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TEST BOOKLET  
**GENERAL STUDIES**  
**Paper - II**

Test Time Allowed : (02:00PM to 04:00PM) 2 Hours

Maximum Marks : 200

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number and Test Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/ discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **80 items** (questions). Each item is printed in **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark 'all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. **All** items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take this Test Booklet with you.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **Penalty for wrong answers :**  
**THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN ALL THE QUESTIONS.**
  - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer is given by the candidate, one-third of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
  - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
  - (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

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## UPSC - CSAT - COMPREHENSION QUESTION PAPER

Directions for the following 8 (eight) items:

Read the following six passages and answer the items that follow. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

### Passage: 1

The burgeoning crisis of electronic waste (e-waste) in India is exacerbated by the swift expansion of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector and the escalating obsolescence of electronic devices. As the world's third-largest e-waste producer, India churns out a staggering 2 million tons annually, with computer devices constituting a substantial 70%. Despite the inherent potential for reuse, refurbishment, or recycling, an alarming 95% of e-waste undergoes illicit recycling orchestrated by informal waste pickers. This clandestine recycling employs rudimentary methods, unleashing toxic pollutants and thereby imposing severe health and environmental hazards. While the government has enacted e-waste management regulations, their effective implementation remains a formidable challenge.

1. What is the primary concern highlighted in the passage?

- (a) The inefficiency of government regulations in managing e-waste.
- (b) The overwhelming volume of e-waste generated by the ICT sector.
- (c) The insufficient potential for reuse and recycling of electronic devices.
- (d) The adverse health and environmental consequences of informal e-waste recycling.

### Passage: 2

These days, the term Artificial Intelligence (AI) seems to be everywhere. The public has come to view it with mixed perceptions. On one side, it is a problem-solver: AI has helped in monitoring heart problems and eye conditions and offered treatment options; AI predicts protein structure and aids in the development of new drug molecules. Likewise, it predicts cyclones, monsoon strengths, etc. On the dark side are fears that jobs may be lost to thinking machines that work 24/7 and do not need a Diwali vacation, and may intrude on your privacy and misuse your data. But nobody doubts that AI will help us in addressing large-scale problems that require the analysis of huge data. As India's development gathers momentum, we are faced with the eventuality of resource limitations. We may need much more than we have.

2. Which one of the following statements best implies the most rational assumption that can be made from the passage?

- (a) The positive applications of AI in healthcare and environmental predictions outweigh the concerns about job loss and privacy invasion.
- (b) The public's mixed perceptions of AI stem from a lack of understanding of its potential benefits and the inevitable resource limitations in India's development.
- (c) The fears about job loss and privacy invasion are unwarranted as AI is primarily a problem-solving tool focused on addressing large-scale problems.
- (d) The potential resource limitations in India's development highlight the need for AI to play a crucial role in overcoming challenges and addressing data analysis needs.

**Passage:3**

Gaganyaan is the name of the ISRO mission to send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit for a short duration, onboard an Indian launch vehicle. Technically, it is a demonstration mission: it will test various technologies required for human spaceflight, which remains the most complicated form of spaceflight, and demonstrate India's familiarity with their production, qualification, and use. Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "directed" ISRO to have an indigenous space station by 2035 and land an Indian on the moon by 2040. While its most recent missions have reinforced ISRO's reputation as a reliable launch provider also capable of flying sophisticated interplanetary missions, including Chandrayaan-3, the two new goals are technologically even more ambitious. Further, ISRO will attempt to execute them together with future moon missions. Chandrayaan-3 concluded the first phase of ISRO's lunar exploration programme.

3. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?
- (a) Gaganyaan is a demonstration mission testing technologies for human spaceflight, and ISRO has ambitious goals of a space station by 2035 and a lunar landing by 2040.
  - (b) Chandrayaan-3 concludes the first phase of ISRO's lunar exploration program, marking the culmination of its recent missions.
  - (c) ISRO's reputation as a reliable launch provider is enhanced by Gaganyaan, which also serves as a precursor to Chandrayaan-3 and future lunar missions.
  - (d) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directive for an indigenous space station and lunar landing is unrelated to ISRO's ongoing and future missions, including Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan-3.

**Passage:4**

India's soft power epitomizes the capacity to exert influence through allure and magnetism, employing non-coercive modalities. The reservoir of India's soft power emanates from its opulent cultural legacy, multifarious traditions, time-honored history, and seminal contributions spanning art, literature, music, cinema, yoga, spirituality, and gastronomy. This formidable soft power arsenal facilitates India's adept navigation of cultural diplomacy, a strategic deployment of cultural assets to construct intercontinental bridges, cultivate mutual comprehension, and elevate its international standing and sway. The nuanced interplay of India's soft power and cultural diplomacy serves as a linchpin for the cultivation of goodwill, the attraction of trade and investments, the orchestration of agreements and communicative exchanges, and the adept outreach to a global audience, thereby cementing India's indomitable presence on the international stage.

4. Consider the following assumptions based on the passage:
- 1. India's soft power is primarily derived from coercive modalities.
  - 2. The interplay of India's soft power and cultural diplomacy has minimal impact on international goodwill.
- Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Passage:5**

The Khelo India mission has contributed significantly to India's glorious moments in international events including the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Since 2018, both the participation of Khelo India athletes and their returns from global events have shown an upward trajectory. In 2022, 495 Khelo India athletes won 312 medals, with close to 63% of athletes returning with a medal. In 2018, 92 athletes won 82 medals. Several sportspersons have taken up coaching as a career. Our system boasts of top coaches who keep producing results. In December 2022, many of them were promoted to high-performance coaches in the Sports Authority of India training centres and the National Centres of Excellence.

5. What is the most logical assumption that can be made from the passage given above?
- (a) The success of Khelo India athletes in international events is solely attributed to the coaching provided by the top coaches in the system.
  - (b) The Khelo India mission has significantly improved the infrastructure and training facilities for athletes in India.
  - (c) The promotion of coaches to high-performance roles indicates a shortage of qualified coaches in the Sports Authority of India training centres and National Centres of Excellence.
  - (d) The number of medals won by Khelo India athletes has steadily increased each year since the inception of the program.

**Passage:6**

Archaeology, the meticulous study of ancient civilizations, plays a pivotal role in unearthing the enigmatic chronicles of human history. Delving into the abyss of time, it deciphers the vestiges of bygone eras, offering profound insights into the cultural and societal constructs that shaped our ancestors' lives. This scholarly pursuit not only enriches our understanding of historical human behavior and evolution but also fosters an appreciation for the diversity and complexity of past human experiences. Through the rigorous analysis of artifacts, archaeologists unravel the intricate tapestry of humanity's odyssey, preserving it for future generations. Hence, archaeology is indispensable in constructing a comprehensive narrative of mankind's heritage and ensuring its perpetuity.

6. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the author of the passage?
- (a) Archaeology is a futile endeavor that contributes to our understanding of ancient civilizations.
  - (b) The study of ancient civilizations through archaeology offers superficial insights into human history and societal constructs.
  - (c) Archaeology is indispensable in unraveling the enigmatic chronicles of human history and providing profound insights into cultural and societal constructs.
  - (d) The analysis of artifacts by archaeologists is trivial and contributes significantly to constructing a comprehensive narrative of mankind's history.

**Passage:7**

In India, the burgeoning exigency for sustainable and renewable energy sources is palpably evident. Solar energy, with its inexhaustible supply and minimal environmental impact, stands at the forefront of this green revolution. Harnessing the sun's prodigious power offers a panacea to the nation's escalating energy demands while simultaneously mitigating the deleterious effects of fossil fuel dependency. The proliferation of photovoltaic installations across India's vast topography exemplifies solar energy's pivotal role in propelling the country towards a more resilient and ecologically harmonious future.

7. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crucial message conveyed by the author of the passage?
- (a) Solar energy's potential in India's energy landscape is limited and cannot adequately address the nation's growing energy demands.
  - (b) Fossil fuel dependency is unavoidable, and renewable energy sources like solar energy offer minimal benefits to India's energy needs.
  - (c) Solar energy plays a pivotal role in meeting India's energy demands while simultaneously mitigating the negative effects of fossil fuel dependency.
  - (d) The increase in photovoltaic installations across India's topography is insignificant in the context of transitioning towards renewable energy sources.

**Passage:8**

Festivals in India serve as an emblematic tapestry of the nation's rich cultural mosaic, fostering communal harmony and spiritual upliftment. These vibrant celebrations are a testament to the country's historical legacies and religious pluralism, offering a platform for social cohesion and jubilant reprieve from the quotidian. They invigorate local economies through tourism and craft industries, while also acting as custodians of age-old traditions and folkloric heritage. In essence, Indian festivals are a confluence of ritualistic fervor and collective joy, epitomizing the ethos of unity in diversity.

8. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?
- (a) Indian festivals are primarily cultural events that promote economic growth and communal harmony.
  - (b) Indian festivals symbolize the country's diverse cultural heritage and are vital for fostering unity among communities.
  - (c) The main purpose of Indian festivals is to provide a platform for social and economic activities, with emphasis on history.
  - (d) Indian festivals are historical celebrations that have relevance in modern society.

Directions for the following 8 (eight) items:  
Read the following six passages and answer the items that follow. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage:1

The prominence of women in Indian sports is a testament to their indefatigable spirit and tenacity. Their participation has not only shattered long-standing gender stereotypes but also catalyzed social transformation. Women athletes have become paragons of empowerment, inspiring legions with their prowess and resilience. Their achievements have galvanized a nation, fostering a culture that venerates inclusivity and equality in sports. The impact of their contributions transcends the confines of the field, engendering a legacy that will embolden future generations of Indian women to pursue their athletic ambitions unapologetically.

9. What inference can be most logically and rationally drawn from the passage regarding the prominence of women in Indian sports?
- (a) Women athletes face fewer challenges and obstacles compared to their male counterparts in achieving success.
  - (b) The societal perception of women's roles in sports has evolved positively, leading to increased opportunities and recognition.
  - (c) Women's participation in sports has had a negligible impact on societal norms and gender stereotypes.
  - (d) The achievements of women athletes in Indian sports have sparked a nationwide movement towards gender equality and inclusivity.

Passage: 2

Indian cinema, with its rich tapestry of stories drawn from a plethora of cultural nuances, serves as an eminent envoy of India's vibrant heritage globally. The eclectic array of films, ranging from the colorful musicals of Bollywood to the poignant narratives of regional cinema, encapsulates the ethos of the nation. They not only entertain but also educate international audiences about the multifaceted Indian society. Through the lens of Indian movies, viewers are invited to explore the intricate dance of tradition and modernity that characterizes contemporary India. Thus, these cinematic creations play a pivotal role in bridging cultural chasms and fostering global camaraderie.

10. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- 1. Indian cinema primarily focuses on entertaining audiences rather than educating them about Indian society.
- 2. The diverse range of Indian films represents the complexity and diversity of Indian culture.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) Indian cinema is solely focused on Bollywood musicals and ignores regional cinema.
- (b) Indian cinema plays a crucial role in representing India's cultural richness and educating global audiences.
- (c) Indian cinema struggles to bridge cultural gaps and lacks global appeal.
- (d) Indian cinema prioritizes entertainment over cultural representation and global camaraderie.

**Passage:3**

The arts and humanities, encompassing a myriad of disciplines including literature, history, and visual arts, are quintessential to the enrichment of the human experience. They serve as a conduit for expressing the multifaceted nature of human emotion, encapsulating the profundity of our existence. Through these mediums, individuals can explore the vast landscapes of human culture and intellectual heritage. They foster critical thinking, empathy, and an appreciation for diversity and complexity in thought and form. In essence, the arts and humanities are not mere luxuries but are fundamental to our cognitive and social development, nurturing the soul and invigorating the mind.

12. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The arts and humanities foster critical thinking and empathy.
2. The arts and humanities are fundamental to cognitive and social development.
3. The arts and humanities contribute to the enrichment of the human intelligence.
4. The arts and humanities are primarily focused on technical skills and emotional intelligence

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- (a) 1, 2, and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Passage: 4**

Anthropocentrism, the philosophical viewpoint asserting human beings as the central element of reality, posits that all environmental and ethical considerations are judged through a human-centered framework. This doctrine elevates humanity's interests above all ecological concerns, often leading to a disregard for the intrinsic value of nature. Critics argue that such a perspective engenders an exploitative relationship with the Earth, fostering unsustainable practices that imperil planetary health. Proponents, however, contend that anthropocentrism pragmatically acknowledges human primacy in decision-making processes. Despite its contentious nature, this paradigm compels a profound interrogation of our environmental responsibilities and the potential for a more symbiotic coexistence with nature.

13. Which one of the following statements most likely reflects what the author of the passage intends to say?

- (a) Anthropocentrism is an ethical viewpoint that prioritizes human interests over environmental concerns.
- (b) Critics of anthropocentrism argue that it promotes a harmonious relationship with nature.
- (c) Proponents of anthropocentrism believe it leads to exploitative practices and environmental degradation.
- (d) Anthropocentrism prompts a critical examination of human responsibilities toward the environment and the possibility of a mutually beneficial relationship with nature.

Passage:5

The Romantic era, an epoch of profound artistic and intellectual expansion, burgeoned from the late 18th to mid-19th century. It eschewed the rigid confines of preceding neoclassicism, fostering an exaltation of emotion and individualism. Proponents like Wordsworth and Coleridge championed nature's sublimity and the primacy of personal experience. Romanticism's hallmark was its fervent embrace of the ineffable, the mystical, and the transcendental. It extolled the virtues of the pastoral over the urban, and sought solace in the idyllic and bucolic. This period also witnessed a heightened valorization of the heroic individual, often manifested in literature that delved into inner struggles and conflicts.

14. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The Romantic era's emphasis on nature's sublimity and personal experience was a reaction against the industrialization and urbanization of the time.
2. Romantic literature's exploration of inner struggles and conflicts reflects a collective societal desire for introspection and self-understanding.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Passage:6

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) in India plays a crucial role in the nation's security apparatus, with a mandate to counter terrorism and transnational crimes with precision and efficiency. Endowed with significant autonomy and investigatory prowess, the NIA acts as a bulwark against threats to national cohesion, swiftly addressing intricate challenges that transcend borders. Its comprehensive approach encompasses intelligence gathering, meticulous analysis, and strategic cooperation with domestic and international entities, exemplifying a model of proactive deterrence. By leveraging advanced technologies and forensic methodologies thoughtfully, the NIA stands steadfast as a guardian of justice, safeguarding the nation's interests with unwavering determination.

15. Which one of the following statements best implies the most rational assumptions that can be made from the passage?

- (a) The NIA's significant autonomy and investigatory prowess allow it to single-handedly eradicate terrorism and transnational crimes without the need for collaboration with other law enforcement agencies.
- (b) The NIA's role extends beyond national borders, indicating that it primarily focuses on combating international threats rather than addressing domestic security concerns.
- (c) The passage suggests that the NIA's proactive deterrence model relies heavily on advanced technologies and forensic methodologies, implying a strong emphasis on modern investigative techniques for combating security threats.
- (d) The NIA's comprehensive approach involves close cooperation with both domestic and international entities, indicating that collaborative efforts are essential in effectively countering terrorism and transnational crimes.



Passage:7

Over 1991–2011, the economy grew at an annual average rate of 6.8 per cent. Though significantly higher than the period before, the aggregate figure hides some important aspects. The GDP grew at a little over 6 per cent in the 1990s, but accelerated to slightly over 7 per cent in the first half of the 2000s and then further to a little over 8 per cent for 2006–12. The post reform churn very quickly corrected itself and the economy appeared to be on a high-growth path by the middle of 1990s, but the acceleration in growth was hit in the second half of the 1990s.

16. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) India's economy experienced consistent growth throughout the period from 1991 to 2011, leading to significant advancements in various sectors.
- (b) India's economic growth showed fluctuations over the years from 1991 to 2011, with notable accelerations and slowdowns in different periods.
- (c) The post-reform era in India saw rapid corrections and an acceleration in economic growth, particularly from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s.
- (d) Despite facing challenges, India's economic growth remained stable and steady, contributing positively to national development goals.

Passage:8

Economic inequality is widespread, to some extent inevitable, and always at the center of debates about how societies should be organized. The unexpected COVID crisis illustrates this clearly. It has shut down large sectors of the economy, depriving many of their livelihood. Yet in many countries, compensatory income support systems were set in place very quickly, demonstrating the great power of societies, through their governments, to alleviate inequality and to avoid social and political catastrophes.

17. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) Economic inequality is an inherent and unchangeable aspect of society that cannot be addressed effectively.
- (b) The COVID crisis has highlighted the resilience of societies in implementing swift measures to mitigate economic inequality and prevent social and political crises.
- (c) Compensatory income support systems have failed to address economic inequality adequately, leading to widespread social and political unrest.
- (d) Societies are powerless in addressing economic inequality, and governments' efforts to alleviate it are often ineffective.

18. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Economic inequality is a complex issue that requires swift and effective governmental interventions.
2. The COVID crisis has exacerbated economic inequality and made it more difficult for societies to address.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Directions for the following 7 (Seven) items: Read the following six passages and answer the items that follow. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage: 1

In the past decade, the R&D capabilities of the Indian auto industry have increased significantly. Interviews with senior R&D executives bring out the changing nature of R&D in India from adaptive to application engineering and product development. There are, however, no incentives to undertake basic research activities in the Indian auto industry, as there is no market demand for the same. Prior to 2000, R&D intensity was negligible among the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and component categories, gradually increasing to around 1 per cent of turnover in 2010 and 6 per cent in 2016 among the OEMs.

19. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the author of the passage?

(a) The Indian auto industry has shown a steady increase in basic research activities due to market demand.

(b) R&D intensity among Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and component categories in India has remained constant over the past decade.

(c) The focus of R&D in the Indian auto industry has shifted towards application engineering and product development, driven by changing capabilities.

(d) There are significant incentives in place for basic research activities within the Indian auto industry, leading to a surge in R&D intensity.

**Passage:2**

Educational institutions serve as luminaries of knowledge, casting light upon the path to advancement and empowerment. In the remote hamlets of India's expansive rural expanse, schools are not mere edifices of bricks and mortar; they stand as the very nucleus of metamorphosis. These bastions of learning impart not only scholarly erudition but also sow the seeds of societal metamorphosis and economic progress. They arm the youth with the instruments to transcend the constraints of their geographical seclusion, cultivating a cohort that is enlightened, adept, and capable of guiding their community towards a more radiant tomorrow. The existence of a school in these isolated villages resembles a fountain of optimism, nurturing intellects and nurturing aspirations, one lesson after another.

20. Which one of the following statements implies the most rational assumption that can be made from the passage?

- (a) Educational institutions in rural areas primarily focus on academic excellence.
- (b) Schools in remote villages play a crucial role in societal transformation and economic development.
- (c) The geographical seclusion of villages hinders the progress of educational institutions.
- (d) The existence of schools in isolated villages has no significant impact on the intellectual development of the youth.

**Passage:3**

Steeped in abject poverty and food scarcity at the time of Independence, India had to lay the foundations of a vigorous industry, which would catapult us into the future, and simultaneously ensure that the most basic necessities of our citizens were met. Exacerbating our woes was the fact that the major bulk of our populace subsisted solely on agriculture and animal husbandry, thus making their modernisation vital. Establishing a host of agricultural universities soon after Independence, we embarked on the quest to modernise our farming and livestock rearing practices, hoping to retrieve them from the depths of antiquity.

21. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) India's agricultural universities were established primarily to promote traditional farming practices.
- (b) The modernization of agriculture and animal husbandry in post-Independence India aimed to address economic challenges and improve living standards.
- (c) India's agricultural sector has remained stagnant since Independence, leading to persistent food scarcity and poverty.
- (d) India's focus on modernization after Independence neglected the basic needs of its citizens, leading to increased poverty levels.

Passage: 4

Hydropower cooperation is the bedrock of India's relations with Bhutan. Several cooperative hydroprojects have been completed and commissioned by the two governments which supply clean electricity to India and provide Thimphu with a stream of revenue due to which it has graduated out of the Least Developed Country status. The delayed Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project is expected to be completed in 2024 — yet another successful example of the government-to-government model of cooperation in hydropower.

22. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Hydropower cooperation between India and Bhutan primarily benefits Bhutan economically.
2. Completion of cooperative hydropower projects has no impact on India's electricity supply.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

23. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) Hydropower cooperation between India and Bhutan has led to increased geopolitical tensions.
- (b) The completion of cooperative hydropower projects signifies successful government-to-government cooperation and mutual benefits.
- (c) Bhutan's graduation from Least Developed Country status is solely due to internal economic reforms.
- (d) The Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project is an example of India's dominance in the region.

Passage: 5

The Environment Ministry has introduced rules that make it harder for makers of disposable plastic ware to label such products as 'biodegradable', introducing a stipulation that they must not leave any microplastics behind. Biodegradable plastic and compostable plastic are projected as the two broad kinds of technological fixes to India's burgeoning problem of plastic waste pollution. Biodegradable plastic involves plastic goods being treated before they are sold. Compostable plastics, on the other hand, do degrade but require industrial or large municipal waste management facilities to do so.

24. Which one of the following statements best reflects what is implied by the passage?

- (a) The Environment Ministry's rules aim to promote the use of biodegradable plastic over compostable plastic.
- (b) Biodegradable plastic is more environmentally friendly than compostable plastic due to its easier degradation process.
- (c) Both biodegradable and compostable plastics are viable solutions to India's plastic waste pollution issue, albeit with different requirements for degradation.
- (d) Compostable plastics are more effective in reducing microplastic pollution compared to biodegradable plastics, according to the passage.

Passage: 6

In the pyramidal structure of the squaring of debts, the central bank has a critical role to play as clearing house at the pinnacle. The function of clearing house as a last resort would be an appropriate point to introduce digital payments into the discussion. The furor and confusion around Bitcoin and the evident volatility generated by that medium of exchange is another motivation. A characteristic of digital currencies is that unlike banknotes and coins, the settlement is not concluded by the simple movement of the instrument initiated by one set of fingers to another. A ledger or a record-keeping system must be in place to establish property rights in the instrument.

25. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The central bank's role in the pyramidal structure of squaring debts is primarily focused on promoting digital payments.
2. Bitcoin's volatility has led to a decline in the use of digital currencies in financial transactions.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

26. Which of the following statements encapsulates the main idea conveyed in the passage?

- (a) Digital payments have simplified the settlement process, reducing the need for a clearing house.
- (b) The central bank's role in overseeing digital payments has heightened due to the complexities of blockchain technology.
- (c) The introduction of digital currencies like Bitcoin has eliminated the need for ledger-based record-keeping systems.
- (d) The passage emphasizes the importance of a clearing house and highlights the complexities associated with digital currencies in financial transactions.

Passage: 7

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the value of all goods and services produced in an economy over a year, minus the value of goods and services needed to produce them, called intermediary production. Since its conceptual development in the 1940s, GDP has been criticized for its many limitations: it is blind to environmental degradation, it poorly captures variations in human well-being, and ignores inequality. Therefore, increases in GDP by no means indicate that the overall standards of living in a country are improving. This has led over the years to the creation of several alternative indicators, including the Human Development Index, which factors in education and healthcare, and GDP indicators that factor in environmental degradation.

27. Which one of the following statements best reflects what is implied by the passage?

- (a) GDP is an accurate measure of a country's overall standards of living.
- (b) GDP adequately accounts for environmental degradation and inequality.
- (c) The limitations of GDP have led to the development of alternative indicators that consider factors like education, healthcare, and environmental impact.
- (d) GDP is a comprehensive measure that captures variations in human well-being effectively.

Directions for the following 6(Six) items:

Read the following six passages and answer the items that follow. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage: 1

In contemporary Indian society, there is a noticeable shift in family structures with a weakening of crucial connections between children and their families. This in turn impacts a child's ability to engage with their relatives. Various factors influence a child's development within the Indian context, in turn affecting social relationships. The lack of establishing strong bonds between parents and children becomes clear when parents impose their academic preferences on their child. Parental control, emotional detachment, and societal expectations contribute to the sidelining of a student's individual interests. As a result, students grapple with the hurdle of meeting parental standards, especially when they have no innate interest in the subject or course forced upon them.

28. On the basis of the following passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

- 1. Parents' imposition of academic preferences significantly impacts a child's ability to engage with relatives.
- 2. Emotional detachment between parents and children leads to a lack of strong bonds, affecting a child's social relationships.
- 3. Societal expectations play a key role in sidelining a student's individual interests, causing them to struggle with meeting parental standards.

Which of the assumptions are valid?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Passage: 2

The Department of Mines of the Union Ministry of Steel and Mines has decided to step up the production of coal without paying too much attention to the day-to-day wagon availability. The Department seems to feel that unless it goes ahead with the task of stepping up coal production, it will never be able to achieve the targeted 95 million tonnes during 1974-75. But it is not known what alternative plans the Ministry has worked out to ensure against accumulation of pithead stocks of coal resulting from any disruption in railway movement.

29. Which one of the following statements best implies the most rational assumption that can be made from the passage?

- (a) The Ministry of Steel and Mines has meticulously planned alternative strategies to mitigate any potential disruptions in railway movement.
- (b) The Department of Mines prioritizes achieving its production targets over ensuring day-to-day wagon availability.
- (c) The Ministry of Steel and Mines is primarily concerned with preventing the accumulation of pithead stocks of coal.
- (d) The Department of Mines has already surpassed its targeted coal production of 95 million tonnes for 1974-75.

Passage: 3

Countries have exclusive rights up to 200 nautical miles, and its underlying seabed from their borders. Some ocean-bound states may have a natural stretch of land, connecting their border and the edge of the deep ocean that extends beyond this 200, as part of their so-called continental shelf. To claim so, however, a country must give a detailed scientific rationale, complete with underwater maps and surveys to show this unbroken land-connect to a scientific commission appointed by the International Seabed Authority. If such a claim is approved, then such a country will have primacy to explore and potentially exploit the living and non-living resources in the region.

30. Which of the following statements best reflects the logical inference from the passage given above?

- (a) All ocean-bound states automatically have exclusive rights to the resources beyond 200 nautical miles from their borders.
- (b) To claim rights to resources beyond 200 nautical miles, ocean-bound states must submit detailed scientific evidence to an international commission.
- (c) The International Seabed Authority automatically grants primacy to explore resources to any country that claims a continental shelf extension.
- (d) The passage implies that ocean-bound states need no scientific rationale to claim resources beyond 200 nautical miles.

Passage:4

India is witnessing an unprecedented construction boom, with over 3,00,000 housing units erected annually. This growth brings economic opportunities and improved living standards but also poses significant environmental challenges. The building sector, a major energy consumer, accounts for over 33% of India's electricity usage, contributing to environmental degradation and climate change. The India Cooling Action Plan forecasts an eight-fold increase in cooling demand between 2017 and 2037, emphasizing the need for thermal comfort while reducing active cooling demand. Addressing energy inefficiency in residential buildings is crucial, given India's rising energy and cooling demand due to economic growth, urbanisation, heat islands, and climate change. Initiatives like the Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS) and the Residential Energy Conservation Building Code are steps in the right direction.

31. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The construction boom in India leads to improved economic opportunities and living standards.
2. The construction sector in India is a significant contributor to environmental degradation and climate change.
3. Initiatives like the Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS) and the Residential Energy Conservation Building Code are ineffective in addressing energy inefficiency in residential buildings.
4. India's energy and cooling demand are rising primarily due to factors like economic growth, urbanization, and climate change

Which of the assumptions given below are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

32. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) India's construction boom is solely beneficial, without any negative environmental impacts.
- (b) India's construction boom brings both economic opportunities and environmental challenges, especially regarding energy efficiency and cooling demand.
- (c) Initiatives like the Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS) and the Residential Energy Conservation Building Code are ineffective in addressing India's energy and cooling demands.
- (d) India's energy and cooling demands are primarily driven by external factors and are not linked to the construction boom.

● Passage: 5

The century-old industry was established in Aligarh in the nineteenth century when the Governmental Postal Workshop was established; as a result, many artisans and entrepreneurs were attracted to the industry. Later on, many entrepreneurs established their firms under the broader classification as a cottage industry. Similarly, the government also helped in developing the industry by establishing the Government Metal Working School in the early 1930s. This industry witnessed a significant growth until the 1940s when it went through a very difficult time because of the global recession and the economic instability of nations involved in the Second World War.



33. Based on the above passage, consider the following assumptions:

1. The establishment of the Government Metal Working School in the 1930s contributed significantly to the growth of the industry.
2. The global recession and economic instability during the Second World War adversely affected the industry's growth.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

34. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) The establishment of the cottage industry in Aligarh in the nineteenth century led to a boom in the region's economy.
- (b) The Governmental Postal Workshop in Aligarh was solely responsible for the establishment of the metalworking industry.
- (c) The growth of the industry was hampered by global economic challenges during the 1940s.
- (d) The industry in Aligarh flourished continuously from its inception in the nineteenth century to the present day.

Passage: 6

Geologists at MIT and Oxford University have found ancient rocks in Greenland that bear the oldest remnants of the earth's early magnetic field. The researchers determined that the rocks are about 3.7 billion years old and retain signatures of a magnetic field with a strength of at least 15 microtesla. The ancient field is similar in magnitude to the earth's magnetic field today. The results of the study published in the Journal of Geophysical Research, represent some of the earliest evidence of a magnetic field surrounding the earth. Previous studies have shown evidence for a magnetic field on the earth that is at least 3.5 billion years old. The new study is extending the magnetic field's lifetime by another 200 million years.

35. Based on the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The rocks in Greenland are the only ones bearing remnants of the earth's early magnetic field.
2. The discovery of ancient rocks with remnants of the earth's early magnetic field provides significant insights into the earth's geological history.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

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