August 2027 falls on a Sunday. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q32 C

Let the son's age six years ago be s ; the father's age then was $5s$. Six years ago, the sum of their ages was $60 - 12 = 48$ (each is six years younger, removing twelve years in total). So $5s + s = 48$, giving $6s = 48$ and $s = 8$. The father six years ago was $5 \times 8 = 40$, so his present age is $40 + 6 = 46$ years. Verification: the son is now 14, and $46 + 14 = 60$, matching the given sum; six years ago they were 40 and 8, and $40 = 5 \times 8$ holds. The answer is 46 years. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q33 B

The analogy tests the relationship between a professional and the principal place where that professional practises. An advocate argues cases in a court; correspondingly, a doctor treats patients in a hospital. The pairing is profession-to-workplace. Option A (Medicine) names the doctor's field or tool of treatment, not the venue. Option C (Patient) names the person served, which would parallel 'client' for an advocate, not 'court'. Option D (Stethoscope) names an instrument, paralleling a lawbook rather than a courtroom. Only Hospital preserves the workplace relationship, so the answer is Hospital. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q34 D

Examine the internal gaps in each cluster. PRT: P to R is +2, R to T is +2 — uniform gaps of two. FHJ: F to H is +2, H to J is +2 — the same pattern. MOQ: M to O is +2, O to Q is +2 — again uniform. CEH: C to E is +2, but E to H is +3, breaking the pattern of equal two-letter steps that the other three clusters share. Three clusters are built on consecutive alternate letters; CEH alone mixes a two-step with a three-step. The odd one out is therefore CEH. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q35 B

Let the cost price be CP. Selling at a 12% loss gives a selling price of $0.88 \times CP$. Selling for ₹54 more would give a 6% gain, i.e. a price of $1.06 \times CP$. The difference between the two prices is $1.06CP - 0.88CP = 0.18CP$, and this equals ₹54. Therefore $CP = 54 \div 0.18 = ₹300$. Verification: at a 12% loss the article sells for ₹264; adding ₹54 gives ₹318, which is indeed 6% above ₹300. The cost price is ₹300. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q36 D

The sum of all eleven numbers is $11 \times 36 = 396$. The sum of the first six numbers is $6 \times 34 = 204$, and the sum of the last six numbers is $6 \times 38 = 228$. The first six and the last six together count the sixth number twice, since it belongs to both groups. So $(204 + 228) - 396 = 432 - 396 = 36$, which is the sixth number. Verification: removing 36 from each overlapping group leaves totals consistent with eleven distinct positions summing to 396. The answer is 36. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.

Q37 A

A's one-day work is $1/12$ of the job and B's one-day work is $1/18$. Working together, their combined daily output is $1/12 + 1/18$. Taking the LCM of 12 and 18, which is 36: $1/12 = 3/36$ and $1/18 = 2/36$, so together they complete $5/36$ of the work per day. The time required is the reciprocal, $36/5 = 7.2$ days. Expressed as a fraction, that is 7 and one-fifth days. The answer is 7.2 days. Hence option (A) is the correct answer.

Q38 C

Track the two letters separately. First letters: A, C, F, J — the steps are +2 (A to C), +3 (C to F), +4 (F to J), so the next step is +5, giving J + 5 = O. Second letters: Z, X, U, Q — the steps are -2 (Z to X), -3 (X to U), -4 (U to Q), so the next step is -5, giving Q - 5 = L. The next term is therefore OL. The two sequences move symmetrically in opposite directions with increasing step sizes, a standard alphabet-series pattern. The answer is OL. Hence option (C) is the correct answer.

Q39 B

The anti-defection law was added to the Constitution by the 52nd Amendment in 1985 and is contained in the Tenth Schedule. It provides for the disqualification of members of Parliament and state legislatures who voluntarily give up membership of their party or vote contrary to the party whip, subject to exceptions such as merger of parties. The Ninth Schedule shields specified laws from judicial review on fundamental-rights grounds; the Eighth Schedule lists the recognised languages; the Twelfth Schedule enumerates the powers of municipalities. The correct answer is the Tenth Schedule. Hence option (B) is the correct answer.

Q40 D

Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha, presiding over the House from 1952, after independent India's first general elections, until his death in 1956. He had earlier presided over the Central Legislative Assembly and the Constituent Assembly (Legislative). M. A. Ayyangar, initially the Deputy Speaker, succeeded Mavalankar as the second Speaker. Sardar Hukam Singh and Neelam Sanjiva Reddy became Speakers later still, Reddy subsequently becoming President of India. The answer is G. V. Mavalankar. Hence option (D) is the correct answer.