

(C) the mother had planned for grandchildren she did not know

(D) the daughter has children of her own waiting outside

JUSTIFY: _____

Q10. Closest in meaning to 'faintly' as used in the passage:

(A) freshly, with immediacy

(B) weakly, in a way that almost surrenders to absence

(C) loudly, with insistence

(D) deliberately, with intention

JUSTIFY: _____

PASSAGE 3 · SCIENCE JOURNALISM · ON A LONG-PROMISED VACCINE

Q 11–15 | 5 Qs · 6 MIN · 1.2 MIN/Q

MAGAZINE FEATURE · GLOBAL HEALTH

After thirty years of false starts, the vaccine works. It does not work as well as the early modelling suggested, and it does not work in everyone, and the protection it offers begins to taper after the first eighteen months. None of these qualifications, taken together, makes the result less remarkable. They place it, instead, in the company of every other useful vaccine humans have built — partial, perishable, and worth having. The right comparison is not with an imagined perfect shield. It is with the world, before this week, in which there was no shield at all.

Q11. The author's tone is best described as:

(A) uncritically celebratory

(B) soberly appreciative, with caveats clearly named

(C) polemical and exhortative

(D) neutral and purely expository

JUSTIFY: _____

Q12. The author's attitude towards the vaccine's limitations is that they:

(A) are typical of useful vaccines and do not diminish the achievement

(B) are evidence the modelling was dishonest

(C) are reasons to delay public deployment

(D) should disqualify it from being celebrated

JUSTIFY: _____

Q13. The phrase 'partial, perishable, and worth having' is used to:

(A) show technical neutrality

(B) lower expectations and warn against deployment

(C) concede limitations while affirming value

(D) criticise the manufacturers

JUSTIFY: _____

Q14. The shift between the third sentence and the fourth ('None of these...') is best characterised as a movement from:

(A) analysis to indignation

(B) qualification to defence

(C) celebration to scepticism

(D) narrative to instruction

JUSTIFY: _____

Q15. Closest in meaning to 'taper' in the context of protection:

(A) rise abruptly

(B) diminish gradually

(C) stabilise

(D) sharpen

JUSTIFY: _____

PASSAGE 4 · JUDICIAL PROSE · A DISSENT ON FREE SPEECH

Q 16–20 | 5 Qs · 6 MIN · 1.2 MIN/Q

DISSENTING OPINION · CONSTITUTIONAL BENCH

It is not, with respect, an answer to say that the prohibition is narrow. The narrowness of a restriction tells us how much it forbids; it does not tell us whether the forbidding was permissible to begin with. To meet the constitutional standard, the State must show not only that the burden it has imposed is small, but that the burden it has imposed is necessary, and that no less restrictive means stood available. Of these three showings, two have been attempted and one has been left unmade. I would, accordingly, hold that the impugned provision is unconstitutional, and decline to read it down.

Q16. The tone of the passage is best described as:

(A) openly indignant and accusatory

(B) satirical

(C) informal and conversational

(D) judicially measured but firmly reasoned

JUSTIFY: _____

Q17. The phrase 'with respect' performs which of the following functions?

(A) marks judicial courtesy while preparing a strong disagreement

(B) indicates the author's uncertainty

(C) introduces an aside unrelated to the holding

(D) concedes the majority's position outright

JUSTIFY: _____

Q18. The author's attitude towards the State's burden of justification is that it has been:

(A) wrongly imposed by the Court

(B) fully discharged

(C) partially discharged, with one essential element missing

(D) abandoned by the State

JUSTIFY: _____

Q19. The closing sentence ('I would, accordingly...') signals a tone that is:

(A) tentative and exploratory

(B) concluded and decided, without theatricality

(C) emotionally aggrieved

(D) disengaged

JUSTIFY: _____

Q20. Closest in meaning to 'impugned' as used in the passage:

(A) interpreted by the Court

(B) drafted by the Court

(C) challenged before the Court

(D) praised by the Court

JUSTIFY: _____

NARRATIVE HISTORY · TWENTIETH CENTURY

The city, in those first months, did not look like a city that had lost half its people. The streets were full; the markets were full; the schools, when they reopened, were also full. What was missing was not bodies. What was missing was the unhurried, shared assumption that the next conversation, on the next corner, would be in the language one had grown up speaking. The city did not mourn what it had lost in the manner of a single event. It absorbed, slowly, over the years that followed, the shape of an absence whose outline only its older residents could still draw.

Q21. The dominant tone of the passage is:

- (A) satirically detached
- (B) didactically instructive
- (C) polemical
- (D) nostalgically sombre

JUSTIFY: _____

Q22. The author's attitude towards the city's apparent fullness is best described as:

- (A) relieved approval
- (B) unsentimental observation that fullness can disguise loss
- (C) amused contradiction
- (D) scientific neutrality

JUSTIFY: _____

Q23. The phrase 'the shape of an absence' is best read as:

- (A) an accusation against later residents
- (B) the literal architectural changes after partition
- (C) an abstract figure for the unrecorded weight of communal loss
- (D) a complaint about depopulation statistics

JUSTIFY: _____

Q24. The repeated 'were full' in the second sentence is used to:

- (A) set up, by contrast, the deeper kind of loss the author then names
- (B) establish a celebratory tone
- (C) argue that the loss was overstated
- (D) assert the success of post-partition recovery

JUSTIFY: _____

Q25. Closest in meaning to 'unhurried' as used here:

- (A) ceremonial
- (B) lazy or careless
- (C) calmly settled, taken-for-granted
- (D) interrupted

JUSTIFY: _____

PASSAGE 6 · SATIRE · ON THE LAUNCH OF A PUBLIC WORKS SCHEME

Q 26–30 | 5 Qs · 6 MIN · 1.2 MIN/Q

OPINION COLUMN · WEEKLY MAGAZINE

The scheme was launched, as such schemes are always launched, with three speeches, two ribbons and a website. The website, we were told, would allow any citizen to track the progress of any project from any village in real time. By 'real time,' it was clarified later in the press note, was meant time as it is experienced in the office of the implementing agency, which is somewhat slower than the time experienced in the village. By 'any citizen' was meant any citizen with a working internet connection, which excluded only the citizens the scheme had been designed for. The launch was otherwise a complete success.

Q26. The tone of the passage is best described as:

- (A) deadpan satirical
- (B) sombre
- (C) academically analytical
- (D) earnestly appreciative

JUSTIFY: _____

Q27. The closing sentence ('The launch was otherwise a complete success.') achieves its effect by:

- (A) calmly affirming success after the previous sentences have demolished it
- (B) offering a balanced verdict
- (C) openly praising the launch
- (D) sincerely conceding the launch's strengths

JUSTIFY: _____

Q28. The repeated 'By X was meant Y' construction is used to:

- (A) clarify technical terminology
- (B) expose, through mock-clarification, the gap between promise and delivery
- (C) argue for better drafting in press notes
- (D) instruct the reader in policy vocabulary

JUSTIFY: _____

Q29. The author's attitude towards the scheme's intended beneficiaries is:

- (A) dismissive of their interests
- (B) quietly sympathetic, since they are precisely the people excluded
- (C) neutral and uninvolved
- (D) openly contemptuous

JUSTIFY: _____

Q30. Closest in meaning to 'somewhat' as used in the passage:

- (A) approximately
- (B) occasionally
- (C) entirely
- (D) considerably, with deliberate understatement

JUSTIFY: _____

PASSAGE 7 · MEMOIR · A FIRST JOB IN A SMALL TOWN

Q 31–35 | 5 Qs · 6 MIN · 1.2 MIN/Q

The newspaper was housed in two rooms above a tailor. The owner, who was also the editor, met me on a wooden chair in the smaller of the two rooms and asked, without looking up from the typewriter, what I thought I could do that the previous boy had not done. I said I would arrive on time. He said the previous boy had said the same thing, and he had been wrong. I was given a desk by the window, a typewriter that worked on three of its keys, and the obituary column, which was, he explained, the only column the readers actually read. I stayed for four years. I have not, since, written for an editor who taught me as much.

Q31. The dominant tone of the passage is:

- (A) warmly affectionate, with self-deprecating humour
 (B) polemical
 (C) academically neutral
 (D) bitter and resentful

JUSTIFY: _____

Q32. The author's attitude towards the editor is best described as:

- (A) openly critical
 (B) condescending
 (C) respectful and grateful, in retrospect
 (D) indifferent

JUSTIFY: _____

Q33. The detail of 'a typewriter that worked on three of its keys' functions to:

- (A) criticise the editor
 (B) warn other apprentices
 (C) complain about working conditions
 (D) establish, with affectionate exaggeration, the modesty of the operation

JUSTIFY: _____

Q34. The closing sentence ('I have not, since...') is best read as:

- (A) an attack on the author's later employers
 (B) a polite formality
 (C) a settled judgement of the editor's worth, delivered without flourish
 (D) an aside unrelated to the rest of the passage

JUSTIFY: _____

Q35. Closest in meaning to 'modesty' as implied by the description of the office:

- (A) smallness of scale and resources
 (B) reserve in personal manner
 (C) shyness in conversation
 (D) humility of bearing

JUSTIFY: _____

PASSAGE 8 · POLICY COMMENTARY · ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Q 36-40 | 5 Qs · 6 MIN · 1.2 MIN/Q

LONG-FORM ESSAY · LAW REVIEW

The case for changing the present method does not rest on any single bad appointment. It rests on the simpler and more uncomfortable fact that the present method has no way of explaining itself. Asked why a particular judge was preferred over another, the system replies, in effect, that the question is not properly asked. A process which produces good outcomes by accident is not a process: it is a custom whose results we have learned to live with. We can continue to live with it. We can also, if we choose, build a method that can answer the citizen who asks. Until we have done so, the case for reform is not a luxury. It is owed.

Q36. The dominant tone of the passage is:

- (A) analytically detached
 (B) persuasive with a polemical edge
 (C) elegiac
 (D) playfully ironic

JUSTIFY: _____

Q37. The author's attitude towards the present method of appointments is that it is:

- (A) indefensible because it cannot explain itself, regardless of outcomes
 (B) indefensible only because it produces poor judges
 (C) best left to evolve on its own
 (D) broadly defensible, if imperfect

JUSTIFY: _____

Q38. The shift between the fourth sentence ('A process which...') and the closing sentences is a movement from:

- (A) narrative to anecdote
 (B) praise to neutrality
 (C) definition to recommendation
 (D) recommendation to qualification

JUSTIFY: _____

Q39. The phrase 'It is owed' carries a tone that is:

- (A) tentatively suggestive
 (B) admonitory and morally weighted
 (C) comically exaggerated
 (D) factually descriptive

JUSTIFY: _____

Q40. Closest in meaning to 'custom' as used in the passage:

- (A) a written legal rule
 (B) a designed and accountable procedure
 (C) a settled habit followed without justification
 (D) a single ceremonial act

JUSTIFY: _____