



Saidu Duraisamy's
Manidhanaeyam Free IAS Academy
(Run by Manidha Naeyam Charitable Trust)
28, 1st Main Road, CIT Nagar, Chennai - 35 (HO).
Mail Address: manidhanaeyam@gmail.com
Website: www.mntfreeias.com



TEST BOOKLET
GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER - II

Test Time Allowed :

Maximum Marks :

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.

UPSC - CSAT - COMPREHENSION QUESTION PAPER

Directions for the following 3 (three) items:
Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage: 1

The proliferation of colleges in India has been a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it has democratized higher education, making it accessible to a larger section of society and fostering a more educated workforce. This expansion has also spurred economic growth in tertiary sectors and increased the potential for research and innovation. On the other hand, the rapid increase has sometimes compromised educational standards, with not all institutions maintaining the requisite quality. Moreover, the oversupply of graduates in certain fields has led to unemployment and underemployment, highlighting the need for a more strategic approach to higher education expansion.

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

1. The rapid proliferation of colleges may lead to unemployment and underemployment in certain fields.
2. The expansion of colleges in India has solely positive effects, particularly on economic growth and education accessibility.

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

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

- (a) The proliferation of colleges in India has led to a decline in educational standards across the board.
- (b) The increase in the number of colleges has been detrimental to India's economic growth and innovation potential.
- (c) Higher education expansion in India is solely responsible for the country's unemployment issues.
- (d) While the proliferation of colleges in India has democratized education it has also resulted in challenges such as compromised quality and employment issues.

Passage: 2

Digitalization of government processes offers significant advantages, such as increased efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. It enables faster processing of applications and services, reduces paperwork, and allows for easy tracking of requests. Moreover, it facilitates data analysis for better policy-making. However, it also presents challenges, including the digital divide that may exclude non-tech-savvy citizens, potential privacy breaches, and cybersecurity threats. Additionally, the initial cost of implementing digital systems can be high, and there is a need for continuous updates and maintenance to keep up with technological advancements. Overall, while digitalization streamlines governance, it necessitates careful consideration of its implications.

3. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be drawn from the passage?

- (a) Governments should prioritize digitalization of processes without considering the challenges involved.
- (b) The benefits of digitalization in government processes outweigh the challenges associated with it.
- (c) Non-tech-savvy citizens are at a disadvantage due to digitalization, and governments should focus on addressing this issue.
- (d) The initial high cost and maintenance requirements of digital systems make digitalization in government processes impractical.

Passage: 3

Urbanization brings with it a mix of benefits and challenges. On the positive side, it often leads to better access to employment, healthcare, education, and cultural activities. Cities can foster innovation, economic growth, and social diversity. However, urbanization can also result in overcrowding, pollution, increased cost of living, and strain on infrastructure and resources. The disparity between the rich and the poor can be exacerbated, leading to social tensions. Sustainable urban planning is essential to mitigate these disadvantages and enhance the quality of life for all city dwellers.

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

- 1. Urbanization primarily brings about negative consequences such as overcrowding, pollution, and social tensions.
- 2. Sustainable urban planning is crucial for mitigating the challenges associated with urbanization.

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

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

- (a) Urbanization brings a mix of benefits and challenges, highlighting the need for sustainable urban planning.
- (b) Urbanization is solely beneficial as it provides better access to employment, healthcare, and education.
- (c) Urbanization exacerbates social tensions and should be limited to prevent overcrowding.
- (d) Sustainable urban planning is unnecessary as the benefits of urbanization outweigh any challenges.

UPSC - CSAT - COMPREHENSION QUESTION PAPER

Directions for the following 3 (three) items:
Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage: 1

The internet's proliferation among India's youth has been a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it has democratized information, providing access to a wealth of knowledge that can enhance learning and skill development. It has also fostered connectivity, allowing young people to communicate and collaborate across vast distances. On the other hand, concerns about internet addiction, privacy breaches, and exposure to inappropriate content have surfaced. Moreover, the digital divide remains a stark reality, with many youths in rural areas lacking adequate access. Thus, while the internet offers immense opportunities for growth, it also presents significant challenges that need to be addressed.

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

1. The internet has democratized information and enhanced learning opportunities.
2. Internet addiction and privacy breaches are not significant concerns among India's youth.
3. The digital divide is no longer a relevant issue due to the widespread use of the internet.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) 1 and 3

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

- (a) The internet has only positive impacts on India's youth, promoting learning and connectivity.
- (b) The internet's proliferation has led to both opportunities and challenges for India's youth.
- (c) The digital divide in India has been completely bridged due to widespread internet usage.
- (d) The internet is a tool that is only beneficial for urban youth, while rural youth face more challenges due to lack of access.

Passage: 2

The quintessence of a nation's prosperity lies in its ability to amalgamate technological advancements with sustainable practices. As industrialization burgeons, the concomitant exigency to mitigate environmental degradation becomes paramount. Policymakers must envisage a future where economic growth is symbiotic with ecological preservation. This necessitates an adroit balance between innovation and conservation, fostering a milieu where renewable resources supplant fossil fuels. The onus is on global leaders to promulgate stringent regulations, incentivize green technologies, and engender a paradigm shift towards a more sustainable and resilient future, thereby ensuring intergenerational equity and the perpetuation of natural capital.

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

- (a) Technological advancements are detrimental to sustainable practices, leading to environmental degradation.
- (b) Policymakers should prioritize economic growth over ecological preservation to ensure global competitiveness.
- (c) Global leaders should avoid stringent regulations and focus on exploiting fossil fuels for economic growth.
- (d) The prosperity of a nation hinges on integrating technological progress with sustainable measures, necessitating a balance between innovation and conservation.

Passage: 3

The vicissitudes of geopolitical dynamics underscore the imperative for robust diplomatic acumen in navigating complex international relations. As nation-states traverse the labyrinth of interdependence, strategic alliances and multilateral engagements become pivotal in fostering global stability. The dialectic between soft power projection and hard power diplomacy necessitates astute diplomatic maneuvering. Diplomats must adeptly navigate the geopolitical terrain, leveraging cultural diplomacy, economic incentives, and strategic alignments to foster harmonious international relations. In this milieu, the art of diplomacy emerges as a linchpin in promoting peace, fostering mutual understanding, and mitigating conflicts in an increasingly interconnected world.

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

- 1. Diplomatic acumen is primarily focused on wielding hard power in international relations.
- 2. Cultural diplomacy and strategic alignments play a crucial role in fostering harmonious international relations.

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

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

- (a) Geopolitical dynamics are too complex for effective diplomatic maneuvering, leading to global instability.
- (b) Diplomatic acumen is essential for navigating complex international relations and promoting peace through cultural diplomacy and strategic alliances.
- (c) Economic incentives are the primary driver of diplomatic engagements in the interconnected world.
- (d) Soft power projection is ineffective in fostering mutual understanding and mitigating conflicts among nation-states.

UPSC - CSAT - COMPREHENSION QUESTION PAPER

Directions for the following 3 (three) items:
Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage: 1

The obfuscation of truth in the digital age poses profound challenges to the veracity of information dissemination and the preservation of democratic principles. The proliferation of misinformation and disinformation engenders a climate of epistemic uncertainty, eroding trust in institutions and exacerbating societal polarization. Combatting this phenomenon necessitates a multifaceted approach encompassing media literacy, regulatory frameworks, and technological innovations. Stakeholders must collaborate to fortify the public discourse, cultivate critical thinking skills, and fortify the digital ecosystem against malevolent actors. Upholding the integrity of information dissemination is indispensable in safeguarding democratic values and fostering an informed citizenry capable of navigating the complexities of the modern information landscape.

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

1. Misinformation and disinformation are challenges unique to the digital age.
2. Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for combatting misinformation and preserving democratic values.

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

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

- (a) The digital age has made it easier to preserve the integrity of information dissemination.
- (b) The proliferation of misinformation has strengthened trust in institutions.
- (c) Combatting misinformation requires a multifaceted approach and collaborative efforts among stakeholders.
- (d) Upholding democratic values is not impacted by misinformation in the digital age.

Passage: 2

The exigencies of sustainable development necessitate a paradigm shift in economic models towards circularity and resource efficiency. The prevalent linear economy, characterized by extraction, production, consumption, and disposal, engenders resource depletion and environmental degradation. Transitioning to a circular economy entails rethinking production processes, designing products for longevity and recyclability, and embracing a cradle-to-cradle approach. This entails not only mitigating waste but also harnessing the economic potential of secondary resources. The imperative lies in fostering circularity as a cornerstone of economic resilience, environmental stewardship, and societal well-being, heralding a sustainable future for generations to come.

13. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most critical inference that can be made from the passage given above?

- (a) Circular economy models are primarily focused on reducing waste and environmental impact.
- (b) Transitioning to a circular economy requires a fundamental change in production processes and resource management.
- (c) The linear economy model is more efficient than the circular economy in terms of resource utilization.
- (d) Sustainable development can be achieved without transitioning to circular economy models.

Passage: 3

The ethos of social justice mandates a concerted effort to dismantle systemic inequities that perpetuate marginalization and hinder inclusive development. Addressing entrenched disparities requires multifaceted interventions spanning policy reform, equitable access to resources, and empowerment initiatives. By fostering an environment that champions diversity, equity, and inclusion, societies can harness the full potential of all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance. This necessitates a collective commitment to challenging ingrained biases, promoting social cohesion, and creating pathways for marginalized communities to thrive. Upholding principles of social justice is not only a moral imperative but also a catalyst for sustainable progress and societal harmony.

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

- 1. The ethos of social justice primarily focuses on moral imperatives rather than tangible interventions.
- 2. Multifaceted interventions are necessary to address systemic inequities and promote inclusive development.

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

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

- (a) Upholding principles of social justice requires challenging ingrained biases and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- (b) Social justice initiatives are solely focused on policy reform and neglect empowerment initiatives.
- (c) Social justice is achievable without addressing systemic inequities and promoting inclusive development.
- (d) The ethos of social justice is primarily a catalyst for societal harmony rather than sustainable progress.

*Directions for the following 3 (three) items:
Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.*

Passage: 1

The nexus between technology and ethics underscores the imperative for responsible innovation and digital governance in the 21st century. As advancements in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and digital infrastructure burgeon, ethical considerations become paramount in safeguarding human rights and dignity. Upholding principles of transparency, accountability, and privacy protection is essential in mitigating the risks of technological misuse and algorithmic biases. Stakeholders must collaborate to establish robust regulatory frameworks, ethical guidelines, and governance mechanisms that ensure technology serves the collective good while minimizing unintended consequences. Embracing an ethically-driven approach to technology is indispensable in fostering trust, promoting societal well-being, and navigating the complexities of our increasingly digitized world.

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

1. Ethical considerations become less important as technology advances.
2. The nexus between technology and ethics is not significant in the 21st century.
3. Collaboration among stakeholders is essential in establishing ethical guidelines for technology.

Which of the assumptions given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) 1 and 3

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

- (a) Ethical considerations are irrelevant in the digital age as there is no connection between them.
- (b) Collaboration and ethical governance are crucial in ensuring responsible innovation and digital advancement.
- (c) Technology should prioritize efficiency over ethical concerns.
- (d) Digital governance is solely the responsibility of governments and regulatory bodies.

Passage: 2

The confluence of globalization and cultural diversity presents both opportunities and challenges in shaping global identities and fostering intercultural understanding. As societies become more interconnected, the exchange of ideas, values, and traditions becomes ubiquitous, enriching collective knowledge and fostering cultural appreciation. However, this interplay also underscores the need for cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and dialogue to bridge cultural divides and mitigate potential conflicts. Embracing a cosmopolitan mindset entails valuing cultural pluralism, promoting intercultural education, and cultivating empathy across borders. By celebrating cultural diversity while promoting universal values of respect and inclusivity, societies can harness the transformative power of diversity to build a more cohesive and harmonious global community.

18. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most critical inference that can be made from the passage given above?

- (a) Globalization inevitably leads to the erosion of cultural diversity.
- (b) Intercultural understanding is best achieved through the imposition of universal cultural values.
- (c) Embracing cultural pluralism and fostering empathy are essential for building a harmonious global community.
- (d) The exchange of ideas and traditions across cultures has a negligible impact on collective knowledge and cultural appreciation.

Passage: 3

The trajectory of the Indian economy epitomizes a complex interplay of challenges and opportunities amidst global economic dynamics. Factors such as demographic dividends, technological advancements, and market liberalization have propelled India's growth narrative, positioning it as a key player in the global economic landscape. However, persistent issues such as income inequality, agrarian distress, and infrastructural bottlenecks necessitate comprehensive policy interventions. Embracing sustainable development models, enhancing digital infrastructure, and promoting inclusive growth are imperative to unleash India's full economic potential. Additionally, fostering entrepreneurship, attracting foreign investments, and prioritizing skill development can bolster economic resilience and navigate the evolving contours of global trade and finance.

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

- 1. The diverse range of economic factors influencing India's growth represents the complexity and dynamism of its economic landscape.
- 2. Indian economy primarily focuses on embracing sustainable development models rather than addressing income inequality.

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

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

- (a) India's economic trajectory is solely driven by technological advancements and ignores demographic dividends.
- (b) Indian economy plays a crucial role in navigating global economic dynamics and addressing internal challenges.
- (c) India's economic growth is hindered by infrastructural bottlenecks and lacks resilience in global trade.
- (d) Indian economy prioritizes attracting foreign investments over promoting inclusive growth and skill development.

Directions for the following 3 (three) items:
Read the following three passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage: 1

Tourism in India serves as a multifaceted catalyst, intricately weaving economic, cultural, and strategic tapestries. Its pivotal role transcends mere leisure, galvanizing economic resurgence through foreign exchange earnings, job creation, and infrastructural development. The symbiotic relationship between tourism and cultural heritage fosters global interconnectivity, augmenting India's soft power and diplomatic outreach. Moreover, it acts as a conduit for cross-cultural exchanges, promoting mutual understanding and fostering international goodwill. Strategically, tourism showcases India's diverse landscapes, historical legacies, and modern aspirations, amplifying its global allure. Harnessing this potential necessitates sustainable tourism practices, preserving natural ecosystems, and nurturing local communities, ensuring long-term socio-economic benefits while safeguarding India's rich heritage for generations to come.

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

1. Tourism in India primarily contributes to economic resurgence through foreign exchange earnings.
2. Tourism in India plays a key role in promoting international goodwill and mutual understanding.
3. Tourism in India solely focuses on job creation without considering infrastructural development.
4. Tourism in India has no impact on the preservation of natural ecosystems.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

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

- (a) Tourism in India is a transient phenomenon, offering limited benefits beyond short-term economic gains.
- (b) Tourism in India predominantly emphasizes economic growth at the expense of cultural and environmental considerations.
- (c) Tourism in India serves as a transformative force, intertwining economic prosperity, cultural exchange, strategic positioning, and sustainable practices.
- (d) Tourism in India has negligible impact on global interconnectivity and soft power projection, focusing primarily on domestic leisure activities.

Passage: 2

Deepfake technology presents a paradoxical landscape of benefits and pitfalls. Its prowess in seamlessly fabricating hyper-realistic digital content confers immense potential for innovation in entertainment and artistic realms, heralding a new era of visual storytelling. However, this cutting-edge technology also harbors insidious implications, fueling concerns about misinformation and deception. The facile manipulation of audiovisual data engenders a fertile ground for malicious intent, jeopardizing the sanctity of truth and authenticity. Moreover, the rampant proliferation of deepfakes threatens to erode public trust, exacerbating societal discord and undermining democratic institutions. The duality of deepfake technology underscores the imperative for stringent ethical frameworks and vigilant oversight to navigate its treacherous terrain effectively.

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

1. Deepfake technology has the potential to revolutionize the entertainment and artistic industries.
2. The proliferation of deepfakes poses a significant threat to the authenticity of information and public trust.

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

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

- (a) Deepfake technology is primarily beneficial for enhancing digital content without ethical concerns.
- (b) Deepfake technology presents both opportunities for innovation and challenges related to misinformation and trust.
- (c) Deepfake technology is a harmless tool for creating hyper-realistic visuals in entertainment.
- (d) Deepfake technology has negligible impact on societal trust and authenticity in information.

Passage: 3

The deleterious impact of conspiracy theories manifests in myriad societal afflictions, precipitating discord and eroding epistemic integrity. These pernicious narratives engender cognitive dissonance, subverting rational discourse and sowing seeds of distrust. Their insidious tendrils permeate social fabrics, fostering polarization and undermining cohesive narratives essential for collective progress. Moreover, they foment a climate of paranoia, corroding critical thinking faculties and promoting a culture of unfounded skepticism. This toxic brew of conjecture and misinformation corrodes societal cohesion, fracturing communities and impeding the pursuit of truth and enlightenment. Thus, conspiracy theories stand as anathema to intellectual rigor and societal harmony.

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

- (a) The prevalence of conspiracy theories often leads to a fracturing of communities and undermines the pursuit of truth and enlightenment.
- (b) Conspiracy theories are significant drivers in shaping societal narratives and fostering critical thinking.
- (c) Conspiracy theories, despite their negative connotations, contribute positively to fostering a culture of skepticism and intellectual rigor.
- (d) The impact of conspiracy theories on societal harmony is negligible, as they primarily serve to stimulate healthy debate and discourse.

Directions for the following 3 (three) items:

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

Passage: 1

The export industry of India wields a double-edged sword of repercussions, yielding both positive and negative ramifications. On the positive front, it catalyzes economic growth through bolstering foreign exchange reserves, fostering technological advancements, and enhancing global market integration. However, this economic behemoth also carries adverse effects, such as exacerbating income inequality, perpetuating resource depletion, and fueling environmental degradation. The export industry's profound impact on India's economy underscores the imperative for prudent policy frameworks, balancing economic gains with socio-environmental sustainability. Encouraging innovation, fostering responsible resource management, and advocating equitable wealth distribution are pivotal in harnessing the export sector's potential while mitigating its detrimental fallout.

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

1. India's export industry has a significant impact on technological advancements but does not address income inequality.
2. The export industry of India has both positive and negative consequences, necessitating a balanced policy approach.

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

27. Which one of the following statements best captures the essence of the passage?

- (a) India's export industry primarily benefits from technological advancements, neglecting economic growth.
- (b) The export industry exacerbates income inequality while fostering responsible resource management.
- (c) India's export industry has positive economic effects but needs careful policy frameworks to address negative repercussions.
- (d) The export industry focuses solely on bolstering foreign exchange reserves, disregarding environmental sustainability.

Passage: 2

Water pollution in India presents a dire quandary, exacerbated by industrial effluents, agricultural runoffs, and domestic waste. The Ganges, a sacrosanct river, bears the brunt of this environmental onslaught, festooned with a cacophony of pollutants such as heavy metals, pesticides, and plastics. Industrial discharges laden with noxious chemicals like mercury and cadmium saturate water bodies, wreaking havoc on aquatic ecosystems and jeopardizing public health. In rural hinterlands, unregulated agricultural practices unleash a deluge of fertilizers and pesticides, contaminating groundwater reserves. Mitigation measures, albeit implemented, often falter due to lax enforcement and inadequate infrastructure, leaving the aquatic realm in peril and underscoring the urgent need for stringent regulatory frameworks and sustainable practices.

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

1. Water pollution in India mainly stems from domestic waste rather than industrial effluents or agricultural runoffs.
2. The Ganges River remains relatively unaffected by water pollution compared to other water bodies in India.

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

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

- (a) The Ganges River is the only water body affected by water pollution in India.
- (b) Water pollution in India is a multifaceted issue caused by industrial, agricultural, and domestic sources, necessitating stringent regulatory frameworks.
- (c) Mitigation measures for water pollution in India have been highly effective and successful.
- (d) Water pollution in India is primarily due to natural causes and cannot be mitigated through human intervention alone.

Passage: 3

Freedom of speech, an indispensable tenet of a democratic society, empowers individuals to express their convictions without fear of retribution. It fosters a milieu where ideas can be contested and knowledge can proliferate, engendering a robust exchange of perspectives. However, this liberty can be a double-edged sword; unbridled expression may lead to the dissemination of misinformation, hate speech, and incitement to violence. The challenge lies in balancing the right to free speech with the imperative to maintain social harmony and protect vulnerable groups from vitriolic rhetoric. Thus, while freedom of speech is a cornerstone of democracy, it necessitates judicious regulation to prevent its misuse.

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

- (a) Freedom of speech should be entirely unrestricted to foster a truly democratic society.
- (b) Unchecked freedom of speech can sometimes result in the spread of harmful ideas and actions.
- (c) The primary purpose of freedom of speech is to protect vulnerable groups from discrimination.
- (d) In a democratic society, regulation of speech should be avoided to preserve individual liberties.

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

